

Chara Aurora Cooper Haas Pipe Organ

Kegg Pipe Organ Builders, Op. 50 (2014)

A gift by Mr. Frederick Haas and the Wyncote Foundation in memory of his mother, who was a member of our congregation.

Swell

16' Bourdon
8' Diapason
8' Gedeckt
8' Salicional
8' Voix Celeste
8' Flauto Dolce
8' Flute Celeste
4' Octave
4' Flute Triangular
V Mixture
16' Waldhorn°
8' Cornopean
8' Flügel Horn
8' Vox Humana
Tremolo

Great

16' Bourdon (ped)
16' Violone°*
8' First Diapason*
8' Second Diapason
8' Clarabella
8' Gamba° (ext)*
4' Octave
4' Harmonic Flute
2' Fifteenth
Tremolo
8' Tuba° (ch)
8' Trumpet°
8' French Horn
Chimes*

Choir

8' Diapason
8' Concert Flute
8' Dulciana
8' Unda Maris
4' Flute d'Amore
2' Piccolo
8' English Horn
8' Clarinet
Tremolo
8' Tuba
Harp*
*unenclosed

Celestial

8' Gedeckt
8' Gross Gamba°
8' Gamba Celeste°
8' Echo Salicional
8' Voix Celeste
4' Flauto Mirabilis°
4' Flute
8' Vox Humana
Tremolo
Tremolo 2nd Touch
8' Tuba Mirabilis°
8' Tuba (ch)
8' French Horn (gr)
Harp (ch)
Tower Chimes (interior)

The bulk of the pipework is
Skinner Organ Company
Op. 574 (1925) and Op. 682 (1927)

°New pipework by A.R. Schopp for
Kegg in the Skinner style (2014)

French Horn: Skinner, Op. 394 (1922)
Harp: Aeolian, Op. 1744 (1929)
Deagan Tower Chimes (1948)

four-manual console by Kegg

Allen Q410 Digital Organ (2011)

A gift from church members Tom and Charlene Cooper, this instrument has a four-manual console with seven suites of pipe organ samples. The woodwork on the speaker cabinets, and on the pipe organ's facade, is by Historic Doors of Kempton.

The next Vespers will be on August 13, 2025, at 7:30 pm.

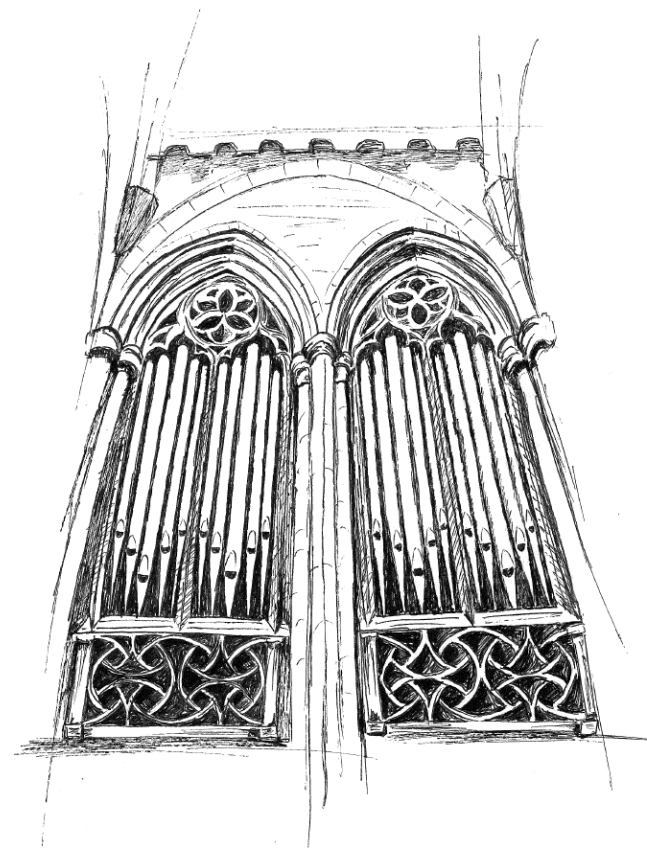
For more information, please visit our website.



