

FRIENDS OF MUSIC SERIES

First Presbyterian Church

203 N. Almer St.
Caro, Michigan 48723

989.673.6630
www.carofirst.org

Friday, March 24, 2023
12:00 p.m.



Sarah Simko

organ

Prelude and Fugue in g minor, Op. 7, No. 3

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

from *Symphony no. 1 for organ*, Op. 18

Olivia Margaret Ontko
(b. 1947)

- 3. Dithyrambe
- 4. Adagio

Three Taiwanese Folksongs

Chelsea Chen
(b. 1983)

- I. Four Seasons
- II. The Cradle Song
- III. Song of the Country Farmer

Toccata and Fugue

Emma Lou Diemer
(b. 1929)

Dr. **SARAH SIMKO** is the Associate Organist and Communications Coordinator at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, in Detroit, Michigan. She is the Adjunct Faculty Instructor of Organ at Madonna University. A recent graduate of the University of Michigan, Dr. Simko completed her studies with James Kibbie and Kola Owolabi. She received her Bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music, with Professors Nathan Laube, Edoardo Bellotti, William Porter and Hans Davidsson. Simko is the recipient of a Graduate Award from the Presser Foundation, used to create a comprehensive set of recordings of organ music by living American female composers. The goal of this project is to expand the accessibility of a rich, overlooked body of repertoire. More information, including purchasing information for this series of three CDs, can be found under the “Living Voices” tab on her website, sarahsimko.com. During her time at the University of Michigan, Dr. Simko served as a Research Assistant for a team headed by Dr. Kibbie and Dr. Daniel Forger from the Department of Mathematics. Through detailed study of Johann Sebastian Bach’s Six Sonatas (BWV 525-530), this collaborative project focused on how the brain processes music. Recorded rehearsals and performances of the Sonatas were processed using big data analysis techniques. In conjunction with this work, Dr. Simko has given coaching sessions on these works. This project concluded in summer 2019. Dr. Simko is a member of *The Diapason* magazine’s “Top 20 under 30,” Class of 2017, and the Oakland County Executive’s Elite 40 under 40, Class of 2018. She received First Prize in the Schoenstein Competition in the Art of Organ Accompaniment (2017), hosted by the University of Michigan, at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. Simko has held many positions in churches in the Detroit area. Previous positions include Choral Accompanist at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor; Interim Director of Music at University Presbyterian Church, Rochester Hills; and, Senior Organ Scholar at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. She also served Bethany Presbyterian Church, Greece, New York, as the organ scholar. Dr. Simko has given recitals at such notable venues as, among others, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Methuen, Massachusetts; St. Paul’s Cathedral (Anglican), London, Ontario, Canada; Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, Detroit; the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal), Detroit; Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor. She has performed in masterclasses with Marilyn Mason, David Wagner, Ken Cowan, Bruce Neswick, Olivier Latry, Vincent Dubois, and Michel Bouvard.

THE REMAINING CONCERTS OF THE
2022-2023 FRIENDS OF MUSIC SERIES

Sunday, April 16 | 3:00 p.m.

Townes Osborn Miller (flute); Brett Hoag (classical guitar)

Friday, April 21 | noon

Sarah Overdier Hudson (singer-songwriter)

Sunday, April 23 | 3:00 p.m. | Frank B. Campbell Memorial Organ Recital

Nicholas Schmelter (organ)