

Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church · 2024–25 Season

# UNCLOUDED DAY

## Sacred Songs of America



Friday, October 18, 2024 · 7 pm  
Sanctuary

The Fifth Avenue Choir  
Patrick Kreeger, piano  
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 flash photos during the performance.

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## Music at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

We hope you enjoy this evening's concert, the first 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](https://fapc.org/tickets).**

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Patrick Kreeger Organ Recital  
Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024 • 1 pm, Sanctuary  
Free and open to all!

### Handel's *Messiah*

Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 • 7 pm, Sanctuary

Join the Fifth Avenue Choir and Orchestra for our inaugural performances of Handel's *Messiah*—the perfect way to usher in the Christmas spirit! Revel in the glorious sounds of this timeless masterpiece, featuring renowned solos such as “Comfort Ye” and “Rejoice Greatly,” alongside the iconic “Hallelujah” chorus. Experience the drama and beauty of Handel's composition, brought to life by our exceptional vocalists and instrumentalists in the inspiring surroundings of Fifth Avenue's majestic Sanctuary. Don't miss this unforgettable start to the holiday season in New York City.

### Of Heaven and Earth

Friday, Feb. 7, 2025 • 7 pm, Location TBA

For their second recording project, the Fifth Avenue Choir offers a program of a cappella music evoking heaven and earth. Featuring Aaron Copland's vivid setting of the creation story, *In the Beginning*, alongside Frank Martin's ethereal *Mass for Double Choir*, the program also includes stunning recent works by American composer Caroline Shaw and Canadian composer Timothy Corlis. Following this special concert presentation, the choir will embark on an intensive weeklong recording process to record the program with celebrated producer Adrian Peacock and recording engineer David Hinitt.

### The Brahms Requiem

Friday, April 11, 2025 • 7 pm, Sanctuary

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, 2025 • 1 pm, Sanctuary  
Free and open to all!

PROGRAM

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# Unclouded Day: Sacred Songs of America

The Fifth Avenue Choir  
Patrick Kreeger, piano • Ryan Jackson, director

In the beginning...

**The Word Was God**

*Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)*

**In the Beginning**

*Aaron Copland (1900–1990)*

Rachel Mikol, soprano

The pilgrim journey...

**Pilgrim Song**

*Traditional, arr. Ryan Murphy (b. 1971)*

**Three American Folk Hymns**

*Traditional, arr. Ronald Staheli (b. 1947)*

*I. Peace Like a River*

*II. The Promised Land*

Nathan Fletcher and Garrett Eucker, tenors  
Mark Hosseini, baritone • Hannah Penzner, soprano

*III. How Can I Keep from Singing*

Erinn Sensenig, soprano

**Witness**

*Traditional Spiritual, arr. Mark Butler (b. 1959)*

The promised land....

**O! What a Beautiful City**

*Traditional Spiritual, arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)*

**Two American Songs**

*Traditional, arr. Shawn Kirchner*

*I. Angel Band*

*II. Unclouded Day*

The world to come...

**John the Revelator**

*Traditional Gospel Blues, arr. Paul Caldwell (b. 1965) and Sean Ivory (b. 1969)*

*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.*

## LYRICS

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### **The Word Was God** · *Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)*

In the beginning was the Word,  
And the Word was with God,  
And the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God.  
All things were made that have been made.  
Nothing was made, He has not made.  
All things were made by Him.

*John 1:1-3*

### **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.

## LYRICS

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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.  
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,

## LYRICS

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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,  
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.

## LYRICS

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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*

### **Pilgrim Song** • *Traditional, arr. Ryan Murphy (b. 1971)*

My brethren, I have found a land that doth abound  
With fruit as sweet as honey;  
The more I eat, I find, the more I am inclined  
To shout and sing hosanna.  
My soul doth long to go where I may fully know  
The glory of my Savior;  
And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,  
I'm going to live forever.

Perhaps you think me wild, or simple as a child;  
I am a child of glory;  
I am born from above, my soul is filled with love;  
I love to tell the story.

