

# Soli Deo Gloria



The American Guild of Organists  
Clearwater Chapter

presents

**Jeremy Filsell**  
organist

Chapel By the Sea Community Church of Clearwater Beach, Florida

54 Bay Esplanade

Sunday, January 25 – Five o'clock in the Evening

## WELCOME

### A DEDICATION LITURGY

Rev. Dr. Rhonda Abbott Blevins, Pastor

*The people will stand as they are able and read responsively.*

We present this organ to be consecrated to the glory of Almighty God  
for service in this community of faith.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
**to sing praises to your name, O Most high,**  
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
**and your faithfulness at night,**  
to the music of the lute and the harp,  
**To the melody of the lyre.**  
For you, O Lord have made me glad by your work;  
**at the work of your hands I sing for joy.**

## PRAYER

*Let us pray.*

Eternal God,  
whom the generations have worshiped through the gift of music,  
accept our praise to you in the sound of this instrument,  
which we consecrate in your name and to your glory.  
Grant that its music may be a blessing to all who worship here,  
and that they may be consecrated to you,  
whose sound has gone out through all the earth  
and whose words to the end of the world.  
Let our music be so joined to your holy Word  
that your glory may surround us  
and empower us for the service to which you call us in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

HYMN (insert)

*All Glory Be to God on High*    ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH

## THE PROGRAM

**All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 715** ..... Johann Sebastian BACH, 1685-1750

**Prélude and Fugue in C-Sharp Minor** ..... Jeanne BOULLAY, 1869-1925

**All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 663** ..... Johann Sebastian BACH

**A Flurry of Christmas Angels** ..... Martyn LANE, b. 1940

**All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 662** ..... Johann Sebastian BACH

**Veni Redemptor (A Celebration), Op. 93** ..... Kenneth LEIGHTON, 1929-1988

**All Glory Be to God on High, BWV 664** ..... Johann Sebastian BACH

**Improvisation on Adeste Fideles** ..... Francis POTT, b. 1957

*The only authorized recording of today's concert is by Mathre Communications of St. Petersburg, Florida for broadcast by American Public Media's PIPE DREAMS.*

*An informal gathering immediately follows in the Parish Hall.  
Guests are invited to greet Dr. Filsell and Tomasz Lewtak.*

*Jeremy Filsell is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists.*

Jeremy Filsell is one of only a few virtuoso performers as both concert pianist and organist. He studied as an Organ Scholar at Keble College, Oxford and completed graduate studies in piano performance at the Royal College of Music in London. His PhD in Musicology from Birmingham City University/Conservatoire focused on the music of Marcel Dupré.

He has over 35 solo recordings on piano and organ. Gramophone magazine described his recordings of Marcel Dupré's complete organ works (on the Guild label) as "one of the greatest achievements in organ recording". He recorded the six organ symphonies of Vierne on the Cavaillé-Coll organ in St. Ouen, Rouen, the solo piano music of Herbert Howells, Bernard Stevens, Eugène Goossens, and Johann Christoph Eschmann, Rachmaninov's solo piano music (Signum), the first two Rachmaninov Concerti (Raven), and the piano music of Francis Pott (Acis).

His career combined an international recital and teaching career with being director of music at The Church of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Washington DC, Artist-in-residence at Washington National Cathedral, and Professor of Organ at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. From 2019 to 2025, he was Organist and Director of Music at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue.



## PRESERVATION AND RENEWAL

The Chapel By the Sea was founded as an interdenominational faith community in 1949. Known for their fine worship and music tradition, the coronavirus pandemic gave pause to reflect and parishioner's resolve to contract a pipe organ. Not driven by economy of financial resource, but an eagerness to preserve and renew, the parish sought to locate and procure a used instrument. Randall Dyer & Associates' Opus 59 was purchased from a Kentucky congregation in the midst of dissolution. The opportunity to continue the ministry of another faith community resonated with the congregation. Lewtak Pipe Organ Builders of Mocksville, North Carolina was commissioned to remove the instrument from its original home and craft a newly encased instrument utilizing the existing pipework and chimes.

Tomasz Lewtak began to design an instrument inspired by the community it would serve. The Chapel folk set about the task of enhancing their Spanish mediterranean style Sanctuary. The Chancel ceiling was raised 4-inches, wall surfaces thickened, mechanical systems rerouted, and reflective flooring laid to improve the overall acoustic. State-of-the-art lighting and audio visual technologies enhance the worship experience. The original stained glass collection was refurbished, enhanced and expanded by Statesville Stained Glass Restoration and Preservation of North Carolina with funding by the Richard O. Jacobson Foundation.

Enclosed in two manual divisions with pedal, the organ is focused by a case crafted of quarter sawn red oak, the principal façade gilded in 18-carat gold leaf. The color and finish were inspired by the Florida coastline. Artisans utilized lye to create a white hue reminiscent of sand. The pipe shades, with their varying circular patterns and blue accents, pay homage to the clear Gulf waters. The Chancel is focused by a central cross and liturgical furnishings designed and crafted in the Lewtak wood shop.

Space constraints became a friend to limited tonal resources recycled, rescaled and voiced to sing a broad repertoire. Silver principals, chippy flutes, undulating strings, a warm celeste, colorful mutations, a pungent trumpet and an orchestral reed comprise a cohesive ensemble. Sightlines are maintained by a stoptab console of minimum height and width. The incredibly flexible instrument incorporates the usual manual and pedal compass, couplers and an expansive control system by Matters.

The Sanctuary is now complete with a beautifully refined instrument capable of leading a vibrant singing congregation, accompanying a well trained choir, celebrating festive occasions and mourning in quiet reflection. The Lewtak Pipe Organ Builders was founded in 2000. The resounding of the organ Easter Sunday 2025 was befitting of the LEWTAK SILVER JUBILEE.

The Lewtak philosophy, *rooted in respect for tradition without imitation, respect for craftsmanship without complacency, and respect for innovation without novelty for its own sake*, has been realized in the resolve of a small thriving congregation.

The Florida Gulf is a vast wonder. The Chapel By the Sea, and its Lewtak Pipe Organ, are pearls among the white sand of Clearwater Beach.

**Timothy Belk** administers the mission and ministry of The Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church of Clearwater, Florida and is adjunct faculty at St. Petersburg College.

