

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
2024–2025 Concert Season

presents

The Birk & Hoke Duo

Eric Birk and Bernadette Hoke
Performing four-hand piano plus organ and piano duets



Sunday, November 17, 2024
3 p.m.



Westminster Presbyterian Church | Wilmington, Delaware
2024–2025 Sanctuary Concert Series

The Birk & Hoke Duo
Eric Birk and Bernadette Hoke

Sunday, November 17, 2024 | 3:00 p.m.
Concert livestream: wpc.org/watch

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Randall T. Clayton

PROGRAM

Slavonic Dances, Op. 72

Antonín Dvořák
(1841–1904)

No. 5 in B-flat Minor [Špacírka]

No. 6 in B-flat Major [Starodávny]

The Špacírka is a moderately fast Bohemian dance in 2/4 time. The dance starts out slowly with the dancer(s) walking; it is from this that the dance got its name: in Czech “špacírovat” (coming from the German word Spazieren) means “to walk around.” The word “starodávny” has a rich and complex meaning that is difficult to translate. It refers to someone or something that recalls a cherished memory. This Czech dance is associated with the northeastern Czech region of Moravia, existing as both a couple or group dance, and is a walking dance that includes rocking and turning motions. Some think it is related to the Polish polonaise.

Grand Rondo in A Major, Op. 107 (D 951)

Franz Schubert
(1797–1828)

Schubert’s *Rondo in A* was composed in the last year of his life. Robert Schumann, in a letter to Friederich Wieck, mentioned playing the Rondo, “which I number among his finest creations — or show me anything comparable to this calm, lowering thunderstorm, to this tremendous, tranquil, lyrical madness and the whole of the deep, gentle, ethereal melancholy that hovers above the work in its entirety.” Alfred Einstein called it “the apotheosis of all Schubert compositions for four hands.”

From *Six Morceaux*, Op. 11

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873–1943)

No. 2. Scherzo

No. 4. Waltz

The Op. 11 six-movement *Suite* for four hands was composed in 1894 and is Rachmaninoff’s most significant contribution to piano duet literature.

OFFERING

Suggested Contribution: \$20

Dialog for Organ and Piano

Leo Sowerby
(1895–1968)

Sowerby wrote several duets for organ and piano, of which the jazzy *Dialog*, composed in 1967, has been perhaps the most popular.

(Continued)

I. Reverie
II. Sprites

These two contrasting movements by an active composer more well-known for her choral compositions demonstrate her own considerable keyboard prowess and were composed in 1992.

Mephisto Waltz No. 1

Franz Liszt
(1811–1886)

The inspiration for Liszt's orchestral tone poem was Nikolaus Lenau's telling of the story of Faust. The waltz programmatically depicts a scene at the village inn where Mephistopheles in the form of a huntsman enters with Faust and seduces a maiden and the entire party to a bacchanalian dance into the forest. This arrangement for piano four hands is by the composer.

Steinway & Sons Concert Grand Piano
Austin Organ No. 2444 • 1966 • 3 manuals • 53 ranks

All are invited to a wine and cheese reception
to meet and greet the performers in Rodney Chapel.

KRESTON
WINE & SPIRITS

Worship at Westminster on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Experience inspired preaching and extraordinary music in person and online: wpc.org/watch

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Contribute to the Music Fund online at wpc.org/donate or use the QR code below.





The **Birk and Hoke Duo** performs in a variety of venues playing four-hand piano, four-hand organ, and piano and organ repertoire. The duo of Eric Birk and Bernadette Hoke has appeared in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Texas. As winners of the Artist International Competition, they were presented in a debut recital at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and an additional performance at Merkin Concert Hall in New York City. The *New York Concert Review* wrote of their debut performance, “The husband-and-wife duo played with precision that never impinged on fluid ease.”

In the autumn of 2008, they were the featured pianists on a concert at the Jewish Museum entitled, “Bernstein: A Jewish Legacy.” This concert was part of the New York City celebration of the 90th anniversary of the birth of Leonard Bernstein: “The Best of All Possible Worlds.” The duo has also performed as guest artists at the Baylor University Mid-Winter Organ Conference and at St. Paul’s Chapel, the Brick Presbyterian Church, and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in NYC.

Bernadette Hoke performs each year in concert and recital with a variety of vocalists, instrumentalists, and chamber groups. Ms. Hoke is the Music Director and Organist of the Saint Albans Church in NYC. While at

the Saint Albans school, she founded and directed the Saint Albans Schola, a select group of students that performed in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In addition to the semi-professional choir she conducts at the church, in the fall of 2019 she was appointed conductor of the two New York City choruses of Encore Chorale. Ms. Hoke earned a Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music and holds the Associate certificate of the American Guild of Organists.

Eric Birk frequently serves as guest accompanist and substitute organist/choir director in various churches in the New York City area. A native of Texas, he is a graduate of Baylor University (Bachelor of Music, magna cum laude) and Manhattan School of Music (Master of Music) with degrees in piano performance. His organ teachers included Joyce Jones and Walter Hilse, and he earned the Fellowship Certificate of the American Guild of Organists in 2014. Eric most recently served as organist and choirmaster at Christ & St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in 2022 and 2023 and was interim minister of music and organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in the summer of 2021.





WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Austin Organs, Inc., No. 2444 (1966)

3 MANUALS | 53 RANKS

GREAT

16 Quintaten
8 Principal
8 Bourdon
8 Gemshorn
4 Octave
4 Nachthorn
2 Spitzflöte
Fourniture IV
Scharf III

SWELL (EXPRESSIVE)

16 Rohrgedeckt
8 Viola
8 Voix Celeste
8 Rohrflöte (Ext.)
8 Erzähler
8 Erzähler Celeste
4 Principal
4 Waldflöte
2 $\frac{2}{3}$ Rohr Nasat
2 Blockflöte
Plein Jeu IV
16 Contra Fagotto
8 Fagotto (Ext.)
8 Trompette
4 Clairon
Tremulant

CHOIR (EXPRESSIVE)

8 Nason Flute
8 Flauto Dolce
8 Flute Celeste
4 Prestant
4 Koppelflöte
4 Oktav
1 $\frac{1}{3}$ Larigot
Sesquialtera II
Cymbel III
8 Krummhorn
8 Trumpet (Ped.)
Tremulant

PEDAL

32 Bourdon
16 Contra Bass
16 Bourdon
16 Quintaten (Gt.)
16 Rohrgedeckt (Sw.)
8 Principal
8 Spitzflöte
8 Rohrgedeckt (Sw.)
4 Choralbass
4 Nachthorn
2 Flute (Ext.)
Mixture III
16 Posaune
16 Fagotto (Sw.)
8 Trumpet (Ext.)
4 Krummhorn



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, December 8 | 3 PM*

Christmas Choral Concert
Westminster Choir

Wednesday, December 18 | 6 PM

The Longest Night: A Service of
Wholeness and Healing

Saturday, December 21 | 4 PM*

Christmas Handbell Concert
Wilmington Handbell
Ensemble

Sunday, December 22 | 3 PM

Piffaro: The Renaissance
Band with New York
Polyphony

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

Children's Pageant | 4 PM* • Service of Story and Song | 5:30 PM*
Candlelight Communion Service | 8 PM*

Join us in person or online! Events marked with an asterisk (*) will be
livestreamed/recorded at wpc.org/watch and on Westminster's YouTube channel.
For more Christmas events and full descriptions, visit: bit.ly/m/christmas-at-westminster



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.



**WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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