

Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church · 2021–22 Season

VERDI REQUIEM



Thursday, April 7 &
Friday, April 8 · 7 pm EDT
Kirkland Chapel

The Chamber Choir of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
The Shelest Piano Duo • Ryan Jackson, Director



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.

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.

Save these dates and join us again next season
as we celebrate our tenth anniversary!

Fall Concert

Friday, October 21, 2022

Carols by Candlelight

Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3, 2022

Winter Concert

Friday, February 10, 2023

Lent Concert

Thursday, March 30, and Friday, March 31, 2023

PROGRAM

The Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir & The Shelest Piano Duo

Ryan Jackson, Director

Messa da Requiem

Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)
arranged by Ryan Jackson (2022)

*This evening's program is sung in loving memory of beloved Fifth Avenue Choir member
Antoine James Hodge (1982–2021)*

I. Requiem and Kyrie

*Rachel Spund, soprano; Sharon Byrne, mezzo-soprano;
Sean Clark, tenor; Jonathan Estabrooks, bass*

II. Dies irae

i. Dies irae

ii. Tuba mirum

iii. Mors stupebit

Julian Morris, bass

iv. Liber scriptus

Donna Breitzer, mezzo-soprano

v. Quid sum miser

Susana Leiva, soprano; Megan Schubert, mezzo-soprano;

Nathan Fletcher, tenor

vi. Rex tremendae

Rachel Spund, soprano; Heather Jones, mezzo-soprano;

Jonah Hoskins, tenor; José Pietri-Coimbre, bass

vii. Recordare

Claire Myers-McCormick, soprano; Donna Breitzer, mezzo-soprano

viii. Ingemisco

Morgan Mastrangelo, tenor

ix. Confutatis maledictis

Christopher Seefeldt, bass

x. Lacrymosa

Chelsea Helm, soprano; Heather Jones, mezzo-soprano

Morgan Mastrangelo, tenor; Zachary Fletcher, bass

III. Offertorio

Susana Leiva, soprano; Sharon Byrne, mezzo-soprano;

Jonah Hoskins, tenor; Christopher Seefeldt, bass

PROGRAM

IV. Sanctus

V. Agnus Dei

Chelsea Helm, soprano; Megan Schubert, mezzo-soprano

VI. Lux aeterna

*Donna Breitzer, mezzo-soprano; Sean Clark, tenor;
José Pietri-Coimbre, bass*

VII. Libera me

Chelsea Helm, soprano

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



The new chamber version of the Verdi *Requiem* being premiered this evening was conceived more than two years ago. Inspired by the thrilling collaboration with Anna and Dmitri Shelest for our 2019 performances of the Brahms *Requiem*, I started looking for another major choral work accompanied by piano four-hands to present in 2020. Finding nothing that quite fit the bill, I set to work on my own arrangement of the Verdi *Requiem* in the fall of 2019. By the beginning of March 2020, I had finished most of the arrangement and delivered it to the Shelests, and the choir and I met for our first rehearsal of the piece on Sunday, March 8. On Tuesday, March 10, with news of the rapid spread of Covid-19 throughout New York City swirling around us, the senior staff of the church met and decided to suspend all non-essential programming at the church indefinitely—including the Verdi *Requiem* concerts.

Perhaps the only person more disappointed about this cancellation than I, was choir member Antoine Hodge, whose enthusiasm for and excitement about this project was enormous. When I had told him of my intention to arrange the Verdi *Requiem* for our choir, he beamed and told me it was his favorite choral piece, and then immediately asked who I intended to have sing the bass solos! He told me with pride that he could sing any of them from memory.

Sadly, while home in Atlanta for Christmas in 2020, Antoine contracted Covid-19. The disease hit him hard, and he passed away from complications on Monday, February 22, 2021. Antoine's premature death was a huge shock to all of us, and a tremendous loss for our tight-knit group. We miss him profoundly, both as a person, and as an absolutely fabulous singer. This week's performances are dedicated to him with love and deep affection from all of us in the Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir. We trust he's here with us in spirit tonight, reveling in all the drama of Verdi's timeless masterpiece that he loved so much. Rest in peace, dear friend.

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

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

I. Requiem and Kyrie

Chorus:

*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine;
et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

*Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion,
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.*

*Exaudi orationem meam:
ad te omnis caro veniet.*

Quartet and Chorus:

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord;
and may perpetual light shine upon them.
A hymn in Zion befits you, O God,
and a debt will be paid to you in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer:
all earthly flesh will come to you.

