

# CONCERTS *at* ST. STEPHEN

*presents*

**Kate Stevens, pianist**

*Sundays at Six*

September 6, 2020 | 6:00 pm

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church | Fort Worth, Texas

Italian Concerto in F Major, BWV 971 (from Clavier-Übung II, 1735)      Johann Sebastian Bach  
Allegro      1685-1750  
Andante

Selections from *Suite Bergamasque* (1905)      Claude Debussy  
Menuet      1862-1918  
Clair de Lune

Fantaisie-Impromptu in C-sharp Minor, Op. Post. 66 (1834)      Frédéric Chopin  
1810-1849

Nocturne in C-sharp Minor, Op. 27, No. 1 (1836)

Waltz in D-flat Major, Op. 64, No. 1, "Minute" (1847)

Solace: A Mexican Serenade (1909)      Scott Joplin  
1868-1917

Maple Leaf Rag (1899)

*This program, and all Sundays at Six programs in this series, are underwritten by an anonymous donor in honor of all first responders and essential workers who continue to serve us daily.*

To view a list of upcoming concerts at St. Stephen, please click [here](#).

## The Performer



A native of Adelaide, South Australia, **KATE STEVENS** has formed a career of repute as a collaborative pianist. Equally at home in chamber music, art song, opera, and solo performance, Ms. Stevens has worked with distinguished artists in all genres, including Dawn Upshaw, Peter Sellars, Robert Spano, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and John Adams. She has appeared with the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras, Mostly Mozart and Vienna Festivals, and at the Barbican Theatre. Living for many years in New York City, she performed at all major venues and served on the faculty at the Manhattan School of Music.

Currently a resident of Fort Worth, Ms. Stevens continues to collaborate with artists of distinction. Recent engagements include performances with Julien Beaudiment, Clifton Evans, Lorna McGhee, Ava Pine, Amy Prickett, Ertan Torgul and Martha Walvoord. Her lasting collaboration with Ms. Pine has included numerous recitals across Texas and they appeared together again last season with Jonathan Beyer for The Cliburn. Ms. Stevens is regularly featured as a guest artist at the University of North Texas, Texas Christian University, and the University of Texas where she recently performed the Schumann Piano Concerto.

# The Bösendorfer 'Imperial' Concert Grand Piano

Located in Vienna, Austria, the Bösendorfer Piano Company was founded in 1828 by Ignaz Bösendorfer. Model 290 was built following a suggestion by the composer, Ferruccio Busoni. Pianos usually have 88 keys, however, this piano has 97 keys, eight full octaves. Some composers wrote for this expanded range including Bartók, Busoni, Dohnányi, Mussorgsky, Ravel, Sessions, Vaughan Williams, Wagner and Debussy.

The Bösendorfer Piano, Model 290, is known as the 'Imperial' because of its great size and commanding sound. This piano was built at the end of 1968 and sold to John Robert Hill, M.D. in Houston, Texas. Dr. Hill was tried for the murder of his socialite wife, Joan Robinson Hill, daughter of Houston oilman, Ash Robinson. The lawyer for the defense was famed attorney, Richard 'Racehorse' Haynes. A mistrial was declared and Hill was never convicted, however he was murdered, in what many believe was a revenge killing. The book, "Blood and Money," by author, Tommy Thompson was based on this story and was made into a movie of the same title. Another movie, "Murder in Texas," was based on this story.

This Bösendorfer piano was heard at the fifth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 1977, played by Stephen DeGroote who won the grand-prize, playing this piano. When this piano was put up for sale following the 1977 competition, Bob and Marietta Watson, St. Stephen parishioners, looked at it when they were looking for a Bösendorfer for their home however they eventually chose another model.

In January of 1992, this piano was purchased by Milam Leavens, M.D., then chief of neurosurgery at Houston's M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. In the fall of 2008, this piano was purchased by St. Stephen parishioners, Tom Leavens and Adelaide Bratten Leavens, from Tom's siblings and father, Milam, and was graciously given to St. Stephen "in memory of all parents and in thanksgiving for the Ministry of Music at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church."

Thanks to generous donors, the Bösendorfer at St. Stephen was completely restored by Collora Piano in Dallas in 2017. This project included all new strings, new pin block, replacement of key action, exterior restoration, and a climate control system.