A CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE:
Music for the Commemoration of All Souls



The Choir of the
Basilica *of the* National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception

Peter Latona, *conductor*

Crypt Church
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
November 2, 2026
7:00 P.M.

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On the Commemoration of All Souls, the Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception invites you to take a moment and enter into a musical meditation of remembrance, sacrifice, faith, and the hope of eternal life. Through the art of sacred music, we remember those who have gone before us: the departed faithful, the saints and martyrs of the Church, and all those whose courage and sacrifice have shaped our common life on earth and help guide us to everlasting life.

This concert of remembrance brings together several strands of our shared history and spiritual heritage. As the United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we recall those who fought and sacrificed for the liberty we cherish, giving thanks for those who gave their lives in service to our nation. We also mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of September 11, 2001, prayerfully remembering those who perished in the attacks, and those who gave their lives in service to others. We remember, too, the lives of the saints, whom the Church holds up as models of faith and holiness, whose example inspires us to respond to God's grace and embrace the universal call to holiness.

The program opens with John Taverner's ***Funeral Ikos***, a setting of an Orthodox Christian funeral text. Its striking juxtaposition of mourning and joy reflects the Christian conviction that death, though a source of profound sorrow, does not have the final word. The music invites us to contemplate the mystery of death in the light of Christ's Resurrection, setting the foundation for this "commemoration…with the song: Alleluia!"

An American set turns our attention to the spiritual traditions that have sustained generations through hardship, grief, and uncertainty. Aaron Copland's arrangement of ***Shall We Gather at the River*** evokes the hope of reunion beyond this life, while ***The Lord Is My Shepherd***, a setting Psalm 23 and an African American spiritual, offers assurance of God's presence and guidance. Moses Hogan's arrangement of ***Abide with Me*** gives renewed voice to the plea for divine companionship in times of trial, and Stephen Caracciolo's arrangement of ***The Wayfaring Stranger*** reflects the longing of the pilgrim soul for its heavenly home. Together, these works draw upon the rich musical inheritance of America, where faith has often found expression in songs of perseverance, deliverance, and the promise of rest.

Herbert Sumsion's ***They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships***, based on Psalm 107, stands as a dramatic testament to the power of God to save those caught amid the perils of the deep. The psalm recounts the terror of the storm and the helplessness of those whose human strength proves insufficient, culminating in thanksgiving for the Lord's deliverance. Its expansive musical gestures evoke both the might of the sea and the greater power of the God who brings calm out of turmoil. In the context of this concert, this work speaks to all who have faced danger, distress, and uncertainty, as well as to the enduring hope that divine mercy will sustain us through the storms of life.

My setting of ***Psalm 36*** speaks to the steadfastness of God's love and faithfulness in our lives. This stands in contrast to the tumultuousness evoked in the Sumsion and presents a style expressing a grounded solidity through repetitive music gestures and clear structure.

They Will Rise by Jonathan Dove is a powerful work commissioned by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey to commemorate the centenary of the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. The text, taken from Isaiah 40:31, promises that those who place their hope in the Lord "will rise…and fly up on wings like eagles."

The remembrance of the departed also leads us to the lives of the saints, whose holiness bears witness to the transforming power of God's grace. This year, the Basilica celebrated the beatification of Blessed Fulton J. Sheen, welcomed the relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes, and commemorated the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. Francis's life of humility, peace, and radical devotion to Christ continues to inspire the Church and the world. My ***Peace Prayer of Saint Francis***, composed for the apostolic visit of Pope Francis to the National Shrine, gives musical expression to the enduring Franciscan call to become instruments of peace: to bring love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury, and hope where there is despair.

Samuel Barber's ***The Virgin Martyrs*** holds a particularly meaningful place in this program. Sung in the Basilica's Crypt Church, the work is heard in the presence of the mosaics of the virgin martyrs honored in the side altars of this sacred space. This setting establishes a profound connection between music, sacred art, the spiritual life of the Basilica of the National Shrine, and the witness of those women who remained steadfast in faith even at the cost of their lives.

