

# *Cathedral Concerts*

— AT ST. PAUL'S —

## Dr. Emery Stephens, Baritone

February 22, 2026, 4 pm



*with*

**Thomas Bandy, piano**

**Trevor Kazarian, cello**

*2025-2026 Concert Series*

## THE PROGRAM

Thanks Be to Thee (Dank Sei, Dir Herr)	Siegfried Ochs (1858-1929) (previously attributed to George F. Handel)
The Lord Is My Light (1897)	Frances Allitsen (1848-1912)
Honor, Honor (1941)	Hall Johnson (1888-1970)
This Little Light of Mine (1992)	Jacqueline Hairston (b. 1932)
Didn't it Rain (1967)	Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)
From <i>Spiritual Suite</i> (1967)	Margaret Bonds
III. Troubled Water	
	<i>Thomas Bandy, piano</i>
"To What You Said" (Whitman) from <i>Songfest</i> (1977)	Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
	<i>Emery Stephens, baritone</i>
	<i>Thomas Bandy, piano</i>
	<i>Trevor Kazarian, cello</i>

### —Intermission—

From <i>Piano Sketches: From the Southland</i> (1910)	Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)
III. In De Col' Moonlight	
VI. A New Hidin'-Place	
	<i>Thomas Bandy, piano</i>
	<i>Emery Stephens, reader</i>

### Harlem Renaissance Poets in Song

Prayer from <i>Nightsongs</i> (Hughes) (1961)	H. Leslie Adams (1932-2024)
Lovely Dark and Lonely One (Hughes) (1935)	Harry T. Burleigh
The Barrier (McKay) (1977)	Charles Brown (1940-2021)
Hold Fast to Dreams (Hughes) (2022)	Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)
Song to the Dark Virgin (Hughes) (1941)	Florence Price (1887-1953)

### Recitation: "Weary Blues"

The Voice of Langston Hughes  
© 1995 Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

Weary Blues (Hughes) (1972)	Dorothy Rudd Moore (1940-2022)
	<i>Emery Stephens, baritone</i>
	<i>Thomas Bandy, piano</i>
	<i>Trevor Kazarian, cello</i>

Lost in the Stars from <i>Lost in the Stars</i> (1946)	Kurt Weill (1900-1950)
I Got Plenty o' Nuttin' from <i>Porgy and Bess</i> (1935)	George Gershwin (1898-1937)

## The Composers

### **Siegfried Ochs** (1858-1929)

Born in Frankfurt, **Siegfried Ochs** was a German conductor and composer renowned for reinterpreting songs in the styles of Bach and Handel. He founded the Berlin Philharmonic Choir in 1882 and promoted the works of Bruckner and Hugo Wolf. He later became a professor at the Berlin Hochschule für Musik. His piano variations on the German children's song "S'kommt ein Vogel geflogen" (A bird comes flying) are popular and reflect the styles of classical masters.

### **Frances Allitsen** (1848-1912)

**(Mary) Frances Allitsen** was an English composer, though historians believe her real name was Mary Bumpus. She became well known in the United States for her popular setting of Psalm 27, "The Lord is My Light." She was a mezzo-soprano singer and wrote over 50 songs. She was also well known as a singing teacher and voice coach. Unfortunately, her family did not support her musical interests, and she was not encouraged to pursue formal music education.

### **Hall Johnson** (1888-1970)

**Hall Johnson (born Francis Hall Johnson)** was an influential composer, choir founder, and violinist known for his contributions to African-American music. Fluent in French and German, he coached many famous singers, including contralto Marian Anderson. Johnson was a primary cultural bearer of the Black spiritual, composing solo pieces and arrangements. He founded his own professional choral ensemble, The Hall Johnson Choir, which produced recordings and concerts for over three decades in the United States and abroad, and appeared in movies, including *Cabin in the Sky* (1946), which featured Ethel Waters, Lena Horne, and Louis Armstrong.

### **Jacqueline Hairston** (b. 1932)

A native of Charlotte, North Carolina, **Jacqueline Hairston** is an African American composer-arranger, pianist, and vocal coach. Her famed cousin, Dr. Jester Hairston, inspired her to write spiritual arrangements for solo voice and choir. Her works have been performed by symphony orchestras and by internationally renowned sopranos Kathleen Battle and Grace Bumbry, mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves, countertenor Darryl Taylor, soprano Louise Toppin, and baritone Robert Sims.

### **Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)**

As a composer, pianist, and teacher, **Margaret Bonds** was part of a prominent creative family in Chicago that hosted major artists of the time in their home. She studied piano at the Juilliard School and sought to develop her brand of Black idiomatic compositions into larger musical forms. Bonds also composed art songs, choral works, orchestral works, piano pieces, and popular songs. Many of her compositions were performed by leading artists such as Todd Duncan, Betty Allen, McHenry Boatwright, William Warfield, Martina Arroyo, and Leontyne Price. As a concert pianist, she performed in Canada and the United States, including appearances with the Chicago Symphony and the New York City Symphony Orchestra, among others. She also founded the Margaret Bonds Chamber Society, which presented many concerts featuring Black musicians and works by Black composers.

