


Presented by Music at the Red Door

VERNAL ILLUMINE A Spring Celebration



**Friday,
March 20, 2026
7:30pm**

- Free admission
- In-person and livestreamed
- Donations welcome
(suggested donation: \$20)

 The Richard P. Garmany Fund



MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR

St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave, West Hartford, CT 06119
RedDoorMusic.org

Please help the enjoyment of those around you by **silencing your electronic device** as soon as you are seated.

We welcome your donations in the basket at the center of the hall.
Please give generously to help us continue presenting needed musical refreshment.
A suggested donation of \$20 would be appreciated.

Not on our email reminder list?
Sign up today on one of the clipboards at the usher stations.

Or visit our website to donate or subscribe.



Music at the Red Door is supported in part by the **Richard P. Garmany Fund**, the **Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation**, the **George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation**, the **Ensworth Charitable Foundation**, the **Betty Knox Foundation**, the **J. Walton Bissell Foundation**, and the **Marjorie Jolidon Fund** of the Greater Hartford Chapter – American Guild of Organists.

Additional support comes from the **State of Connecticut**, Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.



*The George A. and Grace L.
Long Foundation*

Ensworth
Charitable Foundation



PROGRAM

Summer

From *Songs for a New World*

Opening: The New World

On the Deck of a Spanish Sailing Ship, 1492

I'm Not Afraid of Anything

"Song of Purple Summer" from *Spring Awakening*

Jason Robert Brown (b. 1970)

Steven Sater (b. 1954)

Duncan Sheik (b. 1969)

Autumn

From *Sunday in the Park with George*

Finishing the Hat

Move On

"For Good" from *Wicked*

September

Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)

Earth, Wind, and Fire

arr. Emily Drum and MaryAnne Muglia

The Equinox

Synescycle

I. The Genesis of Color

Carter Datz (b. 1993)

Winter

"Must the Winter Come So Soon?" from *Vanessa*

Morir non può il mio cuore

"No One Else" from *Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812*

"Hear My Song" from *Songs for a New World*

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Maddalena Casulana (1544-1590)

Dave Malloy (b. 1976)

Jason Robert Brown (b. 1970)

Spring

From *Songs for a New World*

Transition into The Flagmaker, 1775

The Flagmaker, 1775

"Im wunderschönen Monat Mai" from *Dichterliebe*, Op. 48

"Dôme épais, le jasmin" from *Lakmé*

Dirt

"Sunday" from *Sunday in the Park with George*

Jason Robert Brown (b. 1970)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Léo Delibes (1836-1891)

Erica Atkins-Campbell (b. 1973)

Trecina Atkins-Campbell (b. 1974)

Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Photos, except Joh Giacchi by Carla McElroy Photography

Jermaine Woodard, Jr.



International soloist, recording artist, and Virginian baritone **Jermaine Otis Woodard Jr. (he/him)** continues to elevate his profile. His versatile roster portfolio includes Voices of Concinnity (Navona Records), CONCORA, Voce Inc. (Signum Records), Cathedral of Saint Joseph's Schola Cantorum/Cathedral Quartet, Berkshire Opera Festival, and Composer's Choir. Jermaine is passionately devoted to freelance-soloist artistry and loves being a recurring background vocalist in Javier Colon's live band – inaugural winner of NBC's 'The Voice'.

In November 2022, Jermaine inaugurated Bailey, the lead role in *Magic: A Ballroom Musical* (regional premiere) by James Gadzik. In December 2025, Woodard made his stage debut as Singer/Actor with Playhouse on Park West Hartford in a non-equity regional production of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. Later this season, Mr. Woodard enthusiastically sets his sights on a May 2026 soloist debut with the Farmington Valley Chorale. Soon after, he excitedly prepares for a June 2026 Central Park NYC and Public Radio Broadcast debut with CONCORA as a featured soloist, collaborating with the renowned Simone Dinnerstein on Bach recitativo.

Mr. Woodard actively serves as baritone section leader & soloist at Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Crescendo Inc, and the Hartford Chorale; offering scholarship to the board of governors for the Hartford Chorale and Consonare; and remains committed to cantorial leadership and ministry at Sacred Heart Parish of Bloomfield and Cathedral of Saint Joseph. Jermaine is so honored, thankful, and blessed to have each and every one of you as part of this musical celebration! We needed you here! ❤️

Follow • Facebook: Jermaine Woodard Jr. • Instagram: @jermaineowjr • Album Credits | (A) Featured Soloist: Voices of Concinnity | *Awaiting Golden Light* | "Breadth of Blossoms"; Hartford Chorale | *50th Anniversary Concert (Live)* | "Fare Ye Well"; Andrey Stolyarov | *A Sonic Tapestry* | "Home"

Christiana Montalbano



Mezzo-soprano **Christiana Montalbano (they/them)** continues to establish themselves as a leading vocal artist among the rising generation of professional musicians in the Greater Hartford area. Christiana's devotion to supreme musicianship, coupled with their breadth of experience in arts education and administration, makes them a valued collaborator and innovator.

