

r e s o n a n c e

E V E R A N C I E N T | E V E R N E W

CHRIST CHURCH





w e l c o m e

Every musical note has a resonance—a sound that lingers long after it is first heard.

In the same way, the Christian faith has echoed through the centuries, finding new voices in every generation while remaining rooted in the unchanging truth. That is the heart behind **Resonance—Ever Ancient | Ever New**. The music you'll experience throughout this season spans hundreds of years, from well-known and well-loved masterworks to newly composed sacred works. Though the musical sound of each evening changes, the story they tell remains the same.

Music has a remarkable way of reaching us. It gives voice to our joy and sorrow, celebration and longing. It can quiet a restless heart, awaken memories and remind us that we are part of something larger than ourselves. For centuries the Church has embraced this gift, using music not simply to inspire, but to tell the story of God's faithfulness and invite people into His presence.

Perhaps you have worshiped in churches your entire life. Perhaps you simply love choral music and are curious to experience it in a sacred setting. Maybe a friend invited you. Whatever brings you here, you are welcome. We are grateful you've chosen to share these evenings with us.

Whether you join us for a Choral Vespers, Lessons and Carols, a performance of *Messiah* or one of our other offerings, our desire is that these moments would be more than beautiful performances. We hope they become places of reflection, wonder and hope—where exceptional music points beyond itself to the God who inspires it.

Thank you for joining us for **Resonance**. May these evenings encourage your heart, lift your spirit and remind you that some of life's deepest truths are often best heard when they are sung.

Sincerely,

Jamal Sarikoki
Classic Worship Pastor

join us

2026

All Saints' Choral Vespers

Sunday, November 1 | 5:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, November 29

Worship Services | 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.

CarolFest

Sunday, December 13

3:00 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.

2027

Lenten Choral Vespers

Sunday, March 13 | 5:00 p.m.

Spring Choral Vespers

Sunday, May 9 | 5:00 p.m.

All Saints' Choral Vespers

Sunday, November 1, 2026 | 5:00 p.m.

FEATURED MUSIC | Virgil Fox, Stephen Paulus and Gabriel Fauré

FEATURED ARTISTS | Ars Vesperis, Marianne Kim

Join **Ars Vesperis** chamber choir and orchestra, and organist **Marianne Kim** for a moving evening of prayer, music and remembrance on All Saints' Day. The service will feature three deeply moving works from the sacred repertoire: Virgil Fox's *Come, Sweetest Death*, Stephen Paulus's *Pilgrims' Hymn* and Gabriel Fauré's beloved *Requiem*.

All Saints' Day, traditionally observed on November 1, is a day when we honor those in our circles of family and friends who have completed their earthly lives and entered into eternity. In remembering those we have lost, we gather not only to grieve, but also to give thanks for the lives they shared with us. The remembrance of these beloved ones does not change the reality of their absence, but it offers those of us who remain an opportunity to hold both sorrow and gratitude together in the company of one another.

Rooted in an ancient Christian observance dating to the early centuries of the church, All Saints' Day has long been a time to remember those who have "gone before." In our Protestant tradition, it is an occasion to celebrate the lives of family members, friends and others whose presence has shaped us, remembering them together as a community of faith. In remembrance, the names of loved will be read aloud during the service.

The evening's music gives voice to this movement between grief, remembrance, hope and peace. Virgil Fox's *Come, Sweetest Death* offers a profound meditation on mortality and the hope of rest. Stephen Paulus's *Pilgrims' Hymn* reflects on the journey of life and the longing for home, creating a deeply personal expression of faith and hope. Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, one of the most beloved works in the sacred choral repertoire, offers a vision of consolation and eternal rest. Rather than dwelling solely on death, Fauré's music turns our hearts toward light, peace, mercy and the promise of rest.

Together, these works create a musical journey appropriate to All Saints' Day: from mourning and remembrance toward comfort, gratitude and hope. Through the beauty of choral and orchestral music, we are invited to remember those we love, to acknowledge the grief of their absence and to celebrate the gift of their lives.

