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**GREAT MUSIC AT ST. BART'S PRESENTS TWO FEBRUARY EVENTS
SHOWCASING THE ST. BART'S ORGAN, THE LARGEST PIPE ORGAN IN
NEW YORK CITY:**

- **JOHN ZORN: *CANDLEMAS EVE AND THE HERMETIC ORGAN*, FEBRUARY 1, 2017**
- **JASON ROBERTS: LIVE IMPROVISED ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT
TO BUSTER KEATON'S *THE GENERAL*, FEBRUARY 17, 2017**



John Zorn; Buster Keaton in The General

To jolt New Yorkers out of their winter doldrums, the *Great Music at St. Bart's* concert series presents two events in February showcasing the famed St. Bart's pipe organ, the largest in New York City, that will literally shake the rafters. On February 1, in St. Bartholomew's magnificent Romanesque-style church, iconic New York composer John Zorn performs *The Hermetic Organ Office Nr. 15 (2017)*, a new chapter in his epic organ improvisation, praised by Lou Reed as one of "culmination and conquest," and his new work *Candlemas Eve*. And on February 17, St. Bart's presents the third annual screening of a silent film classic to live organ accompaniment by St. Bart's Associate Organist Jason Roberts – this year, *The General*, the comedy masterpiece by Buster Keaton.

WATCH: [A video about the St. Bart's organ on Vimeo](#)

Tickets may be purchased online at <http://mmpaf.org>, by phone by calling 212-378-0248, or in person at St. Bart's in Midtown Manhattan, 325 Park Avenue at 51st Street.

The 2016-17 season of *Great Music at St. Bart's* continues the new programmatic focus initiated last year by MMPAF Artistic Director William K. Trafka (Director of Music and Organist of St. Bart's): **to embrace a wider range of music in programs that shine in St. Bart's spaces.** The spring 2017 season also features programs of chamber music in the Chapel that showcase modern and new repertoire, performed by acclaimed ensembles ECCO East Coast Chamber Orchestra (*A Thousand Cranes* by Christopher Theofanidis, NY premiere), and Apple Hill String Quartet (*Presences* by John Harbison, world premiere). Among the programs presented in the magnificent sanctuary are two vastly different interpretations of the St. John Passion: Bach's, performed by The English Concert Players and the Choir of New College, Oxford, conducted by Robert Quinney, and Arvo Pärt's, performed by Trafka leading the St. Bartholomew's Choir; and Orff's *Carmina Burana* performed by the Dalton Chorale.

[Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at 8:30 pm in the Church](#)

JOHN ZORN: *CANDLEMAS EVE AND THE HERMETIC ORGAN*

Barry Crawford, flute

Isabel Gleicher, flute

Al Lipowski, vibraharp

Sae Hashimoto, vibraharp assistant

John Zorn, organ

Modern music icon John Zorn returns to St. Bart's with a performance of *The Hermetic Organ Office Nr. 15* (2017), a new chapter in his epic organ improvisation, praised by Lou Reed as one of "culmination and conquest." His 2016 work *Candlemas Eve* for two flutes and vibraharp will be offered on the eve of the church's feast day of Candlemas.

John Zorn performed *The Hermetic Organ Office Nr. 14* last year at St. Bart's and has released a recording of that performance on his Tzadik website, www.tzadik.com (Cat. #8340): "Recorded at midnight on the eve of Halloween on the largest organ in New York City, Zorn approaches this performance as ritual, creating a mysterious mood of contrasts, colors, bells, drones, counterpoint and simultaneity."

"The one word virtually everyone can agree on in any discussion of the work of composer John Zorn is 'prolific,' in the strictest sense of the definition," says Thom Jurek in allmusic.com. "Though he didn't begin making records until 1980, the recordings under his own name number well over 100, and the sheer number of works he has performed on, composed, or produced easily doubles that number. Though now an internationally renowned musician and the founder and owner of the wildly successful and equally prolific Tzadik imprint, Zorn is a cornerstone of New York's fabled and influential downtown scene. In addition, he has played with musicians of every stripe. He is ... a quintessential mirror of 21st century culture."

WATCH: [John Zorn's talks about his approach to *The Hermetic Organ* on YouTube](#)

Tickets: \$25, \$15 for Students and Seniors

Friday, February 17, 2017, at 7:30 pm in the Church

JASON ROBERTS ACCOMPANIES *THE GENERAL*

Jason Roberts, organ

St. Bart's Associate Director of Music and Organist Jason Roberts improvises organ accompaniment to *The General*, the great 1927 action-packed comedy adventure from Buster Keaton inspired by the Great Locomotive Chase of 1862.

As Gary Giddins wrote in Slate.com, "*The General* belongs to at least three movie genres: comedy, historical, and chase. Most of it is constructed around a pursuit as relentless as any Bourne blowout, involving a Confederate locomotive, called the General, hijacked by Union spies. ... Keaton's authenticity and comedic understatement make *The General* a surprisingly modern experience. The storytelling and the gags are free of sentimentality and knockabout clichés. The four-minute battle scene is simply one of the most gripping, and occasionally hilarious, ever filmed."

Over the past two years, Jason Roberts has improvised the organ accompaniment to St. Bart's screenings of *The Wind* starring Lillian Gish and the Buster Keaton classic *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* St. Bart's Associate Director of Music, Organist, and the Director of the Boy and Girl Choristers since 2014, Jason is a sought-after recitalist in the U.S. and an avid improviser. He won first prize at the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation in 2008 and was a finalist at the St. Alban's International Organ Competition in 2011 (Improvisation). He holds degrees from Rice University, Yale University and the Manhattan School of Music.

READ: Critic Roger Ebert's review of "Great Movie" *The General*

Tickets: \$20, \$10 for Students and Seniors

Tickets may be purchased online at <http://mmpaf.org>, by phone by calling 212-378-0248, or in person at St. Bart's in Midtown Manhattan, 325 Park Avenue at 51st Street.

Great Music at St. Bart's, the concert series produced by the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation (www.mmpaf.org), for the past six years has presented music in St. Bartholomew's Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York located in the heart of midtown Manhattan. The magnificent 1918 Romanesque-style church features a portal designed by Stanford White and a grand Byzantine-style interior – and two of New York's unlikely but outstanding concert spaces: the 150-seat chapel, an intimate and acoustically brilliant space that is perfectly suited for contemporary chamber music, and the majestic 1,000-seat sanctuary – outfitted with comfortable chairs enabling flexible seating – whose Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ is the largest in New York City and one of the finest examples of the American Classic Organ in the U.S.

January 4, 2017