
Press Release: Smithfield Church Annual Christmas Concert and Tea

Who: Guest soloist, Gavin Black, Organist

What: Annual Christmas Concert and Tea

When: 4:00 PM, Saturday, December 2, 2017

Where: The Smithfield Church, 656 Smithfield Valley Road, (Rt. 83) Amenia, NY

Why: To benefit the renovation of the historic Smithfield Church

Admission: Donations gratefully accepted. A plate is passed during the program.

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Details: The Public is invited to the Thirteenth Annual Christmas Concert and Tea at the Smithfield Church in the Smithfield Valley of Amenia at 4 PM on Saturday, December 2. This year's guest artist is Gavin Black, organist who will perform from the works of Buxtehude and Pachelbel.

The concert will also feature the Smithfield instrumental ensemble including flautist Michelle Demko, clarinetist Norman Baker, bassist Kyle Behnken, violinist Rob Murphy, violist Piotr Kargul and arranger Matt Finley on trumpet. Also vocalists Monte Stone and Denise Jordan Finley, poet Kevin McEneaney, and pianist Connor Whelan will be on hand. A folk ensemble including Tim Capowski, guitarist and Ted Rathjen on mandolin will complete the program.

Tea and delicacies will be served in the church community room after the music. Admission to the event is free to all members of the church and the general community. A collection basket will be passed during the course of the program for donations to benefit the continued renovations of the historic Smithfield Church building. (www.thesmithfieldchurch.org)

Gavin Black bio...

Gavin Black is founder and Director of the Princeton Early Keyboard Center in Princeton, New Jersey, where he teaches harpsichord, clavichord, organ, and continuo playing. He also taught at Westminster Conservatory of Music from 1985 to 2003 and at Westminster Choir College from 1995 to 2000. He is an active recitalist on Baroque keyboard instruments, and has recorded on organ and on harpsichord for PGM, Centaur, and MHS. His recordings include music of Sweelinck, Froberger, Pachelbel, Buxtehude, and others, as well as J. S. Bach's *The Art of the Fugue* with colleague George Hazelrigg in a version for two harpsichords. Gavin has performed the complete organ music of J. S. Bach on the Fisk organ at Westminster Choir College. In addition to his focus on keyboard repertoire between 1500 and 1750, he has also specialized in the music of the twentieth century American blind composer Moondog (Louis Hardin), with whom he collaborated during the last twenty years of the composer's life. (Phillip Glass speaks of working with Moondog in his memoir *Words Without Music*.)

Gavin studied organ and harpsichord with Wendell Piehler, Paul Jordan, and Eugene Roan, piano with Lillian Silva, Lois Lounsbury, and Paul Klein, and conducting with Jahja Ling and Otto-Werner Mueller.

Gavin writes a regular monthly column "On Teaching" for the organ magazine *The Diapason*.



GAVIN BLACK, ORGANIST