

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



NOON AT MET CONCERT SERIES

September 21 & 28, 2023

We are an Affirming Congregation, offering welcome and companionship to all, inclusive of age, ethnicity, gender identity, differing abilities, and sexual orientation.



For thousands of years, this land has been the traditional home of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit, covered by Treaty 13. It is still home to Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful to work, live and worship on this land.

WORD OF WELCOME

Our 2023-24 season is built upon Met's solid musical foundation, honouring established artists and giving young performers a launching pad—supported by partnerships with the Glenn Gould School, the U of T Music Faculty, the RCCO, the Norquay Fund, and others. The Patricia Wright Fund is established in honour of our Minister of Music Emerita, and has the encouragement of young organists as its stated purpose. Finally, in an event that combines liturgy, scholarship, and great music, our Good Friday choral concert, scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., features Robert Koolstra's convincing 2017 reconstruction of Bach's long-lost *St. Mark Passion*, BWV 247.

In a time when the pace of life is increasingly hectic and unstable, our souls need care. Regardless of your creed or background, we invite you to immerse yourself in the beauty of music, words, and our beautiful Gothic Revival sanctuary. You are welcome.

-Jonathan Oldengarm, Minister of Music

THE CARILLON OF METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO, ON

Installed in 1922, the Massey-Drury Carillon was the first well-tuned carillon in North America. The first 23 bells, cast by the Gillett & Johnston Bellfoundry in England, were donated by Chester D. Massey as a memorial to his wife, Margaret Phelps Massey. The largest bell, or bourdon, weighs 8,456 pounds (3,836 kg). It is 72 inches (183 cm) in diameter, and is almost the same in width. In 1960, twelve midrange bells, cast by Petit & Fritsen in the Netherlands, were added. They were a gift from Dr. Charles Drury. In 1971, nineteen small bells, cast by Paccard in France, were donated by the Massey Foundation, bringing the total to its current complement of 54 bells (four and a half octaves). The installation was completed in 1972, in time for the 50th anniversary of the carillon. Between 2019 and 2022, a major renovation project was conducted by Meeks, Watson & Company of Ohio.

CARILLON RECITALISTS

Thursday, September 21 at 11:30 a.m. Katherine Chen

Thursday, September 28 at 11:30 a.m. Elisa Tersigni, Metropolitan Carillonist

JAMAL AL TITI, BARITONE
IVAN JOVANOVIĆ, PIANIST

Thursday, September 21 at 12:00 p.m.

Silent Noon, from The House of Life (1903)	Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
О нет, молю, не уходи (1892), Op. 4 No.1 (Oh no, I beg You, Forsake me not)	Sergei Rachmaninov, 1873-1943
Для берегов отчизны дальней (1881) (Bound to your distant home)	Alexander Borodin, 1833-1887
Сон (Dream), Op. 8 No .5	Sergei Rachmaninov
Sonnenuntergang, Op. 2 No. 4	Robert Franz, 1815-1892
Die Lotosblume, Op.1 No. 3	
Marie, Op.18 No. 1	
Vergessen, Op. 5 No. 10	
Morgen, Op. 27, No. 4 (1894)	Richard Strauss, 1864- 1949
I canti della sera L'assolo canta Alba di luna sul bosco L'incontro	Francesco Santoliquido, 1883-1971
L'infinito, Op.22	Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco, 1895 – 1968
Der Mond kommt still gegangen, Op. 13 No. 4	Clara Schumann, 1819-1896
Нежность (Tenderness)	Alexandra Pahmutova, b. 1932
Cantique	Nadia Boulanger, 1887-1979
Travel song, from Farewell to Petersburg, 1840	Michail Glinka, 1804-1857

THE ARTISTS

Jamal Al Titi is a Belarusian-born baritone whose passion for music expands from early works to opera. He now makes his home in Canada, and he is a recent bachelor's voice performance graduate from the University of Toronto, having studied with Wendy Nielsen.

