WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2023–2024 Concert Series

Presents

MUSIC COMPOSED AND PERFORMED BY

John S. Dixon, organ

Sunday, January 14, 2024 • 3 p.m.

PROGRAM

Trumpet Intrada

Four Hymn Voluntaries

Holy Manna ....................................................... William Moore, 1825
Wayfaring Stranger .............................................. Appalachian folk melody
Welcome Voice (Gwahoddiad) .............................. Lewis Hartsough, 1872
To God Be the Glory ............................................ William Doane, 1875

Suite for Manuals on American Folk Songs

Shortnin’ Bread
Shenandoah
O My Darling Clementine
Six White Horses and a Steam Engine

Two Westminster Tunes

Westminster Abbey* ............................................. Henry Purcell, 1680
Westminster New* .............................................. John Thoms, 1961

A Baroque Suite

Aria in D
Hornpipe in D
Solemn Melody
Rondo Benvenuto

Fantasia on an Irish Folk Tune

Theme–Aria–Duo–Intermezzo–Solo for pedals–Finale

A Patriotic Finale

American Pastorale
Postlude on America the Beautiful

* Denotes World Premiere

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Born in England in 1957, **JOHN S. DIXON** learned to play the pipe organ at his high school, which, to this day, has a two-manual organ in the assembly hall. He moved to Virginia in 1988 and became active in the music program at his church, Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. Ten years later, during a Sunday morning emergency, he filled the organ bench—and he has now been the church organist for 25 years.

Mr. Dixon has been composing seriously since 1990 and currently has more than 950 compositions to his credit: for organ, choir, and orchestral ensembles. His current project is to share his own music in person in all 50 states between his 60th and 70th birthdays—the “50-60-70 project.” For the record, he is now 66 years old and today’s recital will make Delaware the 35th state in which he has played, so the project is on schedule.

In 2003, John was appointed executive director of the Academy of Music, a non-profit community music school headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, a position he still holds. He currently serves as Treasurer of the American Guild of Organists, in which capacity he works closely with Tony Thurman, Music Director of Westminster Presbyterian Church, who is also a member of the AGO staff.

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** is a vibrant, inclusive, and caring community of faith that embraces all people. A unique fusion of tradition, innovation, and contemporary relevance enables Westminster to share the love of Christ and spread the word of God in a variety of ways.

Westminster is committed to making a difference in the community and the world through inspiring worship and music, thought-provoking Christian education for adults, engaging programs for children and youth, generous local and global mission, compassionate congregational care and hospitality, hands-on environmental efforts, and timely support for racial and social justice. Westminster strives to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, further the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seek understanding and reconciliation, protect God’s creation, and be a good steward of the Earth’s resources.

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**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT CONCERT!**

Copeland String Quartet  
Sunday, January 28, 2024 • 3 p.m.

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