

Music @ St. Stephen's Church



2023-2024

MUSIC AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH 2023-24

As we look forward to the full breadth of our offerings for music and worship returning in the fall, we hope that spiritual nourishment through music will be found in one way or another by all who visit St. Stephen's Church. Please visit ststephensRVA.org/music for more information about our ensembles and musicians and how those interested might participate in or support our music ministry.

PILGRIMAGE TO SOUTHWEST ENGLAND: JULY 20-29, 2024

The St. Stephen's Choir and St. Stephen's Choristers have been invited to sing for services, along with the choir of River Road Church, Baptist, in Bath Abbey, Exeter Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral, and Wells Cathedral as part of a choral pilgrimage to southwest England in July 2024. Much of the music offered in the coming program year will serve as preparation for the pilgrimage, and we look forward to sharing the fruits of the pilgrimage with the parish when we return! Visit ststephensrva.org/choir-pilgrimage-2024 for more information about the pilgrimage and how to support it.



THREE CHOIRS EVENSONG FOR THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

This Richmond tradition returns to St. Stephen's this fall when we host the choirs of St. Paul's and St. James's Episcopal churches in a combined service of choral Evensong for the Feast of All Saints. The service will feature music of American composers, including Gerre Hancock, Margaret Burk, David Hogan, and David Hurd. A reception will follow in the large fellowship hall.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, November 23, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.



Plan to arrive early for this festive, well-attended service of Morning Prayer! The 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 William's *Old Hundredth*, and *Gratias agimus tibi* from J.S. Bach's monumental Mass in B minor.

WINTER SOLSTICE CONCERT

Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m.

This candlelit concert is an opportunity 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. Sanctuary and the St. Stephen's Choristers will be joined by cellist Peter Greydanus and harpist Anastasia Jellison, and the program will include music by composers Peter Hallock, Ēriks Ešenvalds, Joanna Marsh, Sally Beamish, Marcel Tournier, Owain Park, June Collin, Patrick Hawes, and more. Tickets are available at ststephensRVA.org/concerts and in the parish office. A reception will follow in the large fellowship hall.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24 at 2, 5, 8, and 11 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 provide music for the 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. services, while the 8 p.m. Celtic service will feature trios of instruments and cantors. St. Stephen's Choir will be joined by organ and orchestra for the 11 p.m. mass, this year offering Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* during the prelude and Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina's **Missa brevis** during the service, along with music by Gerre Hancock, John Rutter, and Healey Willan.

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LESSONS AND CAROLS ON THE EVE OF THE EPIPHANY AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Friday, January 5 at 6 p.m. (service) and 7 p.m. (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 Feast of the Epiphany, including anthems by Morten Lauridsen, Andrew Carter, Eric Whitacre, Alison Willis, Philip Stopford, Kerensa Briggs, and Jonathan Dove. Bring trimmings of your Christmas greenery to burn at the conclusion of the service, and your appetite to sample the work of our chili cook-off's entrants! The proceeds of the cook-off will support the choirs' July pilgrimage to England.

BELVEDERE CONCERT SERIES: DIDEROT STRING QUARTET

Friday, January 12, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Founded by Ingrid Keller, our wonderful Palmer Hall pianist, the Belvedere Series offers extraordinary musical experiences through chamber music in unique, intimate settings in Richmond, facilitating the discussion, curiosity, and bond between performing artists and audience. The series' vision is to create an environment of profound means of community building and social connection, while enhancing the cultural life of Richmond. This year the series will present the acclaimed Diderot String Quartet at St. Stephen's. Tickets are available at belvedereconcertseries.org, and students may attend free by using the code STUDENTTIX.



Named after the 18th century French philosopher and Boccherini enthusiast Denis Diderot, the group brings a fresh approach to works of the 18th and 19th centuries. Called “emotional, riveting, and ultimately cathartic” (The Wall Street Journal), Diderot came together in 2012 after having first met at Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School. The four musicians share a background in historical performance and a passion for the string quartet genre; they found the thrill of exploring the quartet repertoire on period instruments to be irresistible. The program will include music by composers Caroline Shaw, J.S. Bach, and Felix Mendelssohn. A reception will follow in the large fellowship hall.

MASTERWORKS CONCERT: ROYAL BRITANNIA

February 8, 2024 at 7 p.m.

