

he Cathedral Church of the Nativity welcomes you to another year of music in our historic sanctuary. There will be a plethora of opportunies to experience both concerts and special liturgies at the Cathedral this year: I hope that you are able to join us for many of these!

A unique and deeply moving offering of the Anglican tradition, Evensong is a blend of music and prayer that creates a space of profound reverence and spiritual reflection. With a wide choral literature covering the extremes from the dramatic to the introspective, the music of this service explores the full range of religious experience. Join us on the third Saturday each month to hear this incredible choral music while clouds of incense and prayer ascend heavenward through the dim vesper light.

I am so excited about the lineup of musicians performing on the chamber music series this year. From familiar faces to artists new to the Lehigh Valley, each program promises to be a spectacular display of artistry, bringing music to life from across the centuries. Chamber music concerts will fall on the second weekend of each month.

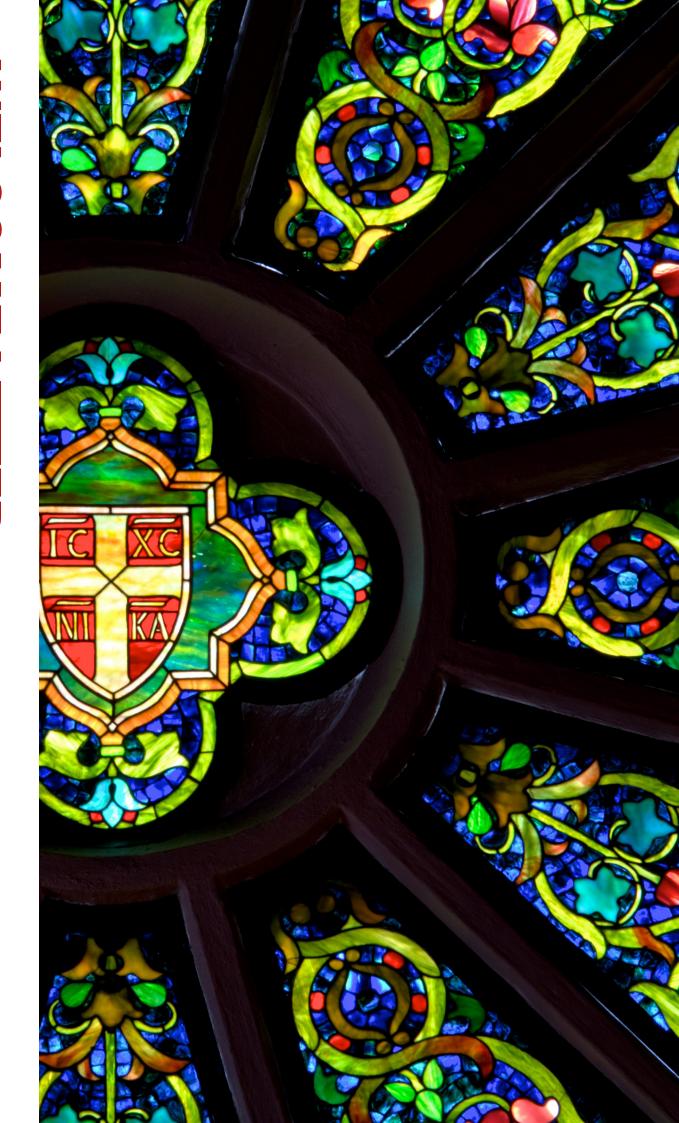
There are three special liturgies this season: an All Souls' Requiem Eucharist, Advent Processional, and Christmas Lessons and Carols. All featuring the Cathedral Choir, these services mark special points in the church year with elaborate ritual, helping us connect with the flow of the seasons.

This year we have two celebrated church musicians joining us as guest conductors. Martin Green, the Canon for Music of St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego, will lead the choir for the first Evensong of the year, at which Nativity's own Canon Precentor will be formally installed. Peter DuBois, Emeritus Director of Music and Organist of Third Presbyterian, Rochester, New York, and the host of NPR's With Heart and Voice, will direct the choir in the final Evensong of the year.

I sincerely hope that you can share in the musical life of Nativity – I look forward to seeing you there!

- Nicholas Halbert Canon Precentor Cathedral Church of the Nativity





### 5PM SEPTEMBER 20 SOLEMN EVENSONG

Installation of the Canon Precentor

Ireland – Greater love hath no man Sturk – Lord Jesus, Stay with us Stanford – Evening Service in C Major

The Canon Martin Green of St. Paul's Cathedral, San Diego, joins Nativity Choir as guest conductor. The Canon Dr. Nicholas Halbert will serve as organist at this Evensong featuring one of the most impactful of Anglican choral anthems - Ireland's "Greater love hath no man."



