



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SANTA MONICA

MID-WEEK RECITALS

ONLINE SERIES

JAN
2025

Wednesday, January 8, 2025
12:10 p.m.

ALTHEA WAITES, *piano*

Flamenco
Fugal Dance

Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)

Three Fours, Op. 71 (1909) Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Allegro molto
Allegro assai

Sonata in A Minor, D.784

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Allegro giusto
Andante
Allegro vivace

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

About The Artist

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. She has also been guest soloist for National Public Radio’s Performance Today, KQED in San Francisco, KCET/Los Angeles, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Geneva Conservatory of Music in Switzerland, Wigmore Hall in London, Merkin Hall in New York City, concerts for the UC/San Diego World Music program in Indonesia, Phillips Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art to name a few.

Her recording credits include Black Diamonds, a landmark CD of music by African-American composers as well as the premiere recording of Florence Price’s 1932 Sonata in E Minor, Along the Western Shore and Celebration, a 2012 recording featuring new music by American composers. This CD also includes works which have been written for and dedicated to Ms. Waites in celebration of 60 years as concert artist and teacher.

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.

Previous teaching positions and affiliations include California State University/Long Beach for the Cole Conservatory of Music and collaborative work with pianist Mark Uranker as the Orpheus Duo in performances of music from the traditional repertoire and new music for two pianos.

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.



Next ONLINE Mid-Week Recital:

Wednesday, February 12, 12:10 p.m.

Erin Wood, soprano, and Philip Hoch, organ

Wood is an accomplished vocalist and an El Camino applied music faculty member with a distinguished opera career. She has been praised for her portrayals of Verdi and Wagner heroines featuring her “soaring soprano,” “immense voice full of grit at the bottom and transcendent radiance at the top,” and “volcanic outpouring of sound.”

Hoch is a faculty member at the University of Redlands and prolific concert organist from Southern California’s Inland Empire. His areas of specialization include organ performance, transcription studies, minimalism studies, organ registration practices, liturgical studies, and works by Philip Glass.

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation

Dr. James Smith, Director of Music

Ty Woodward, Organist

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

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**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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