

A Season of Music

at First Presbyterian Church of Naples

2023-2024



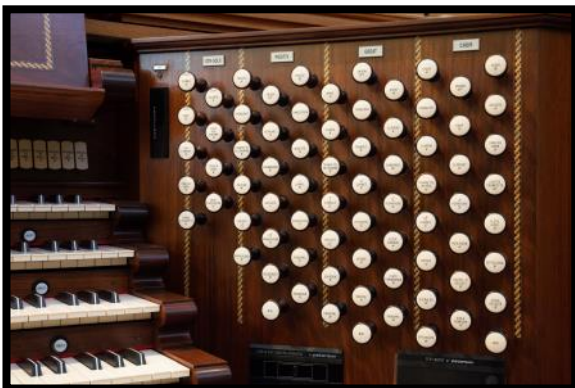
A Season of Music

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

One of my great blessings in life is sharing the gift of music. I was very fortunate to have a family that encouraged my musical talent at a young age. I was lucky enough to have a wonderful organ teacher and a Presbyterian church where I could practice and learn about making music in a sacred space from the age of 13. During my 22 years as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, I have found a new sense of purpose; to encourage, support and feature young, aspiring musicians. Our **A Season of Music** concerts will highlight some of these rising stars. From our Chancel Choir soloists, to the newly awarded AGO organ winner, my wish to inspire young musicians will be realized. We will also have top notch pianists and the always popular, Seraph Brass and two choral concerts to round out our season. Please mark your calendars for all these exciting events. I trust you will find something that appeals to you and I encourage you to bring a friend. Concerts are a great way to introduce people to our church and you will be helping to bring a new generation of musicians into the world of performance.



This will be another banner concert year and I invite you to help continue the legacy of great music at First Presbyterian Church. Inside this brochure you will find an envelope to return with your support for **A Season of Music**. Please consider sending a donation today. If you are interested in underwriting one of our concerts, please contact me at the church. Through these concerts we will reach out to our community and beckon people into our beautiful church. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.



Brice Gerlach

Dr. Brice Gerlach
Director of Music Ministries
briceg@fpcnaples.org

First Presbyterian Church Soloists in Concert

Sunday, October 29, 2023
4:00 p.m.



The opening concert will feature the student soloists in our choir. Each year we are thrilled to be able to help these talented young musicians further their musicianship, experience and opportunity in the field of sacred music by offering them a spot in our chancel choir as a paid section leader. Each of these students are in the Bower School of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and have uplifted our choir for many years.

The program will include opera arias, art songs and Broadway hits. All the proceeds from this concert will go to help defray the costs of their tuition at FGCU.

Plan on attending and bring a friend! You will be amazed at our soloists in concert. You don't want to miss the chance to hear up and coming musicians in our community.

James Kealey, *organ*

Sunday, November 12, 2023
4:00 p.m.

Winner of the First Prize and Audience Prize at the 2022 American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ performance (NYACOP), James Kealey is a young artist of great distinction who has appeared in recital in England, the United States and in Europe. A native of Great Britain, James came to the U.S.A. having held positions at notable English Cathedrals. In the spring of 2020, James completed his Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music in Organ Performance and Literature. In 2021 he was honored to be named one of The Diapason's "20 under 30", an accolade awarded to the most successful young artists in the field. In the summer of 2023, his debut CD "Rhapsodic" was released on the Pro Organo recording label. Currently, James serves as full time Interim Director of Music/Organist at



Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY. In this capacity he directs the Chancel Choir and the Third Church Choristers. Alongside this position, James is a candidate for the Doctor of Music Arts degree at the Eastman School of

Music, Rochester, NY in the studio of Prof. David Higgs.

James will play music of William Grant Still, Herbert Howells, and Louis Vierne. Come to hear this rising star in the organ world as he makes the Ruffatti organ shine!

Chancel Choir

Christmas Concert

Dr. Brice Gerlach, *conductor*
Sunday, December 3, 2023
4:00 p.m.



Experience the hope and joy of rediscovering the miracle and wonder of Christmas as told through beautiful and cherished music of the season. Christmas-time is filled with great traditions and many of them center on the music of the season. Our annual concert showcases the incredible talent of First Presbyterian Church. The program will feature the soloists and choir singing Christmas favorites as well as an audience sing-a-long of well-known carols accompanied by a professional chamber orchestra. The Chancel Choir will sing several Christmas anthems including the *What Sweeter Music* by John Rutter, *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Harold Darke, and a beautiful arrangement of *Silent Night* by Dan Forrest.

Sing some of your favorite traditional carols such as *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *The First Noel* and *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*. Come enjoy a beautiful concert with some of the most traditional and well-loved Christmas songs ever composed.

The Voices of Naples

Brice Gerlach, *director*
Kelly Utterback, *accompanist*
Sunday, January 28, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Voices of Naples was formed in 2002 to provide an opportunity for singers in Naples and 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 entitled "Love is in the Air." The concert will explore different aspects of love; love of music, love of country, and of course romantic love. The music is will range from patriotic, religious, Broadway and the Great American Songbook.

This will be an afternoon of choral music led by newly appointed director, Dr. Brice Gerlach and accompanied by pianist, Kelly Utterback. Please consider attending this event and know that you are helping young musicians while enjoying a beautiful concert.



Duo Beaux Arts

Catherine Lan & Tao Lin, *pianists*
Sunday, February 25, 2024
4:00 p.m.



