

Broc Hite

Broc Hite has been the Organist and Associate Director of Music at First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista since 2012. He also teaches piano privately and at the Shepherd Music School based at Central United Methodist Church in Rogers. Prior to moving to Arkansas in 2010, he was the Organist and Music Director at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Fairfield, Connecticut.

He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Piano Performance from Purchase College in Purchase, New York, studying under German Diez. He earned the Master of Music Degree in Piano Accompanying at The Juilliard School, studying under Margo Garrett and Marshall Williamson, and performance classes with Samuel Sanders and Jonathan Feldman. In conjunction with his other career in business, he achieved the Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Connecticut.



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Playing the organ

featuring works by

Felix Mendelssohn

Léon Boëllmann

Sunday, November 4, 2018

12:10pm

*First United Methodist Church
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista, AR*



First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista
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Program Notes

Program

Prelude and Fugue, Op. 37, No. 2 in G Major
Felix Mendelssohn

Suite Gothique Léon Boëllmann

- I. *Introduction - Choral*
- II. *Menuet gothique*
- III. *Prière à Notre-Dame*
- IV. *Toccata*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) is known for his compositions in many genres, including two volumes of organ music. This prelude and fugue is the middle composition of a set of three. Mendelssohn is known for reviving the performance of Bach's music, so it's no surprise that he would try to compose in a form that was largely abandoned for 100 years. It should be noted that these preludes and fugues are very different from those of Bach. The harmonies of the prelude are simple, not chromatic, while employing a melodic and harmonic style of the Romantic period. In Bach's fugues, the subject determines what harmonies will be used. Mendelssohn appears to have written the fugue subject only after determining how he wanted the harmonies to develop. It's as if the tail wags the dog.

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897) is known in the organ community as a one-hit wonder, despite having written 160 pieces during his short life. He was born in eastern France, though grew up in western Germany, despite not moving! People from the Haut-Rhin department in Alsace faced many changes in nationality due to power struggles in the last two centuries. The *Suite Gothique* contains a very brief introduction followed by the gothic minuet that sets the main tone of the composition. The Prayer of Our Lady is a stark contrast to the rest of the piece, both in its tempo and key of A-flat major. The other three movements are in either C Major or C minor. It is a beloved movement that is often played on its own. The closing *Toccata* is the only technically difficult movement; it has many page turns during a 3-minute-plus finale.