



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF SANTA MONICA

# MID-WEEK RECITALS

ONLINE SERIES



DEC  
2024

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

12:10 p.m.

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**SERAPHOUR, *quartet***

Emma Grace Roche, Melissa Birch, Dana Rouse, and Heidi Valencia Vass

<i>Personent Hodie</i>	<i>Piae Cantiones, Greißwald (1582)</i>
<i>O Magnum Mysterium</i>	<i>Cristobal de Morales (1500-1533)</i>
<i>Videntes stellam Magi</i>	<i>César Alejandro Carrillo (b.1957)</i>
<i>O Magnum Mysterium</i>	<i>Tomás Luis de Victoria (1540-1611)</i>
<i>Ave Maria</i>	<i>César Alejandro Carrillo (b.1957)</i>
<i>O Magnum Mysterium</i>	<i>Mia Ruhman (b.2003)</i>
<i>My Lord Has Come</i>	<i>Will Todd (b.1970)</i>
<i>Carol of the Bells</i>	<i>Arr. Wilhousky</i>

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The First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica welcomes you to this concert. To view this performance and other past concerts, go to: YouTube (@SantaMonicaUMC), Facebook (@santamonicaumc) or the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series)

## About The Artists

Celebrating that which is true, beautiful and good, **Seraphour** (Emma Grace Roche, Melissa Birch, Dana Rouse, and Heidi Valencia Vass) was formed as a response to the isolation of the Covid pandemic. The Southern California based group is on a mission to create beauty and light out of a dark and quiet time. The all-female quartet is dedicated to the preservation and proliferation of the sacred canon – highlighting unaccompanied classical sacred gems that celebrate the beauty of the female voice.

Presenting pieces from the Renaissance to present day and commissioning new works for sacred contemplation, their music celebrates the tradition of beauty that spans centuries and inspires souls. Seraphour's debut album, "Angele Dei," was released in October 2021. It has since been featured on classical radio stations and syndicated NPR and PBS programs across the country. In addition to terrestrial radio, "Angele Dei" can be heard and downloaded on all streaming platforms including, but not limited to Amazon Music, iTunes, Spotify and Pandora. In addition to their debut album, Seraphour's live performances feature music that highlights the Liturgical year.

The ladies of Seraphour are also currently working on a series of audio/visual projects featuring Music in Inspired Spaces and getting started on their second Album – a Christmas offering centered-around the "O Magnum Mysterium" text. For more information about the group, see their website ([www.seraphour.com](http://www.seraphour.com)) or follow them on social media @seraphour.

Visit the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series)

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister  
Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate  
Dr. James Smith, Director of Music  
Ty Woodward, Organist



## Next ONLINE Mid-Week Recital: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 12:10 p.m.

### **Althea Waites, piano**

Internationally acclaimed pianist Althea Waites has concertized extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia as a brilliant soloist, chamber musician, and collaborative artist. In addition to performances on concert stages around the world, she has also participated in numerous festivals as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and ensemble coach, including Aspen, Tanglewood, the Yale Summer Festival at Norfolk, the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Idyllwild Arts Festival in Southern California and as guest artist for the National Arts Festival at Makhanda on the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Praised by the Los Angeles Times for "superb technique and profound musicality," Ms. Waites has a long and distinguished history of championing new music by American composers and has received several honors and commendations for her work.

Ms. Waites holds degrees from Xavier University of Louisiana and the Master of Music degree in Piano from the Yale School of Music where she studied with Donald Currier. Previous teachers and mentors include Alice Shapiro, a protégé of Rosina Lhevinne, Russell Sherman and Sister Mary Elise Sisson.

Ms. Waites is in demand for masterclasses, lectures, workshops, recitals and residencies at colleges and arts institutions throughout the United States, and her commitment to community service is evident through her work with many outreach programs in retirement homes, hospitals, churches, missions and any place where music can be used as a tool for peace and the elimination of racial and political division.

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

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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