In celebration and support of the upcoming choral pilgrimage to southwest England, this year’s Masterworks Concert program will showcase the richness of the English choral tradition, featuring music for choir, organ, and orchestra relating to royal occasions. The music ranges from the nearly 300-year-old coronation anthem “Zadok the Priest” by George Frederic Handel, to music by the current Master of the King’s music Judith Weir, to the 1902 coronation anthem “I was glad” by C.H.H. Parry, in the version performed for the coronation of King Charles III in 2023. The program will also include several anthems setting texts from the Psalms, a cornerstone of the Anglican tradition, by composers William Mathias, Imogen Holst, Gustav Holst, Cecilia McDowall, and John Rutter. Tickets are available at ststephensVA.org/concerts and in the parish office. A reception will follow in the large fellowship hall.



THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS RECITAL SERIES PRESENTS KEN COWAN

March 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Regarded as one of North America’s finest concert organists and praised for his dazzling artistry, impeccable technique, and imaginative programming by audiences and critics alike, Ken Cowan maintains a rigorous performing schedule that takes him to major concert venues in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. Numerous critically acclaimed compact disc recordings



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by Mr. Cowan are available. Most recent, serving as organ accompanist, is *Maurice Duruflé: Complete Choral Works* (Signum Records), recorded with Robert Simpson and the Houston Chamber Choir, for which the choir received a Grammy Award in 2020 for Best Choral Recording. The recital will be free and open to the public, and a reception follows in the large fellowship hall.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: A MUSICAL OFFERING

Good Friday: March 29, 2024 at 4 p.m.

In addition to the Good Friday service at noon, Sanctuary, our Compline choir, will present a special offering of music, singing one of J.S. Bach's most intimate and moving cantatas, *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit*, (God's time is the best time) BWV 106. A chamber orchestra of period instruments will accompany the ensemble, and Brent te Velde and Diana Chou will play organ music by Bach. The program will also include the motet by Jacob Handl, *Ecce quomodo moritur justus*, which was traditionally sung just after choral presentations of the Passion within the service of Vespers for Good Friday during Bach's time in Leipzig, Germany. A special installation of Stations of the Cross will be available alongside the music, with guided tours before and after the program.



EASTER

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

Easter Day services on Sunday, March 31

Holy Eucharist: Rite One at 7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two at 9 and 11:15 a.m.

Celtic Evensong and Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Sung Compline at 8 p.m.

The celebration of the resurrection begins on Holy Saturday with the Easter Vigil, with music sung by our Compline choir, Sanctuary. The 9 and 11:15 services of Holy Eucharist on Easter Day feature music for choirs, organ, and brass, sung by St. Stephen's Choir and St. Stephen's Choristers. Our Easter service of Celtic Evensong and Communion features an instrumental trio of violin, flute, and cello, and Sanctuary will conclude with the 8 p.m. service of Compline.

We encourage you to attend many of the worship opportunities offered for Holy Week and Easter as you can. The journey through the week, guided by music, is transformative.

SPRING MUSIC GALA AND SILENT AUCTION

**April 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. (reception)
6 p.m. (concert), 7 p.m. (dinner)**

The gala concert features the many talents of St. Stephen's wonderful staff singers, including music both sacred and secular, serious and fun! The evening will begin with a welcome reception outside Palmer Hall, which will provide an opportunity to register for and peruse the many offerings of the silent auction. A festive supper will follow the concert in the courtyard, and all proceeds from the evening will support the upcoming pilgrimage to southwest England. Tickets are available at **ststephensRVA/concerts** and in the parish office.



MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 1 p.m.

St. Stephen's Choristers will present a program to honor mothers following the morning services. This will be the perfect Mother's Day gift for 2024! An afternoon tea-inspired luncheon will be followed by light music offered by the choristers. All proceeds from ticket sales will support the upcoming pilgrimage to southwest England. Tickets are available at **ststephensRVA.org/concerts** and in the parish office.

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 — all during the 11:15 service, with the exception of 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 the Anglican tradition, and some of this repertoire will be included in the choirs' upcoming pilgrimage to southwest England.

Sunday, October 1: St. Francis

Herbert Howells: Communion service for King's College Cambridge (*Collegium regale*)

Sunday, December 3: First Sunday in Advent

George Oldroyd: Mass for the Quiet Hour

Sunday, December 24: Christ Mass (11 p.m.)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina: *Missa brevis*

continued

**Sunday, February 11: Last Sunday in Epiphany
(Transfiguration)**

Charles V. Stanford: Communion service in C
and F major

**Sunday, March 10: Fourth Sunday in Lent
(Laetare)**

Imogen Holst: Mass in A minor

Sunday, May 19: Feast of Pentecost

Philip Stopford: Keble *Missa brevis*



SUPPORT MUSIC AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Choirs for young people are an important part of St. Stephen's general 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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Front and back covers: detail of St. Cecelia window
at St. Stephen's Church, photographed by Doug Buerlein



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