

Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church · 2021–22 Season

FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN

MUSIC FOR DOUBLE CHOIR



Friday, February 11 · 7 pm EST
Kirkland Chapel

The Chamber Choir of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
Ryan Jackson, Director

PRESENTED BY THE ARTS & OUR FAITH COMMITTEE



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church and thank you for joining us. This evening's program will be sung without an intermission. Please refrain from taking pictures or making recordings during the performance.

Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

We hope you enjoy this evening's concert, the third in the ninth season of our annual concert series. Please read on for more information about upcoming music events at Fifth Avenue. Be sure to mark the dates in your calendar and join us again!

Tickets for choral concerts are available online at fapc.org/tickets.

Verdi Requiem

Thursday, April 7 & Friday, April 8, 2022
7 pm EST, Kirkland Chapel & Livestream

A dramatic and powerful prayer for deliverance from death and hell, Verdi's Requiem is a thrilling product of years of experience as the world's greatest opera composer. The Shelest Piano Duo join us for the world premiere of Ryan Jackson's thrilling new arrangement of this masterpiece for piano four-hands. Hear Verdi's superb vocal writing as never before in an electrifying performance that explores all the drama and dynamics of the score with the incisive diction and vibrant sound that has come to define the Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir. Sung in Latin with English surtitles. These performances are dedicated to the memory of Antoine Hodge, beloved choir member who passed away from complications due to COVID-19 in February 2020.

Organ Recital – Patrick Kreeger, Associate Organist

Sunday, May 22, 2022 • 1 pm, Sanctuary

Patrick Kreeger, Fifth Avenue's talented Associate Organist, treats us to an exciting hour of music on the impressive 7,058-pipe Austin organ in the main sanctuary. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Yale University, and the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, Patrick is one of the most outstanding organists of his generation. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to hear him in concert!

There is no charge for this event, and no tickets are required.

PROGRAM

Faire is the Heaven: Music for Double Choir

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir
Ryan Jackson, Director

Psalm 100 (1996)
Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

Ave Maria à 8 (1572)
T.L. de Victoria (1548–1611)

Faire is the heaven (1925)
William H. Harris (1883–1973)

The Presence (2016)
Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Mass for Double Choir (1926)
Frank Martin (1890–1974)
I. Kyrie
II. Gloria
III. Credo
IV. Sanctus
V. Agnus Dei

Immortality (2015)
Timothy Corlis (b. 1972)

In presenting this evening's concert, the Arts and Our Faith Committee acknowledges the generous support of the Dr. Reid and Marguerite Pitts Special Music Fund.

A NOTE ABOUT THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

From Renaissance Spain through modern-day America, composers have been captivated by the greater expressive potential of writing choral music in eight parts rather than the traditional four. The rich harmonies and breathtaking counterpoint of this genre are a feast for the ears and have given rise to some of the most ravishing choral music ever written. We're absolutely delighted to share some of our favorite selections from this repertoire with you this evening, each one of which is an outstanding and powerful piece in its own right. For many of us who make our home in the world of choral music, however, the crowning achievement in this genre is undoubtedly the beguiling Mass for Double Choir by the Swiss composer Frank Martin (pronounced "mar-TEHN").

Frank Martin was deeply influenced and affected by music of the past. In the words of music writer Alex Ross, Martin's Mass for double choir a cappella "sounds like a Renaissance mass lost in time, aware nonetheless of long centuries passing and new horrors unfolding." Frank Martin was born in Geneva, Switzerland in 1890. His father was a Calvinist minister and his ancestors included French Huguenots who left France in the 16th century, displaced by the French Wars of Religion. Martin grew up steeped in the traditions of the reformed church and much of his artistic output was inspired by a deep Christian faith. He composed most of his remarkable Mass in 1922, though he did not complete the final movement, the Agnus Dei, until 1926. At this point, Martin locked the score away in a drawer for nearly forty years. Neither the composer (then in his 30s) nor anyone else would hear the piece performed until Martin was an old man.

That a composition of such luminescence and searing beauty should go unknown for so long seems unthinkable now. But for Martin, the piece was deeply personal; a musical confession of faith. As he wrote in 1970, "I did not at all desire that the work be performed, believing that it would be judged entirely from an aesthetic point of view. I saw it entirely as an affair between God and myself ... the expression of religious sentiments, it seems to me, should remain secret and have nothing to do with public opinion." Yet, in 1963, after a great deal of persuasion from the director of the Bugenhagen Kantorei of Hamburg, Germany, Martin released his Mass for publication and performance. The importance of this exquisite composition was recognized immediately, and, in the decades since, the Mass for Double Choir has been cherished repertoire for serious choral ensembles throughout the world.

Thank you for being here to share this special evening with us,



Dr. Ryan Jackson
William S. Perper Director of Music & Fine Arts Ministries

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Psalm 100 • *Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)*

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed.
And for His sheep he doth us take.
O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always.
For it is seemly so to do.
Amen.

*Based on Psalm 100,
attrib. William Kethe (ca. 1530–1593) as found in the Scottish Psalter, 1650*

Ave Maria à 8 • *T.L. de Victoria (1548–1611)*

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Regina coeli,
dulcis et pia, O Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
ut cum electis te videamus.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Queen of heaven,
Sweet and merciful, O Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
That with the elect we may gaze upon thee.

Prayer based on the Angelic Salutation from Luke 1:28

Faire is the heaven • *William H. Harris (1883–1973)*

Faire is the heaven, where happy soules have place
In full enjoyment of felicitie,
Whence they doe still behold the glorious face
Of the Divine Eternall Majestie;
Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins,
Which all with golden wings are overdight,
And those eternall burning Seraphins,
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;
Yet fairer than they both, and much more bright,
Be th' Angels and Archangels, which attend
On God's owne Person, without rest or end.
These then in faire each other farre excelling,
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is the Highest farre beyond all telling,
Fairer than all the rest which there appear,

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Though all their beauties joynd together were;
How then can mortall tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

Edmund Spenser (1552–1599)

The Presence • *Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
For thou wilt light my candle:
The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.
Unto the upright, there ariseth light in the darkness:
He is gracious, and righteous, full of compassion.
The Lord is my light.
For with thee is the fountain of life:
In thy light shall we see light.
Your word is a lamp to my feet,
And a light to my path.

Psalms 27:1; 18:28; 112:4; 36:9; 119:105

Mass for Double Choir • *Frank Martin (1890–1974)*

I. *Kyrie*

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

II. *Gloria*

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntaris.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
Adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus pater omnipotens.

Domine fili unigenite
Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris,
qui tollis
peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Glory be to God on high
And on earth peace,
Goodwill towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
We worship thee, we glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee
For thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly king,
God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son,
Jesus Christ.
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
That takest away
the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

*Qui tollis
peccata mundi,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.*

*Qui sedes
ad dextram Patris,
miserere nobis.*

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe!*

*Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.*

Thou that takest away
the sins of the world,
Receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest
At the right hand of God the Father,
Have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy,
Thou only art the Lord,
Thou only art most high,
O Christ,
With the Holy Ghost
In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

III. Credo

*Credo in unum Deum,
Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem coeli et terrae,
visibilium omnium
et invisibilium.*

*Et in unum Dominum
Jesum Christum,
filium Dei unigenitum,
et ex Patre natum ante
omnia saecula.*

*Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero.
Genitum, non factum,
consubstantialem Patri,
per quem omnia facta sunt.*

*Qui propter nos homines,
et propter nostram salutem
descendit de coelis.*

*Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto
ex Maria Virgine.*

ET HOMO FACTUS EST.

*Crucifixus etiam pro nobis,
sub Pontio Pilato
passus et sepultus est.*

*Et resurrexit tertia die,
secundum Scripturas,
Et ascendit in coelum,
sedet ad dexteram Patris.*

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible
and invisible.

And in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of his Father
Before all worlds.
God of God; light of light;
Very God of very God;
Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By whom all things were made;
Who for us
and for our salvation
Came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary;
and was made man.

And was crucified also for us
Under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day he rose again
According to the scriptures;
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of the Father;

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

*Et iterum venturus est cum gloria,
judicare vivos et mortuos,
cujus regni non erit finis.*

*Et in Spiritum Sanctum,
Dominum et vivificantem,
qui ex Patre Filioque procedit,
qui cum Patre et Filio
simul adoratur et conglorificatur,
qui locutus est per Prophetas.*

*Et unam sanctam catholicam
et apostolicam Ecclesiam.
Confiteor unum baptisma
in remissionem peccatorum.
Et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum
et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.*

and he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son
Together is worshipped and glorified,
Who spake by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Catholic
and Apostolic church.
I acknowledge one baptism
For the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

IV. Sanctus

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

V. Agnus Dei

*Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God,
Who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God,
Who takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Immortality • Timothy Corlis (b. 1972)

I feel in all my limbs His boundless Grace;
Within my heart the Truth of life shines white.
The secret heights of God my soul now climbs;
No dole, no sombre pang, no death in my sight.

No mortal days and nights can shake my calm;
A Light above sustains my secret soul.
All doubts with grief are banished from my deeps,
My eyes of light perceive my cherished goal.

Though in the world, I am above its woe;
I dwell in an ocean of supreme release.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

My mind, a core of the One's unmeasured thoughts;
The star-vast welkin hugs my spirit's peace.

My eternal days are found in speeding time;
I play upon His flute of rhapsody.
Impossible deeds no more impossible seem;
In birth-chains now shines Immortality.

Sri Chinmoy (1931–2007)

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to our dedicated team of volunteer ushers, and all the staff of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, who make this concert series possible.

THE FIFTH AVENUE CHAMBER CHOIR

SOPRANO

Elisse Alban
Amy Goldin
Susana Jenson-Leiva
Chelsea Helm
Rachel Mikol
Claire Myers-McCormick
Rebecca Soelberg

ALTO

Donna Breitzer
Sharon Byrne
Phillip Cheah
Hilary Gardner
Cheryl Martin
Megan Schubert

TENOR

Austin Cody
Nathan Fletcher
Andrew Fuchs
Morgan Mastrangelo
Wilson Nichols
Richard Saunders

BASS

Jonathan Estabrooks
Zachary Fletcher
Harrison Hintzsche
Jacob Khalil
Enrico Lagasca
Christopher Seefeldt

BIOGRAPHIES

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir

Founded in 2013, the Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir is a vocal ensemble comprising some of New York's finest professional singers. With a diverse repertoire spanning Renaissance polyphony through contemporary American, the Chamber Choir presents an exciting series of sacred music concerts each season in Kirkland Chapel, their home venue at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Although the size of the choir varies between 16 and 24 singers, the ensemble's primary goal never changes: we seek to uplift and inspire all who hear us through passionate, engaging, and highly-polished performances of sacred choral music.

Ryan Jackson, Director

Acclaimed organist and choral director Ryan Jackson was appointed the William S. Perper Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in 2012, following an international search. Ryan is the founding director of the professional Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir, as well as the Community Choir, a teaching ensemble open to all members of the church community. In 2013, Ryan established Fifth Avenue's annual concert series, which features a diverse program of choral concerts and organ recitals each season.

Prior to his appointment at Fifth Avenue, Ryan served in the music programs at Christ Church United Methodist on Park Avenue; the University Church at Yale; Christ Church Episcopal in New Haven; and Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. In addition to his work at Fifth Avenue, Ryan maintains an active recital schedule throughout the United States and his native Canada where his performances have been praised for their "mature musicality, technical poise, and registrational sensitivity" (*RCCO Bulletin*). Ryan is also on the faculty at the Juilliard School where he teaches a course in sacred music skills to organ majors.

The winner of numerous prestigious competitions, including the Royal Canadian College of Organists' National Organ Playing Competition, he has studied with several of the most prominent organists of the day, including Patricia Wright, Thomas Murray, and Paul Jacobs. Ryan is a graduate of the University of Toronto (Mus.Bac.Perf.), Yale University (M.M.), and The Juilliard School (D.M.A.).



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is home to a versatile program of arts in worship that endeavors to uplift, inspire, challenge and comfort all who encounter it, and to provide opportunities to share our wealth of artistic gifts. Music is at the heart of worship and, hand in hand with the Word, strives to create a genuine encounter with the holy.

THE CHOIRS OF FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir is a select vocal ensemble of 16 to 25 of New York's finest professional singers. Striving always to achieve the highest standard of ensemble singing, this choir presents several concerts each season, of repertoire ranging from Renaissance polyphony through contemporary American.

The Fifth Avenue Choir is made up of professional singers from the Chamber Choir as well as a dedicated team of volunteer choristers from the Fifth Avenue congregation. From September to June, the choir sings in worship on Sunday mornings at the 11 am service and at special seasonal services.

The Community Choir is an ensemble for those who would like to learn more about singing and music in general, and have a good time with like-minded people in the process! There is no audition to join this group—we meet on Thursdays from 6 until 8 pm, and spend our time learning about our voices and improving our varied abilities to read music. Approximately twice a month, the Community Choir sings at the 11 am worship service.

To learn more about our music ministries, or to find out how you can get involved, visit fapc.org/music-in-worship or write to music@fapc.org.

ABOUT KIRKLAND CHAPEL

Kirkland Chapel was designed in the Gothic style by New York architect James Gamble Rogers. Rogers also designed the Harkness Tower in Yale University's Memorial Quadrangle. Funded in large part through the generosity of philanthropist Anna M. Harkness, the Chapel and Church House were constructed in 1925, a half-century after the Sanctuary of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church was completed. The Chapel is named for the Rev. Dr. Bryant M. Kirkland, senior pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church from 1962 until 1987.

Kirkland Chapel is an ideal venue for small ensembles and chamber music with its warm, intimate ambience and fine acoustics—features due in large part to its hard stone surfaces and lack of carpeting. In addition to housing a fine grand piano, the Chapel is home to a small pipe organ built in 1970 by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut.

For information on renting Kirkland Chapel for a performance, wedding or other event, contact Donna Ketchledge (212.247.0490, facilities@fapc.org).

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
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