



BRIAN WENTZEL, piano

BRIAN WENTZEL, MSM, FAGO, is Director of Music at First Lutheran Church of Lorain, where he has served since 2006. At First Lutheran Brian's core mission is leading congregational singing. He also directs all the church's musical ensembles, plays the Fritts pipe organ, and coordinates the FIRST Music Concert Series. He has taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Organ at Oberlin Conservatory, and has been a featured performer on *Pipedreams*. Brian is an active performer in the Cleveland area, singing professionally (with Apollo's Singers and Quire Cleveland) and regularly playing organ recitals and hymn festivals. His musical compositions are published by Augsburg Fortress and Hope, and his writings have appeared in *The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology*, *Word and World*, *Cross Accent*, and the curriculum of Leadership Program for Musicians. Brian is currently Dean of the Lorain County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Subdean of the Cleveland Chapter. He is also active in the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the ELCA, having chaired its worship committee.

Brian's degrees are from Northwestern University, (BMus, BA, 2003) and Luther Seminary (Master of Sacred Music, 2006). He earned the Fellowship certificate from the American Guild of Organists in 2011. His first organ teacher was his father, Steven Wentzel. Subsequent teachers have included Paul Westermeyer, John Ferguson, Anton Armstrong, John Sherer, Douglas Cleveland, and Margaret Kemper, among others.

*Handicap restroom available on lower level.
Elevator available, ask any usher if you need assistance.
Free Nursery is available on lower level.*



Westminster Presbyterian Church

come encounter grow serve

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PROGRAM

Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Andrew Sords - American Violinist

Free Concerts of Universal Inspiration on Sundays at 5:00

PROGRAM

ANDREW SORDS, violin
BRIAN WENTZEL, piano

- Sonatensatz - Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
- Sonata No. 3 in d minor (Allegro, Adagio, Un Poco Presto, Finale) - Johannes Brahms
- Nocturne from "Belshazzar's Feast" - Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)
- Zigeunerweisen - Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908)

ANDREW SORDS, violin

American violinist ANDREW SORDS has a celebrated career as a soloist on 4 continents and in performances with his trio. Having collaborated with 300 orchestras, Sords has been cited for combining visceral virtuosity with a ravishing tone, while international critics endorse Sords as “a fully formed artist” (Kalisz-Poland News), “utterly radiant” (Canada’s Arts Forum), and “exceptionally heartfelt and soulful” (St. Maarten’s Daily Herald). Closer to home, ClevelandClassical.com gushed: “the stunner of the afternoon was a breathless but magnificently controlled performance of Beethoven’s “Kreutzer” sonata, which Sords charged through with giddy aplomb.” Sords has received numerous awards and distinctions reflecting his career trajectory, including the 2012 Pittsburgh Concert Society Career Grant and the 2005 National Shirley Valentin Award.

Born in Newark, Delaware, Sords was raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and asked for piano lessons at age five. A year later, he began studying violin with Liza Grossman, and continued studies with Linda Cerone, David Russell, and Chee-Yun Kim at the ENCORE School for Strings, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Southern



Methodist University. As a teenager, Sords garnered prizes from concerto competitions, signed with management, and cultivated a media and audience following from hundreds of interviews, profiles, and appearances. Following Sords’ debut in Australia, the Melbourne Age declared, “Sords made a voluble soloist in Mozart’s Turkish concerto, forging his statements with an admirably firm clarity and bringing out the work’s virtuosity as often as possible. His bowing arm showed an attractive suppleness and an attention to variety of phrasing that made even the episodic finale a pleasure.” In the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons, Andrew Sords toured extensively with the

Beethoven sonata and piano trio cycles, the Triple Concerto, and the Violin Concerto in celebration of the composer’s 250th anniversary. These appearances will include far-flung venues such as Australia, Mexico, Quebec, the Caribbean, the Canary Islands, and across the United States.

A man of diverse interests, Sords has competed in the charity fundraiser “Pittsburgh’s Dancing With The Stars” as the first classical artist to do so. Passionate about social causes, Sords has performed numerous times for LGBT outreach, including Bruch’s “Scottish Fantasy”, the Tchaikovsky, and the Beethoven concerti in collaborations with the Minnesota Philharmonic, the Bay Area Rainbow Symphony, and the Atlanta Philharmonic. Along with Liana Izakadze’s World Virtuosi, Sords appeared in Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall, and performed the Sibelius and Dvorak concerti in 2019 appearances with the Jackson Symphony and Brevard Symphony. Sords is a popular guest for various media platforms: featured four times on Sirius XM’s Derek and Romaine Show and profiled by “OUT Magazine”, NPR’S Morning Edition, and hundreds of media outlets, Sords also performed the National Anthem for ESPN2’s WNBA Pride Game (2014) and a sold-out Cleveland Indians game at Progressive Field. Sords’ recent collaboration with Sean Christopher on the New-Age album “Transcendence” has been a commercial and critical success, with reviews stating: “much of this is owed to the gorgeous and precise playing by Andrew Sords, whose violin adds a thrumming undercurrent of pure life throughout the album’s stainless steel structure.” This album is available on iTunes, Amazon.com, and CDBaby.

Sords makes his home in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and can be found on the web at <http://www.andrewsords.com>.