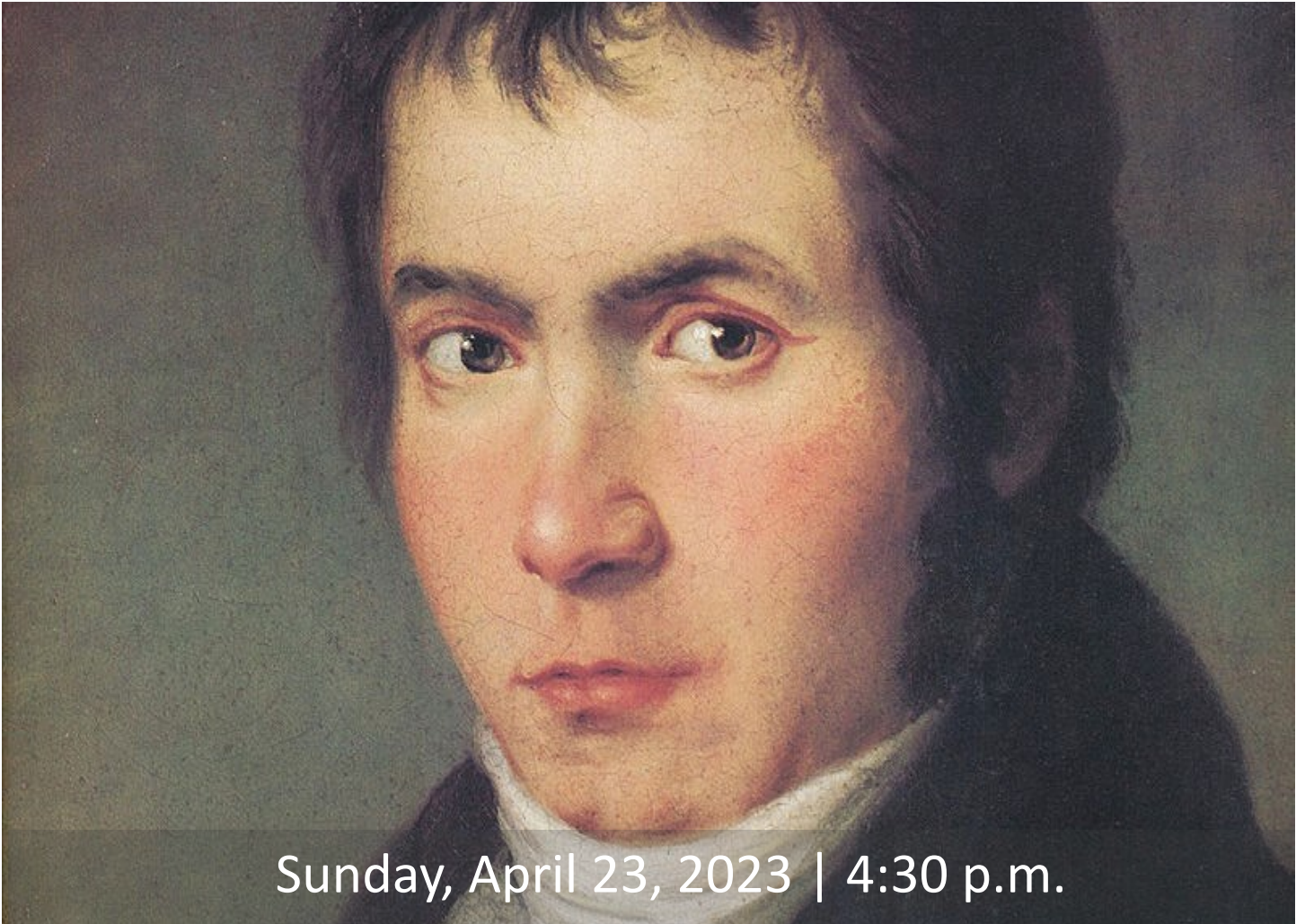


ALL-BEETHOVEN CONCERT

at Central Reformed Church

Dmitri Vorobiev, Guest Pianist

Taemin Han, Director of Music Ministries



Sunday, April 23, 2023 | 4:30 p.m.

Central Reformed Church

10 College Ave. NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Director's Note

Welcome to the all-Beethoven concert at Central Reformed Church! Since I started serving Central Reformed Church as director of music ministries in January 2019, I have been excited to be in Grand Rapids for its rich cultural and religious atmosphere. After about two years of interruption because of the COVID pandemic, many musical groups and churches in this area strive again to attract music lovers and Central Reformed Church also would like to be a part of it. After last year's public concert celebrating the 40th anniversary of organ rebuilding in October, we are grateful to have you to enjoy this all-Beethoven concert this year.