Bryn Athyn Church

Sunset Organ Vespers

Peace and Joy



Minister: Rev. John Odhner

Organist: Leah Martin

7:30 pm, July 9th, 2025
at Bryn Athyn Cathedral

Welcome to Bryn Athyn Church

Tonight's service alternates music with readings from the Bible and the Teachings of the New Church. Please preserve a sphere of worship by maintaining silence throughout. Please refrain from applause; appreciation can be expressed in person after the service. Photography and videography during the service is not permitted.

Vespers will open with a call to worship using one of our Tower Chimes. They were originally installed in Kingsport, Tennessee (1948) as a memorial to soldiers who gave their lives in the Second World War.

Welcome, Opening of the Word, and Prayer

Clair de Lune.....Claude Debussy, arr. Serge Ollive (1862-1918)

Reading: John 15:9-14; 16:20-24

Chorale varié sur "Veni Creator".....Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Reading: *Heaven and Hell* §285-86

Partita on "Christ ist erstanden," mvt. III.....Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

Reading: Psalm 30

Après un rêve.....Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Reading: *Divine Providence* §324:3, 6

Elegy.....George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

Reading: Isaiah 65:16-25

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.....Paul Ayres (b. 1970)

Reading: Revelation 21:1-4; Psalm 98

"Ode to Joy"L. van Beethoven, arr. Jonathan Scott (1770-1827)

Prayer, Benediction, and Closing of the Word

Méditation from ThaïsJules Massenet (1842-1912)

After the service, you are invited to stroll the gardens and enjoy the illuminated architecture. If you are so moved and able, please donate to support this program. You can find offering bowls at the doors. Checks can be made payable to Bryn Athyn Church (memo: Organ Vespers). Our gratitude to all who make this series possible.

Notes: Tonight's program opens with *Clair de Lune*, one of Debussy's most famous works. The title, French for "moonlight," was taken from a poem by Paul Verlaine.

Originally composed for piano, this organ arrangement explores the various colors of the organ, offering a contrasting effect to compare to the familiar piano version. Debussy's impressionistic composition style and fluid rhythms give the piece an ethereal quality.

Duruflé's variations on the chant theme "*Veni Creator*" are part of a three-movement work on the same theme. This final movement consists of a theme and four variations, with the original chant sung by Graham and Robin Bier in between variations. Duruflé often uses the third chant phrase as its own repeating and developing melody throughout the variations. In the slow variation, the chant melody is echoed in the pedals in a canon at the fourth. In the final toccata-like variation, the dynamic grows until the final chant phrase is finally heard once more in the clear chorale style.

The third movement of *Partita on "Christ ist erstanden"* ("Christ is Risen") is a mysterious and reflective piece by Portman, an award-winning contemporary American composer. In the melodic sections, the clear melody is played on a solo stop in the pedals, sounding above the gentle strings played in the manuals.

Après un rêve (French for "After a Dream") from *Trios Mélodies* features Sarah Martin on cello. Originally composed for voice and piano, the lyrics describe a longing to return to a mysterious dream of fleeing with a lover, away from Earth and "towards the light" — a desire expressed by the yearning melody in the cello.

Elegy is Thalben-Ball's best-known work. The singing melody explores various stops on the organ, from warm groups of strings at the beginning, to trumpet and principal combinations at the climax, and finally to a soft reed at the conclusion.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem features alto Robin Bier, with Sarah Martin on cello. The text is a prayer for peace derived from Psalm 122, and the reverence of the melodies echoes the prayerful text.

The fourth movement of *Symphony No. 9*, commonly called "Ode to Joy," is considered one of the most famous musical works of all time. This movement was groundbreaking because it was the first to incorporate a choir into a symphony. Jonathan Scott's arrangement for organ takes advantage of the multifaceted capabilities of the organ, imitating the orchestral sounds where possible, and replacing the tenor solo with the organ's powerful tuba. The movement is a musical representation of universal brotherhood.

Méditation from the opera *Thaïs*, originally written for violin, orchestra, and a wordless chorus, is played today by Annalisa Franzen on violin. In the opera, this piece follows a scene in which a monk invites Thaïs to leave her life of luxury and follow God. The uplifting melody tends to climb increasingly higher before cascading gracefully back downwards.

Leah Martin joined the Bryn Athyn Church staff as Principal Organist in 2023. She holds a BM in organ performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and a Master of Sacred Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Notre Dame.

Soloists:

Graham Bier (bass); Robin Bier (alto); Sarah Martin (cello); Annalisa Franzen (violin)