The Vespers service will include congregational singing, a liturgy for voluntary participation and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, November 29, 2026

Worship Services | 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

FEATURED MUSIC | Johann Sebastian Bach, James Whitbourn and Benjamin Britten

FEATURED ARTISTS | Christ Church Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble;
Craig Williams, Organist and Choirmaster, West Point Cadet Chapel, USMA

One of the highlights of the Christmas season will be our beloved annual **Lessons and Carols** service on November 29. This service brings together Scripture, congregational singing, choir and organ in a way that has shaped Christian worship for generations.

This year's service will feature the Chancel Choir in *Missa Carolae* by James Whitbourn, a beautiful work that weaves familiar carol melodies into a setting of the traditional Mass text. Whitbourn's music has a way of feeling both deeply reflective and immediately accessible, drawing from the language of tradition while speaking with a distinctly modern voice.

The service will also include two movements from Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, performed by the women of the Chancel Choir. Britten's enchanting setting brings a distinctive color and character to the Christmas story, adding moments of brightness and intimacy to the morning's musical offerings.

What makes Lessons and Carols so unique is the way music and Scripture are held together. Throughout the morning, the choir's offerings will be interspersed with readings from the story of Advent and Christmas—moving from prophecy and expectation to the birth of Christ. Alongside these readings we will sing beloved carols together as a congregation, joining our voices with Christians across centuries who have sung these same hymns of hope and joy.

It is our hope that this service becomes more than a musical presentation. It is a shared act of worship—where Scripture is heard, music is offered and the story of Christ's coming is received anew with wonder and gratitude.

Messiah Project

Part I | Advent | CarolFest | Sunday, December 13, 2026

3:00 & 6:15 p.m.

Parts II & III | Lent | Sunday, March 13, 2027 | 5:00 p.m.

Regardless of what style of music you enjoy—whether sacred classical, modern worship or even secular music—Handel’s *Messiah* remains one of the most widely recognized and enduring works ever written.

For more than 250 years, this music has continued to move audiences not only through its beauty, but through its profound musical telling of the story of Christ.

This year, we are excited to present the **Messiah Project** that will allow us to engage deeply with this remarkable work across the Church year. In December, you will have the opportunity to hear large portions of Part I of *Messiah*, which focuses on the anticipation and birth of Christ. Then, during Lent, we will present significant portions of Parts II and III, tracing the suffering, death, resurrection and ultimate victory of Christ.

CarolFest

Sunday, December 13, 2026 | 3:00 & 6:15 p.m.

FEATURED MUSIC | George Frideric Handel, Dan Forrest, Duane Funderburk and Bradley Knight

FEATURED ARTISTS

Christ Church Chancel Choir and Christ Church Symphony Orchestra

Step away from the bustle of the Christmas season and experience the wonder and majesty of Christ's birth at Christ Church's beloved **CarolFest**. This cherished annual celebration of worship through music brings together the timeless beauty of sacred masterworks and the joyful spirit of Christmas in an unforgettable afternoon. Presented by the Christ Church Chancel Choir, a professional 40-piece orchestra, and led by Classic Worship Pastor **Jamal Sarikoki**, the program features the Christmas portion of **Handel's Messiah** alongside beloved Christmas carols in stirring arrangements that invite us to reflect on the hope, peace and joy of the season.

The celebration reaches a breathtaking climax with a specially commissioned arrangement of ***O Holy Night***, written exclusively for Christ Church's choir, professional 40-piece orchestra and featuring Jamal Sarikoki as soloist. Rich orchestral colors, soaring choral writing and a powerful solo performance combine to create a moving worship experience that captures the awe, joy and reverence of the Christmas story. Then, back by popular demand is Bradley Knight's triumphant, cinematic arrangements of *Sing We Now of Christmas*—a thrilling favorite whose epic sound has been affectionately dubbed "Star Wars meets baby Jesus." Whether continuing a cherished holiday tradition or experiencing CarolFest for the first time, you'll be drawn into a time of beauty, inspiration and joyful worship as we celebrate the timeless message of Christ's birth.

