



# St. Paul's Concert Series

*Presents*

**Arthur Omura**

***"Duels"***

**Music for Harpsichord**



**Saturday January 29, 7 p.m.**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1924 Trinity Avenue

Walnut Creek, California

[StPaulswc.org/Concert-Series](http://StPaulswc.org/Concert-Series)

**Arthur Omura**  
**Music for Harpsichord**

January 29, 2022 7pm

***Duels***

**Suite II in F-dur**

Adagio  
Allegro  
Adagio  
Allegro

**G. F. Handel**

**Sonate in c, K. 58**

Sonate in c, K. 58  
Sonate in C, K. 200  
Sonate in C, Pastorale, K. 513  
Sonate in C, K. 159

**Domenico Scarlatti**

**Suite III, BWV 808**

Prélude  
Allemande  
Courante  
Sarabande  
Gavotte I & II  
Gigue

**J. S. Bach**

**Pièces de Clavecin, Premier Livre**

Prelude  
Allemande  
Courante II  
Sarabande  
Gigue  
Chaconne

**Louis Marchand**

We will hold a question-and-answer session with our performer at the end of the performance.

Those participating online can use the Chat window on Youtube to submit questions. Our in-house audience will simply raise their hands with questions.

## ***The Duels .....***

In 1710, **Georg Frideric Handel** was riding high. He was in Rome, having left Hamburg after a quarrel with his old best friend Johann Mattheson (in which Handel was nearly stabbed) and was making a grand tour around the Italian states. His new best friend was a man his age(25) named **Domenico Scarlatti**, the son of one of Handel's patrons, Alessandro Scarlatti. It was Domenico who famously remarked, upon hearing Handel play the harpsichord at a masquerade ball: "It is either the Dear Saxon (*Il caro Sassone*), or the Devil!" The two were so compatible and so remarkably talented that Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni, another of Handel's patrons, arranged for an informal musical competition between the two, for the enjoyment of Roman high society, and to see who was the better player. Sadly there was no clear winner; Scarlatti was thought to be a better harpsichordist, but *Il Sassone* far surpassed him on the organ.

In 1717 **Louis Marchand** was on the skids. He was one of the King's organists, an *organiste du Roi*, and a prodigious talent on the harpsichord. But he had a temper, and a mouth to match. He had a messy divorce from his wife more than ten years earlier, and had possibly insulted King Louis – not usually something you bounced back from. As a result of all this, he was on a three-year sabbatical in the German states, perhaps looking for a new job far away from Versailles. As it happened, the Elector of Saxony, Augustus the Strong, was looking for a new court organist. The only catch was that he had to win a competition with a local keyboardist also interested in the job: **Johann Sebastian Bach**. This duel never happened, though. Marchand escaped Dresden the night before, perhaps realizing the strong headwinds he would face. Neither he nor Bach ever worked for the Elector; Marchand would return to France and continue being a hot-head, and Bach would become the Kapellmeister of Leipzig. Later, Bach biographers reported that he was familiar with Marchand's keyboard music, and would play it "in his own manner; that is, very lightly and with much art".

## ***In the Spotlight .....***



**Arthur Omura** is a specialist in historical keyboard instruments based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He studied with Charles Rus in San Francisco, and with Dr. Lucinda Carver at the University of Southern California. He has performed at the Boston and Berkeley Early Music festivals and given numerous performances in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. He has worked with MicroFest, wildUp, iPalpiti, Les Surprises Baroques, Musica Angelica, and the American Bach Soloists. Omura has collaborated on several recordings, most recently on "Kontrapunktus", a collection of new

music by composer Mark Moya written in a Baroque idiom. His interest in instrument making and organology led him to work with harpsichord builder Curtis Berak, whom he has assisted in restoring several instruments, and with organ builder Manuel Rosales. Omura is the director of music at Grace Episcopal Church in Martinez, California.



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**February 19: Won Kim - Clarinet and Piano Duo**

**March 26: Temirzhan Yerzhanov - Piano Solo**

**May 14: Clara and Marie Becker, 4-Hand Piano Duo**