



Visiting the Berlin Philharmonic's concert hall during my recent trip to visit my daughter, Kathryn

## Music at Westminster

2017–2018

The music program at Westminster Church continues its journey of ministry, building community, and leading the music of worship together. Choir members are actively involved in every aspect of the church's life and most devoted to our efforts, for which I'm most thankful, and I look forward to the many opportunities for musical growth and sharing in worship the choirs continually afford the congregation. I would add that I very much appreciate the wonderful gift of a three-month sabbatical the church so graciously gave me for my summer study and I found it to be most fruitful. During that time I was able to practice new organ repertoire and spend much time exploring new choral music of all kinds, much of which will be shared in worship. I look forward to starting in!

*Everyone* in the Westminster community is invited and encouraged to become involved. The choirs cannot flourish and effectively serve without you. As the church receives its life from the diverse gifts of its members, so too does each choir. We are a connectional church and we build up our church's body through the wonderful bonding and interaction that take place in small groups such as choirs. Our program is designed to cultivate the musical contributions to worship of the entire congregation and we have a seat waiting for you! I invite you to read and learn more about each choir and Westminster's musical opportunities.



## The Choir Schedule

- ❖ Boys' and Girls' Choirs (jointly): Wednesdays, 4:45–5:45 p.m., beginning August 30
- ❖ Brass Choir: Mondays, 6:00–7:00 p.m., beginning August 21
- ❖ Chancel Choir: Wednesdays, 7:30/8:00–9:30 p.m., beginning August 23
- ❖ Four-in-Hand Ringers: Thursdays, 8:00–8:30 p.m., beginning September 14
- ❖ Handbell Choir: Thursdays, 7:00–8:00 p.m., beginning September 14
- ❖ Rainbow Choir: Tuesdays, 5:30–6:00 p.m., beginning October 3
- ❖ Recorder Ensemble: Thursdays, 6:00–7:00 p.m., beginning September 14
- ❖ Trombone Choir: TBA
- ❖ Westminster Choristers: Sundays, 4:00–5:00 p.m., beginning August 27
- ❖ Westminster Strings: TBA
- ❖ Young Musicians' Class: Mondays, 5:30–6:00 p.m., beginning in October 2

## Rainbow Choir

- For over 30 years has provided critical training as an introduction to the joys of music and Westminster's choral program
- Geared to children around four years of age through kindergarten
- Provides a good foundation of basic music skills, including music reading and singing
- Activities also include listening to a wide variety of recorded and live music, instrument demonstrations, and our traditional parties, Halloween and J. S. Bach's birthday bash.
- Comfortable and supportive environment with specialized, positive one-on-one interaction

*Singing is a most important life skill and something every person can do and enjoy, but it requires nurture and instruction. This is best started at an early age, while the brain is "blooming."*



## Young Musicians' Class

- Generally intended for young musicians in the first and second grades
  - Further development of skills established and nurtured in Rainbow Choir
  - Critical transitional link to the Boys' and Girls' Choirs
  - Focus is on more advanced music theory and ear training
- Nurturing of acute tuning and healthy vocal production
  - Singing together in small groups and adjusting to being part of a musical team; also singing music with text
  - Continued one-on-one work in areas needing additional time

***These two groups are the hope and future of sacred music in the church. Participants join centuries of musicians committed to leading the music of worship, following the encouragement of the Psalms. We were delighted to have so many new young people join us last year!***

## *Schola Cantorum*

We continue to expand our comprehensive program of musical training for our Boys' and Girls' Choirs. Resources from both the Royal School of Church Music in America and our own church have enabled this effort and I'm pleased to offer this to our capable young singers. Besides the many musical benefits, *Schola Cantorum* honors requests from members of the choirs, and it should be exciting, challenging, and rewarding. Study includes increased solfege ("Do-Re-Mi"), music theory, and elements found in the comprehensive singing curriculum *Voice for Life*.

### **Girls' Choir**

- Comprised of 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Rehearses jointly with the Boys' Choir
- Frequently sings with instrumental accompaniment, whether at Westminster or with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra
- "Hymn of the Week" segment develops a good knowledge of our hymnody
- Solfege develops sightsinging
- Major emphasis on singing harmony, an essential skill for any singer!
- Occasional fellowship opportunities to have fun and further build community, such as *Pizza, Pipes* (tour of our sanctuary organ), and *Movie*.
- Music by Britten, Copland, Purcell, Ramseth, and Telfer, in addition to some world music



### **Boys' Choir**

- Entering its 30<sup>th</sup> year, this is East Tennessee's oldest boychoir.
- Comprised of 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders with unchanged voices
- Rehearses jointly with the Girls' Choir, sharing the same emphases
- Music by Exner, Hogan, Marcello, Proulx, and Stopford, including works with instrumental accompaniment
- Fellowship opportunities, such as laser tag and ball games

### **Westminster Choristers**

- Older middle school through high school students—the culmination of many years of training in the younger choirs
- Choir trips throughout the eastern United States
- Productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Godspell*
- Joint projects with the Chancel Choir and the KSO, including excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 8*, and the Mozart *Requiem*.
- Wide range of musical styles and types of instrumental accompaniment

- Rehearses just prior to SHOW and WAMS Sunday afternoons for members' convenience
- Several collaborations with the Chancel Choir this year, as well as music by Hogan, Paulus, Ramsey, Schulz-Widmar, Stopford, Thompson, and music from *Godspell*