Lenten Choral Vespers

Sunday, March 13, 2027 | 5:00 p.m.

FEATURED MUSIC | George Frideric Handel and Tomaso Albinoni

FEATURED ARTISTS | Ars Vesperis Chamber Choir and Orchestra;
Adèle-Marie Buis and Sam Waring, oboe

As we journey through the solemn season of Lent, Christ Church's **Lenten Choral Vespers** offers a beautiful opportunity to pause, reflect and worship through the richness of the Church's sacred musical heritage. Featuring the Ars Vesperis Chamber Choir and Orchestra and soloists, this contemplative evening invites worshipers to prepare their hearts for Holy Week through music of profound beauty, faith and hope.

This year's Vespers centers on the triumphant conclusion of Handel's *Messiah*, featuring selections from Parts II and III that proclaim Christ's redeeming sacrifice, resurrection and eternal reign. The program also showcases Tomaso Albinoni's elegant **Concerto for Two Oboes and Strings**, a Baroque masterpiece whose lyrical beauty provides moments of quiet reflection amid the grandeur of Handel's immortal score. Together, these timeless works create a moving evening of worship that leads us from the cross toward the hope and victory of Easter. We will have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

Spring Choral Vespers

Sunday, May 9, 2027 | 5:00 p.m.

FEATURED MUSIC | Johann Sebastian Bach, John Rutter, Dan Forrest, Herbert Howells and Simon Johnson

FEATURED ARTISTS | Ars Vesperis Chamber Choir, Christ Church Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble; Monte Maxwell, Chapel Organist, Director of Chapel Music, USNA

Celebrate the joyful conclusion of our Choral Vespers season with an inspiring evening of worship that brings together the full musical forces of Christ Church. Our final **Spring Choral Vespers** unites the Ars Vesperis and Christ Church Chamber Choir in a liturgical service where Scripture, prayer and congregational song are woven together with some of the Church's most treasured choral music. Throughout the service, the congregation is invited to participate through robust hymn singing, joining voices with choir and musicians in a shared expression of praise.

The centerpiece of this year's service is J.S. Bach's jubilant *Magnificat*, a radiant setting of Mary's song of praise that overflows with joy and thanksgiving. The program also features majestic English cathedral music for choir, brass and organ by Simon Johnson, Herbert Howells and John Rutter, alongside the inspiring music of acclaimed American composer Dan Forrest. Rich in musical beauty and liturgical depth, Spring Choral Vespers offers a fitting finale to the season—a celebration of worship that lifts hearts, inspires faith and sends us forth in praise.



Meet the

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Christ Church Chancel Choir

For close to six decades, the Chancel Choir of Christ Church has been a cornerstone of worship and musical excellence both in the western suburbs of Chicago and beyond. Throughout its remarkable history, the Chancel Choir has been recognized for its performances of sacred masterworks, by composers such as Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Fauré, Rutter and many others. The ensemble has collaborated with professional orchestras and distinguished soloists, bringing these timeless works to life for both worship and concert audiences.

The choir's ministry reached beyond the sanctuary and for years was featured on Sunday worship broadcasts carried on WGN, allowing many throughout the Chicago area to experience Christ Church's vibrant worship life and hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed. The ensemble has also produced multiple recordings.

While honoring its rich traditions, the Chancel Choir has continually embraced new artistic endeavors through commissioned works, seasonal concerts and innovative worship services.

Today, the choir remains central to the Classic Worship ministry of Christ Church, leading congregational song alongside organ, orchestra and instrumental ensembles with the same spirit of excellence that has defined it for generations.