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

II. Dies irae

Chorus:

*Dies irae, dies illa,
solvat saeculum in favilla,
teste David cum Sibylla.
Quantus tremor est futurus,
quando iudex est venturus,
cuncta stricte discussurus!
Tuba mirum spargens sonum,
per sepulcra regionem,
coget omnes ante thronum.*

Bass:

*Mors stupebit et natura,
cum resurget creatura,
judicanti responsura.*

Mezzo-soprano and Chorus:

*Liber scriptus proferetur,
in quo totum continetur,
unde mundus iudicetur.
Iudex ergo cum sedebit,
quidquid latet apparebit:
nil inultum remanebit.*

Chorus:

*Dies irae, dies illa,
solvat saeculum in favilla,
teste David cum Sibylla.*

Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, and Tenor:

*Quid sum miser tunc dicturus?
Quem patronum rogaturus,
cum vix justus sit securus?*

The day of wrath, that day will
dissolve the world in ashes,
as David and the Sibyl prophesied.
How great will be the terror,
when the Judge comes,
who will smash everything completely!
The trumpet, scattering a marvelous sound
through the tombs of every land,
will gather all before the throne.

Death and Nature shall stand amazed,
when all creation rises again
to answer to the Judge.

A written book will be brought forth,
which contains everything
for which the world will be judged.
Therefore when the Judge takes His seat,
whatever is hidden will be revealed:
nothing shall remain unavenged.

The day of wrath, that day will
dissolve the world in ashes,
as David and the Sibyl prophesied.

What can a wretch like me say?
Whom shall I ask to intercede for me,
when even the just ones are unsafe?

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Quartet and Chorus:

*Rex tremendae majestatis,
qui salvandos salvas gratis:
salva me, fons pietas.*

King of dreadful majesty,
who freely saves the redeemed ones,
save me, O font of pity.

Soprano and Mezzo-soprano:

*Recordare, Jesu pie,
quod sum causa tuae viae:
ne me perdas illa die.
Quaerens me, sedisti lassus;
redemisti crucem pacem:
tantus labor non sit causas.
Iuste iudex ultionis:
donum fac remissionis
ante diem rationis.*

Recall, merciful Jesus,
that I was the reason for your journey:
do not destroy me on that day.
In seeking me, you sat down wearily;
enduring the Cross, you redeemed me:
do not let these pains to have been in vain.
Just Judge of punishment:
give me the gift of redemption
before the day of reckoning.

Tenor:

*Ingemisco tamquam reus,
culpa rubet vultus meus;
supplici parce, Deus.
Qui Mariam absolvisti,
et latronem exaudisti,
mihi quoque spem dedisti.
Preces meae non sunt digne,
sed tu, bonus, fac benigne,
ne perenni cremer igne.
Inter oves locum praesta,
et ab haedis me sequestra,
statuens in parte dextra.*

I groan as a guilty one,
and my face blushes with guilt;
spare the supplicant, O God.
You, who absolved Mary Magdalen,
and heard the prayer of the thief,
have given me hope as well.
My prayers are not worthy,
but show mercy, O benevolent one,
lest I burn forever in fire.
Give me a place among the sheep,
and separate me from the goats,
placing me on your right hand.

Bass:

*Confutatis maledictis,
flammis acerbis addictis,
voca me cum benedictis.
Oro supplex et acclinis,
cor contritum quasi cinis:
gere curam mei finis.*

When the damned are silenced,
and given to the fierce flames,
call me with the blessed ones.
I pray, suppliant and kneeling,
with a heart contrite as ashes:
take my ending into your care.

Chorus:

*Dies irae, dies illa,
solvat saeculum in favilla,
teste David cum Sibylla.*

The day of wrath, that day will
dissolve the world in ashes,
as David and the Sibyl prophesied.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Quartet and Chorus:

*Lacrymosa dies illa,
qua resurget ex favilla,
judicandus homo reus.
Huic ergo parce, Deus.
Pie Jesu Domine:
dona eis requiem.
Amen.*

That day is one of weeping,
on which the guilty man
shall rise from the ashes to be judged.
Therefore, spare this one, O God.
Merciful Lord Jesus:
grant them peace.
Amen.

