

2023-2024 Concert Series at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church



**1225 Piper Boulevard
Naples, Florida 34110
239-597-5410
vpcnaples.org**





Dear Friends of Music,

I am excited to share the 2023-2024 Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Concert Series with you! We have talented artists from our own neighborhood, and talented artists from around the globe! We have instrumental soloists, organ recitals, choir concerts and many super-talented vocal soloists. There is something for everyone.

Please browse through this brochure, and mark your calendars accordingly! We have switched back to our **4pm concert time** this season and hope to see many more in attendance! Vanderbilt is committed to supporting a **green climate initiative**, so we are sending our concert brochure to you virtually and ask that if you are comfortable donating online, please go to www.vpcnaples.org and click the GIVE button at the top right side. Be sure to mark your gift as "Concert Series". If you prefer a printed copy, please let us know and we can mail one to you. There are also copies available in our church office and Narthex.

In order to present talent on this level, we need your financial support. If you are unable to give, please come to the concerts anyway! Please take a look at what we are offering this year, and contribute as generously as you can. And then, tell your friends about the series, and attend these remarkable world-class concerts!



Sincere thanks,
Dr. James B. Cochran,
 Director of Music

November 19, 2023 — 4 p.m.

Wojciech Wojtasiewicz, Organ

Our opening concert will feature Dr. Wojtasiewicz, organist. Wojciech earned his Doctor of Music Arts degree from the Julliard School of Music. A native of Poland, Dr. Wojtasiewicz is an accomplished musician in Poland and the United States as well as a medical doctor. Wojtasiewicz is a US citizen and happy to call southwest Florida his home. His daughters reside in New York State, and his son and daughter-in-law reside in New York City. He has served many churches in Naples and Fort Myers and is currently the Director of Music and Organist at Faith Presbyterian Church of Cape Coral. Wojtasiewicz will play works of Bach, Franck and Vierne and is an exciting performer and will bring his own special flair to the Lively Fulcher organ at Vanderbilt!



Advent Concerts

Advent Noontime Concerts

*Wednesday concerts begin at
12pm and last 30 minutes.*

Wednesday, November 29

Gordon Black & Jim Cochran,
Organ & Piano

Wednesday, December 6

Susan Norbeck, Flute

Wednesday, December 13

Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano

Wednesday, December 20

Andrew & Jeanne Snedeker,
Oboe & Soprano

Annual Choirs Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10, 2023 — 4 p.m.

This year's Christmas Concert will have your head bobbing and your toe tapping! The Baroque masterpiece, *Gloria*, by Antonio Vivaldi will be the featured work, with small chamber orchestra, trumpet, oboe, organ, and vocal soloists. In addition to the Gloria, the choir will sing several carols, trumpeter Matt Sonneborn and timpanist Stanley Leonard will join organist Jim Cochran in some rousing pieces also from the Baroque period. Michele Byrd, Daniela Pepe and Dave Curtiss will sing Christmas solos, and then, of course, the annual carol sing with everybody joining in the singing! There will be a cookie reception in Fellowship Hall following the concert, and everyone is invited to attend!



January 7, 2024 — 4 p.m.



Duo Formosa
Huifang Chen,
Violin
Catherine Lan,
Piano

Committed to engaging audiences with captivating programming, Duo Formosa presents a diverse body of repertoire that includes chamber works for the duo, solo selections, as well as compositions from Formosa (Taiwan). Duo Formosa has toured extensively throughout the United States, performing at major concert halls and museums. Enthusiastic about education, Duo Formosa has presented lectures and recitals at libraries and universities across the USA. In 2022, Duo Formosa made its Ireland debut concert tour performing in Limerick, Dublin, Wicklow, and Mullingar. Their concert will feature a variety of works, including Johann Strauss' *Sonata in E-flat major* for Violin and Piano, Op 18 and Max Bruch's *Scottish Fantasy* Op 46.

February 25, 2024 — 4 p.m.