My soul doth long to go where I may fully know  
The glory of my Savior;  
And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,  
I'm going to live forever.

My soul now sits and sings and practices its wings,  
And contemplates the hour  
When messenger shall say, "Come quit this house of clay,  
And with bright angels tower."

My soul doth long to go where I may fully know  
The glory of my Savior;  
And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,  
I'm going to live forever.

### **Three American Folk Hymns** • *Traditional, arr. Ronald Staheli (b. 1947)*

#### **Peace Like a River**

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

I've got pain like an arrow, I've got pain like an arrow,  
I've got pain like an arrow in my soul.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid...

## LYRICS

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I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you...

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

### **The Promised Land**

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie.

O, the transporting rapt'rous scene that rises to my sight!  
Sweet fields arrayed in living green and rivers of delight.  
I am bound for the promised land, I'm bound for the promised land.  
O, who will come and go with me? I'm bound for the promised land.

The gen'rous fruits that never fail on trees immortal grow;  
There rocks and hills and brooks and vales with milk and honey flow.

All o'er those wide extended plains shines one eternal day:  
There God, the sun, forever reigns and scatters night away.

When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Father's face and in his bosom rest?

No chilling winds or pois'nous breath can reach that healthy shore:  
All sickness, sorrow, pain and death are felt and feared no more.

Filled with delight my raptured soul can here no longer stay:  
Though Jordan's waves around me roll, fearless I'd launch away.

### **How Can I Keep From Singing**

My life flows on in endless song;  
Above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the real, though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing;  
It sounds an echo in my soul:  
How can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,  
And hear their death-knells ringing,  
When friends rejoice both far and near,  
How can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell or dungeon vile  
Our thoughts to them are winging,  
When friends by shame are undefiled,  
How can I keep from singing?



## LYRICS

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What if my joys and comforts die,  
I know that Truth is living.  
What though the darkness 'round me close,  
How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that Rock I'm clinging;  
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth:  
How can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin,  
I see the blue above it.  
And day by day this pathway smooths,  
Since first I learned to love it.  
The peace from love makes fresh my heart,  
A song of hope is springing.  
All things are mine since Truth I've found:  
How can I keep from singing?

**Witness** • *Traditional Spiritual, arr. Mark Butler (b. 1959)*

Who'll be a witness for my Lord?

Now there was a man of the Pharisees,  
His name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe.  
The same man came to Christ one night,  
Wanting to be taught out of human sight.

Nicodemus was a man who wanted to know  
How to be born again when you're already a man.  
Christ said repent and believe and be baptized,  
Then you will be a witness, there's no compromise.

Nicodemus was a witness,  
He became a witness, my Lord,  
And here's another witness for my Lord.

You heard about Daniel in the lion's den  
When deception forced the king to throw Daniel in.  
But Daniel was a man, yes, who prayed three times a day,  
So God bestowed favor on Daniel that day.

Then the king asked Daniel, "have you been rescued?"  
And Daniel replied, "the lions have been subdued."  
Out of fear he lifted Daniel from the pit,  
'Cause he must be a witness for my Lord.

Ain't that a witness?  
Sho' 'nough a witness.  
Ain't that a witness?  
Daniel was a witness for the Lord.

## LYRICS

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Witness, who will be a witness?  
You must be born, born again!  
I am a witness, witness!  
Here's another witness, Lord!  
Here's another witness, my Lord!  
Here's a witness, oh my Lord!  
My soul is a witness for my,  
For my Lord!

### **O! What a Beautiful City** · *Traditional Spiritual, arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)*

Hallelujah!  
O! What a beautiful city!  
Twelve gates to the city,  
Hallelujah!  
Have you heard about the city?  
The streets are paved with gold!  
Twelve gates to the city,  
Hallelujah!  
Three gates in-a the east! Three gates in-a the west!  
Three gates in-a the north! Three gates in-a the south!  
See those gates of pearl, open to all the world!  
Twelve gates to the city, hallelujah!