Compare to other major composers in the same period of time, such as W. A. Mozart and F. J. Haydn, Beethoven composed a much smaller volume of church literature. The most well known church music by Beethoven might be "Missa Solemnis." His ninth symphony with the text of "Ode to Joy" written by Friedrich Schiller, however, is one of the most beloved musical pieces in history by a wide range of audiences in the world, and is suitable for both public concert halls and church sanctuaries.

Today's concert program includes "Choral Fantasy", which seems like a miniature of the ninth symphony, Op. 125, "Choral", which was composed much later in 1824. "Choral Fantasy" combines piano concerto and choral finale after an improvisational piano solo part, which demonstrates his strong area of skill. When Beethoven composed and performed "Choral Fantasy" in 1808, he also performed his fifth and six symphonies and fourth piano concerto with it. According to Beethoven's pupil Carl Czerny, the text of "Choral Fantasy" was written by Christoph Kuffner, who also wrote the tragedy "Tarpeja" that Beethoven wrote music for in 1813, which includes "Triumphal March." As Beethoven himself mentioned, the themes of these two compositions have some similarities.



(Choral Fantasy)



(Ninth Symphony)

Beethoven first performed his Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor on April 5, 1803 playing as the soloist. His second symphony and the oratorio "Christ on the Mount of Olives" were also premiered. This third piano concerto was a clear boundary between his two early concertos with the affections of Mozart and the latter two concertos with his own strong character. Beethoven's choral piece, "The Heavens Are Declaring", reminds us of F. J. Haydn's "The Heavens Are Telling" from the oratorio, "The Creation."

We hope you will fully enjoy these great music pieces by Ludwig van Beethoven with us this afternoon!

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone),

Handwritten signature of Taemin Han in black ink.

Taemin Han,
Director of Music Ministries
Central Reformed Church

ALL-BEETHOVEN CONCERT PROGRAM

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

4:30 P.M.

Triumphal March in C Major from “Tarpeja, WoO 2a”

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 37

Allegro con brio

Largo

Rondo-Allegro

The Heavens Are Declaring (Die Himmel rühmen)

*The Heavens are declaring the Lord's endless glory.
Through all the earth his praise is found.
The seas re-echo the marvelous story,
O earth, repeat that glorious sound.
The starry host he orders and measures,
he fills the morning's golden springs:
He wakes the sun from its night curtained slumbers,
O man, adore the King of Kings;
O earth, adore the King of Kings.*

*What power and splendor and wisdom and order
in nature's mighty plan unrolled!
Through space and time to infinity's border,
what wonders vast and manifold.
The earth is his, and the heavens o'er it bending.
The Maker in his works behold!
He is, and will be, through ages unending,
a God of strength and love untold,
a God of strength and love untold.*

Choral Fantasy in C Major, Op. 80

*Soft and sweet through ether winging,
sound the harmonies of life,
their immortal flowers springing
where the soul is free from strife.
Peace and joy are sweetly blended
like the waves alternate play;
what for mastery contended
learns to yield and to obey.*

*With its tide of joy unbroken,
music's flood our life surrounds,
what a master mind hath spoken
through eternity resounds.
Oh receive, ye joy invited
all its blessings without guile
when to love is power united,
then our God's approving smile.*

*What on music's mighty pinion
souls of men to heaven rise,
then doth vanish earth's dominion,
man is native to the skies,
calm without, and joy within us,
is the bliss for which we long,
if of art the magic win us,
joy and calm are turned to song.*

*Receive, ye joy invited.
Receive its blessings without guile.
Take its blessings without guile.
All its blessing without guile,
when to love is power united,
then our God's approving smile.*

~ Thank you for coming this afternoon. You are cordially invited to the reception after this concert ~

