



Summer Organ Series: Nathaniel Gumbs

June 16, 2026

7:00 PM



Carillon Prelude

Paul Stelban, *carillon*

Lift Every Voice and Sing	J. Rosamond Johnson
Over and Over	Beach House
It's Love	Jill Scott
Greyhound	Foxing
Sun	Two Door Cinema Club
Theme from "Jupiter" from The Planets (incorporating the hymn tune St. Columba)	Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Organ Program

Variations de Concert, Op. 1	Joseph Bonnet (1884-1944)
Chorale in E Major	César Franck (1822-1890)
Andante Variations	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Choral varié sur le thème du Veni Creator, Op. 4: <i>In alternatim</i>	Maurice Durufé (1902-1986)
Summertime from <i>Porgy and Bess</i>	George Gershwin (1898-1937)
He's Got The Whole World in His Hands	Arr. Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)
	Brittany Renee, <i>soprano</i>
First Sonata for Organ	Florence B. Price (1887-1953)
Introduction/Allegro	
Andantino	
Finale	

About the Artists

Nathaniel Gumbs is a native of the Bronx, NY and has performed throughout the United States and abroad, including Antigua, St. Thomas, Ghana, Paris, and Munich, and is consistently gathering new fans and followers. In a review of a recorded performance with bass-baritone Dashon Burton, The New York Times described Nathaniel's playing as "mature, lyrical, accurate and energetic," and that his performance was presented "deftly and with feeling."

Dr. Gumbs currently serves as Director of Music at The Riverside Church in The City of New York. He earned his undergraduate degree from Shenandoah Conservatory in Virginia, his Master of Music degree from Yale University, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music. Nathaniel's principal teachers include Steven Cooksey, David Higgs, and Martin Jean.

Prior to his position at The Riverside Church, Nathaniel served as Director of Chapel Music at Yale University where he worked with students, faculty, and guests to coordinate music for three worshiping communities: the University Church in Battell Chapel,

the Yale Divinity School community, and the Berkeley Divinity School community, the latter two communities both worshipping in Marquand Chapel. He also served previously as Interim Minister of Music and Fine Arts at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, NY, and as Director of Music and Arts and Church Organist at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, where he led several hundred volunteer musicians and staff in four choirs and other ensembles.

Nathaniel maintains a vibrant career as a concert organist, managed by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc. He is also featured on various recording projects through GIA publications with Dr. James Abbington, choral projects with award-winning conductor Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand, and recordings of revised choral works by Margaret Bonds with NY Philharmonic's Chorus Director, Dr. Malcolm Merriweather. Nathaniel is a contributing composer in *Pulling Out The Stops, Volume 3, Congregational Song Accompaniments for Organ*, published by Augsburg Fortress. Most recently, he released his first organ solo project entitled *King of Kings: Organ Music of Black Composers, Past and Present*.

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Renowned for her “luminous tones” and “opulent voice,” and celebrated by Opera News for her “plush soprano bloom,” GRAMMY Award-winning soprano **Brittany Renee** is enchanting audiences with her exquisite artistry and radiant stage presence. Her performance is a masterclass in sophistication and finesse, affirming her status as a rising star destined for a luminous future.

Last season, Mrs. Renee continued to shine, bringing her portrayal of Musetta in *La Bohème* to The Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, and Houston Grand Opera in her house début. She also graced the Kennedy Center stage with Washington National Opera as Bess in *Porgy & Bess* and was featured at National Sawdust as Esther in the world premiere of Paola Prestini’s *Silent Light*. On the concert stage, Mrs. Renee appeared as the soprano soloist in *Brahms’ Requiem* with the New York Philharmonic, *Sanctuary Road* with the Buffalo Philharmonic, in Lara Bolton’s fusion project *Voxspex*, and sang a Gala Concert in Memory of John Paul II at Merkin Hall.

This season, Brittany Renee is poised to continue dazzling the operatic world, solidifying her position as one of the most compelling voices of her generation. Following her run at Washington National Opera, Mrs. Renee will make a highly anticipated return to The Metropolitan Opera as her esteemed Bess in *Porgy & Bess*. In addition, she will return to San Francisco Opera for her portrayal of Sister Rose in *Dead Man Walking*, before joining Florentine Opera for her role début as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*.

International débuts have included performances at the Semperoper Dresden, The Charles Bronfman Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Israel, the Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari, Italy, The Magnetic Opera Festival in Elba, Italy, and Opera on the Avalon in Canada. US appearances have included performances with Opera San Jose, Knoxville Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Crested Butte Music Festival, The Handel Choir of Baltimore, and the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra.

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Paul Stelben is a music teacher and freelance carillonist based in Philadelphia, PA. Paul grew up in Connecticut studying piano and bassoon, and then at Yale, he studied carillon with Ellen Dickinson. Currently, he teaches general music, modern band, drumline, and musical theater at a small charter school network based in the Olney section of Philadelphia. Paul passed the exam to join the Guild of Carillonners in North America in 2019, and he’s published numerous carillon arrangements through ArrangeMe. He has performed carillon concerts in New England, the Mid- Atlantic, and the Midwest, and he continues to play regularly in the Philadelphia area. In the fall of 2024, Paul had the incredible opportunity to arrange and perform ten works by Janis Ian for Berea College’s inaugural celebration of the Janis Ian Archives. In his spare time, Paul also enjoys pick-up Ultimate Frisbee and trail running.

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