### **Two American Songs** · *Traditional, arr. Shawn Kirchner*

#### **Angel Band**

The latest sun is sinking fast, my race is almost run,  
My strongest trials now are past, my triumph is begun.  
O, come angel band, come and around me stand,  
O, bear me away on your snow-white wings  
To my immortal home.  
I know I'm near the holy ranks of friends and kindred dear,  
I've brushed the dew on Jordan's banks, the crossing must be near.  
O, come angel band, come and around me stand,  
O, bear me away on your snow-white wings  
To my immortal home.  
I've almost gained my heav'nly home, my spirit loudly sings,  
The holy ones, behold they come, I hear the noise of wings.  
O, come angel band, come and around me stand,  
O, bear me away on your snow-white wings  
To my immortal home.

*Jefferson Hascall (1807–1887)*

## LYRICS

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### **Unclouded Day**

O, they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,  
They tell me of a home far away,  
And they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:  
O, they tell me of an unclouded day.

#### *Refrain*

*O, the land of cloudless days,  
O, the land of unclouded sky,  
O, they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise:  
O, they tell me of an unclouded day.*

O, they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,  
They tell me of a home far away,  
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom  
Sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day. Refrain.

O, they tell me of a king in his beauty there,  
They tell me that mine eyes shall behold  
Where he sits on a throne that is bright as the sun  
In the city that is made of gold. Refrain.

*Rev. J.K. Alwood (1828–1909)*

### **John the Revelator** • *Traditional Gospel Blues*

*arr. Paul Caldwell (b. 1965) and Sean Ivory (b. 1969)*

O tell me who is that writing?  
John the Revelator, writing in the book of seven seals.

O tell me what is he writing?  
'Bout the Revelation, writing in the book of seven seals.

Talk to us, John! What's the good news?  
The crippled can walk; the dumb are singin' the blues.  
Oh, John, in the graveyard, what do you see?  
The dead are dancing all around me.

Tell us: Who is writing?  
Tell us what he's writing!  
Tell us why he's writing!  
Time for revelation, and for jubilation.  
Tell us what you're writing, read it to us John!

Well, John, just tell it in your book.  
Well, John, write it down for us in that book.  
Well, John, just tell it in your precious book.  
Well, John, write it down in that book of seven seals.  
John!

## ABOUT THE FIFTH AVENUE CHOIR

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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 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.

### **SOPRANO**

Brittany Hewitt  
Rachel Mikol  
Claire Myers-McCormick  
Hannah Penzner  
Erinn Sensenig  
Rebecca Soelberg

### **ALTO**

Donna Breitzer  
Sharon Byrne  
Hilary Gardner  
Mckenzie Kitchen  
Devony Smith

### **TENOR**

Sean Clark  
Garrett Eucker  
Nathan Fletcher  
Alex McCoy

### **BASS**

Shafiq Hicks  
Mark Hosseini  
Emery Kerekes  
Max Parsons  
Christopher Seefeldt

Rachel Mikol, *Choir Administrator*

## SPECIAL THANKS

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- ... 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.

## MUSIC IN WORSHIP AT FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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.

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### The Choirs of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

**The Fifth Avenue 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 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](http://fapc.org/music-in-worship) or write to [music@fapc.org](mailto: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 has long been the home of our renowned sacred music concerts, as well as our contemporary worship service, Chapel Church, on Sundays. We've used this chapel to provide services and outreach to the homeless and refugees. It's where we celebrate weddings, mourn our faithful departed, and offer quiet respite to both friends and strangers on busy days.

We love this place, and to ensure it continues to serve our congregation and city for another 100 years, Kirkland Chapel is currently undergoing an extensive renovation and restoration. During this time, concerts like tonight's will be held in the Sanctuary until the project is completed.

To learn more about this historic project and how you can help, please visit [fapc.org/chapel](https://fapc.org/chapel).



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