

BROCHITE

Broc Hite is the Organist and Associate Director of Music at First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista since 2012. He also teaches piano privately and at the Shepherd Music School, based at Central United Methodist Church in Rogers. Prior to moving to Arkansas in 2010, he was the Organist and Music Director at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Fairfield, Connecticut.

He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Piano Performance from Purchase College in Purchase, New York, studying under German Diez. He earned the Master of Music Degree in Piano Accompanying at The Juilliard School, studying under Margo Garrett and Marshall Williamson, and performance classes with Samuel Sanders and Jonathan Feldman. In conjunction with his other career in business, he achieved the Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Connecticut.

For more details on lessons and instructors at Shepard Music School:

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Shepherd Music School

Rogers, Arkansas

October 14, 2018

Broc Hite, Piano

Sunday, October 14, 2018

3:00p

In the Chapel

From The Seasons, Op. 37a by P.I. Tchaikovsky

Avril – Perce-neige

Mai – Les nuits de mai

Juin – Barcarolle

Juillet – Chant du Faucheur

Août – La Moisson

Septembre – La Chasse

Four Sabras by Leonard Bernstein

I. Ilana – The Dreamer

II. Idele – The Chassidele

III. Yosi – The Jokester

IV. Dina – The Tomboy Who Weeps Alone

From Preludes, Op. 23 by Sergei Rachmaninoff

3. Tempo di minuetto (D minor)

4. Andante cantabile (D Major)

5. Alla marcia (G minor)

Program Notes

The Seasons were commissioned from Tchaikovsky for a St. Petersburg music magazine, published each month during 1876. The bulk of pieces were composed just after he finished orchestrating Swan Lake. Their average difficulty makes them accessible to more pianists, but that has also hurt their popularity since they are eschewed by pianists since they are not virtuoso works. However, the Barcarolle, composed for June, is somewhat well-known in its orchestrated form. Plus, Rachmaninoff frequently played the November piece Troika as an encore. I started learning these pieces in batches of three, starting in April of this year, and will conclude this project early next year.

Although I'm a bit late to the game, I recently purchased the complete solo piano works of Leonard Bernstein, which include several previously unpublished works, including these Four Sabras. A sabra is a cactus-like plant with thorns on the outside and sweet flesh inside, though it's typically used as a metaphor for any Jew born in the Holy Land. The four pieces work both as dedications to people Bernstein knew, as well as development material that appears in more substantive compositions, like Candide, On the Waterfront, and West Side Story.

Rachmaninoff would have been known as a hillbilly should he have been from Arkansas, and not from a patch of Russia between Moscow and St. Petersburg. The Preludes Opus 23 were largely composed during the period of Sergei's engagement to his first cousin, Natalie, and completed in 1903, the year of first daughter Irina's birth. The pieces range from moderately difficult to off-the-charts difficult.

