



Uppsala International Organ Recital Series · *Summer 2025*

Uppsala Cathedral July 13 – August 17



**Svenska
kyrkan**

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Sunny summer days and organs singing
under the arches

As summer settles over Uppsala, we are proud to open the doors of the Cathedral for the *Uppsala International Organ Recital Series*. Over six Sundays in July and August, you are invited to experience the powerful beauty of music written for and performed on the mighty church organ. With musicians from England, Latvia, Switzerland, the USA and Sweden at the consoles, the Cathedral's magnificent instruments will reverberate with both familiar classics and new worlds of sound.

This concert series is a tribute to the organ's infinite expressive possibilities and the unique acoustics of the church room. Powerful improvisation and heartfelt silence, music from the movies and baroque, impressionism and gothic mysticism; each concert is an artistic encounter where the invited musicians create their own programs with great freedom, enjoying the contrast between tradition and innovation, worlds and eras.

In this year's series, we are happy to welcome star organists such as Susannah Carlsson and Robert Bennesh in a space adventure, Dónal McCann in a full-fledged program of fantasies, and Erik Wm. Suter in a kaleidoscope from gothic to gospel. Suzanne Z'Graggen interprets the dance of light in music by Clara Schumann and Maja Bösch, among others, and Aigars Reinis offers contemporary Latvian organ music with a strong personal expression.

It's summer in the Cathedral and the organs sing! You're most welcome to have a seat under the cathedral's arches, let the music fill the room, open your mind and enjoy time standing still for a moment.

Scan the QR code
for tickets:



Sunday July 13 | 4.30 pm

Susannah Carlsson & Robert Bennesh

With inspiration from composer Hans Zimmer's themes for the film *Interstellar*, the two organists Susannah Carlsson and Robert Bennesh embark on a journey under the stars and through the heavens.

The repertoire includes music by Charles Callahan, Philip Glass and the Icelandic composers Bára Grímsdóttir and Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir. The duo will also make space (no pun intended) for improvisation, performing on all the Cathedral's keyboard instruments.



Beneath Arches and Infinite Heavens

Hans Zimmer

(b. 1957)

Suite of themes from *Interstellar*
(arrangement for multiple organs)

Padre Antonio Soler

(1729–1783)

Concerto No. 5 in A Major
for two organs
I. Cantabile
II. Menué con variaciones

Charles Callahan

(1951–2023)

Amazing Grace; prelude on an
American folk hymn for organ & piano

Susannah Carlsson (f. 1976)

Robert Bennesh (f. 1986)

Improvisation over a theme
from *Missale Lundense*

Germaine Tailleferre

(1892–1983)

Prelude et Fugue

Bára Grímsdóttir

(b. 1960)

Undír verndarvæng
Ég krýp

Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir

(b. 1964)

Kona klædd sólinni

Philip Glass

(b. 1937)

Mad Rush
(arrangement for multiple organs)

Sunday July 20 | 4.30 pm

Dónal McCann

After a musical upbringing in Belfast and studies at both Cambridge and Oxford in England, acclaimed organist Dónal McCann has also become a praised and award-winning composer. In his concert in Uppsala Cathedral, McCann have chosen repertoire consisting

entirely of so-called *fantasies*, meaning a rich selection of free and improvisationally emphasized music by composers Alain, Bach, Franck, Vierne, Parry and Sweelinck. The program is performed on the Ruffatti organ.



Fantasies

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685–1750)

Fantasia and Fugue in G minor,
BWV 542

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

(1562–1621)

Fantasia Chromatica

César Franck

(1822–1890)

Fantaisie in A major, op. 16

Jehan Alain

(1911–1940)

Deuxième Fantaisie

Louis Vierne

(1870–1937)

Pièces de Fantaisie:

Feux Follets, op. 53 no. 4

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

(1848–1918)

Fantasia and Fugue in G major, op. 188

Sunday July 27 | 4.30 pm

Robert Bennesh

After eight years as Director of Music in Lund Cathedral, Robert Bennesh began his tenure at Uppsala Cathedral in September 2024. In his first summer recital in Uppsala he lets movement be the guiding concept of the program. Alas, when he takes the seat at the console of the Ruffatti organ it is to portray the energy of multiple composers from five centuries, from Buxtehude via Mozart and Carl Nielsen to names such as Elsa Barraine, Seth Bingham and contemporary Naji Hakim.