#### 5:45PM OCTOBER 11 OPENING CONCERT Preludes and Variations

The Canon Dr. Nicholas Halbert will present a recital of Bach, Sweelinck, Storace, Schumann, and Dupré, showing the many beautiful colors of the Nativity Cathedral organ.







## 5PM OCTOBER 18 SOLEMN EVENSONG

Parry – Crossing the Bar Stanford – Evening Service in B-flat major Dett – Ave Maria

The Cathedral Choir sings Stanford's thrilling Evening Service in B-flat with its evocative "Nunc Dimittis" for Tenor and Bass voices. Nathaniel Dett's gorgeous "Ave Maria" will fill the acoustic with lush *a capella* harmony.



# **NOVEMBER**



# 5PM NOVEMBER 2 FAURE'S REQUIEM

The Cathedral Choir will be joined by renowned organist Canon Mark Laubach, Soprano Michelle Pérez, Baritone Ian Murphy, and members of the choirs of the Pro-Cathedral of St. Stephen in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and First Presbyterian, Bethelehem, for a performance of Fauré's *Requiem* during an Eucharist for the Feast of All Souls Day. This will be a powerful service of remembrance for all of the departed.

#### 5:45PM NOVEMBER 8 DANIEL CARROLL

Daniel Carroll is an organist and improviser studying at the Curtis Institute of Music. In demand as a recitalist across the United States, Daniel has a passion for improvisation which he has studied Philadelphia, Paris, and Toulouse. This program will show his versatility as an organist, performing selections from the organ literature along with improvisations in a variety of historical styles.



#### 5PM NOVEMBER 15 SOLEMN EVENSONG

Amy Beach – Peace I leave with you Noble – Evening Service in B Minor Gardiner – Evening Hymn.



Kevin O'Malia, Director of Music at All Saints', Princeton, joins the Nativity Cathedral Choir for this Evensong rich with British classics.

# **DECEMBER**

### 5PM DECEMBER 6 ADVENT PROCESSION

This service of darkness and light prepares us for the season of Advent. The Choir processes through the Cathedral, singing motets at various points in the space as they journey towards the Chancel. Word and music combine to help us prepare the way of the Lord in our hearts. This year will feature music of Poston, Howells, Goldschmidt, Bruckner, and Bruhns.



### 5PM DECEMBER 21 NINE LESSONS & CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

One of the most beloved traditions of the Anglican church, Lessons and Carols originates from Truro Cathedral, in far-western England, and was made famous at King's College, Cambridge. The Cathedral of the Nativity is delighted to share this beautiful liturgy celebrating the Nativity of the Lord with the Lehigh Valley. This year will feature music by Bach, Wilcocks, Warlock, and Goldschmidt. Highlights include Will Todd's expressive "My Lord has Come," the traditional Spanish villancico, "Ríu Ríu Chíu," and Holst's charming medley of carols: "Christmas Day."

# **JANUARY**



# **4PM** JANUARY 11 **MICHELLE PÉREZ**

Expressions and Epiphanies

Lyric Soprano Michelle Pérez will be joined by collaborators John Solari, Piano, and Charity Morrison, French Horn, to present a colorful recital of art song. Michelle is an accomplished operatic soprano in demand on the stage and for vocal recitals: recent credits include the roles of Contessa, Alcina, Mother (*Amahl*), and Anne Truelove. The evening will include Debussy's masterful *Proses lyriques*, the East Coast premiere of emerging composer Charity Morrison's *Madrugada*, and selections by Schubert and Mexican composer María Grever. Please join us and let this expressive and powerful music provide some warmth in the heart of winter!

### 5PM JANUARY 17 SOLEMN EVENSONG for the Epiphany

- Cornelius The Three Kings
- Brewer Evening Service in D major
- Howells Here is the little door

This Evensong will feature two anthems for Epiphany. "The Three Kings" is a setting of poetry over the chorale *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* for baritone soloist and choir. A youthful composition by Howells, "Here is the little door," reflects on the gifts of the Magi and foreshadows the struggle to come for the Infant King.

# **FEBRUARY**







# **4PM** FEBRUARY 15 CHAMBER MUSIC for Voice and Strings

Soprano Rebecca Erhardt performs vocal chamber music with violinist Chris Souza, cellist Agnieszka Rybska, and pianist Nicholas Halbert. Featuring music from the Baroque Era to the 20th century, the program highlights the many ways in which composers have used the colors of stringed instruments and the human voice to create works awash with vibrant text-painting, soaring lyricism, and rich harmony. The recital will include music by Alessandro Scarlatti, G.F. Handel, Rebecca Clarke, Roger Quilter, Camille Saint -Saëns.

# 5PM FEBRUARY 21 SOLEMN EVENSONG for the Season of Lent

- Tallis Salvator mundi
- Purcell Evening Service in G minor Boyce O where shall wisdom be found?

This service will highlight works from three consecutive centuries of English choral music. Tallis' "Salvator mundi" is a sonorous five-part plea to God. The Purcell canticles and the Boyce anthem are both examples of the "verse anthem," a genre in which soloists dialogue with the full choir in virtuosic interludes.

# MARCH



#### **4PM** MARCH 15 THE TOURING CHOIR CHARTER ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

The Cathedral Church of the Nativity will host our neighbors in Southside Bethelehm, the Touring Choir of Charter Arts High School, conducted by David Macbeth. The Touring Choir has performed at prestigious venues across the Northeast including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Trinity Wall St., the National Cathedral, and ACDA Convention of Pennsylvania.

#### 5PM MARCH 21 SOLEMN EVENSONG for the Season of Lent

- Purcell Thou knowest, Lord
  Noble Evening Service in B minor
  Wesley Thou wilt keep him

The second Evensong during the season of Lent is centered around the 19th century anthem, "Thou wilt keep him." Written by one of the most influential Victorian composers, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, it is a warm assurance of God's protection. Purcell's "Thou knowest, Lord," excerpted from the Funeral Sentences for Queen Mary, is a profoundly simple prayer to the Lord.



# **APRIL**

# 4PM APRIL 12 JOHN SOLARI Piano Recital

John Solari is an Ann Arbor based concert pianist completing his doctoral studies under Christopher Harding at the University of Michigan. He has given performances across the country as a soloist and chamber musician, and his awards include first prize in the 2022 National Society of Arts and Letters Piano Competition (Arizona Chapter) and silver prize in the 2021 Music Teacher's National Association Piano Competition. His program will explore Romantic works for the piano including Amy Beach's Hermit Thrush, op. 92, Frederic Chopin's Polonaise-Fantasy in A-flat major, op. 61, Beethoven's Piano Sonata in A major, op. 101, and Schubert's Fantasie in C major, D. 760 "Der Wanderer."



#### 5PM APRIL 18 SOLEMN EVENSONG for Eastertide

- Sturk Lord Jesus, Stay with Us
  Brewer Evening Service in D major
  Stanford Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem

The Cathedral Choir will celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with two jubilant works: a reprise of Brewer's heroic canticles in D major, and Stanford's exhilirating "Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem."

# MAY

## 5:45PM MAY 9 LISZT'S AD NOS Organ Recital



The Canon Dr. Nicholas Halbert concludes Nativity's concert music offerings for the 2025–2026 season with a landmark work for the organ, Liszt's ferocious and virtuosic Fantasie und Fuge über den Choral Ad nos, ad salutarem undam, a sprawling symphonic epic that defined German Romantic organ composition for decades after its premiere. This concert will use every color available on Nativity's magnificent Austin organ.

## 5PM MAY 16 EVENSONG for the Choir Festival Weekend

The Choir will be joined by esteemed choral conductor and organist Peter DuBois for the annual Festival Weekend celebrating the hard work and dedication of the singers who bring music to the Cathedral every week. Peter DuBois is Director of Music and Organist Emeritus at Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY, having retired in 2023 after 42 years of full-time music ministry. He continues to host the nationally syndicated public radio program "With Heart and Voice" (withheartandvoice.org), heard on over 130 stations nationwide. The Evensong will feature David Hogan's *Mt. St. Albans* Canticles and Howells' "Like as the Hart." Please join us for the final Evensong of the 2025–2026 season!



#### 2025-2026

September 20th, 5 pm Choral Evensong

October 11th, 5:45 pm Organ Recital, Dr. Nicholas Halbert

> October 18th, 5 pm Choral Evensong

November 2nd, 5 pm Fauré Requiem

November 8th, 5:45 pm Organ Recital, Daniel Carroll

> November 15th, 5 pm Choral Evensong

December 6th, 5 pm Advent Processional

December 21st, 5 pm Christmas Lessons and Carols

> January 11th, 4 pm Voice Recital: Michelle Pérez, Soprano

January 17th, 5 pm Choral Evensong February 15th, 4 pm Voice Recital: Rebecca Erhardt, Soprano with Strings

> February 21st, 5 pm Choral Evensong

March 15th, 4 pm The Choirs of Charter Arts High School David Macbeth, Conductor

> March 21st, 5 pm Choral Evensong

April 12th, 4 pm Piano Recital: John Solari

> April 18th, 5 pm Choral Evensong

May 9th, 5:45 pm Organ Recital: Dr. Nicholas Halbert

May 16th, 5 pm Choir Festival Weekend Evensong with Peter Dubois



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