The concert concludes with David Bednall's ***Everyone Sang***, based on a poetic text by Siegfried Sassoon. Its eschatological vision directs our attention toward the ultimate destiny of all creation and the hope of fulfillment beyond the boundaries of earthly life.

At the heart of this concert is the conviction that remembrance is an act of love. Through music and prayer, we honor those who have gone before us and commend the faithful departed to God's mercy. As we mark the tenth anniversary of the Choir of the Basilica's annual All Souls Concert, we remember those who gave their lives in defense of liberty, the innocent victims of violence, and the family, friends, and countless faithful departed whose names remain in our hearts. We also honor the saints and martyrs whose witness continues to inspire us in our own journey of faith. Through music, their memory becomes prayer, and our sorrow is held within the promise of resurrection.

May this commemoration in song deepen our gratitude for those who have gone before us, strengthen our resolve to work for peace, and renew our hope in the communion of saints and the life of the world to come.

Peter Latona, D.M.A.
Director of Music
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

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Please hold applause until the end of the program.

Funeral Ikos

John Tavener
(1944–2013)

Why these bitter words of the dying, O brethren,
which they utter as they go hence?
I am parted from my brethren.
All my friends do I abandon and go hence.
But whither I go, that understand I not,
neither what shall become of me yonder;
only God who hath summoned me knoweth.
But make commemoration of me with the song: Alleluia!

But whither now go the souls?
How dwell they now together there?
This mystery have I desired to learn; but none can impart aright.
Do they call to mind their own people, as we do them?
Or have they forgotten all those who mourn them and make the song: Alleluia!

We go forth on the path eternal, and as condemned,
with downcast faces, present ourselves before the only God eternal.
Where then is comeliness?
Where then is wealth?
Where then is the glory of this world?
There shall none of these things aid us, but only to say oft the psalm: Alleluia!

If thou hast shown mercy unto man, O man,
that same mercy shall be shown thee there;
and if on an orphan thou hast shown compassion,
the same shall there deliver thee from want.
If in this life the naked thou hast clothed,
the same shall give thee shelter there, and sing the psalm: Alleluia!

Youth and the beauty of the body fade at the hour of death,
and the tongue then burneth fiercely, and the parched throat is inflamed.
The beauty of the eyes is quenched then, the comeliness of the face all altered,
the shapeliness of the neck destroyed;
and the other parts have become numb, nor often say: Alleluia!

With ecstasy are we inflamed if we but hear that there is light eternal yonder;
that there is Paradise, wherein every soul of Righteous Ones rejoiceth.

(The Order for the Burial of the Dead (Priests),
Service Book of the Holy Orthodox-Catholic Apostolic (Greco-Russian) Church,
tr. Isabel Florence Hapgood, 1850–1928)

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Shall We Gather by the River

Aaron Copland
(1900–1990)

Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angels feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever,
Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

(Robert Lowry, 1826–1899)

The Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Stephen Caracciolo
(b. 1962)

I am a poor wayfaring stranger
a-wand'ring through this world of woe,
but there's no sickness, toil or danger
in that bright land to which I go.

I'm goin' there to see my father,
I'm goin' there no more to roam,
I'm only goin' over Jordan,
I'm only goin' over home.

I'll soon be freed from ev'ry trial,
my soul shall rest upon that shore;
I'll drop the cross of self-denial,
and enter on my great reward.

I'm goin' there to see my brothers,
they've gone before me, one by one;
I'm only goin' over Jordan,
I'm only goin' over home.

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me,
I know my way is rough and steep;
yet beauteous fields lie just before me,
where God's redeemed their vigils keep.

I'm goin' there to see my mother,
she said she'd meet me when I come.
I'm only goin' over Jordan,
I'm only goin' over home.

I'm goin' there to see my Savior
I'll sing his praise forevermore!
I'm only goin' over Jordan,
I'm only goin' over home.

(American traditional)

The Lord is My Shepherd

African American Spiritual
arr. Paul Nicholson *(1963–2023)*

The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want.

He brings me rest in green, green pastures,
He leads me to the still, still waters,
He guides me along his own right way,
The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want.