During his final year as an undergraduate, Jamal won the Jim and Charlotte Norcop Prize in Song, the Faculty of Music's most prestigious vocal prize, and was honoured to receive the 2023 faculty's top honour award. In addition, Jamal was a winner of the Toronto Mozart Vocal Competition in 2023 and was a National Audition Finalist for L'Atelier Lyrique de L'Opéra de Montréal in 2022.

Jamal has been featured numerous times with Brott Opera Festival. His roles have included Masetto in Don Giovanni, Schaunard in La Bohème and Casacada in The Merry Widow. Additionally, he performed the role of Don Giovanni at the Banff Centre's 2023 Opera in the 21st Century program, and performed as Belcore in L'Elisir D'Amore at Highlands Opera.

Jamal began his studies at the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts with Roland Fix, and counts bass Alain Coulombe among his mentors. This 2023/24 season, Jamal is honoured to be involved at The Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Performance Residency Program at The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School.

+++

Ivan Jovanovic's music education began in Serbia at the Belgrade Faculty of Music, where he completed his BMus and MMus in piano performance. In 2004, he joined the Belgrade Opera Orchestra as a répétiteur and concert pianist. In 2013 he came to Toronto to complete his MMus. in Collaborative Piano from the University of Toronto under the professorship of Steven Philcox. That same year, he won the prestigious Gwendolyn Williams Koldofsky Prize in Accompanying. Presently, he is a regular vocal coach and harpsichordist in U of T's Early Music Department. From 2014 to present, Jovanovic has been the accompanist at Toronto City Opera and in 2017 extended his role to Music Director.

JONATHAN OLDENGARM, ORGANIST

Thursday, September 28 at 12:00 p.m.

OPERA AT THE ORGAN: RICHARD WAGNER, 1813-1883

Vorspiel, from *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* arr. Edwin H. Lemare, 1865-1934

Vorspiel, from *Lohengrin* arr. Edwin H. Lemare

Pilgrim's Chorus, from *Tannhäuser* arr. Franz Liszt, 1811-1886

Vorspiel und Isoldens Liebestod, from *Tristan und Isolde* arr. Edwin H. Lemare

Jonathan Oldengarm is Minister of Music at Metropolitan United Church, where he oversees a music programme that includes several ensembles and two concert series. A prizewinner at several national and international competitions, he concertizes in Europe and North America. Recent performance credits include the Elora Festival; the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir; the 2017 and 2023 National Conventions of the RCCO/OHS; l'Harmonie des Saisons; the Ottawa Bach Choir; Bachfest in Leipzig; the Castle Church in Wittenberg; the Maison symphonique and St. Joseph Oratory (Montreal), Ensemble Caprice, McGill Chamber Orchestra and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. He has been broadcast on the CBC, Radio Canada, Sirius Satellite Radio, NPR, RTÉ, and the European Broadcasting Union. His discography includes four organ and choral discs with the Choir of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal; the complete choral-organ works of Widor and Vierne with Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal (ATMA Classique); "A Mare usque ad mare", a disc of Canadian works for organ and saxophone, together with Claudia Tesorino (Klanglogo); two discs with the Ottawa Bach Choir; and most recently, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* with Buzz Brass (Analekta).

He holds a doctorate in organ performance from McGill University; the Fellowship diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists; and studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart, Germany. From 2008 until 2022 he taught at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, while serving as Director of Music and Organist at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal.

ABOUT METROPOLITAN

The 200-year history of Metropolitan United Church began in 1818 in York, in what is now downtown Toronto. The first building was a small Methodist chapel located on King Street. Membership grew along with the city's population, and in 1831 the church acquired another site on Adelaide Street. In 1833, the Newgate Methodist Episcopal Church, a Georgian-style building accommodating 1,000 people, was opened. The church continued to grow.

In 1868, the church trustees purchased the present-day property at McGill Square (Queen and Church Streets). The congregation voted to construct a new church, renamed the Metropolitan Wesleyan Methodist Church, and dedicated it in 1872. Designed by architect Henry Langley in the Neo-Gothic style, the new building seated 1,800 (2,400 when packed for holidays), had a choir of 300 singers, and was described as Canada's "cathedral of Methodism."

