



Larry & Friends

featuring

"The King of Instruments"

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Program

Sinfonia from Cantata BWV 29: “We Thank You, God, We Thank You”

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750, arr. Machella

Bach composed over 200 cantatas, but only a handful contain short, self-contained, orchestral pieces known as *sinfonias*. These movements set the tone for the cantatas. Bach composed this cantata in Leipzig in 1731 for a festive service in St. Nicholas Church, expressing jubilation and gratitude to God. The organ dominates the *Sinfonia*’s original orchestration and celebratory nature.

Larry Gillum

Organ Introduction Jerry Akers, Organ Technician

Prelude in Classic Style Gordon Young, 1919-1998

Let There Be Peace on Earth Sy Miller, 1908-1971
and Jill Jackson, 1913-1995

Don Shelley

Romance Claude-Bénigne Balbastre, 1724-1799

Aria in F John S. Dixon, 1957-

Promenade from *Jubilee Suite* Gordon Young, 1919-1998

Dennis Fromholzer

Meditation Maurice Duruflé, 1902-1986

Fugue Maurice Duruflé, 1902-1986

Sur le theme du Carillon des heures de la Cathédral de Soissons

Jill Hunt

Te Deum in D Major: *Prelude*.....Marc-Antoine Charentier,
1643-1704, arr. Rawsthorne

Composed in Paris in the early 1690s, Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s grand motet *Te Deum* was written to celebrate a major French military victory, so it’s not surprising that he called for trumpets and tympani in the opening fanfare. Unfortunately, the score fell into deep obscurity after the composer’s death in 1704. It was rediscovered in 1953, and organists have been transcribing it for the instrument ever since. Today’s performance will feature the Fanfare Trumpet stop.

Adagio for Strings Samuel Barber, 1910-1981, arr. Strickland

Samuel Barber's iconic *Adagio for Strings* is one of the most recognizable and deeply moving pieces in Western classical music. The work originally began life as the slow second movement of his *String Quartet, Op. 11*, composed in 1936. Recognizing its independent power, Barber expanded it for full string orchestra. In 1939, organist William Strickland – then assistant organist at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York – met Barber and proposed a transcription for the organ. Barber eventually approved the organ arrangement, which was published by G. Schirmer in 1949.

Joe McConathy

St. Francis Suite for Organ Richard Purvis, 1913-1994

I. Ascription

O most high, almighty, good Lord God,
To Thee belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing.

II. Hymn to the Moon

Praised be our Lord for our sister the moon...
Which he has set clear and lovely in the heavens.

III. Earth Carol

Praised be our God for our mother the Earth, which doth
Sustain and keep us, and bringeth forth diverse fruits
And flowers of many colors, and green grass.

IV. Canticle of the Sun

Praised be my Lord God with all his creatures, and
especially for our brother the sun, who brings us the
day and who brings us the light; fair is he and shines
with great splendor: O Lord, he signifies to us, Thee!

Joel Bacon

The Postlude Improvisation on Hymntune, *Nettleton*:

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Many services at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies conclude with celebratory postludes improvised by the organist. Themes for these improvisations are usually based on hymntunes chosen by the organist. Sometimes tunes are suggested by parishioners.

Following that tradition today, our concert ends with an improvised postlude, celebrating our completed organ.

Larry Gillum

Biographies

Larry Gillum grew up on a Kansas farm where he plowed fields, worked the hayfields, milked cows, and played piano. His career in music began early as pianist for his hometown church at the age of 12. He earned university degrees in music education, piano performance, and organ performance. Throughout his career he taught public school music for 37 years, working with a dramatic arts and dance specialist in developing an Arts in Education program while writing and producing musical shows performed by his students. Simultaneously, he has been director of music and organist for numerous churches in Kansas and in Colorado. He has been a member of the American Guild of Organists for 67 years. In a completely different musical venue, he won auditions at a professional dinner theatre and became lead Pianist and Orchestral Director for two seasons. Larry joined the music staff at Estes Park's Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies in September of 2000, where he remains today as principal organist.

Don Shelley has served as an organ and piano accompanist for many years. His musical service began as organist for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and later for Allenspark Community Church and Community UMC. He has also assisted at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies as a substitute organist. Outside of music, Don was the owner of Estes Valley Networks, providing internet service for many residents of Estes Park. Later he worked in the Information Technology Department at Estes Valley Medical Center before retiring. Today Don enjoys retirement and the freedom to pursue his other interests and adventures, especially motorcycle riding, traveling, and spending time on the open road.

Dennis Fromholzer is currently the Music Director and Choir Organist for Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Estes Park. Before then, he served as Assistant Organist for St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Boulder. His musical background began early, playing organ for Masses in 6th grade and accompanying the church choir in high school. His professional background includes careers in the Electric Utility, Airline, Telecommunications, and Marketing industries for 35 years. He also ran his own consulting business for 25 years. Dennis has a BS in mathematics from MIT and a PhD in Engineering-Economic Systems from Stanford. Dennis now claims music to be his retirement career.

Jill Hunt is a life-long church musician who served churches in the Chicago area as organist, children's choir director, handbell director, and director of music. She holds degrees in piano and organ performance from Oklahoma City University and Northwestern University. Jill accompanies in Fort Collins and Loveland and has a class of piano students. She presently serves as organist for Trinity Lutheran Church in Loveland and is our chief substitute organist at Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies in Estes Park.

Joe McConathy, organist at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins, recently celebrated 35 years of service in the role. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from Loma Linda University, where he studied with Donald Vaughn.

Joel Bacon is the Stewart and Sheron Golden Chair of Organ and Liturgical Studies and the Fr. Don Willette Chair of Catholic Studies at Colorado State University. In 2026 he was named a University Distinguished Professor. He has performed throughout Europe and North America, and his performances have been broadcast on Austrian Radio and Public Radio International. He has played with numerous orchestras and chamber groups, including the Borromeo String Quartet and the Canadian Brass. He directs and teaches annual summer courses for young organists (CSU Organ Week) and has directed many Pipe Organ Encounters of the American Guild of Organists. He has taught at the Oundle International Festival in Cambridge UK, at organ courses of the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna, and at numerous other courses in the US and Canada. From 2008 to 2020, he conducted the St. John XXIII Schola Cantorum, a choir specializing in Gregorian Chant. Dr. Bacon is currently the organist and artist in residence at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins.