



Music @ St. Stephen's Church 2024-25



MUSIC AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH 2024-25

As we give thanks for your support for the full breadth of the music ministry of St. Stephen's Church, we hope that spiritual nourishment through music will be found by all who visit here. Please visit ststephensRVA.org/music for more information about our ensembles and musicians and how to participate in or support our music ministry.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, November 28: 10:30 a.m.

Plan to arrive early for this festive and well-attended service of Morning Prayer! This service, a tradition begun in 1952, features celebratory music for choir, organ and brass, including Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," John Rutter's "For the beauty of the earth," Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Old Hundredth*, and *Gratias agimus tibi* from J.S. Bach's monumental Mass in B minor. The Rev. William L. Sachs, associate rector, will preach at this year's service.

WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT

Wednesday, December 18: 7:00 p.m.

This candlelit concert is offered as a time for rest and beauty in the midst of the busy holiday season. Music and poetry mark the longest night of the year while anticipating the joy of light's return. The program also holds space for those for whom the holiday season is a difficult time. Sanctuary, our Compline choir, joined by cellist Peter Greydanus and harpist Anastasia Jellison, will present music by Stephen Barton, Judith Bingham, Kerensa Briggs, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Ola Gjeilo, Peter Hallock, Joanna Marsh, Owain Park, Frank Ticheli, Will Todd, Marcel Tournier, and Lucy Walker. Visit ststephensRVA.org/concerts for ticket availability. A reception follows the concert in the large fellowship hall.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24: 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m.

Our Christmas Eve services offer the full breadth of music at St. Stephen's, and each service will be preceded by a half-hour prelude. St. Stephen's Choristers, St. Stephen's Choir, and a string quartet will lead music for the 2:00 and 5:00 services, while the 8:00 Celtic Evensong-style service will feature trios of instruments and cantors. The St. Stephen's Choir, accompanied by organ and orchestra, sings for the 11 p.m. High Mass, this year offering movements from George Frederic Handel's *Messiah* during the prelude and Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina's *Missa brevis* during the service, as well as music by Gerre Hancock, John Rutter, and Healey Willan.



EPIPHANY LESSONS AND CAROLS AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Wednesday, January 8: 6:00 service, 7:00 supper and Chili Cook-Off

Similar to the beloved service of Christmas Lessons and Carols made famous by King's College, Cambridge, this candlelit service will feature choral and organ music for the season of Epiphany, including anthems by composers Andrew Carter, Herbert Howells, Philip Stopford, Eric Whitacre, Alison Willis, and Jonathan Dove. Bring trimmings of your Christmas greenery to burn at the conclusion of the service, and join us afterwards for a chili cook-off, with proceeds supporting our music ministry.

BELVEDERE CONCERT SERIES: NICHOLAS DIEUGENIO, VIOLIN MUSIC OF J.S. BACH

Friday, January 24

7:00 p.m. concert; 8:00 p.m. reception

Nicholas DiEugenio performs the monumental sonatas and partitas of Johann Sebastian Bach on baroque violin. This performance will be accompanied by displays of original artwork by Nicholas. In demand as a soloist, chamber musician, and ensemble leader, Nicholas creates powerful shared experiences in music ranging from early baroque to contemporary commissions. A core member of the Sebastians, a period group hailed as “top-notch” by *The New Yorker* and “sharp-edged and engaging” by *The New York Times*, Nicholas also performs with pianist Mimi Solomon, his wife. Tickets may be purchased at belvedereseries.org; regular admission is \$30, and free student tickets are available using the code STUDENTTIX. All tickets are non-refundable.



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS: MEET THE COMPOSER

Tuesday, February 18

6:00 p.m. dinner in the large fellowship hall (registration required)

7:00 p.m. program in the church (open to the public)



St. Stephen's Church will host this American Guild of Organists Richmond Chapter event featuring the music of organist and composer Rebecca Groom te Velde in a conversational and engaging format. Rebecca is a composer in high demand, a contributing editor for music publishing at Oxford University Press, an advocate for the music of her father, Lester Groom, and Director of Music Emeritus at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She is also the mother of our Director of Music, Brent te Velde.

Registration will be required for the 6 p.m. dinner, but the 7 p.m. program in the church is open to the public. More information: ststephensVA.org/concerts.

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THREE CHOIRS CONCERT

Sunday, March 2: St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond

7:00 p.m.

The choirs of three Episcopal churches—St. James's, St. Paul's, and St. Stephen's—join forces each year to present a musical offering, with the three churches rotating hosting duties. St. James's Church is this year's host. The combined choirs, accompanied by orchestra, will sing Karl Jenkins' *Miserere: Songs of Mercy and Redemption*, which is dedicated to all who have suffered or perished in the Middle East over the last 70 years. Jenkins was motivated by the desperate situation of the millions of people displaced and affected by the cruel effects of war, and hoped the healing and uniting powers of music could be used to bring together people from different religions.

LABYRINTH CONCERT

Wednesday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.



For the first time, Sanctuary, our Compline Choir, will offer a concert during Lent. The program is inspired by the meditative practice of walking the labyrinth. This ancient practice has found new vitality in the 20th and 21st centuries as the labyrinth's power for channeling self-awareness, finding peace, engendering

gratitude, stimulating creative energy, and processing grief and trauma has changed countless lives. The program will reflect the three-part experience of walking the labyrinth: the release and spiritual trust of walking into the labyrinth; receiving the gifts of the labyrinth at its center; and returning to the world as one leaves the labyrinth. Portions of the program will be accompanied by flutist Amy Blake and sound bath musician Jim Morgan. The program will include music by Johannes Brahms, Hildegard von Bingen, Kerensa Briggs, Damon Daltridge, David Hurd, Michael McGlynn, Claudio Monteverdi, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Eric Whitacre. A labyrinth will be open to the public in Palmer Hall Chapel during the week of the concert, and more information will be shared in the new year about the practice of walking the labyrinth. Visit ststephensRVA.org/concerts for ticket availability.

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BRENT TE VELDE AND DIANA CHOU, ORGAN MUSIC OF J.S. BACH

Friday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

In celebration of Johann Sebastian Bach's 340th birthday on March 31, and alongside the January Belvedere Series concert, Director of Music Brent te Velde and Associate Director of Music Diana Chou will present selected organ works by Bach. As a complement to a class that to be taught by Dr. Christopher Lindbloom on Lenten hymnody, the program will include chorale preludes by Bach setting some of the Lutheran chorales discussed in the class. The program will also include a variety of some of his most remarkable free works for solo organ, showcasing the life and legacy of the greatest composer for the organ.



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MUSICAL OFFERING FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday: April 18, 5:00 p.m.

In addition to St. Stephen's Good Friday service at noon and installation of the Stations of the Cross, we will present a special offering of music for this most solemn day. Soprano Lauren Clay and countertenor Quinn Bitsas, with Baroque instrumentalists Janelle Davis, Fiona Hughes, and Brady Lanier, will present Giovanni Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, a powerful setting of the 13th-century hymn commemorating Mary's suffering during the crucifixion. Solo organ music will also be offered by Diana Chou and Brent te Velde.



EASTER

The Great Vigil of Easter: Saturday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Day: Sunday, April 20

9:00 a.m. (main church and Palmer Hall), 11:15 a.m.

5:30 p.m. Celtic Evensong, 8:00 p.m. Compline



The celebration of the resurrection begins on Holy Saturday with the Easter Vigil, with music sung by our Compline choir, Sanctuary.

The 9:00 and 11:15 main church services of Holy Eucharist on Easter Day feature music for choirs, organ, and brass, sung by the St. Stephen's Choir, while the St. Stephen's Choristers will lead the singing in our 9:00 Palmer Hall service.

Our Easter service of Celtic Evensong features an instrumental trio of violin, flute, and cello, and Sanctuary will conclude the day with our sung service of Compline.

We encourage you to take in as many of the worship opportunities offered during Holy Week and Easter as you are able. The journey through the week, guided by music, is transformative.

SERVICES OF CHORAL EUCHARIST

St. Stephen's Choir will sing choral settings of the service music on several red-letter days of the church year during the 11:15 a.m. Sunday service and at the 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve — complemented by the chanting of some of the prayers by our clergy. The rich repertoire of choral eucharist is one of the treasures of our Anglican tradition.

September 8: Rally Day

Charles Villiers Stanford: Communion service in C and F major

November 10: Feast of St. Stephen, transferred

Charles Callahan: St. Stephen's Mass

December 1: First Sunday in Advent

George Oldroyd: Mass for the Quiet Hour

December 24: Christ Mass (11:00 p.m.)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina: Missa brevis

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)

Imogen Holst: Mass in A minor

May 11: Good Shepherd Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Easter)

Philip Stopford: Keble *Missa brevis*



SUPPORT MUSIC AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Choirs for young people are an important part of St. Stephen's music ministry, and all materials, teaching, and meals are provided free of charge to each participant. Annual pledges to St. Stephen's support all of the church's ministries, and are the best way to support music at St. Stephen's. To make a pledge, please visit ststephensRVA.org/give, or contact Fred Staley, fstaley@ststephensrva.org.



MUSIC STAFF

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