Concert Musicians

Dmitri Vorobiev, Guest Pianist

Taemin Han, Director of Music Ministries

Violin 1

Grace Kim
Kimia Ghaderi
Linda Nelson

Violin 2

Audrey Pride
Caroline Freihofer
Christine Golden

Viola

Leslie Van Becker
Mary Jane Miller
Olga Ziabrikova

Cello

Alicia Eppinga
Andrew Laven

Contrabass

Mark Buchner

Flute

Ruth Bylsma
Judith Kempf

Oboe

Alexander Miller
Sarah Peterson

Clarinet

Stephanie Hovnanian
David Yandl

Bassoon

Andrew Genemans
Randy Denner

French Horn

Erich Peterson
Mary Beth Orr

Trumpet

Charley Lea
Alexander Wilson

Timpani

David Hall

Guest Soloists

Karen Kness, soprano
Stephen Martin, tenor

Mary Alice Korth, soprano
JungWoo Kim, baritone

Christine Amon, mezzo-soprano
John Hines, bass

Soprano

Kathryn Becksvoort
Janis DeVree
Sarah Elzinga
Anna Griewahn

Miah Han
Comfort Jigo
Carmen Kruyf

Allison Martin
Julie Stickney
Helen Phillips

Alto

Marjorie Brink
Linda Creaser
Patricia Duthler
Beth Gumina

Nancy Korth
Jodi MacLean
Pauline Marmion

Bea Nagel
Dawn Tillema
Kathy VanderLaan

Tenor

William Baron
Steve Cornelius
Jim Elzinga

Zach Kruyf
Carlos Lemagne

Jason Reiffer
Stan Sterk

Bass

Michael Beachy
Bob Creaser
Jeff DeVree
Tim Elzinga
Joel Gumina

Karel deWaal Malefyt
Lee Marmion
Jesse Munroe
David Jigo

Fred Overeem
Steve Pierce
Tom Roe
Burt VanderLaan

Dr. Dmitri Vorobiev first came to international attention after winning the Casagrande International Piano Competition in Italy in 1994, followed by performances at the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto and numerous recitals throughout Italy. Mr. Vorobiev has been a major prize-winner in the Busoni, Cincinnati World, Ibla Grand Prize, A.M.A. Calabria, Iowa and Alabama international piano competitions. In 2000, he placed first and also took three special prizes at the UNISA International Piano Competition in Pretoria, South Africa, and in 2003, Dmitri won the first prize in the New Orleans International Piano Competition. He appeared as a soloist with Cape Town Symphony Orchestra, Pretoria Chamber Orchestra, Durban Symphony, Terni Philharmonic, Manhattan School of Music Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony and Western Piedmont Symphony. His solo recitals took him throughout the United States, Israel, Russia, Germany, Czech Republic, Ireland and South Africa.

Dmitri Vorobiev maintains a dynamic concert schedule and one of his current projects is performing complete solo piano works by Ludwig van Beethoven. An acclaimed soloist, Dmitri is also an active chamber music player. Some of the highlights include recordings of complete sonatas for violin and piano and complete piano trios by Bohuslav Martinu with Arbor Trio for Naxos label. Mr. Vorobiev's collaborations include frequent performances with violinist Ivan Zenaty as well as performances with Zemlinsky String Quartet, violinist Rodney Friend and appearances in duo-piano recitals with his wife, Polina Khatsko.

A native of Moscow, Russia, Dmitri began his piano studies when he was 5. He attended the School of Music and the Music College of the Moscow State Conservatory where he studied with Nina Levitzkaya and Victor Bunin. In 1992, he was invited by Eric Larsen to study at the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he received his Bachelor's Degree. Mr. Vorobiev completed his Master's Degree at the Manhattan School of Music as a full scholarship student of Marc Silverman and winner of the Harold Bauer award. He earned his Doctor of Music Arts degree in Piano Performance from the University of Michigan School of Music, working with Arthur Greene.

Currently, Dmitri Vorobiev is an Associate Professor of Piano at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Dmitri is in constant demand as an adjudicator and previously was on piano faculty at the University of Northern Iowa, Vivace International Music Festival, International Music Academy in Pilsen, Czech Republic and the Cambridge International String Academy in Cambridge, England.

Mr. Taemin Han started serving Central Reformed Church in January 2019 as a director of music ministries. Previously, He served various denominations of churches (Catholic, Episcopal and Presbyterian) through his music ministries in Michigan and Iowa.

Taemin has directed numerous concerts for churches, performing many major sacred music including Ralph Vaughan Williams' "O Clap Your Hands", Mozart's Regina Coeli, K. 276, J. S. Bach's Cantatas BWV 86 and 166, J. Haydn's "Missa brevis St. Joannis de Deo (Little Organ Mass)", G. F. Handel's Coronation Anthem No. 4, "Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened", and oratorio, "Messiah", Vivaldi's "Gloria", and Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy."

Taemin received master's degrees in music from Michigan State University (choral conducting and piano pedagogy) and Eastern Michigan University (piano performance). While at Eastern Michigan University, he performed Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1, and J. S. Bach's Concerto for Two Keyboards, BWV 1060 (along with his wife Miah) with the university orchestras.

Taemin Han is a dedicated church musician who advocates education in music through fine singing and emphasizes understanding of the history and culture of all music.