Ars Vesperis

Ars Vesperis, Latin for “The Art of the Evening,” is Christ Church’s auditioned chamber choir, dedicated to presenting the beauty and depth of the Church’s rich musical heritage through Choral Vespers, sacred concerts and liturgical worship. Drawing upon professional musicians, accomplished volunteer singers, and distinguished soloists, *Ars Vesperis* offers compelling performances of sacred choral works spanning the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern eras, proclaiming the Gospel through the timeless language of sacred music.

Founded in the fall of 2025, *Ars Vesperis* has quickly established itself as a vibrant musical ministry, presenting acclaimed performances of Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem and Parts II and III of George Frideric Handel’s *Messiah*. Rooted in the historic tradition of evening prayer, the ensemble seeks to create worship experiences that unite Scripture, prayer and choral artistry, inviting listeners into moments of reflection, beauty and hope.

As it continues to grow, *Ars Vesperis* is committed to preserving the treasures of the sacred choral tradition while exploring new artistic opportunities that enrich the worship life of Christ Church and the wider community.

The Army-Navy Game

If you are familiar with collegiate athletics, you know that since the 1890’s there are few rivalries as iconic as **Army vs. Navy**. For more than a century, the United States Military Academy at West Point and the United States Naval Academy have met in one of America’s most celebrated traditions, combining fierce competition with deep mutual respect. This season, that friendly rivalry comes to the organ bench as we welcome **Craig Williams** of West Point Military Academy and **Monte Maxwell** of the U.S. Naval Academy. Of course, our own Jamal Sarikoki has a bent towards Army as he served as an intern and assistant to Craig Williams for five years at West Point. While they aren’t battling it out for a final score, audiences can look forward to a remarkable display of virtuosity and artistry as two of the most celebrated and recognized organists of this era bring our 120-rank Austin-Allen organ to life.

Craig Williams



Craig S. Williams is the Organist and Choirmaster of Cadet Chapel, United States Military Academy West Point, where he plays the world's largest church all-pipe organ and directs the Cadet Chapel Choir. He is only the fourth organist to hold that position since the present Cadet Chapel building was erected in 1910.

At West Point, Mr. Williams oversees the music programs of five chapels, in which are given well over 400 services, concerts and various other functions annually. Mr. Williams personally performs at approximately 200 of these chapel functions, including worship services, weddings, funerals, class reunion memorial services, recitals, choir concerts and VIP organ demonstrations performing for royalty, cabinet members, generals, members of Congress, and many other international government and military figures. He has been featured on television numerous times including the Fox News' "West Point Holiday Special," which received more than 2 million views, and he appears as organist on the West Point Glee Club's DVD *Stand Ye Steady*. The performance of *Jerusalem* (arranged from C.H.H. Parry) is prominently featured on YouTube, with more than 2.5 million views.

Mr. Williams is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists and served as dean of the Central Hudson Valley chapter from 2012 to 2016. In the early 1990s, he served as dean of the Brooklyn Chapter. Also, he has been a featured performer for conventions held by the American Guild of Organists and the American Institute of Organbuilders.

Mr. Williams earned a master's in organ performance from Westminster Choir College where he was the first Currin Scholar in Organ Performance, a full graduate-level scholarship, studying with Eugene Roan. His piano performance degrees include a master's from the Juilliard School, studying with Martin Canin, where he performed with the Juilliard Symphony at Lincoln Center; and a bachelor's from the University of Southern California, studying with Daniel Pollack. In addition to his duties at West Point, he was an adjunct professor of organ at Nyack College (now Alliance University) and served as the organ faculty at Westminster Conservatory (at Westminster Choir College). He is devoted to his wife, Lee, and the proud father of Abigail and Stewart.

Monte Maxwell

Monte Maxwell, Chapel Organist, Director of Chapel Music and the Midshipmen Symphony Orchestra, began his service at the United States Naval Academy in 1997.

