Clair de Lune

Votre âme est un paysage choisi
Que vont charmant masques et bergamasques
Jouant du luth et dansant et quasi
Tristes sous leurs déguisements fantasques.
Tout en chantant sur le mode mineur
L'amour vainqueur et la vie opportune
Ils n'ont pas l'air de croire à leur bonheur
Et leur chanson se mêle au clair de lune,
Au calme clair de lune triste et beau,
Qui fait rêver les oiseaux dans les arbres
Et sangloter d'extase les jets d'eau,
Les grands jets d'eau sveltes parmi les marbres.

Your soul is a chosen landscape
Where roam charming masks and bergamasques
Playing the lute and dancing and somewhat sad
under their fantastic disguises.
While singing in a minor key
Of victorious love and good life
They don't seem to believe in their own happiness
And their song mingles with the moonlight,
With the sad and beautiful moonlight,
That makes the birds in the trees dream
And sob with ecstasy the water streams,
The tall slim water streams among the marbles.

About the performer, Broc Hite

Skill, Perfection, and Passion

"Skill, perfection and passion are words that come to mind when I listen to Broc Hite's piano and organ performances. I would encourage anyone to take advantage of the opportunity to attend his recitals. It's a special experience!" Ruth Lawlor, Concert Attendee

Broc Hite is 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, Fairfield, CT.

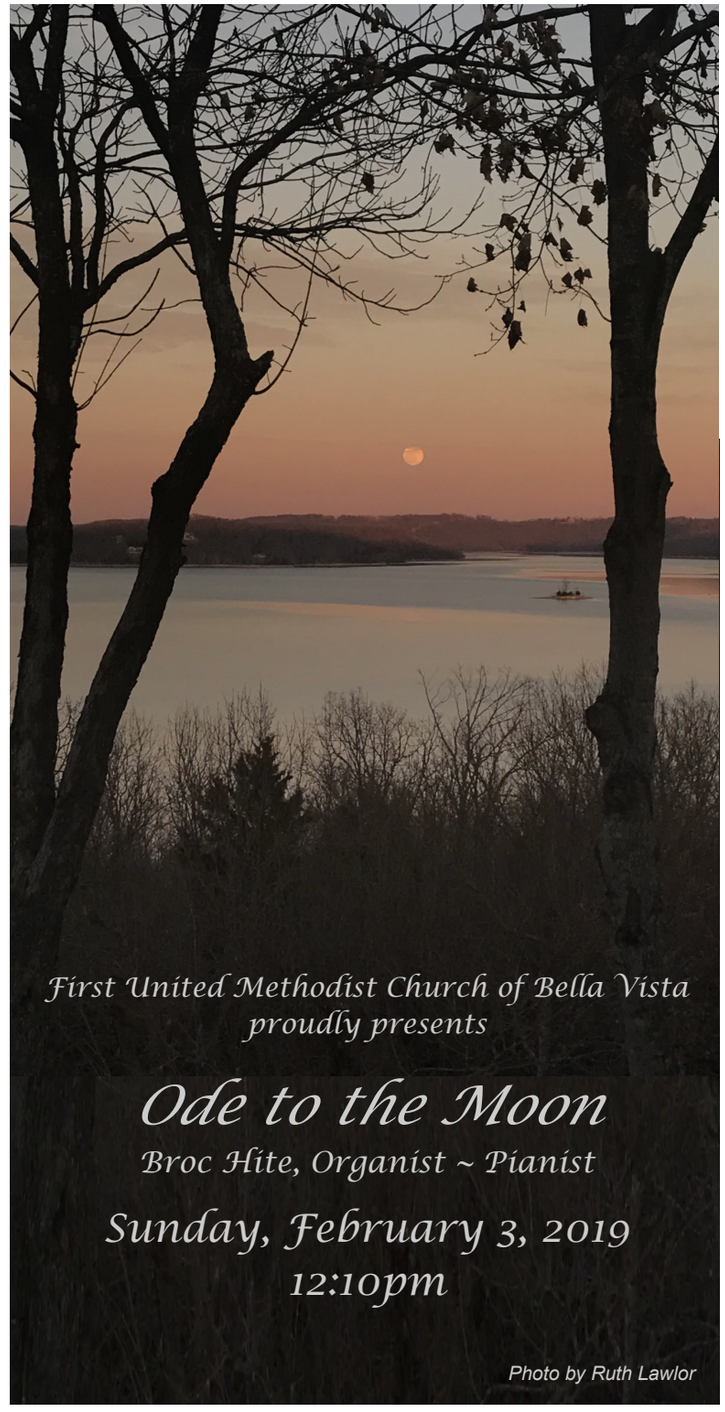
He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Piano Performance from Purchase College in Purchase, New York, studying under German Diez. He earned the Master of Music Degree in Piano Accompanying at The Juilliard School, studying under Margo Garrett and Marshall Williamson, and performance classes with 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.

