

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica  
*presents*



# MID-WEEK RECITAL SERIES

SPECIAL ONLINE SERIES

# 2020

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

12:10 p.m.

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**MARK ROBSON, *piano***

*Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639*  
(Trans. by Ferruccio Busoni)

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Andante favori in F major, WoO 57*

Ludwig van Beethoven

*Come Thou Fount Of Ev'ry Blessing*  
(arr. by Mark Robson)

Anonymous

*Pensée des morts*  
(from *Harmonies poétiques et religieuses*)

Franz Liszt

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The First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica welcomes you to this concert, the first of a special ONLINE Mid-Week Recital series, continuing through the summer of 2020.

## About The Artist...

### **Mark Robson, piano**

Mark Robson has been hailed by the Los Angeles Times as a pianist with “one of the great techniques,” “an inquiring mind,” and a performer capable of evoking an “exquisite engulfing pastel haze,” and he continues to impress with his multi-faceted career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. Mr. Robson is equally comfortable in styles ranging from early music played on the harpsichord and organ to the great Romantic repertoire and beyond to contemporary piano works demanding theatrical participation from the performer. As a collaborative artist with singers and instrumentalists, he commands the respect of his peers in both the recital and chamber settings. He presents an annual recital for the LA series Piano Spheres and has performed for *Jacaranda* on numerous occasions. As an organist, he has also appeared as a soloist in the *Minimalist Jukebox* at Disney Hall and has performed on the organ in *Mahler’s 8th Symphony* at the Hollywood Bowl in their 2008 season.

After completing conservatory and university training, Mr. Robson amplified his musical studies with extensive study in Paris—where he was a pupil of Yvonne Loriod, widow of composer Olivier Messiaen—and through his work as an assistant conductor and assistant chorus master for the Los Angeles Opera. During this time he worked with renowned international singers and conductors, gaining great insight into the lyric art. He has also been a musical assistant at the Salzburg and Spoleto (Italy) festivals. As a composer, Robson has been programmed on concerts in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Barcelona and Paris. The Brentwood-Westwood Symphony Orchestra has premiered two of his orchestral works, *Apollo Rising* and *Christmas Suite*. Soprano Patricia Prunty has recorded his song cycle *A Child of Air* and the same piece was presented by Sari Gruber at the winter Ravinia Festival.

The recipient of several scholarships and awards (including the Certificate of Excellence from the Corvina Cultural Circle for artistic contributions to Hungary), Mark Robson has received degrees from the University of Southern California and Oberlin College. He has worked as a vocal coach for the faculties of USC, Chapman University, the California Institute of the Arts and Cal State Fullerton. Among his formidable musical projects has been the performance in eight concerts of the complete piano sonatas of Beethoven and numerous performances of Messiaen’s massive cycle, *Vingt Regards sur l’Enfant-Jésus*. (Bio taken from *Piano Spheres*.)

Rev. Patricia Farris, Senior Minister  
Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries  
Nathan Oney, Pastoral Associate  
Dr. James Smith, Director of Music  
Ty Woodward, Organist

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## Next ONLINE Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, June 10, 12:10 p.m.

### **Duo Imaginalis:** Ekaterina Bessmettseva, piano; Hugo Nogueira, guitar

*Duo Imaginalis* is a project in which the two most popular instruments in the world carry a harmonious dialog. Interestingly enough, it is unusual to see a piano and guitar interacting with one another engaging in duet pieces, and that's one of the reasons why we decided to play together. *Duo imaginalis* is committed to disseminate the exquisite guitar and piano literature. Its current repertoire consists of nineteenth-century music originally written for the guitar and piano in the classical style.

*First United Methodist Church welcomes you to all of our events  
and invites you to join us for ONLINE worship on Sundays at 10 a.m.*

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To see full schedule of recitals,  
and watch past recitals, visit:  
[www.santamonicaumc.org/  
mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series)

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