### **Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)**

Celebrated American pianist and conductor-composer **Leonard Bernstein** was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He led the New York Philharmonic and conducted the Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, and London Philharmonic, among others, and cultivated a significant working relationship with the Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer resident program at Tanglewood. His compositions were celebrated for reimagining the American classical landscape and bridging concert music and musical theater, including symphonic and orchestral works, art songs, song cycles such as *Songfest*, and staged works such as *Candide*, *Mass*, *On the Town*, and the iconic *West Side Story*.

### **Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)**

African American pianist, composer, baritone, and meticulous editor, **Harry T. Burleigh**, was born in Erie, Pennsylvania. He composed over 200 American art songs and concert arrangements of spirituals for voice and piano. He was a charter member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). Burleigh attended the National Conservatory of Music, where composer and then conservatory director Antonín Dvořák encouraged him to preserve the legacy of African American spirituals and plantation songs in his own compositions. He also wrote choral arrangements of spirituals and instrumental works, such as *Six Plantation Melodies* for piano and violin, *From the Southland* for piano, and *Southland Sketches* for violin and piano. As a singer, he wrote beautifully and expressively for the voice, especially setting prominent literary poets.

### **H. Leslie Adams (1932-2024)**

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, African American composer, pianist, and conductor **H. Leslie Adams** had a varied career and became a leading figure among composers. He set music to the works of leading American poets, including Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and James Weldon Johnson. He also wrote lyrics for his own songs, “Christmas Lullaby” and “Walking After Midnight,” and published an opera, *Blake*; Etudes for piano; chamber and instrumental works; song cycles; and art songs. Music historians have noted that his music speaks to the heart while remaining complex and straightforward.

### **Charles Samuel Brown (1940-2021)**

African American composer, bass-baritone, and educator **Charles Samuel Brown** studied music at Morehouse College and the University of Michigan. He composed music for solo voice and choir and arranged spirituals for Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman’s historic Carnegie Hall concert. He sang in the chorus for the inaugural performances of *Porgy and Bess* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He served as a backup singer for Quincy Jones, among others.

### **Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)**

American composer, singer, and university professor **Rosephanye Powell** is regarded as one of the leading African American women composers today. Her works include solo and choral pieces, and her commissions have included works for prestigious ensembles such as the St. Olaf Choir and the Grammy Award-winning Chanticleer. She has premiered works at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. She is a member of many national professional organizations and a noted clinician at choral festivals around the world.

### **Florence Price (1887-1953)**

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, **Florence Price** was a pioneering Black composer of international stature. Her mother, also named Florence, was a talented soprano and concert pianist. Price won the Wanamaker Foundation Award for her Symphony in E minor, which premiered with the Chicago Symphony at the World’s Columbian Exposition (the Chicago World’s Fair) in 1933. Price composed orchestral, chamber, and piano works, and her art songs and choral works encompass a wide range of descriptive poetry and literary significance. Her compositions often reflect the musical expressions and idioms of Black America, as well as the traditional structures of European classical music.

### **Dorothy Rudd Moore (1940-2022)**

**Dorothy Rudd Moore** composed chamber pieces, song cycles, orchestral works, and an opera. She was born in New Castle, Delaware, and earned music degrees at Howard University. She further studied with composer Nadia Boulanger at the Conservatoire de Musique in Fontainebleau, France. She was also a soprano, and her compositions have earned many accolades at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and abroad. Her works have been commissioned by the National Symphony and the Buffalo Philharmonic, and in 1968, she co-founded the Society of Black Composers in New York City.

### **Kurt Weill (1900-1950)**

German-born American composer **Kurt Weill** is best known for his imaginative collaborations with German playwright Bert Brecht. One of his most influential works, *The Threepenny Opera*, features the ballad “Mack the Knife.” He also wrote concert works on Jewish life, cantatas, chamber music, lieder, art songs, and film music. He fled Nazi Germany in 1933 and arrived in New York, where he contributed to the musical theater industry through his productions of *Lady in the Dark*, *Street Scene*, *Lost in the Stars*, and *Down in the Valley*, among others.

### **George Gershwin (1898-1937)**

American composer and pianist **George Gershwin**, born into a Russian Jewish immigrant family, is known for his innovative fusion of classical composition and popular genres. He was a gifted songwriter for the theater, worked on New York City’s Tin Pan Alley, and composed the famous piano concerto *Rhapsody in Blue*. He collaborated with his brother, Ira, on several works, including the jazz opera *Blue Monday* and the American operatic masterpiece *Porgy and Bess*.