This grand church had an interior with a central pulpit, side aisles, and balconies on all three sides. The chancel was very large to accommodate the enormous choir. In 1922, a carillon of 23 bells was installed in the bell tower—the largest harmonically tuned carillon in North America. Today, the carillon has been expanded to 54 bells.

After World War I, Metropolitan became involved in social service for its neighbours in downtown Toronto. Long before there was any public welfare, Metropolitan hired a social worker to coordinate programs for the poor. Metropolitan's famous minister Peter Bryce was able to convince the publisher of the Toronto Star newspaper to create a special Christmas program for poor families. The program began with a few hundred dollars in donations; today the Star Santa Claus fund raises over a million dollars every year.

As Canada expanded, the Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches had trouble finding enough ministers to serve in the many churches that dotted western Canada. To deal with that issue, the Methodists, Congregationalists and most Presbyterians joined to form the United Church of Canada in 1925. Toronto's Metropolitan Wesleyan Methodist became Metropolitan United Church, and was chosen as the site of the first General Council of the United Church that same year.

In 1928, a fire began in the early morning and ultimately destroyed most of the church building. Only the bell tower was saved because it had no direct connection to the church itself. A new Gothic church was built on the foundations of the old one, and Metropolitan United was rescued from possible destruction for the first time. The new church opened with great fanfare in December 1929. Only six of the stained glass windows were in place and the organ was not installed until the following year, but the new church was an immediate success. In 1930, a new organ—the largest in Canada, with 7,200 pipes—was installed in the rebuilt church. The five-manual instrument has been updated and restored over the years, with the original console retained. The organ now has 8,233 pipes, with the largest measuring 32 feet in height and the smallest the size of a pencil. In 1998, a gallery organ was added.

During the 1930s and 1940s, Metropolitan developed many of the musical programs for which it is now famous - the Silver Band, the concert series, and the outstanding choirs. Metropolitan United remained a very popular church through the 1950s with some 1,200 members and adherents. It was the first church to broadcast Sunday sermons (on CFRB) with a "radio ministry" of many thousands of families. In the 1960s, with church attendance in steep decline, Metropolitan saw its membership base shrink rapidly. In 1970, a report to the Trustees recommended demolishing the church building and selling the land. When put to a vote, the report was rejected by the congregation and Metropolitan was saved from destruction for the second time in its history. In the 1970s and 1980s, Metropolitan began rebuilding its congregation for the new realities of downtown Toronto. In 1999, the congregation voted to be recognized as Affirming: to welcome all people, regardless of sexual orientation, to worship and minister among us. The Metropolitan congregation is drawn from the entire GTA, and thanks to a state-of-the-art livestream system, from around the world. We are a diverse church family, and would welcome you to join us! There are many and varied opportunities for fellowship and service, in-person and online.

THE ORGAN OF METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO, ON

Casavant Frères Ltée, op. 1367 (built in 1930)

GREAT (second keyboard)

Contra Bourdon 32' (TC)
Double Open Diapason 16'
Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason I 8'
Open Diapason II 8'
Open Diapason III 8'
Violin Diapason 8'
Hohl Flute 8'
Doppel Flute 8'
Stopped Diapason 8'
Quint 5 1/3'
Octave 4'
Principal 4'
Flûte Harmonique 4'
Flûte d'amour 4'
Quint 2 2/3'
Fifteenth 2'
Harmonics V
Mixture III
Contra Tromba 16'
Tromba 8'
Posaune 8'
Octave Tromba 4'
Harp (CH)

SWELL (third keyboard)

Contra Geigen 16'
Lieblich Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Geigen Diapason 8'
Salicional 8'
Lieblich Gedeckt 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Voix Celeste 8'
Aeoline 8'
Octave 4'
Flauto Traverso 4'
Fifteenth 2'
Cornet V
Mixture III
Double Trumpet 16'
Trumpet 8'
Oboe 8'
Vox Humana 8'
Clarion 4'
Tremulant
Harp (CH)

CHOIR (first keyboard)