More information about Broc:
On the Web: https://brochite.com
On Facebook and Instagram: @BrocKeysPedals

~ About First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista ~

The church recently celebrated its 40th anniversary and continues to serve the needs of its members and guests. The beautiful sanctuary features a concert grand Steinway piano (2004) and a 30-rank Casavant Frères/Temple pipe organ (1971/2008).

First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715
fumcbv@lovelearnlead.com
www.lovelearnlead.com
facebook.com/fumcbv



Program

Ode to the Moon

Clair de Lune, Op. 72, No. 2 (1909) Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Clair de Lune from *Suite Bergamasque* (rev. 1905) Claude Debussy

Clair de Lune, Op. 53, No. 5 (1927) Louis Vierne

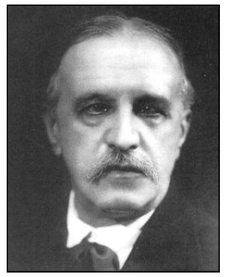
About the Composers

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933) was a German pianist and composer who only first composed for the organ at age 32. Although his reputation was very solid in the U.K. and the United states, he was almost completely neglected in his home country. All this led to him accepting an invitation for an organ concert tour of America in the spring of 1932. The tour proved to be a disastrous mistake. He was suffering from the diabetes which would soon kill him, and his limited powers as an organist compared unfavorably to the virtuoso standard of organ performance, set by the likes of Marcel Dupré and Louis Vierne, to which American audiences had grown accustomed.

After his return to Leipzig, his health started deteriorating rapidly. He died there in April 1933, aged 55. The popularity of his compositions declined for a period after World War II, before a successful revival in the late 1970s; today his works for the organ are frequently included in recitals.

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) was a French composer. He is sometimes seen as the first Impressionist composer, although he vigorously rejected the term. He was among the most influential composers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

He composed extensively for piano and orchestra, and wrote one opera, Pelléas et Mélisande, which is still very popular today. Although his style was much his own, he was influenced by Russian and far-eastern music, as well as by the Symbolist poetic movement of the later 19th century. Typical of that movement was a suspension of reality, which is almost of another world disconnected from present day events.



Louis Vierne (1870-1937) was born nearly blind due to congenital cataracts, but at an early age was discovered to have an unusual gift for music. Vierne studied piano in a comprehensive music program at the national blind school of France as a child. It was there that he met César Franck, who suggested that he also study organ. He succeeded Widor at Notre-Dame in Paris, a post he held from 1900 until his death at the console during an organ concert.

Vierne had a life that was physically and emotionally very difficult, with severe spiritual trials that are reflected in much of his music. Early in his career, he composed on outsized manuscript paper, using "a large pencil" as his colleague Marcel Dupré recounted. Later in life, as his already limited sight continued to diminish, he resorted to Braille to do most of his work. The Clair de Lune is from a series of 24 fantasy pieces that are in general larger in scope than the 24 pieces in a free style that I played during services here in 2015 and 2016.

About the Program

These three pieces are all connected by title, which dates back to the poem below of Paul Verlaine (1844-1896) written in 1869. It influenced Debussy, though I don't have proof that it influenced the other two composers. There were a couple of reasons I thought that Groundhogs day might be a good opportunity to present this recital. One, it's far enough away from both Christmas and Easter to be a good time to present secular pieces. Two, there is something about the full moon in mid-winter that connects to the ancient traditions that surrounded the celebrations of February 2nd.

In the U.S., it's a secular holiday, Groundhogs day, though its European roots are a mixture of the sacred and secular. Some Christian traditions still celebrate Candlemas on February 2nd, which commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the temple. In France, they call this La Chandleur, but today it's more about eating crêpes. According to ancient tradition, if you want good luck, you hold a coin in your non-eating hand.

The moon has held a special place in various cultures over the centuries. Its influence on the tides is well-known, but there is a wide dispute as to how and whether it affects people directly. While Christians don't worship idols or planetary objects, the moon is used to determine the date of Easter. It is always the first Sunday following the first full moon occurring after the vernal equinox, or first day of spring.

The picture of the blood moon, from January 20, 2019, is provided courtesy of my artist friend Ruth Lawlor, who was an Artist INC fellow with me in the spring of 2018 and has attended my recitals here occasionally since then. She posted this photo on her Instagram account, and agreed to share it with me to promote this recital.