International competition winning ensemble Duo Beaux Arts was formed in 2008 by world renowned husband and wife concert pianists and recording artists Catherine Lan and Tao Lin. Known for its adrenalized performances, this dynamic Duo has performed in France, Switzerland, Spain, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands, China, and the United States to both critical and audience acclaim. As guest soloist, the Duo has performed Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos in Eb major with South Florida Symphony Orchestra, as well as guest artist at Romanza Festivale, Swan City Piano Festival, Beethoven for Miami Festival, and Bowdoin International Music Festival. Season highlights include a debut recital at Bartók Hall at Buda Castle in Hungary.

The theme for the concert is A Kaleidoscope of Expression and features works by Chopin, Mendelssohn and Strauss.

Seraph Brass

Sunday, March 17, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Celebrating its tenth anniversary season, Seraph Brass was founded by trumpet soloist Mary Elizabeth Bowden with the mission of showcasing the excellence of female brass players and highlighting musicians from marginalized groups both in personnel and in programming. Winners of the American Prize in Chamber Music, the group has been praised for their “beautiful sounds” (*American Record Guide*), “fine playing” (*Gramophone*), and “staggeringly high caliber of performance” (*Textura*). Seraph primarily performs as a quintet, with a dynamic roster drawing from America’s top brass musicians.

Seraph performs a diverse body of repertoire, ranging from original transcriptions to newly commissioned works and core classics.

Members of Seraph Brass are passionate about music education, and hold teaching positions at the University of North Texas, Shenandoah Conservatory, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Don’t miss the chance to hear these incredible brass musicians!



Lenten Organ Concerts

Wednesdays

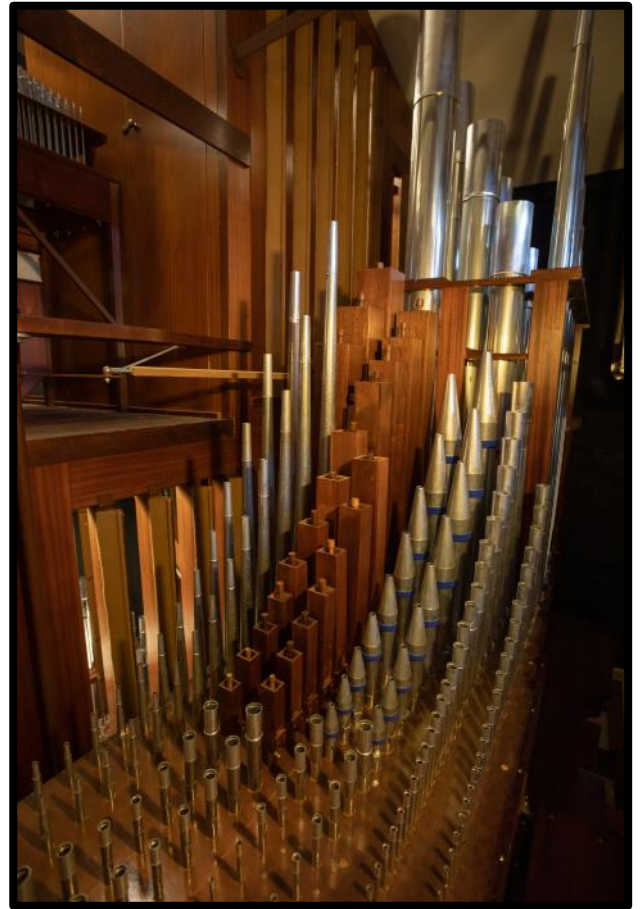
February 21, 28,

March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024

12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

The spectacular Ruffatti pipe organ is featured in six Lenten organ recitals offered by our Director of Music, Dr. Brice Gerlach. In these informal concerts Brice takes the time to explain some of the mechanical workings of the organ and offers some musical insights about the pieces on the program. Each concert opens with a piece that highlights the magnificent horizontal trumpets protruding from the front of the organ case. A work by J. S. Bach is always featured and arrangements of Lenten hymn tunes are presented, allowing for some of the diverse solo stops and softer sounds of the organ to be heard. The concerts will end with a rousing toccata, allowing the audience to hear the full power of the organ.

After the recital, the audience is invited to the console to ask questions and see the beautiful woodwork and craftsmanship of the Ruffatti.



Tours of the pipe chambers are also offered each week. These concerts have become very popular and we hope that you will consider coming to one or all of them and bringing a friend or two. Brice is an evangelist for the organ and makes these short concerts educational, exciting and entertaining. He will also share the keyboard with some of his up and coming students!

Don't miss these special opportunities for personal reflection, meditation, and celebration of this holy season of Lent.

Special Events

Kirkin' O' the Tartan

Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

This service celebrates the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church. We will be joined by the Saint Andrew's Society of Southwest Florida and The Harp and Thistle Pipe Band.



Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 23, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

A warm and welcoming service offered in thanksgiving to God.



Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are "blue" at Christmas. Join us for a service of comfort, hope, wholeness and renewal.



Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24, 2023 at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Our Family Service at 5:00 p.m. is an interactive service for families with young children. The service at 7:00 p.m. is a traditional Candlelight Service with readings and carols. Special music begins 30 minutes prior to worship.



North Fort Myers High School Orchestra

Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Danielle Parks, former member of the Chancel Choir and graduate of FGCU, will present her high school orchestra in a concert performed by talented students.



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

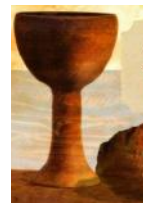
A service to begin the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

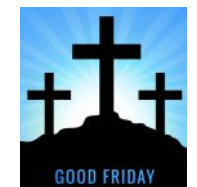
A communion service to commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.



Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

A noon-time service recognizing the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.



Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31, 2024

7:30 a.m. Courtyard Service and 8:30 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Sanctuary

We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with special music provided by the Naples Chamber Brass Quintet at all of our services.



First Presbyterian Church of Naples

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