### Brass Choir

- Founded in the summer of 1982 and an integral part of worship throughout the year
- Intended for advanced players
- Antiphonal music and works for brass, choir, percussion, and organ
- Music by most mainstream brass composers, including J. S. Bach, Giovanni Gabrieli, Walter Hartley, Johann Pezel, Gottfried Reiche, Samuel Scheidt, and Richard Strauss
- Occasional accompaniment of the Chancel Choir
- Appearances in the community as benevolent outreach

### Trombone Choir

- Performs a unique part of the brass literature, ranging from transcriptions of madrigals and choral motets to twentieth-century American music
- Will function independently of the Brass Choir



### Recorder Ensemble

- Established as an intergenerational group of soprano, alto, and tenor recorder enthusiasts, adding bass soon
- Solo, duet, and ensemble repertoire with varied instrumental accompaniment, including harpsichord, and accompaniments for various choirs

### Handbell Choir

- Founded in November 1981 as an intergenerational group
- Repertoire planned for 2017–18 includes music for our five octave compass and handchimes. Works by Debussy, McMichael, and Sherman, among others
- Music for instruments and bells, and choir and bells
- Occasional hymn introductions and other service music

Ringling handbells is a lot of fun and the type of musical activity that meets each person at their own level of proficiency. *We are always looking for new ringers.* Membership in this choir is open to anyone, middle school age and older, with the ability to read music.

## Four-in-Hand Ringers

Four-in-hand ringing is an advanced technique where the ringer holds two bells in each hand. Typically, such a group will have four ringers, and while our group presently has the required number, it is possible to accommodate an experienced player with an interest.

## Westminster Strings

- Another intergenerational group, founded in 2000, and comprised of serious amateur and professional string players
- Has performed regularly for worship in its early years and more recently when string accompaniments are needed for choral works
- Music by Britten and others is planned for this year.

## Summer Choir

- Established in 2011 by choral enthusiasts in the Chancel Choir, Westminster Choristers, and the congregation
- Intended to provide choral leadership for worship during the summer months, augmenting the contributions of soloists and small ensembles
- Ideal for a person interested in singing, but without the typical yearlong commitment

## Chancel Choir

The Westminster Chancel Choir is an intensely devoted group of hardworking musicians committed to the highest form of music making and to every aspect of the church.

About the choir:

- The primary adult choral ensemble of the church, providing musical leadership throughout the year, mainly at the 11:00 service, and for all festival services
- Advanced literature drawn from centuries of great music
- Major works sung include the Brahms, Fauré, Mozart, Rutter, and Verdi *Requiems*; Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *Hymn to St. Cecilia*; Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*; the Vivaldi *Gloria*; and Mozart's *Mass in c*, K. 427. Composers of other major works include J. S. Bach, Handel, Schubert, and Vaughan Williams.
- Production of Gian-Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*
- This year's repertoire will include works by Jehan Alain, Bernstein, Britten, Croushorn, Andrea Gabrieli, Gjeilo, Hancock, Hogan, Mendelssohn, Moe, Mozart, Pärt, Tallis, Tavener, Vaughan Williams, and Viadana, among others.



Rehearsal for the Rutter *Requiem*

*Rehearsals are from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. the first two Wednesdays of each month and 8:00 to 9:30 all remaining Wednesdays.*

### ***Musica Organi***

Westminster Church is very fortunate to have two fine organs: the Richards, Fowkes and Co.'s Opus 7 in the sanctuary and the Lunsford organ in the chapel, and we are pleased to host an annual series of organ recitals, *Musica Organi*, for which we bring the finest organists from around the world to our church, community, and region. Many thanks to our loyal audience and everyone who has ever attended and supported the series over the years!

Our eighteenth season features:

- Nathan Laube, Assistant Professor of Organ at The Eastman School of Music, on Friday, January 26, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.
- Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra, internationally renowned improvisateur, on Friday, May 11, 2018, at 8:00 p.m.



Many thanks always to Jim and Bettie Mason for establishing the *Musica Organi* website and for their ongoing devotion to the series and to Lee Ingram and Michael Richards for their countless contributions of graphic art expertise in producing its printed materials. I am ever indebted to my late aunt, Marjorie Van Eenam Butcher, for her continued underwriting of the series, enabling her and my dream and vision of such an outstanding series to become an ongoing reality at Westminster.

Please visit [www.musicaorgani.org](http://www.musicaorgani.org) to learn more about the series, to view past programs, and to learn more about the Richards, Fowkes organ, including photos, the stoplist and specifications, and commentary.

### **iListener = Informed Listener**

This is a series of informal study/discussion evenings devoted to musical topics ranging from music reading essentials to music to be heard for the first time at Westminster. The intent is to elevate the listener's experience in worship and concerts by sharing interesting insight and background. What we know about the music does influence how we hear it!

### **The Friends of Music of Westminster Church**

- Established by the Session in 1981 to augment the Worship, Music, and the Arts portion of Westminster's operating budget
- An account funded by unsolicited gifts from members and friends and by freewill offerings at concerts
- The sole source of funding for choir concerts and special musical events

*Many thanks to everyone who has helped support Friends of Music and its worthy goals of nurturing fellowship and providing outreach through music!*



Thank you for learning about the music program at Westminster Church and for any interest you may have in joining this ministry. Please contact me with any questions at (865) 584-3957, ext. 109 or [peter.v.organist@gmail.com](mailto:peter.v.organist@gmail.com).

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Organist and Choirmaster