

Music at the Basilica Inc.

# Advent Organ Recital 2020

**Beverley Phillips – organ**

**“Carillon” Op 16.**

**Léon Boëllman (1866-1897)**

Boëllman studied piano, organ, counterpoint and improvisation in Paris, subsequently being appointed as organist of St Vincent-de-Paris in 1881.

The term Carillon literally refers to a ‘bell’, in this case Boëllman has used a bell toll pattern that occurs in every measure of the piece from the first note to the last. Sometimes obvious, at other times buried in the texture of the music.

**The COVID-19 Fugue**

**Nicholas Papadimitriou**

Originally written for piano, Nicholas was persuaded to arrange his work for organ and made available as a download. In the steps of composers of old (eg Bach) the theme is a literal musical theoretical ‘spelling’ out of the name of the pandemic virus. It is included in the program partly in recognition of its musical value, but also in tribute to all those working to ensure we are cared for in this country, and as a meditation and prayer for the world.

**Wachet auf! ruft uns die Stimme.** This Chorale is integrally associated with the season of Advent and the call to “Wake, awake”. The following two versions, centuries apart and in style, both seem to evoke a spirit of excitement and expectation.

**Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780).** A member of a German dynasty of musicians, he studied at the Thomasschule in Leipzig, as a scholar of J S Bach from whom he received a warm testimonial. This work, one of 8 preludes for Oboe and organ, has been arranged for solo organ by E Power Biggs.

**A D Miller (b1972)** subtitles his composition on Wachet auf as “Proclamation”. It would seem that Millar feels a certain urgency and excitement. Perhaps less the ‘wake, awake’ part of the chorale, rather a focus on the ‘run out to meet him’!

**Two Christmas ‘Jazzy’ moments.** In 2003 Barenreiter published a series of organ volumes entitled “Jazz Inspirations” ‘intended to bear witness to the wealth of colours which can be expressed in jazz’.

**“Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht**

**Gunther Martin Göttische, op. 55 Nr 8**

born 1953, Gunther has numerous publications as a composer of practical choral, organ and instrumental works.

**“Go tell it on the mountain”**

**John A Behnke**

born 1953. Professor at the Concordia University Wisconsin for organ he is known as a composer, arranger and performer.

**Canonic Variations on Von Himmel hoch, da komm’ ich her BWV 769a J S Bach (1685-1750)**  
“From Heaven on high I come, bringing you good tidings. (Luther)

Written in the last years of Bach’s life (1747), he presented them to the Leipzig Society for Musical Sciences, membership of which was restricted to learned musicians. The variations demonstrate not merely technical skills but also Bach’s incredible canonic ingenuity. (A canon being a piece where different parts share the same melody, though starting at different points). Published in 1748, the fair copy has the movements in a different order from the original manuscript.

- i) Canone all' ottava
- ii) Canone alla quinta
- iii) Canto fermo in canone
- iv) Canone alla settima
- v) Canon per augmentationem

Throughout the variations there is conjecture of symbolic gestures both implied and explicit, one simple example is the falling lines at the beginning of i) heard as the descent from Heaven to earth or as the bells ringing the Saviour's birth. At the conclusion of movements iii) and v) Bach 'signs' his name in the final few bars.

BEVERLEY PHILLIPS began accompanying and singing in choirs at primary school, going on to study music at Melbourne University and later at Mercy College/ Australian Catholic University. Beverley studied piano with Alan Frase, Clarinet with John Argall, accompaniment with Roy Shephard, organ with Dr Geoffrey Cox and harpsichord with Roger Heagney. During these studies Beverley has continually been involved with Church music including positions in Caulfield, Warrnambool, Kempsey, and since 1978 as Director of Music at St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne and from 1987 - 2020 as a member of the music staff at St Franco', Melbourne. Highlights have included attending the International Organ school in Haarlem, performing at Organs of Ballarat and the goldfields, performing the complete Calvierbung III of Bach, and solo, continuo and accompaniment performance opportunities with Music at the Basilica. Beverley is now resident in the beautiful environment of the Brisbane Ranges.