

37<sup>th</sup> Annual Bach's Lunch Concert Series  
featuring  
C. Christian Dederer, organ  
Playing the Fisk Organ, Op. 82 at Christ UMC  
Greensboro, North Carolina, Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Praeludium in g moll, BuxWV 149	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639 (I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ)	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
If God Himself Be for Me (Irish Folk Tune: <i>Durrow</i> )	arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)
The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Trad. Irish Melody: <i>St. Columba</i> )	arr. Healey Willan (1880-1968)
Be Thou My Vision (Traditional Irish Melody: <i>Slane</i> )	arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)
Fuga in C dur ( <i>Gigue Fugue in C Major</i> ), BuxWV 174	Dietrich Buxtehude

### *Program Notes*

*Music for Lent and Music from Ireland  
(originally designed for March 17, 2020)*

Buxtehude belonged to the group of composers known as the North German Organ School in the Baroque period. His Advent *Abendmusiken* concerts on the five Sundays before Christmas were so famous that Bach traveled to attend these concerts and study with Buxtehude, possibly to look for a job and/or get away from his church in Arnstadt which was always placing confines on Bach and his artistry. It seemed every organist in northern Europe wanted to study with Buxtehude at one time or another, if given the opportunity. Buxtehude's free works are known for dramatic, rhapsodic sections interspersed with sections made up of fugal counterpoint. Its opening section has a feeling of great heaviness, especially with its rising pedal line. This 'heaviness' is especially poignant during our COVID epidemic.

Bach's *Ich ruf zu dir* was probably written between 1713 and 1714 and is found in his *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book). Bach originally planned this book, which was to accompany the liturgical church year, to have 164 preludes on hymns probably based upon the Weimar hymnal *Geistliches Gesangbuch*. This would have not been a little book at all had he finished this massive project! *Ich ruf zu dir* was sung on various Sundays after Trinity and was used with 2 cantatas for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity. Its text is rather Lenten in nature and the key of c minor as well as its slow tempo also lends itself to Lent (Ps. 130 *Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee*). The first four phrases of the text are: *I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ, / I beg, hear my complaint; / grant me grace at this time, / let me not despair*. Again, this work is very appropriate for our time.

Dale Wood was a prominent American sacred music composer from California, known for writing accessible music for organists of all levels of ability. Wood worked largely in Lutheran and Episcopal churches and was most noted for being Executive Editor for Sacred Music Press. The tune *Durrow* is little known in America and is associated with *Captain Thomson*, a sea song from Ireland's Limerick region. *Durrow* is the name of a town between Port Laoise and Kilkenny. It first appeared as a hymn tune in 1927.

James Healey Willan was born in England and emigrated to Canada in 1913, where he became organist and choirmaster at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto. For 20 years he was head of the theory department and became vice principal at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto. Later he was a teacher, lecturer, and examiner at the University of Toronto and, in 1922 and 1933, was president of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (the American equivalent to the AGO). The tune's name comes from the Irish patron saint who carried the torch of Irish Christianity to Scotland and who also was said to be the first to report a sighting of the Loch Ness monster! The folk tune probably originated sometime in the eighteenth century.

Dr. Paul Manz was nationally known as a great improviser of hymns, especially known throughout American Lutheran Churches for his hymn festivals. He studied with Edwin Kraft in Cleveland, Edward Eigenshenk at the American Conservatory in Chicago, Arthur Jennings at the Univ. of Minnesota, Helmut Walcha (Frankfurt-am-Main), Northwestern University, and with Flor Peeters in Antwerp. He held faculty posts at Winnebago Academy, Univ. of Minn., Macalester College, Concordia College in St. Paul, was president of the Lutheran Society for Worship, Music, and the Arts, was cantor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska, received the Doctorate of Music from Carthage College in 1976, the Doctorate of Humane Letters from Christ Seminary-Seminex in St. Louis, and was an Adjunct Professor at both Christ Seminary, St. Louis, and Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. Lastly, he was a Cantor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and faculty member at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Slane is the name of a hill about 10 miles from Tara, County Meath, in Ireland, where St. Patrick (originally born in Scotland according to recent research) is said to have challenged the Druid king Lóegaire (reign: 428-458 AD) by lighting the Easter Eve fire at a Druid fire worship ceremony in which all the fires throughout Ireland were to be extinguished. Patrick defiantly lit this Paschal fire on the Hill of Slane in full view of the King of Ireland, who then attempted to kill Patrick and his friends. Legend has it that Patrick flees and he and his friends turn away from Lóegaire's ambush and run like deer (legend has it that they turned into deer.) Patrick later warns the king he must accept the Christian faith or die. Lóegaire, after counseling with his people, submits to Patrick and is baptized. In another account, this conversion never happened, however, it is stated that Lóegaire's two daughters converted. I will leave it to you to ponder which legend was the accurate historical account. Patrick is regarded as the Patron Saint of Ireland (as is Columba.) In the Easter Orthodox Church, Patrick is regarded as equal to the Apostles and although he was never canonized in the Catholic Church, he is venerated as a saint anyway.

#### *Biography for Chris Dederer ...*

Chris Dederer is the full-time Organist and Children's Music Ministry Director for Christ United Methodist Church in Greensboro. He has served as a full-time Organist and Choir Director in Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches in Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Before the pandemic, his church duties included accompanying two Adult Choirs, directing the children's choirs, directing a handbell choir, and administrating Musikgarten classes for 1 month - 5 year old children. He is a Music Instructor in the church's after school program Kids Ahead, where he has taught over 90 students weekly and taught over 70 three and four year olds in the church's preschool. Chris is an active member in the American Guild of Organists and Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. In February of 2019, he and Amberly Johnston conducted a regional Children's Choir Festival with almost 60 children sponsored by the Fellowship. He is known for presenting Hymn Festivals along with his wife, the Rev. Dr. Nancy Dederer. Together, they have coordinated Hymn Festivals for every major season of the Church Year and introduced the resource [Psalms for Singing](#), a music resource for singing the psalms, to the Chicagoland area, co-sponsored through the Chicago Presbytery and a Worship Grant from Calvin College. Chris enjoys gardening, oil painting, and is also a board member for Music for a Great Space (a concert series that brings in nationally known artists and organists to the Greensboro community.) Before COVID, you could catch Chris and Nancy attending concerts, plays, and musicals around town. This past year, Chris has been presenting a virtual organ program called, "Friday Night Pipes" which airs on the church's radio station (101.7 FM) every Friday at 7 PM. Hopefully, concert life in America will be up and running before too long.

*Many thanks ...*

*... to the kind congregation of Starmount Presbyterian Church for sponsoring this concert.*

*... to the tireless efforts of Robert Overman, Director of Fine Arts at Starmount.*

*... to my organ registrants and assistants, Cindy Dunning and Michael Parker.*