

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026 AT 3:00 PM
MADONNA DELLA STRADA CHAPEL

French Flourishes: Masterworks from the French tradition
Nico Tjoelker, organ

Piece d'Orgue, BWV 572

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Chorale No.3 in A Minor

César Franck (1822-1890)

Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Transcription by Jean-Baptiste Robin (b. 1976)

Variations on *Veni Creator Spiritus*

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Clair de Lune, from 24 Pièces de Fantaisie Op. 53

Louis Vierne (1870–1937)

Evocation II

Thierry Escaich (b. 1965)

**Thank you to Dr. William R. Lawrence and Dr. Gregory L. Boshart
for their thoughtful and enduring support of
the monthly organ concert series.**

BIOGRAPHY

Nico Tjoelker is an award-winning Australian-American organist whose playing is noted for its color, vitality, and expressive command of the instrument's symphonic and modern repertoire. Trained in the Anglican sacred music tradition, he brings a refined sense of line and liturgical style to a wide-ranging concert portfolio.

In 2023, he completed a Master of Music in organ at Yale University with James O'Donnell and served as Director of Music at Berkeley Divinity School. During his time at Yale, he also served as organ scholar at Trinity on the Green, New Haven where he was active as a soloist and accompanist.

In 2020, he completed a Bachelor of Music in organ at Sydney Conservatorium of Music under Philip Swanton, graduating with First Class Honors. His thesis examined early twentieth-century organ recordings preserved on paper rolls, reflecting his broader interest in performance practice and the instrument's evolving sound world. In Sydney, Nico served as organ scholar at St. Stephen's Uniting Church and St. Mark's Anglican Church.

Nico has performed and studied internationally, including engagements in Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy. He was a featured performer at the Haarlem International Organ Festival and has undertaken advanced study at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, the Smarano Early Keyboard Academy, and through an organ scholar training program at Cambridge University. In 2017, he toured historic European organs with the Sydney Conservatorium. A prize-winner in multiple competitions, Nico received first prize in both the Intermediate (2013) and Open (2016) divisions of the Sydney Organ Competition.

Nico is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Notre Dame, and also serves as Assistant Director of Music at St. James Cathedral, Chicago, where he assists Stephen Buzard in the direction of the Cathedral Choir, Choir School, and music for weekly services. He looks forward to the installation of the Cathedral's new organ in 2026.

