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**ORGAN RECITAL FEATURES ICONIC PIPE ORGAN IN CHICAGO'S LOOP IN  
CELEBRATION OF J. S. BACH'S 337<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

CHICAGO – “BACH 337”, a recital of organ music composed by Johann Sebastian Bach, will be presented on Sunday, March 20, 2022, in celebration of the 337<sup>th</sup> birthday of the much-admired genius composer. The concert will begin at 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in the Chicago Temple building at 77 West Washington in the Chicago Loop.

The performance will also highlight the history of Opus 414, the large symphonic-style organ at the church, and the contributions the instrument has made to the cultural life of Chicago. The organ is nearing 98 years of service and was custom-built for First United Methodist Church and the Chicago Temple Building by famed Boston organ builder E. M. Skinner in 1924. A comprehensive restoration of the organ is being planned to ensure another century of its service to the church and the City.

Featuring two of Bach's most intriguing and expressive prelude and fugues, (BWV 544, in B-minor, and BWV 552, in E-flat Major) the hour-long recital will also include Bach's fourth trio sonata (imitating the style of that Italian Baroque genre for two solo instruments and continuo) and a wide variety of compositions taken from the German Baroque master's collections of works based on Lutheran chorales (The Orgelbüchlein [Little Organ Book], The Clavier-Übung [Keyboard Practice], Part III, and the Leipzig Collection of 18 large-scale chorale preludes).

Dr. Phillip Kloeckner, the church's organist, will bring the varied styles and forms of Bach's organ music to life utilizing the kaleidoscopic sounds of Opus 414, which resonates throughout the three-story nave on the corner of Clark and Washington Streets in heart of Chicago's Loop. Each work will feature different combinations of the 5,589 pipes available to him on the four-manual and pedal instrument. The Church is commissioning a complete restoration of Opus 414 by the Schantz Organ Company of Orville, Ohio. More information is available at [opus414.org](http://opus414.org).

Dr. Kloeckner is a highly-respected performer, pedagogue, author, lecturer, and conductor who has appeared in some of the most auspicious concert venues in the USA, Latin America, and Europe. He has served on the music faculties of Rice University in Houston and the University of Chicago, where he established the Rockefeller Chapel Organ Studio in 2013. In addition to his duties at First United Methodist Church of Chicago, he also leads the Chicago International Organ Academy, a pioneer in remote organ instruction for students of all levels of accomplishment throughout the world.

The recital is open to all without charge. A free-will offering will be encouraged to support the organ restoration project. The performance will be streamed on the church's YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSgdXdteva1BKJYU8Mdeliw>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoTemple>) channels. Additional information about the organ restoration project may be found at [Opus414.org](http://Opus414.org).

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