

2025-2026 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 2025-2026 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 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 and click the GIVE button at



the top right side. Click on the MUSIC tab and mark your gift as "Concert Series" in the note field. Or click on the QR code. If you prefer a printed copy of the brochure, 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 16, 2025 — 4 p.m.

Solomon Eichner, Pianist



Consistently in demand on the concert stage Solomon Eichner has garnered international acclaim with performances throughout Europe and the U.S. The 2025 season brings Solomon to new venues as well as reengagements on established series, in cities such as Fort Myers, Augusta, Charleston, Boca Raton, Naples, Durham, Charlotte, New York, Virginia Beach among others.

Sponsored by the March of the Living Foundation, Solomon performed for the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz at the Krakow Philharmonic Hall, Jewish Cultural Center and at Auschwitz in front of a crowd of 20,000 people.

Originally from Baltimore, Solomon is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and Peabody Conservatory. When not concertizing, Solomon maintains a faculty position for the North Carolina Chamber Music Institute. Currently Solomon resides in Chapel Hill with his wife, Becky, and daughter Skylar Gizelle.



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 3

Susan Norbeck, Flute
Jim Cochran, Piano

Wednesday, December 10

Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano
Jim Cochran, Piano

Wednesday, December 17

Gordon Black & Jim Cochran,
Organ & Piano

January 11, 2026 — 4 p.m.

Narrative



Narrative is a jazz collective made up of musicians from Orlando and New York. Led by national award-winning drummer Christian Snedeker and vocalist Lexi DeLaRosa, this group features musicians with a wide array of experiences to come together and play originals and arrangements of all styles, including swing, hard bop, Latin, and R&B. Narrative musicians are active in many facets of the industry and have shared the stage with notable artists and performed with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Walt Disney World Orchestra, as well as being active artists for the Universal and Walt Disney Live Entertainment Companies. They are currently writing their first full-length album and regularly perform concerts, clinics, and masterclasses across the Southeast United States.

Annual Choirs Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 14, 2025 — 4 p.m.

The Vanderbilt Chancel Choir will be joined by guest instrumentalists to present Mary McDonald's rousing, "Festival of Christmas: A Joyful Celebration of the Season." This concert will include the world premier of a newly commissioned hymn arrangement in honor of Jim Cochran's 35 years of music ministry arranged by Mary McDonald. Please plan to join us for this special Christmas concert!



February 15, 2026 — 4 p.m.

Daniela Shtéreva, Violin Milana Strezeva, Piano

We welcome back two of Naples finest chamber musicians, Daniel Shtéreva and Milana Strezeva for an afternoon of beautiful music for violin and piano. Daniela is a long-time member of the Naples Philharmonic and an avid performer in many local concert events. Milana is an accomplished pianist and founder of the Manhattan Piano Trio and the Grand Piano Series. These stellar musicians will join together in an afternoon of incredible music.



March 15, 2026 — 4 p.m.

Adam Brakel, Organist



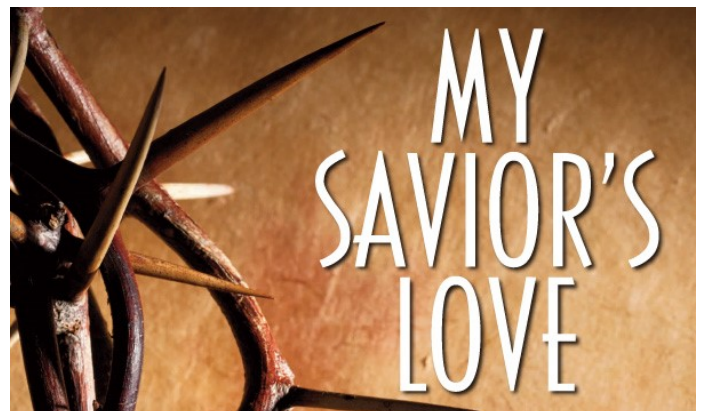
The spellbinding and artistically masterful performances by Adam J. Brakel have led to him being compared to Liszt, Gould, Bernstein, and Paganini. National Public Radio hailed him as “an absolute organ prodigy with the technique and virtuosity that most concert pianists could only dream of...he is the Franz Liszt of the organ.” His playing is distinguished for its energy, passion, and transcendent virtuosity that serves the music with musical maturity and communicative power. Mr. Brakel is the newly appointed Director of Music at the Royal Poinciana Chapel in Palm Beach, Florida, following seven years as Director of Music at St. James Cathedral and for the Diocese of Orlando, Florida.

March 29, 2026 — **10 a.m.**

**My Savior's Love:
A Musical for Holy Week**

A favorite composer of Dr. Jim Cochran's, Mary McDonald composed this musical treatment of the events of Holy Week. It embraces the love Jesus expressed to us on Calvary through new and familiar texts and tunes. Its purpose is to give pause to those dreadful occurrences but, more importantly, to share the hope and love of our Savior to all who seek him.

Please join us for worship at 10 a.m. to experience the powerful music and narration of “My Savior's Love.” The Vanderbilt Chancel Choir will be accompanied by an orchestra for this very special service for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.



April 19, 2026 — 4 p.m.

**The Winner of the Dr. James B. Cochran Organ
Prize: Charles Francis**

Charles Francis is a British organist who is earning increasing recognition as a young performer. Charles has recently completed a Master of Music degree at the Eastman School of Music, where his degree recital earned him the Dr. James B. Cochran Endowed Organ Prize. Charles is remaining at Eastman to pursue a Doctoral of Musical Arts degree, where he continues studies with Prof. Nathan Laube. Charles is Assistant Organist at Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, as well as Organist for the acclaimed Christ Church Schola Cantorum.



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



**Join us
“Under the Spire!”**