

Sunday, February 18, 2018

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

## Crista Miller, Organ

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The Embrace of Fire (1986)

Naji Hakim (b. 1955)

I. Ostinato; Christ's Loving Call to His People; Mystical Dance

*From Matthew 11:28 – Come unto me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

II. Consuming Fire

*From Luke 12:49 – This have I desired, even unto death. Let the fire which I have kindled on earth consume them! And let their blood and their faces become light, like those who go, dancing, to a wedding feast.*

III. Introduction, Dance, Prayer of Thanksgiving, Dance, Coda

*From John 6:57, I Corinthians 12:13 – They who eat of my flesh and drink of my blood abide in me and I in them. And through me, they will live beyond death, as You, O Father, fill them with Your Spirit the cup of my blood, so that, fulfilled with joy, they may draw the well of my heart.*

L'Orgue Mystique, No. 28. – *Sacratissimi Cordis Jesu* (1930)

Charles Tournemire (1870 – 1939)

I. Introit

II. Offertoire

III. Élévation

IV. Communion

V. Prélude et Fresque

Les Corps Glorieux (1939)

Olivier Messiaen (1908 – 1992)

VI. Joie et Clarté des Corps Glorieux

Cinq Soleils (1983)

Jean Langlais (1907 – 1991)

III. Soleil du Soir

Sunday Music (1959)

Petr Eben (1929 – 2007)

III. Moto Ostinato

Mariales (1993)

Naji Hakim

III. Antienne

Te Deum (1997)

Naji Hakim



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Hailed by Gramophone Magazine for her “superlative artistry” and “effortless virtuosity and musical intelligence,” **Crista Miller** is the Director of Music and Organist at Houston’s Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, where she led the Organ Committee responsible for Pasi’s Opus 19 pipe organ. She leads a growing music organization; directs the Schola Cantorum, Cor Jesu and children’s choirs; and oversees the concert series.

As solo organist, Dr. Miller has performed in Lebanon, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden, and Canada, and in 20 states of the USA and is an

award-winner in international and national playing competitions (Odense; Fort Wayne; San Antonio; semi-finalist in AGO's National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Playing). Her 2014-15 Individual Artist Grant from the Houston Arts Alliance and the City of Houston created three organ and visual arts programs, leading to a recording with Acis Productions, the double-CD *Bonjour and Willkommen: A Franco-German Debut*, is available now. This project was reviewed in *Choir and Organ* and *International Organists' Review*, where it was noted as "ambitious [...], admirable and (a) very good advocate for the performer."

Dr. Miller is a frequent conference presenter. Publications of her research on Middle Eastern elements in Naji Hakim's music appear in the 2014 book *Mystic Modern: The Music, Thought, and Legacy of Charles Tournemire* and in December 2015's *ORGAN: Journal für die Orgel*.

Crista earned the Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and the Master of Music from the University of Houston's Moores School of Music.

An advocate of contemporary composition, Dr. Miller served the American Guild of Organists as Chair for New Music for AGO Houston 2016. 15 new organ compositions, and a volume of over 20 competition-winning chorale preludes (available in June 2016 by Selah Publications) resulted from her committee's work. Additionally, she serves on the Steering Committee of the National Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians.