

Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church · 2023–24 Season

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Music and Readings for Advent & Christmas



**Friday, December 8 &
Saturday, December 9 • 7 pm**
Kirkland Chapel

The Fifth Avenue Choir
Ryan Jackson, Director · Patrick Kreeger, Organ and Piano



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

PRESENTED BY THE ARTS & OUR FAITH COMMITTEE

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 flash photos during the performance.

Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

We hope you enjoy this evening's concert, the second in the eleventh 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.

The Music of Ruth Watson Henderson

Friday, Feb. 9, 2024 • 7 pm, Church of Our Saviour (Park Avenue at 38th Street)

Come with us as we present a concert in one of New York's most beautiful churches, and the venue we've chosen for our first professional recording project: Church of Our Saviour. Hear the Fifth Avenue Choir in the resplendent acoustics of Our Saviour's stunning sanctuary as we present an evening of enchanting choral music by Canada's legendary pioneering female composer Ruth Watson Henderson. Henderson is internationally celebrated for her choral music, which is characterized by an enthralling blend of immediate appeal and musical sophistication. Featuring sweeping melodies, lush harmonies, and rhythmic vitality, Henderson's choral works reflect her rare gift to capture the emotional depth of a text through music. The choir will spend the week following this concert recording the program with the celebrated London-based producer Adrian Peacock and recording engineer David Hinitt. Stay tuned for more details!

Renaissance Reflections: Music for Lent

Friday, March 22, 2024 • 7 pm, Sanctuary

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir performs highlights from the Renaissance era, when composers like Byrd, Palestrina, Tallis and Victoria created a golden age of choral music. At the heart of the program is the *Mass for Four Voices* by William Byrd, one of the period's greatest masterpieces. Composed during the religious turmoil of Elizabethan England, the Mass showcases Byrd's tremendous ability to express his deeply held spiritual convictions through delicate strands of polyphony and evocative harmonies. The result is a work of profound faith and exquisite beauty.

Ryan Jackson Organ Recital

Sunday, May 19, 2024 • 1 pm, Sanctuary

PROGRAM

Carols by Candlelight

Music and Readings for Advent and Christmas

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir
Ryan Jackson, director
Patrick Kreeger, organ and piano
Jeanne Lehman, Reader

* The audience is invited to stand and join in singing the carols, which can be found at the numbers indicated in the red hymnal, *Glory to God*.

Choral Music

Advent Responsory • *Richard Marlow* (1939–2013)

Rachel Mikol, Soprano

Brittany Hewitt, *Megan Schubert*, and *Luke Elmer*, Trio

Alex McCoy, *Rich Saunders*, *Shafiq Hicks*, and *Christopher Seefeldt*, Quartet

*Processional Carol 147

The First Nowell (verses 1, 2, 4, & 6)

Reading

O Emmanuel • *Malcolm Guite* (b. 1957)

Choral Music

Advent 'O' Carol • *Joanna Forbes L'Estrange* (b. 1971)

Reading

The Disarming Child • *Charlie Lowell* (b. 1973)

Choral Music

There is no Rose of such Virtue • *Jonathan Lane* (b. 1958)

My Dancing Day • *Carl Rütli* (b. 1949)

*Carol 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Choral Music

Gabriel's Message • *Eleanor Daley* (b. 1955)

Reading

I syng of a mayden • *Anonymous*, 15th century, trans. *David Breeden*

PROGRAM

Choral Music

Magnificat • *Ruth Watson Henderson (b. 1932)*
Rebecca Soelberg, Soprano

*Carol 145

What Child Is This

Reading

Hush • *Lucinda Hynett*

Choral Music

My Lord has Come • *Will Todd (b. 1970)*
Go, Tell It On the Mountain • *Traditional, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Reading

Christmas Carol • *Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)*

*Carol 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Choral Music

The Three Kings • *Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)*
Rachel Mikol and Brittany Hewitt, Sopranos

Reading

Ring Out, Wild Bells • *Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892)*

Choral Music

Carol of the Bells • *Traditional, arr. P. J. Wilhousky (1902–1978)*
Ding dong! merrily on high • Traditional, arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

*Carol 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

CHORAL MUSIC

Advent Responsory • *Richard Marlow (1939–2013)*

I look from afar:
And lo, I see the power of God coming,
and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he that should come
to reign o'er thy people Israel?
High and low, rich and poor, one with another.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he that should come
to reign o'er thy people Israel?
O come.
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel,
thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.
Tell us, art thou he that should come?
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come.
Come to reign o'er thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
Go ye out to meet him and say:
Tell us, art thou he that should come
to reign o'er thy people Israel?
Come, Lord, come.

