

A gift to downtown Clearwater as we begin the Lenten Season.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ATTENDEES

COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and is known to be extremely contagious. The virus is believed to spread from person-to-person contact and/or by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects, and/or through the air. People can be infected and show no symptoms and therefore spread the disease. Although it will endeavor to apply all reasonable health protocols, the Peace Memorial Concert Series cannot guarantee you will not become exposed to or contract COVID-19 while attending one of our performances. Therefore, if you choose to attend our performance, you acknowledge and accept the risk that you may be exposing yourself to and/or increasing your risk of contracting COVID-19, and you release and waive any claim and any right to bring suit against the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church of Clearwater in Florida and its trustees, agents, employees, or other representatives for any harm, injury or damage arising therefrom.

Please visit us online at [peacememorialpresbyterian.org](http://peacememorialpresbyterian.org) to learn more about our desire to bring world class concerts to downtown Clearwater in a time of uncertainty.

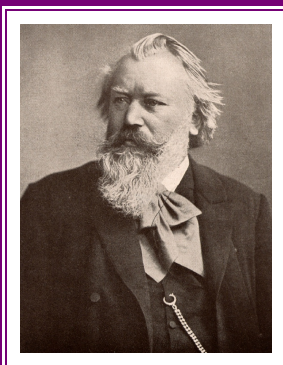
CONCERTS AT PEACE MEMORIAL  
Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church  
110 S. Fort Harrison Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

800|479-8846 [peacememorialpresbyterian.org](http://peacememorialpresbyterian.org)



ASH WEDNESDAY  
February 17, 2021 – Noon

As we confront or own mortality on a day of penitence,  
we hear the final works of Johannes Brahms  
in the stillness of a candlelit Sanctuary.



In his entire oeuvre, Johannes Brahms wrote only fifteen works for the organ. Four of these belong to an early experimental phase between 1854 and 1856 when Brahms undertook a study of the organ as well as a weekly exchange of contrapuntal exercises with Joseph Joachim. After briefly entertaining thoughts of becoming a concert organist, he abandoned the instrument for the next forty years, turning the lessons he learned from the organ and its repertoire to use in compositions in the orchestral and instrumental medium. Only in 1897 in the final year of his life did Brahms return to the organ. Upon his death a set of chorale preludes for the organ were found in his apartment in Vienna. Believed by many to have been written in response to the death of Clara Schumann as well as to his own failing health, Brahms chose chorale melodies for these pieces with texts on topics of reconciliation with death, and acceptance and hopefulness for the world to come. The writing in the Eleven Chorale Preludes, Op. 122 is spare, linear, contrapuntal, and uses classic forms, revealing Brahms' deep respect for and study of early music, and in every way exhibit a marked contrast to the lush romanticism of contemporary organ composers such as Reger, Rheinberger, and Liszt.

– Jonathan Wohlers  
Tacoma, 2012

Eleven Chorale Preludes, Op. 122  
Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897

My Jesus Leadeth Me  
Ah, Jesus, Dear  
O World, I Now Must Leave Thee  
My Heart Abounds with Pleasure  
Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness  
Blessed Ye Who live in Faith Unswerving  
O God, Thou Faithful God  
Behold, a Rose Breaks Into Bloom  
Two Settings on My Heart is Ever Yearning  
O World, I Now Must Leave Thee

Timothy Belk, organ

– The people will depart in a spirit of reverence. –