A versatile and compelling singer across solo, chamber, and large ensemble settings, Christiana thrives performing choral, art song, and musical theatre repertoire. Notable performance highlights include appearances on Josh Groban's Bridges Tour, the *Game of Thrones* Live Concert Experience, and Andrea Bocelli's Valentine's and Holiday Tours. Operatic engagements include The Witch in *Hansel and Gretel* with Eastern Connecticut State University's Opera Workshop and participation in the *Opera Viva!* Young Artist's Opera Intensive in Verona, Italy. Most recently, Christiana joined Tantalus Chamber Choir for its premiere performance at the Albany Symphony Orchestra's American Music Festival in 2024, and held the role of Alto Soloist for Handel's *Messiah* at The Congregational Church in South Glastonbury in both 2024 and 2025.

Christiana maintains an active professional career as a freelance vocalist, section leader, and chorister with several acclaimed ensembles. They regularly sing with Voce, Inc. and the Adult Choir and Choir

School at St. John's Episcopal Church. Christiana also embraces musical leadership, serving as Alto Section Leader and Soloist with the Asylum Hill Congregational Church Sanctuary Choir and the Hartford Chorale. Off stage, Christiana is dedicated to sharing their passion for the artform by teaching voice and piano lessons to students diverse in age, identity, and experience level. In addition to founding their own private music studio, they are on the faculty of The Hartt School Community Division and serve as both instructor and studio administrator at Summit Music Center.

Christiana graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Connecticut State University in 2022, earning dual bachelor of arts degrees in music (vocal performance) and new media studies (performance media). Their excellence in musicianship, leadership, and scholarship distinguished them amongst their peers throughout their undergraduate years. Christiana's impactful culminating performance, "Storytelling in Music and Media", remains one of their proudest achievements and continues to ground their creative work and commitment to build and service community through inventive musical projects.

Gregory Flower



Bass-baritone **Gregory Flower (he/him)** has been praised for his "rich and powerful voice," (Cape Cod Times) captivating audiences across the region in performances spanning opera, operetta, musical theatre, oratorio, art song, and choral masterworks. He has become a go-to collaborator for many conductors, valued for his versatile technique, keen musicianship, and profound dedication to character and text.

Freelance solo oratorio highlights include Elijah in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Handel's *Messiah*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Haydn's *The Creation*, Jesus in Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and many works by J.S. Bach. Greg has been a featured soloist in symphonic masterworks with the Hartford Chorale, Farmington Valley Chorale, New Haven Chorale, New Haven Symphony, New England Symphony, Greater Middletown Chorale, Manchester Symphony and Chorus, Farmington Symphony, New Britten Symphony, Eastern Connecticut Symphony and Chorus, The Hartt School of Music, The University of Connecticut, Yale School of Music, and many more. He was a national finalist in the Collegiate Division of the Classical Singer Competition in 2014. Greg also regularly works as a chorister and soloist with leading professional ensembles, including Concora, Voce, Alchemy, Voices of Concinnity, Novi Cantori, and the Schola Cantorum at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Opera and operetta highlights include Aeneas in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and "Pa" Ferguson in the world premiere of Douglas Buchanan and Caitlyn Vincent's *Bessie and Ma* (both with UConn Opera), Cadmus in Handel's *Semele* (Simsbury Opera), Frank Marrant in Weill's *Street Scene* (Hartt Opera Theatre), Dr. Falke in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* (Hartt Opera Theatre), and Lord Mountararat in Gilbert & Sullivan's *Iolanthe* (College Light Opera Company). Musical-theatre credits feature Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* (College Light Opera Company), Mr. Maraczek in Bock & Harnick's *She Loves Me* (College Light Opera, UConn Opera), Jamie in Jason Robert Brown's *The Last 5 Years*, and Man 2 in Brown's *Songs for a New World* (Branch River Theatre).

Sierra McElroy



Sierra McElroy (she/they) is a versatile soprano based in Lebanon, Connecticut. A previous student at Eastern Connecticut State University, Sierra studied piano under Dr. David Ballena and voice under Dr. Emily Riggs. She performed in a variety of opera scenes and full productions during her studies, with operatic roles including Pernille in *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, and the Forest Spirit in *Hansel and Gretel*.

Sierra has been recognized in several competitions, notably earning third place in the Musical Theater category at the NATS Voice Competition. They also broadened their training through the *Opera Viva!* intensive in Verona, Italy, where they studied with several renowned professionals.

An active member of the Hartford musical community, Sierra has appeared as a guest performer with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and is well versed in classical, musical theater, and choral repertoire. Currently, Sierra performs as a soprano with the professional chamber choir Voce out of West Hartford, serves as the soprano section leader and choral scholar at St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, and is a soprano section leader for the Hartford Chorale. Outside of performing, Sierra teaches voice and piano at Summit Music Center in Manchester and Hale & Harmony Music Studio in South Windham.

