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Should auld acquaintance be forgot: Last concert – for awhile – at historic Seattle church

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[Marc Stiles](#)

Staff Writer- Puget Sound Business Journal

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#)

At noon Tuesday, the final concert in some time will be held in a historic downtown Seattle sanctuary that's being closed for restoration as part of a the development of a high-rise next door.

The 108-year-old landmark at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Marion Street used to house the city's oldest church, and today is [Daniels Recital Hall](#), named for the Seattle real estate company that bought the building in 2008 to preserve the Beaux Arts building from impending demolition. Daniels Real Estate and **Stockbridge Capital** of San Francisco are starting construction of a 43-story office and hotel tower project called Fifth + Columbia, which is next door to the hall.

While the future use of the sanctuary and preservation plans will be announced when Fifth + Columbia officially breaks ground next spring, [Kevin Daniels](#) on Monday said his company will restore the sanctuary to "its former brilliance." A major seismic improvement "will allow the public more access to this great space than they have ever had in the past." The restored recital hall will reopen in 2017 as part of Fifth + Columbia.

Tuesday's free concert will feature internationally acclaimed musician [Mark Andersen](#) on the hall's 4,800-pipe Austin pipe organ. Handbell performer [Lynn Andersen](#), soprano [Janiel Miller](#) and other musicians are scheduled to perform.

"The atmosphere is informal but performed with polish. For this final concert, [Mark Andersen](#) and [Lynn Andersen](#) have arranged a lineup that will be a celebratory and merry finale." [Kevin Daniels](#) said.

The budget for the restoration of the recital hall was not disclosed. [Ron Wright](#) is the historic architect for the project, and **JTM** is the general contractor on the refurbishment of the hall as well as Fifth + Columbia.

The sanctuary was home to First United Methodist Church until Daniels bought the building. The congregation is Seattle's oldest church, founded in 1853, two years after the Denny party landed at Alki. After Daniels bought the property, the congregation moved to a new church in the Belltown area.

For awhile after the Methodists moved, the sanctuary at Fifth and Marion was home to a congregation of Mars Hill, the [mega-church that closed earlier this year amid scandal](#). [Kevin Daniels](#) said his company cancelled Mars Hill's lease in June.

The [Fifth + Columbia tower, which is going up due south of the sanctuary, will have a luxury hotel and 528,000 square feet of office](#) space. Shoring work is under way for the tower.

This story has been updated with comments from [Kevin Daniels](#).

Marc Stiles covers commercial real estate and government for the Puget Sound Business Journal.