

DATE:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT:**

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BECKERATH ORGAN RECITAL AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, MILLBURN, NJ
Featuring Concert Organist, Robert McCormick
Sunday, February 10, 2019

MILLBURN, NJ.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is proud to present its final organ recital of the season on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 4 PM with esteemed concert organist, Robert McCormick, who will play an exciting recital on the renowned Beckerath organ at the historic church.

Designed and built for the interior of St. Stephen's Church by the celebrated German organ builder Rudolph von Beckerath, the 1970 tracker organ takes its primary inspiration from the golden age of 17th and 18th century North German organ building during the time of Johann Sebastian Bach. Its full mechanical (tracker) key action is faithful to the earlier organs. Electricity is used only to supply the wind pressure to sound the pipes and to change the combinations of stops.

The St. Stephen's Beckerath organ has proven a delight to play and a revelation to hear with its wonderful clarity of tone. Designed to be heard in this outstanding example of the 19th century Gothic revival church architecture, it has become a major cultural resource, drawing an audience from throughout the tri-state area and concert organists from across America and Europe. It will celebrate its 50th anniversary next season.

Robert McCormick is Organist and Choirmaster of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. This follows eight years as Director of Music at St. Paul's Parish, K Street, Washington, D.C. and seven years as Organist and Music Director at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, New York. Mr. McCormick is widely heralded by his colleagues as one of the finest concert organists of this era. "McCormick proved to be a top notch technician, able to convey power or sensitivity as warranted." – *The Macon Telegraph* (Georgia) Described by *Choir & Organ* as "indomitable and immensely gifted" and by *The Macon Telegraph* as "an artist of rare sensitivity and passion."

Known for his creative and unique abilities in organ improvisation, Mr. McCormick was named a semi-finalist in the 2005 St. Albans International Organ Festival Improvisation Competition. His recital at St. Stephen's Church will culminate in an improvisation, something which is rarely heard in classical recital

programs these days. This is an exceptional opportunity to hear an original piece of music created on the spot that will exist only for those minutes and never be repeated in precisely the same way; truly of the moment.

Recital attendees will have the opportunity to meet the artist at a reception following this special performance. No tickets are required. A suggested \$10 donation can be made at the door. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is located at 119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041. For more information, visit ststephensmillburn.org or call 973-376-0688.