Mr. Maxwell, a native of San Angelo, Texas, earned his Bachelor of Music Degree from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, studying with Emmet G. Smith. He was then invited to study at the Curtis Institute of Music with John Weaver where he received an Artist Diploma, Curtis' highest degree. Mr. Maxwell earned his Master of Music Degree from the Juilliard School of Music in New York City,

also studying with John Weaver. While studying in Philadelphia, Mr. Maxwell was an Associate Organist at the John Wanamaker Store, playing the famed six-manual organ, the largest playing organ in the world.

At the Naval Academy, Mr. Maxwell serves as the principal organist for the Protestant and Catholic services as well as playing for weddings, memorial services, funerals and performances throughout the year. He commands the five-manual, 268-rank organ in the main chapel, which has recently undergone substantial enhancement under his direction and design. His additional responsibilities include working with the Protestant and Catholic Chapel Choirs, the Protestant Chapel Chorale, the Men's and Women's Glee Clubs and conducting the annual winter musical theater productions as well as the Naval Academy Midshipmen Symphony Orchestra. He oversees the annual Chapel Organ Concert series which features guest performing artists from across the United States. He has also served as the Chairman of the Naval Academy Music Department and Director of Instrumental Activities.



Classic Worship Staff and Featured Artists

Dr. Betty-Ann Lynerd | Associate Conductor

Betty-Ann Lynerd has led choirs in the United States and abroad, conducting university and community choruses, and with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony and at the United States Naval Academy. In the American Choral Directors Association, she served as its president for Washington, D.C./ Maryland, and worked as a panelist for the Maryland State Arts Council. She has been the guest conductor for the All Asia High School Honor Choir in Hong Kong, and has conducted several choirs for Keith and Kristyn Getty, including their concert at Chicago's Orchestra Hall. As a scholar she has taught at Nyack College, the Kings College, George Mason University, Moody Bible Institute and at Saints Bible Institute in Venice, Italy. At Moody she trained students for ministry in music, worship and leadership. She holds two degrees in music, a doctorate in religious studies and a certificate in theology from the University of Liverpool, UK. Her Master's thesis researched Black Gospel music and her doctoral dissertation was on the Trinitarian theology of J.S. Bach. Her publications include co-authorship on articles about Billie Holiday, and about Richard Allen's development of the first Black hymnal in America. Dr. Lynerd mentors church musicians, leads workshops on church music and guest conducts around the country. Among her church music ministries she served at Parkside Church (Alistair Begg), Stonebriar Church (Chuck Swindoll), Calvary Baptist Church in NYC and at First Baptist Church of Oak Park. She recently served on the Advisory Board for *The Sing! Hymnal*, published in 2025 by Crossway.



Marianne Kim | Organist



Marianne Kim is an internationally recognized composer, concert pianist, organist, harpsichordist, educator and arranger based in the Chicago area. Her music has been widely published by leading sacred music publishers, with more than 450 compositions and arrangements appearing in over 40 collections.

Known for blending classical artistry with jazz, gospel and contemporary influences, she is an active performer and clinician throughout the United States and internationally.

Marianne serves as Organ Editor for Beckenhurst Press, is Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at Northern Illinois University, and teaches Keyboard Leadership at Wheaton College Conservatory of Music. She is also the principal organist at Christ Church Oak Brook.

As a performer, Marianne has appeared at conferences, festivals and concert series across the United States and abroad, inspiring audiences through creative programming and expressive musicianship. Her passion for hymnody, worship and keyboard artistry continues to shape both the church and concert communities through performance, teaching and composition.

For more information, recordings, publications and upcoming events, visit mariannekimmusic.com.

Matt Peterson | Pianist



Matt Peterson is a multi-award-winning composer and pianist. He has performed around the country as a soloist and in a variety of groups. His accolades include being the overall winner of the Ben Heppner Concerto Competition with Gershwin's *Concerto in F*, being an invited performer at the Monterey Jazz Festival, performing with the Disneyland All-American College Band, and working as staff pianist for the Joffrey Ballet in Chicago. He holds a master's degree in jazz studies from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in Classical Piano and Music Composition from Wheaton College.

