

*Con Spirito*  
CONCERT SERIES

# *Wanderings*

Brian Woods, pianist

Sunday, January 12  
3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood



# *Con Spirito* CONCERT SERIES

*The mission of the Con Spirito Concert Series of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood is to strengthen the church's mission to lift up the minds and hearts of people to God, to each other and to life in its totality. Seeking to attract a diverse audience, the musical events in the concert series feature high quality ensembles, composers, conductors and soloists from both the local and world-wide artistic communities. This music ministry enhances the experiences of both our congregation and the community through programming that best complement the excellent acoustics and aesthetic beauty of our diverse and wonderful facilities. The concert series continues the First Presbyterian Church tradition of outreach through musical offerings.*

*“Lift up the minds and hearts  
of people to God.”*

## PROGRAM

Selections from *Préludes*

Claude Debussy

Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir

Ondine

La cathédrale engloutie

Minstrels

Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp Minor

Ludwig Van Beethoven

Op. 27 No. 2 "Moonlight"

Adagio sostenuto

Allegretto

Presto agitato

- Intermission -

Ballade No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 23

Frédéric Chopin

Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Op. 38

Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47

Ballade No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

A response to the horrific 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, **Wanderings** began as a search for answers in a time of fear and insecurity. As the program took shape, it evolved into an exploration of the lengths composers will travel in pursuit of meaning, connection, and a place to call home. From the Romanticism of Chopin to the fire of Beethoven, Wanderings is a thrilling journey through some of the most powerful music for solo piano.

## ABOUT BRIAN WOODS



Celebrated for his stunning musicianship and dazzling stage presence, American pianist Brian Woods has emerged as an exciting performer of international acclaim. His 2023-2024 Season includes concert tours across the United States, including performances for the L'Ermitage Foundation (Los Angeles, CA), the Dana Center for the Humanities at Saint Anselm College (Manchester, NH), Connect2Culture (Joplin, MO), the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts (Madisonville, KY), the Keokuk Concert Association (Keokuk, IA), the Steinway Society of Western

Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh, PA), and more. Woods is also honored to serve as Music Director for Classical Programming at the World Chess Hall of Fame, one of the premier venues for chamber music in Missouri.

A native of St. Louis, Woods has enjoyed success in numerous distinguished competitions, including the Verona International Piano Competition, The American Prize, the Beverly Hills National Auditions, and the Artist Presentation Society Auditions. Following his debut concerto performance at age eighteen, he maintains an extensive concerto repertoire, from Liszt and Tchaikovsky's First Concerti to Beethoven's Fifth, Brahms' Second, and Rachmaninoff's Third. Woods has recently performed with such ensembles as the Gateway Festival Orchestra, the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, the Belleville Philharmonic, the Manassas Symphony Orchestra, the Southeast Missouri Symphony, the University City Symphony Orchestra, and the Southern Illinois Symphony.

Past seasons have included solo recitals in Toronto, Washington D.C., Nashville, San Diego, St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, and Dublin, Ireland. Hailed as "representing the next generation of professional touring artists" (Robert Hart Baker), Woods' performances continue to receive high acclaim, with audiences and critics alike praising his playing as "astonishing" (KDHX St. Louis), "inspiring" (Encinitas, CA), and "taking the audience on a journey" (Watertown, NY). Woods has collaborated with tenor Vinson Cole and cellist Julian Schwarz, among many other partners in the United States and Canada. His artistic partnership with Canadian violinist Daniel Dastoor as the Dastoor-Woods Duo has led to notable performances for Music Toronto and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Past mentors include Craig Nies, Robert Weirich, Stanislav Ioudenitch, and Donna Vince. Woods holds degrees from Vanderbilt University, University of Missouri - Kansas City, Shenandoah University, and the Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School, where he completed the Artist Diploma Program on full scholarship with famed Irish pianist and Beethoven interpreter John O'Connor. Visit [www.brianwoodspianist.com](http://www.brianwoodspianist.com) to learn more or follow Brian on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube @brianwoodspianist.

