

Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church · 2024–25 Season



Friday, February 7, 2025 · 7 pm
Sanctuary

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir
Ryan Jackson, director

PRESENTED BY THE ARTS & OUR FAITH COMMITTEE
OF FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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 flash photos during the performance.

Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

We hope you enjoy this evening's concert, the fourth in the twelfth 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 Brahms Requiem featuring the Shelest Piano Duo

Friday, April 11
7 pm, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Experience the majestic scope of Brahms's German Requiem with the intimacy of chamber music. In the composer's own reduction of the orchestral accompaniment for piano duet, the work's hand-picked biblical texts come to life, and its stunning choral textures take center stage. Critically acclaimed concert pianists Anna and Dmitri Shelest join the twenty-four professional voices of the Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir to create the rich, Romantic sound of this year's Lenten concert.

Ryan Jackson Organ Recital
Sunday, May 25
1 pm, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

PROGRAM

Of Heaven and Earth

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir
Ryan Jackson, director

In the Beginning

Aaron Copland (1900–1990)
Rachel Mikol, soprano

and the swallow

Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)

Mass for Double Choir

Frank Martin (1890–1974)

I. Kyrie

II. Gloria

III. Credo

IV. Sanctus

V. Agnus Dei

Immortality

Timothy Corlis (b. 1972)

A NOTE ABOUT THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this evening's concert, and thank you for joining us. Tonight's program invites you on a journey through some of the most profound and expressive choral works of the 20th and 21st centuries—each, in its own way, exploring the meeting place of heaven and earth.

Our program begins with *In the Beginning* by Aaron Copland, a dramatic and vividly expressive setting of the opening verses of Genesis. Written for soloist and choir, the work brings to life the wonder and grandeur of creation through Copland's distinctive harmonic language and rhythmic vitality. From the first moments of light to the emergence of living creatures, the music unfolds with awe and majesty, capturing the Genesis story in all its mystery and power.

Caroline Shaw's *and the swallow* offers a more introspective reflection on faith and longing—specifically, the longing for home. Inspired by Psalm 84, this luminous work contemplates the universal human search for refuge and peace. Shaw's harmonic language, both ancient and modern, draws us into a deeply expressive meditation on the sacred and the natural world. A simple extended vocal technique near the end evokes the sound of gentle autumn rain. Composed in 2017, and the swallow was written with the Syrian refugee crisis in mind. As Shaw explains:

"There's a yearning for home that feels very relevant today. The second verse is, 'the sparrow found a house, and the swallow her nest where she may raise her young,'—a beautiful image of a bird trying to keep her children safe—people trying to keep their family safe."

How resonant these words remain, seven years later, and even closer to home.

At the heart of our program is Frank Martin's *Mass for Double Choir*, a deeply personal and introspective work that remained unpublished for nearly 40 years after its composition in 1922. Martin, a Swiss composer of great refinement, regarded this Mass as an intimate offering—an expression of his spirituality rather than a piece for public performance. The result is a stunning fusion of Renaissance polyphony and early 20th-century harmonic language, imbued with both reverence and emotional intensity. The interplay between the two choirs creates a rich tapestry of sound—at times meditative, at others exultant—making this Mass one of the great masterpieces of the a cappella choral repertoire.

We close the program with Timothy Corlis's *Immortality*, a soaring and ecstatic setting of Sri Chinmoy's mystical poetry. Corlis's music shimmers with radiant beauty, moving between luminous harmonies and propulsive rhythms that evoke transcendence and joy. This work speaks to the connection we all share—beyond boundaries of time and space—lifting our voices in celebration of the eternal.

Together, these works form a tapestry of sound that reflects our shared human experience—our wonder, our sorrows, our searching, and our hope. Thank you for being with us this evening; we are delighted to share this music with you.

In faith,



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

TEXT

In the Beginning · *Aaron Copland (1900–1990)*

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form, and void;
And darkness was upon the face of the deep.
And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
And God saw the light, that it was good:
And God divided the light from the darkness.
And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters,
And let it divide the waters from the waters.
And God made the firmament,
And divided the waters which were under the firmament
From the waters which were above the firmament:
And it was so.
And God called the firmament Heaven.
And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven
Be gathered together unto one place,
And let the dry land appear: and it was so.
And God called the dry land Earth;
And the gathering together of the waters called he Seas:
And God saw that it was good.
And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass,
The herb yielding seed,
And the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind,
Whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
And the earth brought forth grass,
And herb yielding seed after his kind,
And the tree yielding fruit,
Whose seed was in itself, after his kind:
And God saw that it was good.
And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said,
Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven
To divide the day from the night;
And let them be for signs, and for seasons,
And for days, and years:
And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven
To give light upon the earth: and it was so.
And God made two great lights;
The greater light to rule the day,
And the lesser light to rule the night:
He made the stars also.