Matt is also a composer of concert works as well as music for film and theatre. In 2023, Matt released his first full-length jazz album as a bandleader, "Better Worlds," recorded at Steve Albini's Electrical Audio, featuring 11 of his original compositions. Matt is also passionate about music education and runs a studio out of his home for 35 weekly piano students.

Dana Campbell, Soprano

Known for her warm, lyrical sound and attentive approach to musical interpretation, soprano Dana Campbell brings both sensitivity and sincerity to each performance. With appearances in recital, concert and on the operatic stage, and repertoire spanning art song, opera, sacred music and musical theatre, she has cultivated a thoughtful and quietly accomplished presence as a vocal artist.

Ms. Campbell's career has led her to the stages of Carnegie Hall, Toronto's Glenn Gould Studio, Ravinia Festival and Lyric Opera of Chicago. As a recitalist and company member of Chicago Fringe Opera, she continues to find joy in sharing music with audiences in intimate and welcoming settings.

Committed to continued musical growth, Ms. Campbell approaches each performance as an opportunity to deepen her understanding of the repertoire and to create a meaningful connection with the listeners. She is grateful for the opportunity to share her love of music with audiences and fellow musicians alike.



Stephanie Chiodras, Soprano

Stephanie Chiodras is looking forward to another year of worshipful music making in Classic Worship. In addition to singing with the Chancel and Chamber Choirs, Stephanie is a company member with the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago. Her credits include Josephine (*HMS Pinafore*), Casilda (*Gondoliers*), Papagena (*The Magic Flute*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Edith (*The Pirates of Penzance*), and Beggar Woman (*Sweeney Todd*) with Kokandy Productions. Stephanie has done extensive oratorio work as the soprano soloists for Mendelssohn's *Psalm 42*, *Elijah*, and Handel's *Messiah*.



Susan Van Kley, Soprano

Susan Van Kley is a classically trained soprano whose distinguished career has encompassed opera, concert and sacred music throughout the US and abroad. Equally at home on the operatic stage, the concert hall and the sanctuary, she is known for her expressive artistry and ability to communicate the emotional depth of sacred and classical music.

Her career has taken her to many of the nation's premier venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She has also appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Washington Opera and Santa Fe Opera, and has been featured as a soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and the *Requiems* of Mozart and Verdi.

Whether on the concert stage or in the sanctuary, Susan believes music has the unique ability to inspire the heart, proclaim God's truth and deepen the faith of those who listen.



Sasha Tomasevich, Tenor



Sasha Tomasevich, originally from Oakdale, Minnesota, is a lyric tenor. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Luther College in 2024 and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts (CCPA) in 2026.

Recent operatic credits include Tamino in *The Magic Flute* with Stafford Opera Troupe, Pluto in *Orpheus in the Underworld* with Great Lakes Operetta, Peter Quint in *The Turn of the Screw* and roles in *Dialogues des Carmélites* with CCPA, Gérald in *Lakmé* with Chicago Summer Opera, and Ferrando and Laurie with the Vienna Summer Music Festival.

Throughout the 2026–27 season, Sasha will tour Midwestern elementary schools as the Prince in Opera for the Young's *Rusalka*, *A Mermaid's Tale*, always returning in time to sing at church on Sunday! This November, Sasha will also cover Alexis in *The Sorcerer* with the Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago. Outside of music, Sasha enjoys crocheting, geocaching, reading, watching reality television and playing board games with family and friends.

Denell Covington, Bass



Denell was born on the South Side of Chicago. He became interested in music while attending Hyde Park Career Academy, under the tutelage of Ms. Celestine Watts. Over the last 20 years Denell has performed with various professional groups and opera production companies. Denell's favorite opera to perform in is *Troubled Island* composed by William Grant Still.