## **The Artists**

### **Dr. Emery Stephens**

The Boston Phoenix praised baritone Emery Stephens for singing "with ringing suavity and articulate intelligence." His performances include collaborations with the Boston Art Song Society, Bridge Chamber Music Festival, Handel & Haydn Society, Abridged Opera of Ontario, Wilmington Symphony, Arbor Opera Theater, Michigan Philharmonic, Ann Arbor Symphony, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera New England, and the Detroit Jazz Festival.

Notably, he participated in a revival of Dave Brubeck's *The Gates of Justice*, sponsored by the Detroit Jazz Festival, alongside jazz pianist Jason Moran and his trio, The Bandwagon.

His research on Black composers' works and their place in the classical canon for voice teachers and students appears in the *Journal of Singing*, *Music Teachers National Association Journal*, the *Scholarship of Multicultural Teaching and Learning*, and as a contributing author of *So You Want to Sing Spirituals* by Randye Jones, and a book *Singing Down the Barriers: A Guide to Centering African American Song for Concert Performers* with co-author Caroline Helton. He also served as a lecturer, vocal coach, and recital curator for the MN Duo Program in 2025.

Dr. Stephens grew up in Boston, holds a B.A. from Gordon College, an M.M. from Boston University, and a D.M.A. from the University of Michigan. He studied vocal techniques with Lisa Popeil and taught at universities in North Carolina, Michigan, and Arkansas. He is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the College Music Society.



**Thomas Bandy** teaches collaborative piano, English, Italian, and German lyric diction for voice majors, and seminars at the Conservatory in Czech and Russian lyric diction and vocal repertoire. He also teaches classes in Lieder and *mélodie*. Bandy has also overseen the musical preparation of Oberlin's mainstage opera productions. From 2008 until 2011, he was an assistant professor of vocal coaching at the University of Oklahoma, where he taught lyric diction and seminars on French *mélodie*. Bandy has also been on the faculty of the summer Taos Opera Institute in New Mexico as Czech, Russian, and Italian coach, and regularly gives

masterclasses for singers and pianists at Notre Dame.

During the 2007–2008 school year, he was an assistant professor of collaborative piano at the Oberlin Conservatory, where he directed the vocal and instrumental accompanying programs. During the summer of 2008, he was pianist and coach at the Richard Miller Vocal Arts Symposium at Oberlin. Bandy studied collaborative piano with Martin Katz at the University of Michigan, and has played in the voice studios of Shirley Verrett and George Shirley, among many others.

**Trevor Kazarian** was born in Chicago and raised in Oak Park, Illinois. He comes from a family of musicians and began playing cello at age six. Trevor's passion for classical music became apparent while attending the Interlochen Summer Arts Academy. That experience was the start of a goal and determination to become a professional cellist.



Trevor completed his bachelor's degree at DePaul University School of Music. He studied under Stephen Balderston and occasionally had lessons with Brant Taylor and Richard Hirschl, of the Chicago Symphony. During his undergraduate studies, Trevor was Runner-up for the school's annual concerto competition, resulting in the opportunity to record the Elgar cello concerto with the DePaul Symphony Orchestra, under Maestro Cliff Colnot. He was also chosen among his studio to perform for Lynn Harell in the Guest Artist Master Class.

Trevor's Graduate studies were completed at the Cleveland Institute of Music where he was a student of the former Principal Cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra, Stephen Geber. He also studied with Mark Kosower, the Principal Cellist of the Cleveland after he graduated from CIM. While a student at CIM, Trevor performed in the "Commodore Quartet" and they were selected to be a part of the INTensive String Quartet Seminar Program. The seminar was directed by the Cavani String Quartet and Cleveland Quartet member Peter Salaff. In 2012, Trevor was selected to be the Assistant Principal Cellist of the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckinridge, Colorado, At NRO, he was a featured soloist for a performance of Dvorak's Rondo in G minor, Op. 94.

Growing up in a diverse city introduced Trevor to various styles and genres of music and this influenced him to start composing. Today, Trevor is the Co-Founder/Cellist of the group IN2ACTIVE, with flutist, Kimberly Zaleski. IN2ACTIVE was chosen to be on the Artist Roster for Center for Art-Inspired Learning Agency, (CAL). As artists for CAL, they perform weekly and give workshops to students across Ohio.

Outside of CAL, IN2ACTIVE was invited to be a Guest Artist for Penn State University's Annual Flute Day in the fall of 2016, giving a performance and Master Class. Shortly Thereafter, IN2ACTIVE had their first interdisciplinary arts collaboration with Cleveland's renowned dance company, Dancing Wheels (Jan. 2017). The program was entitled, "Bloom" and consisted of dance choreographies set to original and live music of IN2ACTIVE. That same year, IN2ACTIVE performed on air for Cleveland's Classical Radio station, WCLV 104.9RM for their First Friday's Radio feature. A fun fact- when IN2ACTIVE first formed, they were audition finalists for the television show, "America's Got Talent."

