

Organist Bernas returns for Candlelight Concert



Organist Elwood "Woody" Bernas performs at the October Candlelight Concert, 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 27 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Courtesy photo

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The October Candlelight Concert at Trinity United Methodist Church marks the third appearance of organist Elwood "Woody" Bernas at the console of the church's pipe organ.

The concert is 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27 at the church, located at 609 Taylor St., across from the Community Center in the Uptown District of Port Townsend.

Trinity United's organ was built to emulate a German organ of the Baroque period; the particular specification of the instrument was derived from one played regularly by J.S. Bach.

While Bernas has played music primarily from the Baroque period in previous performances, for the October concert he is set to play selections by a variety of organ composers. By doing so, he intends to demonstrate that, even though this instrument emulates a particular historical period and style of organ building, it can also faithfully render music of other styles and time periods.

Bernas holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

While serving as organist at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Bernas was also a regular substitute organist at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

He is currently the principal organist at Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church in Bremerton and serves as one of two sub-deans for the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

In 2010, Bernas was invited to play a series of recitals in Stockholm, Sweden, one of which was recorded and released as a CD, "Live in Stockholm." Copies of the CD are to be available for sale at the Candlelight Concert.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is by a suggested \$10 donation (children admitted free) to benefit local Port Townsend agencies, and Trinity's music and historic Victorian restoration program. Refreshments are served following the performance. For more information, call 774-1644.