TEXT

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven
To give light upon the earth,
And to rule over the day and over the night,
And to divide the light from the darkness:
And God saw that it was good.
And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly
The moving creature that hath life,
And fowl that may fly above the earth
In the open firmament of heaven.
And God created great whales,
And every living creature that moveth,
Which the waters brought forth
Abundantly, after their kind,
And every winged fowl after his kind:
And God saw that it was good.
And God blessed them, saying,
Be fruitful, and multiply,
And fill the waters in the seas,
And let fowl multiply in the earth.
And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And God said,
Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind,
Cattle, and creeping thing,
And beast of the earth after his kind:
And it was so.
And God made the beast of the earth after his kind,
And cattle after their kind,
And every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind:
And God saw that it was good.

And God said,
Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:
And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
And over the fowl of the air,
And over the cattle, and over all the earth,
And over every creeping thing
That creepeth upon the earth.
So God created man in his own image,
In the image of God created he him;
Male and female created he them.
And God blessed them,
And God said unto them,
Be fruitful, and multiply,

TEXT

And replenish the earth, and subdue it:
And have dominion over the fish of the sea,
And over the fowl of the air,
And over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God said, Behold,
I have given you every herb bearing seed,
Which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree,
In the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed;
To you it shall be for food.
And to every beast of the earth,
And to every fowl of the air,
And to every thing that creepeth upon the earth,
Wherein there is life,
I have given every green herb for food:
And it was so.

And God saw every thing that he had made,
And, behold, it was very good.
And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished,
And all the host of them.
And on the seventh day
God ended his work which he had made;
And he rested on the seventh day
From all his work which he had made.
And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it:
Because that in it he had rested
From all his work which God created and made.

These are the generations of the heavens
And of the earth when they were created,
In the day that the Lord God made
The earth and the heavens,
And every plant of the field before it was in the earth,
And every herb of the field before it grew:
For the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth,
And there was not a man to till the ground.

But there went up a mist from the earth,
And watered the whole face of the ground.
And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground,
And breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
And man became a living soul.

Genesis 1:1-2:7

TEXT

and the swallow · *Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)*

how beloved is your dwelling place,
o lord of hosts,
my soul yearns, faints,
my heart and my flesh cry out,
the sparrow found a house,
and the swallow her nest,
where she may raise her young
they pass through the valley of bakka
they make it a place of springs
the autumn rains also cover it with pools

Psalm 84:1-3; 6

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.
Qui tollis
peccata mundi,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes
ad dextram Patris,
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.
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.

TEXT

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe!
Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.*

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.*

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

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

And in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of his Father
Before all worlds.

*Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero.*

God of God; light of light;
Very God of very God;

*Genitum, non factum,
consubstantialem Patri,
per quem omnia facta sunt.*

Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By whom all things were made;

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

Who for us
and for our salvation

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

Came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary;

ET HOMO FACTUS EST.

and was made man.

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

And was crucified also for us
Under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered and was buried.

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

And the third day he rose again
According to the scriptures;
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of the Father;

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

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

*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.*

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.

TEXT

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

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.
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)

ABOUT 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 choir presents an exciting series of sacred music concerts each season at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Although the size of the choir varies between sixteen and twenty-six 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.

THE FIFTH AVENUE CHAMBER CHOIR

SOPRANO

Rachel Mikol • Claire Myers-McCormick • Kathryn Papa • Hannah Penzner
Savannah Porter • Erinn Sensenig • Rebecca Soelberg

ALTO

Donna Breitzer • Sharon Byrne • Hilary Gardner
Heather Jones • Mckenzie Kitchen • Francesca Lionetta

TENOR

Sean Clark • Garrett Eucker • Nathan Fletcher
Alex McCoy • Wilson Nichols • Kev Schneider

BASS

Zachary Fletcher • Shafiq Hicks • Mark Hosseini • Emery Kerekes
Brian Mummert • Max Parsons • Christopher Seefeldt

Rachel Mikol, *Choir Administrator*

SPECIAL THANKS

...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.

...to our piano technician, Alex Appel, for taking such good care of our Steinway pianos.



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 Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir is a select vocal ensemble of New York's finest professional singers. The choir presents several concerts each season, with a repertoire ranging from Renaissance polyphony through contemporary American music.

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.

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
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