

# **2024-2025 Concert Series at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church**



**1225 Piper Boulevard  
Naples, Florida 34110  
239-597-5410  
[vpcnaples.org](http://vpcnaples.org)**





### Dear Friends of Music,

I am excited to share the 2024-2025 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! 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](http://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 10, 2024 — 4 p.m.

**John Cummins, Organist**



The opening concert this season will feature John Cummins, organist. Dr. Cummins is in his sixteenth year as Organist/Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina where he plays the historic E. M. Skinner organ Op. 712 from 1928, directs the St. Paul's Choir and the Friends of Music at St. Paul's concert series. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music in the studio of Professor David Craighead with Vanderbilt's own Director of Music, Dr. James B. Cochran.

Through the Friends of Music at St. Paul's Concert Series, St. Paul's Church has become the Winston-Salem home of the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Players. This focus on Early Music in the concert series has filled a vital niche in the already rich musical life of the Winston-Salem community.

His program will feature works by Widor, Couperin, Bach, Locklair, Sandresky, and Vierne, including the thrilling *Carillon de Westminster*.



## Advent Concerts

### Advent Noontime Concerts

Wednesday concerts begin at  
12pm and last 30 minutes.  
Bring a friend and go to lunch  
after the concert!

#### Wednesday, December 4

Susan Norbeck, Flute  
Jim Cochran, Piano

#### Wednesday, December 11

Gordon Black & Julie Carver,  
Organ & Piano

#### Wednesday, December 18

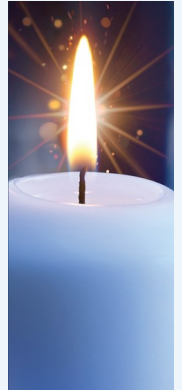
Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano  
Jim Cochran, Piano



## Annual Choirs Christmas Concert

**Sunday, December 8, 2024 — 4 p.m.**

This year's Christmas Concert will feature, *O Holy Light - A Cantata for Christmas*, by Mary McDonald. Other selections will include Gustav Holt's sublime *In the Bleak Midwinter* and a rousing rendition of *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. The Chancel Choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Soloists will include Michele Byrd, soprano, David Curtiss, baritone, and Matthew Sonneborn, trumpet. The Carillon Ringers will present Christmas music for Handbells. The afternoon concert will conclude with the annual Christmas carol sing-along. There will be a cookie reception in Fellowship Hall following the concert, and everyone is invited to attend!



January 19, 2025 — 4 p.m.

### Duo Arpeggione

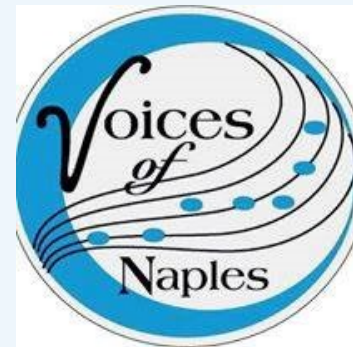
Catherine Lan, Pianist  
Claudio Jaffe, cellist



Frédéric Chopin, Gabriel Fauré, and Camille Saint-Saëns were all celebrated pianists, organists, and composers. Chopin in particular wrote almost exclusively for the piano. They each had a dear cellist friend for whom they dedicated beautiful duos as tokens of their friendship and mutual admiration. You will hear Chopin's and Saint-Saëns' gorgeous sonatas, as well as a lovely musical depiction of a butterfly, performed by cellist Claudio Jaffe and pianist Catherine Lan. Duo Arpeggione was formed in 2017 by Drs. Catherine Lan and Claudio Jaffe. Since then they have delighted audiences with their passion for music making and excellence in performance. Each recital includes insightful commentary on the composers and their work, enhancing the concert experience.

January 26, 2025 — 4 p.m.

### Voices of Naples



**Brice Gerlach, Director**  
**Kelly Utterback, Accompanist**  
**Michele Byrd, Soprano**

Voices of Naples was formed in 2002 to provide an opportunity for singers in Collier County to study and perform a variety of choral music. They also have the mission of providing scholarships to deserving high school seniors in Collier and Lee Counties who wish to study vocal music and related studies in college. The 65-member ensemble will be presenting a concert including the Haydn *Little Organ Mass* featuring soprano, Michele Byrd. The concert will be full of variety, featuring music of Beethoven and Mozart as well as hits by the Beatles and John Denver, led by Dr. Brice Gerlach and accompanied by pianist, Kelly Utterback. Join us and know that you are helping young musicians while enjoying a beautiful concert.

February 16, 2025 — 4 p.m.

## **The 239 Collective**



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

The 239 Collective is an Orlando-based jazz group led by drummer, Christian Snedeker and his partner, Orlando vocalist, Lexi DeLaRosa. The group features a mixed roster of musicians with a wide array of experiences and come together to play music of all styles, including swing, bop, Latin, and R&B. The 239 Collective's sound is new and exciting, yet you can hear the influences of the jazz greats in their approach and execution. The group's mission every live performance is to provide the audience with an escape from everyday life, and create a beautiful experience of music that showcases each performer's strengths. Highlights of the concert include: *Afro Blue* by Santamaria, *Yes and No* by Wayne Shorter, and *Bolivia* by Cedar Walton.

April 13, 2025 — 4 p.m.

## **Annual Choirs Spring Concert**

The annual Spring concert will be a musical journey through Holy Week, beginning with music of Palm Sunday, moving through the music of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and concluding with joyful anthems of Easter. Organ, Timpani, Brass Ensemble and soloists will perform. Works by John Rutter, Mary McDonald and more.



March 16, 2025 — 4 p.m.

## **The Winner of the Dr. James B. Cochran Organ Prize: Augustine Sobeng**

Augustine Sobeng is a native of Shama in the Western Region of Ghana. In 2019, he received admission under a VPA

Fellowship award to study for his Masters in Organ Performance in the studio of Dr.

Annie Laver.

He is currently pursuing his DMA in Organ Performance and Literature, in the studio of Nathan Laube, at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester. He is the organ scholar at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rochester. Augustine was named to *The Diapason's* 2021 class of 20 under 30. In May 2021, he won first prize in the 'solo instrumental work' category for the Setnor Outstanding Artists' Competition at Syracuse University. In 2024 he was awarded the James B. Cochran Award for his outstanding DMA recital. Sobeng will play works by Buxtehude, Dupré, Sowerby, Widor and Franck.



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

**All are  
welcome to  
join us  
"Under the  
Spire!"**

