

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Los Angeles*

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Contact: Adrienne Andisheh
adrienne@soundingpoint.la
(310) 871-9281
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[First Congregational Church of Los Angeles To Present Live Premiere of Patrick Cassidy's *The Mass*](#)

Celebrated Star Martin Sheen to Guest Host and Narrate Live Concert

Los Angeles, CA | March 9, 2022 — Los Angeles's First Congregational Church (also known as First Church or FCCLA) marks the return of their Great Works on The Great Organs series with the concert premiere of Irish composer **Patrick Cassidy's** *The Mass*, a new setting of the Latin Mass for choir and organ. The performance, which will take place at First Church on March 19, 2021, also celebrates the recent album of *The Mass*, released on November 8, 2021. This concert is presented in partnership with IrelandWeek, and The Resonance Collective.

Cassidy's *The Mass*, the first-ever symphonic Latin Mass setting from an Irish composer, draws equally on the composer's Irish roots as on his vast experience in both classical and film music. By reimagining the traditional Catholic Mass text through the lens of its universality, Cassidy and his collaborators put forward a human response to one of the most trying periods in our collective memory.

"While writing *The Mass* I was aware that this would be the first setting of the Catholic Latin Mass by an Irish composer — it was a labor of love with no expectations," said Patrick Cassidy. "I am elated that *The Mass* has found a home at First Church with its inclusive philosophy."

Noted actor and special guest **Martin Sheen** will host the live premiere, lending his powerful voice to *The Mass's* narrations. **Laude**, First Church's professional chamber ensemble who recorded the album, will serve as soloists and sing with FCCLA's **Cathedral Choir**. First Church Music and Arts Director **David Harris** will conduct, and Organist-in-Residence **Christoph Bull** will accompany on The Great Organs of First Church. The Great Organs were a collaboration among five organ-builders, and comprise the second-largest church organ in the world, with 18,094 pipes, 328 ranks, and 275 stops. Its ethereal symphonic colors make The Great Organs an essential partner in this collaborative premiere.

"Ever Since I was a teenage altar boy, I developed a deep love for the Latin Mass. I had a visceral response when I listened to the premier recording of Patrick Cassidy's magnificent composition of the Latin Mass, and accepted without hesitation his offer to serve as host and narrator for this first public presentation with the original Organ and Choir at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. It is my hope that this historic work will become a fixture, to be newly remembered and performed by future generations to inspire and challenge, and to serve as a powerful source of spiritual nourishment." - Martin Sheen

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the premiere recording of *The Mass* was executed entirely virtually — the members of Laude each recorded in their individual homes. Cassidy, Harris, and Bull worked closely to engineer the album.

"*The Mass* is a very meaningful and important project to me—recorded when we could not meet in person," says Bull. "During the recording, I developed a deep respect for the spiritual connection with this musical vehicle and the indescribable higher source."

Harris echoes that sentiment, saying, "Working closely with Patrick to create this important and inspirational new work was a highlight of the year. I feel certain that this work will join the choral canon of essential masterworks in quick time and am thrilled to have been able to be a part of its creation."

Housed in Los Angeles's oldest Protestant Cathedral, FCCLA is home to a progressive and inclusive interfaith community, with a diverse offering of high quality performances and concert series. Their concert season continues with the monthly *Golden Thread* from the Resonance Collective and a robust Easter week series; for more information, visit [their website](#).

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Great Works on The Great Organs Series presents:

***The Mass*, by Patrick Cassidy**

Martin Sheen, *guest host*

David Harris, *conductor*

Christoph Bull, *organ*

on the Great Organs of First Church

Laude and The Cathedral Choir

Laurel Irene, Molly Pease, Elizabeth Anderson, Tiffany Ho,

David García Saldaña, James Hayden, Ianthe Marini, and Fahad Siadat, *soloists*

Saturday, March 19th, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Los Angeles

540 S Commonwealth Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90020

Presented by First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, IrelandWeek, and The Resonance Collective

For tickets and more information, please click [here](#).

PATRICK CASSIDY (Composer/Creator)

Patrick Cassidy is an Irish orchestral, choral and film score composer, based in Los Angeles, CA. Film credits include Hannibal, Kingdom of Heaven and The Front Line. In 2021, Cassidy's song Proclamation was played at the inauguration of President Joe Biden in Washington DC. His newest work, The Mass, was recorded with The London Symphony Orchestra and London Voices. To learn more about Mr. Cassidy, visit: <https://www.patrickcassidy.com/>

MARTIN SHEEN (Special Guest Host & Narrator)

Multiple Emmy and Golden Globe winner Martin Sheen is one of America's most celebrated, colorful, and accomplished actors. Moving flawlessly between artistic mediums, Sheen's acting range is striking. He has starred and appeared in more than 65 feature films, including *Apocalypse Now*, (1979), *Wall Street* (1987), *Catch Me If You Can* (2002), *The Departed* (2006), and the Academy Award-winning film *Gandhi* (1982). With a television career as prolific as his film work, Sheen is the recipient of several Emmy nominations, Golden Globe Awards and SAG Awards, for his portrayal of President Josiah Bartlet in *The West Wing* (1999), his work in *Two and A Half Men* (2003) and other shows.

DAVID HARRIS (Conductor & Music Director)

David Harris (DMA) is a conductor, composer and performer, specializing in new music, American music, and the intricacies of communication in singing, writing, and conducting. In addition to his work as Music Director of FCCLA, Harris is Director of the professional ensemble Laude, the Ensemble Director for the NEO Voice Festival, and actively composes and performs in Los Angeles, CA. To learn more, visit: <http://www.drdaavidharrismusic.org/>.

CHRISTOPH BULL (Organist)

Christoph Bull is the university organist and organ professor at UCLA as well as organist-in-residence at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. He has concertized and recorded internationally, and

performs regularly in Los Angeles at venues including Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Learn more: <https://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/people/christoph-bull/>

THE RESONANCE COLLECTIVE

The Resonance Collective is an active exploration on the intersection of spiritual and artistic practice, both historically and for artists and audiences today. The Resonance Collective strives to cultivate curiosity and bring a sense of sacredness to creative life in an inspiring and supportive social environment. To learn more, visit: <https://www.resonancecollective.org/>

LAUDE

The members of Laude represent some of the brightest vocal and choral stars in Los Angeles. Ensemble and business leaders, composers, soloists, film and stage actors, and instrumentalists make up this robust chamber group, lending it noted flexibility and strength. To learn more, visit: <https://www.fccla.org/laude>

IRELANDWEEK

IrelandWeek aims to bring Ireland to the world, and the world back to Ireland, as it returns to Los Angeles in the spring of 2022 for a vibrant showcase of Ireland's rich arts and culture. Learn more: <https://www.irelandweek.com/>

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

Founded in 1867, First Church is the city's oldest continuous Protestant congregation, and is committed to the goals of equity, diversity, justice, and inclusion. It shines in the heart of L.A. as the city's center for progressive Christianity and contemporary spirituality. The Great Organs of First Church, situated in the enormously vaulted Sanctuary, together constitute perhaps the largest church musical instrument with approximately 346 ranks, 265 stops, 233 voices, 18 divisions and more than 20,000 pipes. In 2019, the church made history when it elected its first female Senior Minister (Rev. Laura Vail Fregin) in its 150+ year history. To learn more about FCCLA, visit: www.fccla.org