The 239 Quartet

featuring Lexi DeLaRosa, vocalist
Christian Snedeker,
Music Director & Drums
Fortunato Occhino, Tenor Sax
Andrew Tannus, Bass
Daniel Tenbush, Piano

The 239 Quartet is a newly formed jazz collective made up of musicians from the Orlando area. The two staples of the group, Christian Snedeker and Fortunato Occhino, are natives of Southwest Florida and were students and mentees of the late Dan Miller, a pillar of jazz performance and education. The group was originally formed to honor the life of Dan and to continue his intense pursuit of musical excellence and innovation. Highlights of the concert include: "Grace" by Occhino, "Smash" by Cohen, "What a Little Moonlight Can Do" by Woods, "All of Me" by Marks and Simons.



March 10, 2024 — 4 p.m.

**The Winner of the Dr. James B. Cochran Endowed Organ Prize:
Aaron Tan**

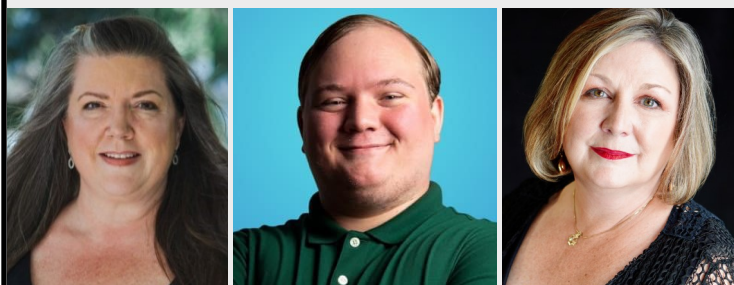
Concert organist Aaron Tan is the only person to have received first-prize in three of the most major North American organ competitions: the Canadian National Organ Competition, the AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Playing, and the Canadian International Organ Competition. Originally from the Philippines and Canada, he is an organist and pianist who enjoys multi-faceted careers as a musician and a materials scientist. Mr. Tan is currently pursuing doctoral studies at Eastman School of Music and also serves as Organist and Director of Music at St. Alban's Catholic Church. Concert highlights include: Prokofiev's *Toccata*, selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and *Wild Mossy Mountains* by Judith Weir.



April 14, 2024 — 4 p.m.

**An Afternoon of Song
Jeanie Darnell, Soprano
Sebastian Plymette, Tenor
Julie Carver, Piano**

Dr. Jeanie Darnell, soprano, Professor of Music, and Head of Vocal Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University, will be joined by her student, Sebastian Plymette, and renowned pianist, Julie Carver, in a special concert of art songs, opera arias, spirituals and Broadway tunes. You won't want to miss these three incredible artists in their collaborative concert. It will be an afternoon of song for everyone!



March 24, 2024 — **7 p.m.**

**Radu Paponiu, Violin
Milana Strezeva, Piano**



Radu Paponiu is Artistic and Music Director of the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Naples Philharmonic, and Music Director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Radu began his musical studies on the violin at age 7, and completed two degrees in violin performance in Los Angeles. As a soloist and chamber musician, Radu has appeared in festivals throughout Europe and North America. Milana Strezeva, Moldovan-American Juilliard-trained pianist started her performing career at the age of 11 with her musical family. A founding member of the award-winning Manhattan Piano Trio, Milana has performed with them in over 30



American states, Australia, South Africa, Italy. In 2016, Milana and her husband, Raniero Tazzi, founded the Grand Piano Series. Radu and Milana will join forces for a special evening concert at Vanderbilt.

**Join us for worship on Sunday
mornings at 10 a.m.**

**All are welcome to join us
“Under the Spire!”
www.vpcnaples.org**

**You can also hear Seraphic Fire at
Vanderbilt**

January 18, 2024 - 7 p.m.
February 22, 2024 - 7 p.m.
March 21, 2024 - 7 p.m.
April 25, 2024 - 7 p.m.

**Tickets available at
www.seraphicfire.org**