

Public Service Announcement
For Immediate Release
November 9, 2009

AST Sacred Concerts 2009/2010

Atlantic School of Theology is pleased to announce a series of concerts celebrating sacred music. The 2009/10 season features outstanding professional musicians from the region and beyond. As a leader in theological education, AST will be exploring the ways in which music and faith inform and enrich each other. Offering a new dimension in arts programming, each performance will reflect on themes of importance to religious thought and focus on the important but often unnoticed ways in which the arts and religious traditions intersect to contribute to and enrich our lives.

All performances take place on campus in the St. Columba Chapel, a venue that provides a wonderful acoustical experience in a warm and intimate environment.

The Mass for Organ—Friday, November 20—8:00 p.m.

The organ is well known today in its role in church music. The wider role of the organ still has roots in church music. This concert will explore, through the work of Haydn and Mozart, the close connection between the sacred and secular roles of the organ.

This first concert in the series features performances by the Chapel Choir of the University of King's College, with Paul Halley, Organist and Director, and musicians from Symphony Nova Scotia.

Music at the Ends of the Ages—Tuesday, January 26—7:30 p.m.

The Quartet for the End of Time is one of the master works in the chamber music literature of the 20th Century. First performed on January 15, 1941, in Stalag VIIa in Görnitz, Germany, where Messiaen and his fellow musicians were being held as prisoners of war, the piece reflects the horror and fears of its time. To these realities it responds with an expression of the profound catholic faith that shapes all of Messiaen's work.

Songs of Life and Death—Tuesday, February 16—7:30 p.m.

The centre-piece of this vocal recital will be the Pulitzer prize winning song cycle by Dominick Argento, "From the Diary of Virginia Woolf." While not a religious figure, Woolf has been of interest to scholars of religion over recent years because of her probing of the themes of embodiment, suffering, and death.

The Inspiring Hymn—Tuesday, March 23—7:30 pm

For English composers of the 20th Century, the attempt to shape a genuinely English school of composition involved a reaching back into the period before England was described as a land without music. Especially important were the folk traditions of the British Isles, the polyphony of the Tudor period, and the work of Henry Purcell. Not surprisingly, sacred music, including hymnody, was an essential element of this extraordinarily rich period. This concert explores the impact of hymnody as a source for instrumental music by English composers in the mid 20th Century.

Tickets are available at the door 30 minutes prior to performances, and are available at very reasonable prices: adults \$20, seniors \$10, and students \$5.

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