Soprano Dr. Karen Kness is an associate professor of voice at Western Michigan University in the School of Music, where she teaches applied voice, vocal pedagogy, and serves as chair of the voice area. She has performed throughout the United States, as well as in Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, and Mexico, and holds a doctoral degree in vocal performance and literature from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Dr. Kness is in her eleventh year at WMU, and before moving to Kalamazoo, she served on the faculties for the School of Music at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Doane University

Ms. Mary Alice Korth possesses a rich and versatile soprano that is at home in a wide range of repertoire. Past performances include Contessa Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (New York Lyric Opera Theatre, La Musica Lirica), Micaëla in *Carmen* (dell'Arte Opera Ensemble) and Mimi in Act I of *La bohème* (Garden State Opera), as well as Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*, Alisa in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Annina in *La traviata*, and excerpts from *Rusalka*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *Suor Angelica*. Ms. Korth is currently teaching general music, choir, and band at Eagle Crest Charter Academy in Holland. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Ohio Wesleyan University.

Dr. Christine Amon is a versatile mezzo-soprano excelling in opera, musical theater, and art song. Her stage roles include Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, the title role in *Cendrillon*, Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Erika in *Vanessa*, Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, and Carrie Pipperidge in *Carousel* among many others. She has appeared with Nashville Opera, Opera Carolina, Toledo Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Union Avenue Opera, and Opera Memphis. Hailing from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Amon earned her BM at Grand Valley State University where she was named a Distinguished Alumna in 2015. She earned a doctorate at the University of Michigan and currently teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Tenor Dr. Stephen Martin has enjoyed operatic engagements spanning throughout Italy, China, and the United States with roles including Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Hoffmann in Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Da Xing in Jin Xiang's *The Savage Land*, Rinuccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Casey in Ricki Ian Gordan's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Tybalt in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, and Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*. He also created the role of Ray "Cracker" Schalk in the 2019 world premiere of Joel Puckett's "The Fix". He has performed with companies such as The Santa Fe Opera, The Glimmerglass Festival Opera, Sarasota Opera, Minnesota Opera, Opera in the Rock, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Motor City Brass Band, Flint Symphony Orchestra, Saginaw Symphony, and others.

Lyric baritone Dr. JungWoo Kim has actively performed as an opera singer, concert soloist, and recitalist throughout the United States, South America, and East Asia. He has appeared with Central City Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Loveland Opera Theatre, Lincoln Center (Alice Tully Hall), the National Theater of Korea, Seoul Art Center, and more. His vocal repertoire spans a wide range, covering every major genre, period, and style. Notable opera roles have included Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Papageno in *Zauberflöte*, Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore*, Marcello in *La Bohème*. He as baritone soloist has performed Brahms's German Requiem, Faure's Requiem, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, William's *Five Mystical Songs*, to name a few. Kim earned D.M.A from University of Colorado (Boulder) and M.M. from Indiana University. He is currently an Associate Professor of Voice at Hope College.

Dr. John Hines, bass, is a Professor of Voice at the University of Northern Iowa, and no stranger to Grand Rapids having served the music faculty at Cornerstone University and on several occasions appeared as soloist with the Grand Rapids Symphony and Opera Grand Rapids between 2002-2006. In 2013 Hines made his Carnegie Hall debut as bass soloist in Haydn's "Lord Nelson" Mass, and from 2007-2018 has presented more than 100 solo concerts throughout Canada, Europe, and the Russian Federation, the latter earning him such acclaim "The American Chaliapin" — Saint Petersburg, Russia reol-TV. Hines's voice students have enjoyed regular success in top young artist programs (i.e., Merola, Houston, Glimmerglass, Wolf Trap, Central City, Chautauqua) and singing careers in Europe.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT AT CENTRAL | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

The Central Reformed Church would like to invite you to the upcoming Annual New Year's Eve Concert featuring concert organist Isabelle Demers on the last day of this year!



With playing described as having “bracing virtuosity” (Chicago Classical Review) and being “fearless and extraordinary” (Amarillo-Globe News), Isabelle Demers has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe. Her 2010 recital for the International Society of Organbuilders-American Institute of Organbuilders convention “left the entire congress in an atmosphere of ‘Demers fever’.” That same year, her performance at the Washington D.C. national convention of the American Guild of Organists caused the standing-room-only audience to call her back to the stage five times.

She has appeared in recital throughout Europe, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada. Highlights include performances at the Maison Symphonique (Montreal, Québec), the Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg, Germany), City Hall (Stockholm, Sweden), the Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing, China), and St. Paul’s Cathedral and Westminster Abbey (London, UK).

Dr. Demers is in continual high demand by her colleagues as witnessed by performances for numerous regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Institute of Organ Builders and International Society of Organbuilders, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society.

She has released three CD recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels. In 2018, she appeared as solo organ accompanist in an Acis recording of Maurice Duruflé’s Requiem with the Baylor University Choir, recorded at Duruflé’s church in Paris.

A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University (Montréal, Québec). She was formerly the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

Isabelle Demers is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

For more information about her, visit www.concertartists.com.



Central Reformed Church
10 College Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616.456.1773
centralreformedchurch.org

Connecting all people to God and to one another through scripture, sacrament, song, and service.