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.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Bella Vista

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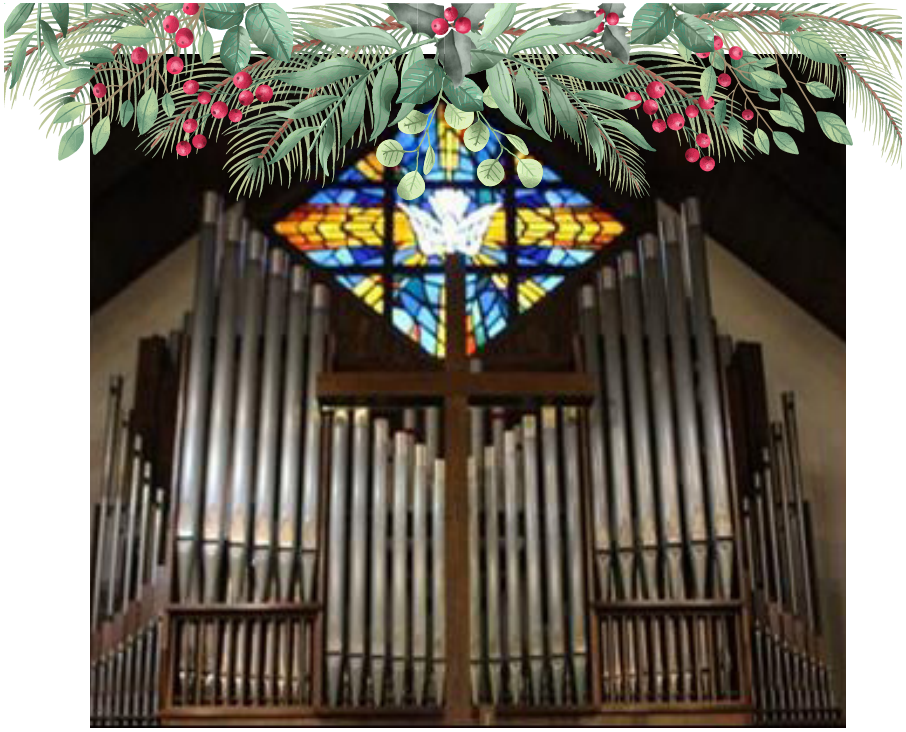

First United Methodist Church Bella Vista proudly presents

Broc Hite

pianist

The Christmas Tree

by Franz Liszt

Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 2:00pm

Program

Weihnachtsbaum (Christmas Tree) — Franz Liszt

- Psallite (Old Christmas Song)
- O heilige Nacht! (O Holy Night!)
- In dulci jubilo
- Adeste Fideles
- Scherzoso
- Glockenspiel (Carillon)
- Schlummerlied (Slumber Song)
- Altes provençalisches Weihnachtslied (Old Provençal Christmas Song)
- Abendglocken (Evening Bells)
- Ehemals (In Days Gone By)
- Ungarisch (Hungarian)
- Polnisch (Polish)

Program Information

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) wrote many famous and virtuoso piano pieces. This work of 12 pieces is not one of them. Most of the pieces are easily playable by the advanced student; there are a few that do require a bit of practice! It's not that these were childhood or teenage works, warmup pieces so to speak of a composer on the way to greatness. These were written at the end of Liszt's illustrious career, between 1873-76 with revisions in 1881.

The pieces were composed as a birthday (and Christmas) present to Liszt's granddaughter, Daniela von Bülow. The titles are principally in German – another Liszt oddity, since French was the composer's main language and used in the titles of most of his works. Perhaps this was in deference to the Daniela von Bülow's family. The debut performance, presumably by Liszt, was on Christmas Day, 1881, in Daniela's hotel room. Their debut recording did not occur until 1951, by Alfred Brendel.

Fun Fact

I became aware of these pieces in this recording by Brendel, in CD form, that was in a bargain bin at a used book store. That purchase, many years later, has led me to learn all of the pieces myself. I did perform several of them at a 2017 Christmas recital in Becker Hall, but this is the first time that I have performed all of them together on a recital. I hope you enjoy them!