Contra Viola 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Melodia 8'
Quintadena 8'
Spitz Flute 8'
Flute Celeste 8'
Dulciana 8'
Unda Maris 8'
Dulcet 4'
Flute d'amour 4'
Nazard 2 2/3'
Harmonic Piccolo 2'
Tierce 1 3/4'
Dulciana Mixture IV
Contra Fagotto 16'
Trumpet 8'
Clarinet 8'
Clarion 4'
Tremulant
Harp
Harp Sub

ORCHESTRAL (fourth keyboard)

Contra Gamba 16'
Gross Gamba 8'
Gamba Celeste 8'
Viole d'orchestre 8'
Viole Celeste 8'
Rohr Flute 8'
Gross Flute 8'
Fugara 4'
Concert Flute 4'
Cornet de Violes III
Trombone 16'
Bassoon 16'
Tuba Sonora 8'
Orchestral Trumpet 8'
French Horn 8'
Orchestral Oboe 8'
Corno di Bassetto 8'
Cor Anglais 8'
Octave Tuba 4'
Tremulant
Harp (CH)

BOMBARDE (fifth keyboard)

Stentorphone 8'
Mixture VII
Tuba Magna 16'

Tuba Mirabilis 8'
Quint Horn 5 1/3'
Tuba Clarion 4'

PEDAL (for the feet)

Double Open Diapason 32'
Open Diapason I 16'
Open Diapason II 16' (ext)
Violone 16'
Gamba 16' (ORCH)
Bourdon I 16'
Bourdon II 16' (GT)
Viola 16' (CH)
Gedeckt 16' (SW)
Quint 10 2/3'
Octave 8' (ext)
Cello 8' (ext)
Stopped Flute 8' (ext)
Still Gedeckt 8' (SW)
Octave Quint 5 1/3' (ext)
Super Octave 4' (ext)
Mixture IV
Contra Bombarde 32'
Bombarde 16' (ext)
Trombone 16' (ORCH)
Bassoon 16' (ORCH)
Tromba 8' (ext)
Clarion 4' (ext)

GALLERY ORGAN

ANTIPHONAL (floating)

Open Diapason 8'
Principal 4'
Hooded Trumpet 8'

ECHO (floating)

Chimney Flute 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Flute 4'
Tremulant
Zimbelstern
Nightingale

PEDAL (feet)

Bourdon 16'
Octavebass 8' (ext)

UPCOMING AT METROPOLITAN

Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m. Back by popular demand, the *Trinity Bach Project* (period instruments and vocal ensemble) presents Bach's Cantata 192, motet "Der Geist Hilft", and more, with spoken word. Freewill donation. In person and livestreamed.

Friday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. the perennial community favourite *Phantoms of the Organ* returns! A line-up of young (and young-at-heart) Toronto organists parade their favourite party pieces and costumes at the mighty Casavant. In partnership with the Royal Canadian College of Organists' Toronto Centre. Freewill donation.

Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m. Two of Bach's great solo bass cantatas: *Ich habe genug*, BWV 82, and *Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen*, BWV 56, performed by star Canadian bass-baritone Daniel Lichti, Tafelmusik principal oboist John Abberger, and a period instruments ensemble led by Jonathan Oldengarm. Dan celebrates his 50th anniversary season as a professional singer—and his debut was at Met United under the direction of Melville Cook. Tickets: \$25/\$15 (in person/livestream).

Noon at Met, September/October 2023: Thursdays at 12 pm

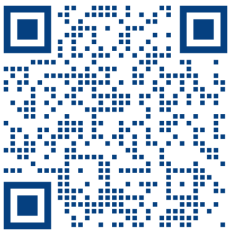
October 5 - Christian Masucci Facchini, countertenor (Rebanks Fellow at the Glenn Gould School)

October 12 - Philip Joseph Filion, organ (Organist, St. Michael's Cathedral)

October 19 - Irina Bazik, piano

October 26 - Joshua Zentner-Barrett, organ

Our sound and livestream technician is Charlie Davidson. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.



Your freewill donations support the ongoing musical ministry of Metropolitan United Church, and allow us to maintain our landmark heritage musical instruments and building. If you prefer to donate electronically, please visit metunited.ca/donate or scan the QR code here.

Livestream services at metunited.ca/live (*in-person only)

Follow us on Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto), Facebook and YouTube

