

# Cheshire Lectures



AN ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018  
4:30 PM

## LIBERTY BY NECESSITY:

An Examination of Fate and Free Will in  
Homer and Boethius



**Presented by Karl Isaac Johnson**

Director of Music and Organist, St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Parish (New Britain, CT) Colleague, American Guild of Organists and National Association of Pastoral Musicians M.A.R. (Liturgical Studies), Yale Divinity School I.S.M. Certificate, Yale Institute of Sacred Music B.A. (Fellow, Philosophy and Religion), Samford University

FREE ADMISSION

"For millennia, humans have pondered and doubted the coexistence of divine beings and human free will. It would seem that an all-knowing, all-powerful God or gods would render human agency impossible. Does God's foreknowledge of every event that is to come indicate that humans are never free to choose otherwise? This is a question that has plagued philosophers, theologians, and poets.

This lecture will examine the age-old question through the lenses of both poetry and philosophy. We will explore the themes of fate and free will in the Iliad of Homer, an ancient Mycenaean Greek epic poem, and the much-later Consolation of Philosophy by Boethius, a late-antique Christian Roman philosopher. This lecture will question whether or not the conclusions that both thinkers come to is logical, satisfactory, and compatible with Catholic thought."

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