My fear is gone for he is with me,
His rod and staff bring comfort sure;
His goodness and mercy shall follow me;
the Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want.

(Psalm 23)

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They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships

Herbert Sumsion
(1899–1995)

They that go down to the sea in ships;
And occupy their business in great waters;
These men see the works of the Lord:
and his wonders in the deep.

For at his word the stormy wind ariseth:
Which lifteth up the waves thereof.
They are carried up to the heav'n,
And down again to the deep:
Their soul melteth away because of the trouble.

They reel to and fro and stagger like a drunken man:
And are at their wits' end.
So when they cry unto the Lord in their trouble:
He deliv'reth them out of their distress.

For he maketh the storm to cease:
So that the waves thereof are still.
Then they are glad because they are at rest:
And so he bringeth them up
Unto the haven where they would be.

(Psalm 107:23–30)

Psalm 36: Your Steadfast Love, O Lord

Peter Latona
(b. 1968)

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast you save, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.

(Psalm 36:5–9)

They Will Rise

Jonathan Dove
(b. 1959)

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength;
They will rise, they will soar, they will fly up on wings like eagles;
They will run and not grow weary;
March on and not feel faint.

(Isaiah 40:31)

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Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Peter Latona
(b. 1968)

Lord, make of me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow thy love;
Where there is injury, thy pardon, Lord;
And where there's doubt, true faith in thee.

Where there is discord, let me bring accord;
Where there is falsehood, only thy truth;
Where there is despair, only thy hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, everlasting joy.

O Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console those in need;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love one another.

For it is in giving that we receive;
In surrendering that we behold;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to life eternal. Amen.

(Belle prière à faire pendant la Messe, Anonymous, La Clochette, 1912, tr. and adapt. Peter Latona)

Erika Grimm, oboe

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The Best of Rooms

Gerald Near
(b. 1942)

Christ, he requires still, wheresoe'er he comes
to feed, or lodge, to have the best of rooms.
Give him the choice, grant him the nobler part of all the house;
the best of all's the heart.

(Robert Herrick, 1591–1674)

The Virgin Martyrs

Samuel Barber
(1910–1981)

Therefore come they, the crowding maidens,
Gertrude, Agnes, Prisca, Cecily,
Lucy, Thekla, Juliana, Barbara,
Agatha, Petronel, and other maids
whose names I have read not and now record not,
But their souls and their faith were maimed not.

Worthy now of God's company.
Wandr'ing through the fresh fields go they,
Gath'ring flow'rs to make them a nosegay
Gath'ring roses red for the Passion,
Lilies and violets for love.

(Virginalis sancta frequentia, Sigebert of Gembloux, c. 1030–1112,
tr. Helen Jane Waddell, 1889–1965)

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Herr, lehre doch mich

Rudolf Mauersberger
(1889–1971)

Herr, lehre doch mich,
daß ein Ende mit mir haben muß,
und mein Leben ein Ziel hat,
und ich davon muß.
Denn ich bin ein Pilgrim
wie alle meine Väter.

Lord, let me know my end
and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.
For I am a pilgrim,
like all my forebears.

(Psalm 39:4, 12f)

Abide with Me

William Henry Monk *(1823–1889)*
arr. Moses Hogan *(1957–2003)*

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

O thou who changest not, abide with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.
Amen.

(Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847)

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Everyone Sang

David Bednall
(b. 1979)

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields; on – on – and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun:
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away ... O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the singing will never be done.

(Siegfried Sassoon, 1886–1967)

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The Choir of the Basilica is the resident choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Washington, D.C.). The choir is comprised of sixteen professional singers from the greater Washington metropolitan area and is dedicated to providing excellence in sacred choral music in the context of Liturgy throughout the Liturgical Year. The choir is engaged in almost one hundred performances each year, and prepares approximately three hundred works each season drawn from the wealth of the Roman Catholic sacred music tradition. In addition to performing choral literature from the vast treasury of sacred music, the choir champions newly composed works and has given numerous premieres including Henryk Górecki's *Pod Twoją Obronę* (North American premiere) and James MacMillan's *Tota pulchra es* (world premiere).