Susan Carroll



Susan Katherine Carroll (she/her) is a versatile organist, music director, and collaborative pianist with extensive experience directing and accompanying professional musicians, theater groups, and choirs. She currently serves as assistant music director and Organist at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT. Susan holds degrees in organ performance from the Oberlin Conservatory and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Her performance experience includes solo organ recitals throughout Connecticut, Rhode Island, and the east coast, as well as collaborations with ensembles such as the Chorus of Westerly, the Providence Singers, the RPM Gospel Choir, and music programs at the University of Rhode Island and Kingswood Oxford School.

John Giacchi



John Giacchi is a drummer/percussionist, music educator, composer, and sound engineer based in the Hartford, CT area. He earned his bachelor's in music education from the University of Rhode Island and his master's in music composition from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

As a performer, he has done extensive gigging and recording across CT, RI, and MA with local rock and metal bands LBP, Octopus Triangle, and others. He's an in-demand pit performer with production credits that include *Godspell*, *Newsies*, *West Side Story*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and serves as the drummer for the Asylum Hill Congregational Church praise band. As a composer, his original works embrace musical fusions of jazz, rock, classical, and world music inspired by his diverse performance background and ethnomusicological studies. Additionally, he runs a home studio where he has produced several local albums, including his own, and can often be found behind the soundboard at live events. Currently, John teaches grade 6-12 band and music technology at the CREC Academy of Science and Innovation in New Britain, CT and offers private drum and percussion lessons at Music and Arts in Vernon, CT.



acknowledges with gratitude the following donors for the 2025-2026 season:

Benefactor: \$5000+	Alex & Patricia Vance	
Sponsor: \$2000-\$4999	Geoff & Karan Emerick Bette-Jane Hardersen Harold Rives III & Marki Ware	
Patron: \$1000-\$1999	Jenefer Carey Barall <i>in honor of Frank Barall</i> Kimberly & Christopher Byrd Christa Rakich & Janice Milroy <i>in honor of Nick Capozzoli</i>	William R. Peelle, Jr. Jeff & Pam Verney
Advocate: \$500-\$999	Anonymous <i>in memory of Hyon Choo Lee</i> Stephan & Francine Christiansen Mary Lynn Dell & David Vandermeulen Nancy Hemstreet Eaton <i>in memory of my teacher, Ruth Milliken</i>	Susan Fay & Craig Ahmer Ray & Julia Giolitto Jeff Kinney & Rebecca Bourret Betty N. Knorr Laura & John Roche Ralph & Lynne Valentine
Sustainer: \$250-\$499	Janet & Brad Babbitt Margie & Jenn Baker Jack & Eleanor Barnes Janet Faude Suzanne Gates Helen Hughlett <i>in memory of Don Hughlett</i> Bert & Mary Jo Keating	Daniel Kingman Donald J. Logie, Jr. Jim & JoAnne McConaughy Tom & Enid Oberholtzer Joseph L. Pace Nancy Skeele <i>in memory of Robert B. Skeele</i> Carol Sonne
Contributor: \$125-\$249	Edith P. Connolly Valerie DeQuattro Mark Proft <i>in memory of Virginia E. Proft</i>	Amy & Todd FitzGerald Wesley Winterbottom & Elizabeth Rocco <i>in honor of our grandchildren</i>
Friend: \$50-\$124	Anonymous <i>in memory of Damon Clemow</i> James R. Barry Rachel Boccio Carol S. Clapp Jane A. Harris Buffy Ineson	Virginia Kemp Lisa & Mike Mahoney <i>in memory of Tom Reichenbach</i> David H. Pond Lorna Wright Nancy Wright Linda Dunakin
Donor: \$1-\$49	Ruth Crespi Calvert Bowie Thomas	

Please join us for the final events of our 2025-2026 season!

April 17, 2026, 7:30pm

Echoes from East to West brings Persian and European musical traditions into conversation, allowing musical echoes from different worlds to resonate with one another in unexpected ways. Works by Henry Purcell, Claudio Monteverdi, Diego Ortiz, and John Dowland are reimagined with the serpent replacing the human voice, performed by West Hartford–born historical brass specialist Alexander Belser. The program brings together serpent, flute, harpsichord, and baroque cello, featuring award winning Iranian/Pakistani/American flautist Amir Farsi, Farmington-based harpsichordist Juan Mesa, and cellist-composer Dr. Jessica Korotkin.

May 1, 2026, 7:00pm

Choral Music for the Soul – Requiem for the Living by Dan Forrest

The St. John's semi-professional Adult Choir, youth Choir School, and professional chamber ensemble present a masterpiece by contemporary American composer Dan Forrest. *Requiem for the Living* is a cathartic journey through the gamut of human emotion, concluding with light, peace, and rest for both the departed and the living.

May 3, 2026, 12:30pm

Pipes Alive – Elijah Morris, organist

June 7, 2026, 12:30pm

Pipes Alive – Christa Rakich, organist

August 17-21, 2026

Kids Community Music Camp

Children starting 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades in September 2026 - Registration opens March 15