# SUPPORT CON SPIRITO

*We are most grateful to all who financially support the Con Spirito Concert Series. Aside from the rare occasion when tickets are sold, our concerts are free of charge. We rely on the generosity of our audience and congregation to bring these programs to life. Please consider giving today at one of the following levels:*

*Vivace* \$5,000+

*Allegro* \$2,500-\$4,999

*Moderato* \$1,000-\$2,499

*Andante* \$500-\$999

*Adagio* \$100-\$499

## DONORS

*listed as of January 2, 2025*

### *Vivace*

Marcia & Alan Ritter  
Mary Ann & Richard Shaw  
Anonymous, *in honor of D-3*

### *Allegro*

Marilyn A. McCarthy  
Harriet & Philip Polster

### *Moderato*

Jeanne Earley  
Ron & Hanna Evens  
Susan & Al Hinton  
Sterling Littlepage  
Al & Maxine Mitchener  
John Stewart & Bill Stein  
Steve Van Asdale

## *Andante*

Richard & Mary Dee Denning  
Larry Erwin  
Amy Freshwater  
Dennis Holt  
Judy & Phil Hutchison  
Judy Julius  
Carol Layton  
Judy Matthews

John & Bette Miller  
Adrienne Patton  
Bill & Connie Reeves  
Don & Meg Riechman  
Gwen Rogers  
Ellen Welsh & Rhein Dabler  
Missy & Kurt Wulff

## *Adagio*

Peggy Allen  
Sally Bakula  
Bill & Cindy Bennett  
Alice Bowen  
Ann Bronson  
Barb Calkins  
Charles Croissant & Jackie  
Hittner  
Sharon Croissant  
Gerald & Helena DeWulf  
Leah Engelhardt  
Arnold Evans  
Mimi & Scott Fargo  
Phyllis Foster  
Robyn Gornati  
Annelle & Angela Gracey  
Tom Graves  
Jill Guyton  
Peggy & Adley Hemphill

Lila & Jim Hershfelt  
Imre & Mary Ellen Hetenyi  
Karel & Bill Hippert  
Paul R. Hirth  
Kit & Ginny Hoeper  
Dale Hood  
Sue Hosack  
Nancy Hughson  
Peter Hurd & Julie Grant  
Douglas Lane  
Cristin J. Mack  
Lindsay & Joe Marting  
Arthur & Barbara McDonnell  
Terry & Charlene McFarland  
Ron & Jan Moen  
Fern Morrissey  
Barb Musser  
Joseph C. Nuccio  
Paul & Pat Nuckolls

Maggie Probert & Deanna Stevenson  
Dorothy Reinecke  
Paul & Cindy Schnabel  
James & Cheryl Shollenberger  
John & Martha Short  
Sheryl Steele  
Larry & Brenda Steelman  
Cheryl & Joe Steliga  
Donna Stonerook  
Irene & Ed Travis  
Linda & Tom Waltz  
Sylvia Weisheit  
Robert Wells  
Marcia Werremeyer  
Cy & Julie Woodrome  
David & Lisa Woodruff

*Donors will be acknowledged in all future programs.*

*Contact the church office by telephone: (314) 965-0326,*

*by email: [bstein@kirkwoodpres.org](mailto:bstein@kirkwoodpres.org), by mail: 100 E. Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO, 63122,  
or make an instant gift by scanning the QR code with your cell phone's camera.*



# *Upcoming Concerts*

---

## **IMI Chamber Players**

February 2, 2025 at 3:00 pm

## **No-Name Chorale**

March 16, 2025 at 3:00 pm

## **Annual Organ Dedication Anniversary Recital: Damin Spritzer**

May 4, 2025 at 3:00 pm

## *Lenten Series* *in the Tree of Life Chapel*

### **Chamber Project St. Louis**

Friday, March 7, 2025 at 12:00 pm

### **St. Louis Irish Arts**

Friday, March 14, 2025 at 12:00 pm

### **Patrick Rafferty, Guitar**

Friday, March 21, 2025 at 12:00 pm

### **Perseid String Quartet**

Friday, March 28, 2025 at 12:00 pm

### **Terri Langerak, Harp**

Friday, April 4, 2025 at 12:00 pm

### **Keith Wehmeier, Countertenor**

Friday, April 11, 2025 at 12:00 pm

### **Dan Forrest "Requiem for the Living"**

Friday, April 18, 2025 at 12:00 pm

## *Notes at 9* *in the Sanctuary*

### **Clarion Brass**

Sunday, July 6, 2025 at 9:00 am

### **Music & Love: A Program of German Song**

Sunday, July 13, 2025 at 9:00 am

### **Gateway Flute Quartet**

Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 9:00 am

### **Piano Ensemble**

Sunday, July 27, 2025 at 9:00 am

*Program layout and design by  
Spencer Smith | Graphic Design*



100 East Adams Avenue | Kirkwood, MO 63122 | 314-965-0326  
[www.kirkwoodpres.org](http://www.kirkwoodpres.org)