

The First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista
Proudly Presents

Broc Hite, Organist

Sunday, December 9, 2018 at Noon
Monday, December 24, 2018 at 6:55 p.m.

Carillon ou Cloches	Jean-François Dandrieu
Noël X pour Grand Jeu et Duo	Louis-Claude Daquin
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659	J.S. Bach
Magnificat IV	Marcel Dupré
Fête	Jean Langlais

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738) lived roughly contemporaneously with J.S. Bach, though you probably wouldn't guess that from listening to this piece, which is based on a four-note theme hinted at in the title, Carillon or Bells. The theme development has its roots in the Baroque, but the frequent cadencing between tonic and dominant are Galant. The Galant musical style, also known as Rococo or *Empfindsamer Stil*, was less ornate but more expressive than that of the Baroque. The Baroque began in the early 1600s, whereas the Galant emerged in the 1720s. It was a bridge to the Classical period, which began in the 1770s.

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772) like Dandrieu, was a famous French composer and church organist. The set of 12 Noëls, or Christmas pieces, dates from 1757. This is the 10th of that set, which features a contrast of loud reed combinations (*grand jeu*) and soft sounds (*duo*). It's fully vested in the Galant, with little trace to the Baroque.

J.S. Bach (1685-1750) needs little introduction, except as a foil to the French composers earlier on the program. We are lucky that Bach decided not to get on board with the new wave in composition, else we would have lacked many books of organ music, including this beautiful choral prelude on the theme of *Now Come, Savior of the World*.

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971) was a famous French organist, composer, and teacher. He assumed the post as titular organist at St. Sulpice in Paris after Widor. He is known as a composer who composed in a style with increased difficulty for the organ much in the same way as Paganini for the violin. Therefore, his works are only played by those who either are wise or foolish. I hope not to be the latter! This piece is the fourth of six Magnificat that Dupré wrote as a musical response to different sections of the Song of Mary, from the Gospel of Luke. In the subtitle, this piece quotes the section "He hath put down the mighty...and the rich he hath sent empty away."

Jean Langlais (1907-1991) was a famous French organist, composer, improviser, and teacher. Blind from age two, he learned how to play the organ from a young age. He became titular organist at St. Clotilde in Paris, following in the footsteps of Franck and Tournemire. His tonal palette is unique, though shares a general compositional vocabulary with other 20th-century French composers like Dupré. The title Fête means festival. Though this isn't nominally a Christmas piece, it certainly proclaims the joy that we share at Christ's birth.