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<b>Title of the mailing *</b>	Episcopal Academy Presents Free Organ Recital Honoring Alexander McCurdy II

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**Body text of the mailing \***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 12/16/08

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Episcopal Academy Presents Free Organ Recital Honoring Alexander McCurdy II

January 23rd concert will feature World-Class Organists Gordon Turk and Michael Stairs

Newtown Square, PA -- Episcopal Academy alumnus The Rev. Alexander McCurdy III '57 presents an organ recital honoring his father, Alexander McCurdy II (1905-1983), on Saturday, January 23rd at 3:00 p.m. in the Class of 1944 Chapel on Episcopal Academy's Newtown Square campus, 1785 Bishop White Drive. Organists Gordon Turk and Michael Stairs will be performing at this event. Both Dr. Turk and Mr. Stairs were students of Mr. McCurdy.

A graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA, Mr. McCurdy made his debut in 1926 at New York's Town Hall, and thereafter touring as a recitalist, often with his wife, harpist Flora Greenwood. He was head of the organ departments at both the Curtis Institute of Music (1935-1972) and Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ (1924-1965). His students included Keith Chapman and Richard Purvis. Westminster Choir College has started an Alexander McCurdy Competition in Organ Performance in his honor. Mr. McCurdy served on Episcopal's faculty for a number of years in the late 30's and 40's running the chapel choir, glee club, and chapel music program. He also was the organist and choirmaster at Philadelphia's Second Presbyterian Church from 1927 to 1972. Mr. McCurdy donated his music collection to the Bagaduce Music Lending Library.

A critically-acclaimed concert organist, Gordon Turk has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Russia, the Ukraine, and Japan. His international tours have included solo recitals in concert halls, cathedrals, and universities, organ festivals, and concerts with orchestras. He has been awarded competition prizes for performances of the music of J.S. Bach and also in the national improvisation competition of the American Guild of Organists. Dr. Turk is Organist of Ocean Grove, NJ Auditorium, which houses one of the largest pipe organs in the United States, and Organist-Choirmaster of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA. His interest and experience in organ building places him in demand as a consultant for the building of new pipe organs and restorations of older and historic organs.

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Michael Stairs studied the organ with Alexander McCurdy at The Curtis Institute in Philadelphia after receiving his B.M. from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. In 1986, Stairs became the official organist of the Philadelphia Orchestra and recorded the Strauss Festival Prelude for Organ and Orchestra with the Orchestra while on tour in Japan in 1993. He is currently the Chairman of the Music Department at The Haverford School and serves as the organist-choirmaster at The Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr.

The recital is free and open to the public.

For more information, call Michael Letts, director of communications, at 484-424-1484.

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Founded in 1785, The Episcopal Academy is an independent college preparatory school for more than 1,200 boys and girls from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade in Newtown Square, PA. Founded by the Right Reverend William White, first Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania, the Academy is governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. For more information, visit [www.episcopalacademy.org](http://www.episcopalacademy.org).

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