Text from the First Matins Responsory for Advent Sunday (11th century)

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL 147 • **The First Nowell** (verses 1, 2, 4, & 6)

READING **O Emmanuel** • *Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)*

CHORAL MUSIC

Advent 'O' Carol • *Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (b. 1971)*

O Sapientia
We long for your coming, O WISDOM;
We long for your coming, O Lord.
Come and teach us the way of understanding;
You are the living word.

O Adonai
We long for you, O LORD AND RULER;
We long for your coming, O Lord.
Come and stretch out your arms and redeem us;
You are the living word.

O Radix Jesse

We long for you, O ROOT OF JESSE;

We long for your coming, O Lord.

Come to deliver us and do not tarry;

You are the living word.

O Clavis David

We long for you, O KEY OF DAVID;

We long for your coming, O Lord.

Come and bring forth the captive from his prison,

Who sits in the shadow of death.

O Oriens

O DAWN OF THE EAST;

We long for your coming, O Lord.

Come and lighten those who sit in darkness

And in the shadow of death.

O Rex Gentium

We long for you, O KING OF THE GENTILES;

We long for your coming, O Lord.

Come and deliver man whom you formed

Out of the dust of the earth.

O EMMANUEL

When will you come?

Come to save us, O Lord our God.

O ERO CRAS, O ERO

Tomorrow I will come.

Text adapted from the seven Advent Antiphons

READING **The Disarming Child** · *Charlie Lowell (b. 1973)*

CHORAL MUSIC

There is no Rose of such Virtue · *Jonathan Lane (b. 1958)*

There is no rose of such virtue

As is the rose that bare Jesu.

Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was

Heaven and earth in little space,

Res miranda (Wondrous thing).

By that rose we may well see

That he is God in persons three,

Pares forma (Of the same form).

The angels sungen the shepherds to:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gaudeamus (Let us rejoice).

Leave we all this wordly mirth,

And follow we this joyful birth.

Transeamus (Let us follow).

Anonymous (15th century)

My Dancing Day · *Carl Rütli (b. 1949)*

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;

I would my true love did so chance

To see the legend of my play,

To call my true love to my dance;

Sing, sing, sing, oh! my love,

This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,

Of her I took fleshly substance

Thus was I knit to man's nature

To call my true love to my dance.

Sing, sing, sing, oh! my love,

This have I done for my true love.

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was

So very poor, this was my chance

Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass

To call my true love to my dance.

Sing, sing, sing, oh! my love,

This have I done for my true love.

Traditional English Carol

*CAROL 132 · **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

CHORAL MUSIC

Gabriel's Message · *Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,

His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:

"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,

Most highly favored lady." *Gloria!*

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,

All generations laud and honor thee.

Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,

Most highly favored lady." *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,

"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,

"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."

Most highly favored lady. *Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel the Christ was born
 In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
 And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
 “Most highly favored lady.” *Gloria!*

Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)

READING **I Syng of a Mayden** · *Anonymous, 15th century, trans. David Breeden*

CHORAL MUSIC

Magnificat · *Ruth Watson Henderson (b. 1932)*
Rebecca Soelberg, Soprano

<i>Magnificat anima mea Dominum;</i>	My soul doth magnify the Lord.
<i>et exultavit spiritus meus in</i>	And my spirit hath rejoiced in
<i>Deo salutari meo,</i>	God my Savior.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.
 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
 For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
 For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
 For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
 And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
 He hath shewed strength with his arm:
 He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
 And hath exalted the humble and meek.
 He hath filled the hungry with good things:
 And the rich he hath sent empty away.
 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
 As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

<i>Gloria Patri, et Filio,</i>	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
<i>et Spiritui Sancto,</i>	and to the Holy Ghost;
<i>Sicut erat in principio,</i>	As it was in the beginning,
<i>et nunc, et semper:</i>	is now, and ever shall be:
<i>Et in Saecula saeculorum. Amen.</i>	World without end. Amen.

Luke 1:46-55

*CAROL 145 · **What Child Is This**

READING **Hush** · *Lucinda Hynett*

CHORAL MUSIC

My Lord has Come · *Will Todd (b. 1970)*

Shepherds, called by angels,
 Called by love and angels;
 No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars,
 Searching for love in heaven;
 No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,
 His love will cherish me,
 Love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,
 Sages and shepherds and angels;
 No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain · *Traditional, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Go, tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and everywhere.
 Go, tell it on the mountain
 That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
 O'er silent flocks by night,
 Behold throughout the heavens
 There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled
 When lo, above the earth
 Rang out the angel chorus
 That hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
 The humble Christ was born,
 And brought us God's salvation
 That blessed Christmas morn.