Upcoming Cathedral Concerts:

**Sunday, March 15, 2026, 4:00 pm**



**Dr. Abigail Haake, Organ**



**Sunday, May 3, 2026, 2:00 pm**



**The Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus**

*2025-2026 Concert Series*

Thank you to the donors who are helping to make this season possible:

**Conductor's Circle**

Carol & Dwight Butler	Jennifer and Craig Maurer
John & Abigail Haake	Dennis G. Morgan
Chris & Judy Hall	Barb Palmer
Greg & Lynda Klein	Loren Veigel
Rev. Mark & Veronica Kreemer	The Ohio Arts Council
Bob & Patty Long	

**Beethoven Circle**

A Chorus for a Cause  
Jack & Marsha Fortune  
Mary Ann & Russ Poling

**Patron**

Monte & Jan Geuy	Barb & Jim Starrett
Heidi Hall	David Stoner
Niall Slater	Lynn & La Shell Williamson

Thank you also to all the anonymous donors who contribute to the free will offering.

Today's free will offering will go to The Cathedral Concert Series.



Today's concert is made possible in part by an investment of public funds from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

*2025-2026 Concert Series*

### Message from St. Paul's Director of Music:

Happy New Year, and welcome to our first concert 2026! Irish singer and songwriter Bono once said that "music can change the world because it can change people," and we are so glad you are here to connect with us through the gift of music.

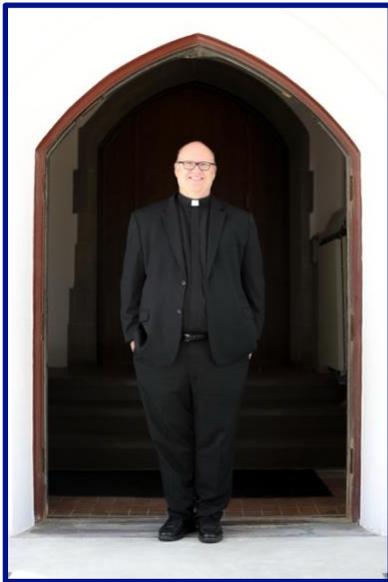
We are fortunate to be able to offer these concerts to the community at no cost and are exceedingly grateful for all our donors whose financial support helps to make our series possible.

It is a true honor for me to welcome Dr. Stephens to St. Paul's. Our friendship spans over 20 years, and I have followed, with great joy, his career progression from our time as students together at the University of Michigan to his current tenure at St. Olaf College. A beautiful, musical connection for which I am so grateful!

I hope you will come back next month on March 15 at 4:00 pm when I offer a program of organ music by Nicholas Bruhns, J.S. Bach, and contemporary composers Margaret Sandresky, Gerald Near, Sarah MacDonald, Mary Beth Bennett, and Carson Cooman.



May God give us faith to sing always,  
Dr. Abigail Haake



### Message from St. Paul's Senior Pastor:

Good afternoon, and welcome to St Paul's Lutheran Church and to our Cathedral Concert Series. It is a joy to share this time of music with you in this sacred space. We believe that music has a way of lifting hearts, opening minds, and drawing us closer to the beauty of God's presence.

On behalf of our congregation, I want to extend a special word of gratitude for your being here tonight. Whether you are a longtime friend of this series or joining us for the very first time, we are glad you are part of this gathering.

As you enjoy the gifts of today's performance, I also want to invite you to return and join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Each week, we gather in this same space to celebrate God's grace, to be renewed in faith, and to share in the fellowship of Christ. You will find a warm welcome here, and we would be delighted to see you again.

Thank you for coming, and may this afternoon's music be a blessing to you.

With warm regards and anticipation,  
Rev. Mark Kreemer

## Holy Week Services at St. Paul's

Palm Sunday, March 29, 10 am

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 pm

Good Friday, April 3, 7 pm

Easter Morning, April 5, 10 am



The Camarada Brass Quintet will perform at the Easter Service.



## Community Lenten Worship Services

Through the season of Lent, churches in the Massillon area will once again join for worship and Holy Communion, rotating locations and preachers. Our theme this year is "Objects of the Passion."

A light dinner of soup and salad will be served at 5:30pm. Then at 6:30pm, we will worship together.

February 25th  
March 4th  
March 11th  
March 18th  
March 25th

St. Paul's Lutheran  
First Baptist Church  
St. John's UCC  
Christ Lutheran  
First United Methodist

Rev. David Oliver  
Rev. Mark Kreemer  
Rev. George Baum  
Rev. Oliver Kling  
Rev. Tina Crog