III. Offertorio

Quartet:

*Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae:
libera animas omnium fidelum
defunctorum de poenis inferni
et profundo lacu;
libera eas de ore leonis;
ne absorbeat eas tartarus,
ne cadant in obscurum.
Sed signifer sanctus Michael
repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam.
Quam olim Abrahae promisisti
et semini ejus.
Hostias et preces tibi, Domine,
laudis offerimus.
Tu suscipe pro animabus illis,
quarum hodie memoriam facimus.
Fac eas, Domine,
de morte transire ad vitam,
quam olim Abrahae promisisti
et semini ejus.
Libera animas omnium fidelum defunctorum
de poenis inferni;
fac eas de morte transire ad vitam.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of Glory:
deliver the souls of all the faithful
dead from the pains of hell and from the
deep pit;
deliver them from the mouth of the lion;
that hell may not swallow them, and
that they may not fall into darkness.
But may the holy standard-bearer Michael
show them the holy light;
which you once promised to Abraham
and his descendants.
Sacrifices and prayers, O Lord,
we offer to you.
Receive them on behalf of those souls
whom we commemorate today.
Grant, O Lord,
that they might pass from death into that life
which you once promised
to Abraham and his descendants.
Deliver the souls of all the faithful dead from the
pains of hell;
Grant that they might pass from death into that
life.

IV. Sanctus

Double Chorus:

*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 Sabaoth.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he
that comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

V. Agnus Dei

Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, and Chorus:

*Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.
Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem sempiternam.*

Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
grant them rest.
Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
grant them rest everlasting.

VI. Lux aeterna

Mezzo-soprano, Tenor, and Bass:

*Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternam;
quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternam;
quia pius es.*

Let eternal light shine upon them, O Lord,
with your saints forever;
for you are merciful.
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them
with your saints forever;
for you are merciful.

VII. Libera me

Soprano and Chorus:

*Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna
in die illa tremenda;
quando coeli movendi sunt et terra:
dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.*

*Tremens factus sum ego et timeo,
dum discussio venerit atque ventura irae,
quando coeli movendi sunt et terra.*

*Dies irae,
dies illa calamitatis et miseriae;
dies magna et amara valde.*

*Requiem aeternam, dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

*Libera me, Domine,
de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda.
Libera me, Domine,
quando coeli movendi sunt et terra;
dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.
Libera me, Domine,
de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda.
Libera me.*

Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death
on that awful day,
when the heavens and the earth shall be moved:
when you will come to judge the world by fire.

I tremble, and I fear
the judgment and the wrath to come,
when the heavens and the earth shall be moved.

The day of wrath,
that day of calamity and misery;
a great and bitter day, indeed.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Deliver me, Lord,
from eternal death on that awful day.
Deliver me, O Lord,
when the heavens and the earth shall be moved;
when you will come to judge the world by fire.
Deliver me, Lord,
from eternal death on that awful day.
Deliver me.

THE FIFTH AVENUE CHAMBER CHOIR

SOPRANO

Amy Goldin
*Chelsea Helm
Susana Leiva
Claire Myers-McCormick
Rebecca Soelberg
Rachel Spund

ALTO

Donna Breitzer
Sharon Byrne
Phillip Cheah
Hilary Gardner
Heather Jones
Megan Schubert

TENOR

Sean Clark
Nathan Fletcher
Jonah Hoskins
Morgan Mastrangelo
Richard Saunders

BASS

Jonathan Estabrooks
Zachary Fletcher
Jacob Khalil
Julian Morris
José Pietri-Coimbre
Christopher Seefeldt

**Choir Administrator*

SPECIAL THANKS...

...to all the members of the Arts and Our Faith Committee for their vision, leadership, and hands-on support of this series, and to our dedicated team of volunteer ushers and greeters.

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

...to Chelsea Helm for her agile management of the Fifth Avenue Choir through a complex season, including the return to live services and concerts in the midst of an ongoing pandemic.

...to Dr. Patrick Kreeger for all his musical and administrative support of this project.

...to Rowland Moseley for his meticulous preparation of this evening's surtitles, and to Joseph Vaz for operating the projector.

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.

The Shelest Piano Duo

Praised for their "stirring performances of rare repertory" (Fanfare Magazine), the Shelest Piano Duo is the husband and wife team of Anna and Dmitri Shelest, whose roots can be traced back to music school in Ukraine. At their official Carnegie Hall debut in February 2018, the official release of their album *Ukrainian Rhapsody* brought renewed attention to the music of their homeland. Since then, the CD has been featured as Album of the Week on a number of radio stations across the country, including KUSC Los Angeles and WCRB Boston. Having been classmates since middle school, the duo first began performing together after their marriage in the US. Their inventive programs have led them to a broad array of venues, from concert stages to state functions, and, in the words of Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, "realized diplomacy through 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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