READING **Christmas Carol** · *Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)*

*CAROL 151 · **We Three Kings of Orient Are**

CHORAL MUSIC

The Three Kings · Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)
Rachel Mikol and Brittany Hewitt, Sopranos

The first king was very young,
O balow, balow la lay,
With doleful ballads on his tongue,
O balow, balow la lay,
He came bearing a branch of myrrh
Than which no gall is bitterer,
O balow, balow la lay,
Gifts for a baby King, O.

The second king was a man in prime,
O balow, balow la lay,
The solemn priest of a solemn time,
O balow, balow la lay,
With eyes downcast and reverent feet
He brought his incense sad and sweet,
O balow, balow la lay,
Gifts for a baby King, O.

The third king was very old,
O balow, balow la lay,
Both his hands were full of gold,
O balow, balow la lay,
Many a gaud and glittering toy,
Baubles brave for a baby boy,
O balow, balow la lay,
Gifts for a baby King, O.

Dorothy L. Sayers (1893–1957)

READING **Ring Out, Wild Bells** · Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809–1892)

CHORAL MUSIC

Carol of the Bells · Traditional, arr. P. J. Wilhousky (1902–1978)

Hark! how the bells, sweet silver bells,
All seem to say, “Throw cares away.”
Christmas is here bringing good cheer,
To young and old, meek and the bold.

Ding dong, ding dong, that is their song,
With joyful ring, all caroling.
One seems to hear words of good cheer
From everywhere, filling the air.

Oh how they pound, raising the sound,
O'er hill and dale, telling their tale.
Gaily they ring, while people sing songs of good cheer,
Christmas is here.

Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!

On, on they send, on without end,
Their joyful tone to every home.

Ding, dong, ding... dong!

Ding Dong! Merrily on High · Traditional, arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel-singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And “Io, io, io!” by priest and people sungen!

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

G. R. Woodward (1848–1934)

*CAROL 119 · **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

THE FIFTH AVENUE CHAMBER CHOIR

Sopranos

Susannah Hardwick
Brittany Hewitt
Rachel Mikol
Claire Myers-McCormick
Rebecca Soelberg

Altos

Donna Breitzer
Luke Elmer
Hilary Gardner
Megan Schubert

Tenors

Sean Clark
Nathan Fletcher
Alex McCoy
Rich Saunders

Basses

Zak Fletcher
Shafiq Hicks
Emery Kerekes
Julian Morris
Christopher Seefeldt

Rachel Mikol, Choir Administrator

ABOUT THE FIFTH AVENUE CHAMBER CHOIR

Founded in 2013, the Fifth Avenue 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 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.

SPECIAL THANKS

...to our dear friend, the incomparable Jeanne Lehman, who elevates our Carols by Candlelight concerts each year with her readings.

...to all the members of the Arts and Our Faith Committee (chaired by Nancy Moore) for their vision, leadership, and hands-on support of this series, and to our dedicated team of volunteer ushers and greeters. This series could not take place without you!

...to Fifth Avenue's wonderful Communications and Facilities teams for all the ways they support this series and make it possible.



We invite you back for our Christmas Festivities

Fifth Avenue Caroling

Sunday, December 10 & 17 • 12:15 pm, Fifth Avenue Steps

Join in as members of the Fifth Avenue Family serenade our beloved city with a wonderful arrangement of holiday favorites.

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Wednesday, December 13 • 6:30 pm, Kirkland Chapel

As the rest of the world rushes toward the Christmas holiday, our Blue Christmas service reminds us that Advent is a time of quiet contemplation and preparation. Many worshipers have described Blue Christmas as one of the most beautiful and restorative services of the year.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 24 • 7:30 pm & 11 pm, Sanctuary

Music begins one half hour before the service.
The 7:30 pm service is also available on livestream.



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 or write to music@fapc.org.

Kirkland Chapel

THE NEXT 100



Kirkland Chapel is one of the most important and beloved centers of ministry in all of Manhattan.

It is the home of our renowned sacred music concerts, such as tonight's performance. Kirkland Chapel also hosts our contemporary worship service, Chapel Church, on Sundays. We use this chapel to provide services and outreach to the homeless and refugees. Our congregation celebrates weddings in Kirkland Chapel. We mourn our faithful departed here. On busy days, the chapel offers quiet respite to the friend and stranger alike. We love this place. To ensure it will continue to serve our congregation and city for another 100 years, in 2024 Kirkland Chapel will undergo an extensive renovation and restoration.

To learn more about this historic project and how you can help, please visit fapc.org/chapel.

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
7 West 55th Street • New York, NY 10019