



Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption
San Francisco, California

Sunday, December 11, 2022
4:00 pm

*Cathedral César Franck Festival
celebrating the composer's 200th birthday (Dec. 10)*

Karen Hastings Flegel, Organ
Christoph Tietze, Organ

Trois Chorals

No. 1 in E-Major
No. 2 in b-minor
No. 3 in a-minor

*Suggested Donation \$10.00
(<http://smcsf.org/donate>)*

Upcoming Concerts

- Sunday, December 18, 7:00 pm (NOTE TIME): “Cookies and Carols” sung by the Cathedral Choir and the St. Brigid School Choir. Adults \$25, seniors/ students \$15, under 5 free.
- Sunday, December 25: NO RECITAL
- Sunday, January 1: NO RECITAL
- Sunday, January 8, 4:00 pm: Epiphany Lessons and Carols, sung by the Golden Gate Boyschoir and Bellringers and the St. Brigid School Honor Choir.



César-Auguste Jean-Guillaume Hubert Franck, 10 December 1822 – 8 November 1890, was a French Romantic composer, pianist, organist, and music teacher born in modern-day Belgium. He was born in Liège and gave his first concerts there in 1834, after which he studies privately in Paris, where his teachers included Anton Reicha. After a brief return to Belgium and a disastrous reception of an early oratorio *Ruth*, he moved to Paris, where he married and embarked on a career as teacher and organist. He gained a reputation as a formidable musical improviser and travelled widely within France to demonstrate new instruments built by Aristide Cavallé-Coll. In 1858, he became organist at the Basilica of St. Clo-

tilde in Paris, a position he retained for the rest of his life. He became professor at the Paris Conservatoire in 1872; he took French nationality, a requirement of the appointment. After acquiring the professorship, Franck wrote several pieces which have entered the standard classical repertoire, including symphonic, chamber, and keyboard works for organ as well as piano. As a teacher and composer, he had a vast following of composers and other musicians. His pupils included Ernest Chausson, Vincent d'Indy, Henri Duparc, Guillaume Lekeu, Albert Renaud, Charles Tournemire, and Louis Vierne. The Three Chorals were written shortly before his death; he had just enough time to set the registrations. They are considered hallmarks of French Romantic organ composition.

Karen Hastings Flegel and **Christoph Tietze** studied in Paris with Jean Langlais, successor of the organist position at St. Clotilde after Franck and Tournemire, in 1978/79. As such, they gained first-hand knowledge of the interpretation of the organ music of César Franck and a sense of how these works sounded on his instrument.