Music in Motion

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756–1791)

Elsa Barraine

(1910–1999)

Seth Bingham

(1882–1972)

Dietrich Buxtehude

(1637–1707)

Naji Hakim

(b. 1956)

Carl Nielsen

(1865–1931)

Fuga in G minor, K. 401

(arr. Sir George Thalben-Ball (189–1987))

Prelude and Fugue No. 1 en Sol mineur "sur un chant de prière israélite"

from Baroques:

3. Sarabande

4. Rhythmic Trumpet

Praeludium in D major, BuxWV 139

from Saksköbingspreludierna:

VI. Den mörke nat forgangen er

VII. Nu blomstertiden kommer

X. O kristelighed!

Commotio, op. 58

Sunday August 3 | 6 pm

Erik Wm. Suter

Please note this recital begins at 6pm.

Erik Suter, a native of Chicago, is a musician of international acclaim.

For nearly ten years, he served as organist at Washington National Cathedral, has regularly performed with orchestras such as the National Symphony Orchestra, and has

become a well-known and sought-after soloist on both sides of the Atlantic and the Pacific ocean. His program in Uppsala Cathedral has its starting point in the musical area between gothic organ and gospel melodies, with works by composers such as Vierne, Jeanne Demessieux, Howells and Duruflé as well as music by contemporaries William Bolcom and Texu Kim (born 1980), whose *Infinity Loop* from 2024 now gets its Uppsala premiere.



From Gothic to Gospel

Jeanne Demessieux

(1921–1968)

Te Deum, op. 11

Louis Vierne

(1870–1937)

from Pièces de Fantaisie:

Clair de lune, op. 53, no.5

Gaston Litaize

(1909–1991)

Prélude et Danse Fuguée

William Bolcom

(b. 1938)

from Gospel Preludes, Book 2:

Amazing Grace

Texu Kim

(b. 1980)

Infinity Loop (Uppsala premiere)

Herbert Howells

(1892–1983)

from Six Pieces for Organ:

3. Master Tallis's Testament

Maurice Duruflé

(1902–1986)

Suite pour Orgue, op. 5:

Prélude

Sicilienne

Toccata

Sunday August 10 | 4.30 pm

Suzanne Z'Graggen

Organist and professor Suzanne Z'Graggen from Lucerne, Switzerland, has been awarded several prizes for her organ playing and solo performances, both in her home country and internationally.

In this concert, she performs music that, whether it's a Bach prelude, music by Clara Schumann or contemporary organ works by Maja Bösch, Lionel Rogg and Sverre Eftestøl, has an aura of light, confidence and movement. Dividing her concert into two parts, Z'Graggen lets both the Ruffatti organ and the 1871 Åkerman organ express their personalities.



Dance of Light

Lionel Rogg

(b. 1936)

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685–1750)

Clara Schumann

(1819–1896)

Maja Bösch

(b. 1978)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Lionel Rogg

Clara Schumann

Johann Sebastian Bach

Sverre Eftestøl

(b. 1952)

La cité céleste

from Orgelbüchlein:

Jesu, meine Freude, BWV 610

Präludium und Fuge B-Dur, op. 16.2

Lichtertanz / Dance of Light:

I Toccata

II Verspielt / Playful

Preludium C-Dur, BWV 547:1 & 2

Meditation

Präludium und Fuge D-moll, op 16.3

Jesu, meine Freude, BWV 753
(Fragment ergänzt)

Lysets dans / Dance of light

I Solrenning / Sunrise

II Under stjernene / Under the Stars

III Østenfor sol og vestenfor måne /
East of the Sun and West of the Moon

Sunday August 17 | 4.30 pm

Aigars Reinis

The versatile artistic director and organist of Riga Cathedral since 2019, Latvian Aigars Reinis is also a singer and conductor with experience from, among others, The Latvian Radio Choir, Sinfonia Concertante and the chamber choir Ave Sol. In his program “Music

from Riga”, contemporary composers such as Ligita Sneibe, Andris Dzenītis, Madara Pētersone and Rihards Dubra dominate, but Reinis’ compatriots will be in the impressive company of their predecessors Bach and Johann Gottfried Muthel. Don’t miss this journey into contemporary Latvian organ music!



Music from Riga

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685–1750)

Preludium und Fuge E-dur, BWV 566

Andris Dzenītis

(b. 1987)

Late Rose

Ligita Sneibe

(b. 1962)

The Voice of the Caller

Johann Sebastian Bach

Wasserflussen Baylon

Johann Gottfried Muthel

Fantasi Ess-Dur

(1728–1788)

Madara Pētersone

(b. 1989)

Time Stays, We Go

Rihards Dubra

(b. 1964)

Ostinato, fuga e quasi una toccata