The choir maintains an active recording schedule and their performances have been broadcast throughout the world on the Eternal Word Television Network, NPR, WAOB Radio, Salt and Light Media, and the Catholic Channel on Sirius XM. The choir has been featured at numerous festivals and conferences including the International Festival of Sacred Music and Art in Rome, the National Conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the National Association of Catholic Church Musicians, the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, and the American Choral Directors Association.

The choir has performed for dignitaries and heads of states including during the apostolic visits of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis in 2008 and 2015 respectively.

Visit us at www.nationalshrine.org and www.facebook.com/nationalshrinemusic.

The Choir of the Basilica

Peter Latona, *conductor*
Adam Chlebek, *organist*

Soprano
Julie Bosworth
Amanda Densmoor
Crossley Hawn
Sara MacKimmie
Grace Srinivasan

Alto
Hannah Baslee
Janna Critz
Stacey Holliday
Charlotte Stewart

Tenor
David Evans
John Mullan
Dennys Moura
John Logan Wood

Bass
Shreyas Patel
Corbin Phillips
Thomas Rust
Carter Sligh
Ross Tamaccio

Peter Latona (b. 1968) is the Music Director for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the pre-eminent Marian shrine of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Recognized as a conductor, composer, organist, improviser and teacher, he is dedicated to providing the highest standard in sacred music within the context of the Roman Catholic Liturgy.

An award-winning organist, Dr. Latona has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and the Holy Land, has presented workshops on improvisation, and has released a recording, *An Organ Pilgrimage*, on the Raven label, featuring all four pipe organs at the Basilica. In 2012 he performed to an audience of one thousand having been invited as a featured artist for the *Festspiele Europaische Wochen* in Passau, Germany.

As the conductor of the Choir of the Basilica, he has released numerous recordings of sacred choral music and presented concerts in the United States and abroad, performing nationally for the American Guild of Organists, National Association of Catholic Church Musicians, Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedrals, and Church Music Association of America, and internationally as a featured conductor in the *Festival Internazionale di Musica e Arte Sacra*. Among his recently completed recording projects are *Tu es Petrus: A Papal Tribute in Music*, which commemorated the Papacy of Pope Benedict XVI and celebrated the Petrine ministry of Pope Francis, and *Te Deum: The Sacred Music of Peter Latona*, which was commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and features many of the works composed by Dr. Latona for the National Shrine.

Dr. Latona's compositions are published by Morningstar Music Publishers as well as CanticaNOVA Publications and G.I.A. His music has been featured in various media productions including Bishop Barron's well-known series, *Catholicism*. He recently won first prize in a composition competition sponsored by the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians for his *Priests of God/Servants of God* and *Go into All the World*. He has received commissions from the Knights of Columbus and the Dioceses of Wheeling-Charleston and Helena, as well as by the Archdioceses of Washington, New York and Philadelphia. His music was performed during the Apostolic Visit of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the United States in 2008 and in each city visited by Pope Francis during his 2015 Apostolic Visit to the United States. In recognition of this accomplishment, Dr. Latona was awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal by Pope Francis. Most recently, the National Association of Catholic Church Musicians recognized Dr. Latona as the 2026 Pastoral Musician of the Year for his dedication to providing the highest standard in sacred music within the context of the Roman Catholic liturgy.

Dr. Latona has also served on the composition faculty of the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music at The Catholic University of America. Dr. Latona's teachers include Gerre Hancock, McNeil Robinson, Thomas Murray, and Jean Langlais; he is a graduate of Bucknell University (B. Mus.), the Yale School of Music (M. Mus.), and the Manhattan School of Music (D.M.A.).

Adam Chlebek (b. 2000) serves as the Assistant Director of Music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A Polish American from Chicago, Illinois, he completed his Master of Music in Organ Performance at the Eastman School of Music in the studio of Nathan Laube. He earned second prize at the 2022 Taylor Organ Competition and was a finalist in the 2024 Elizabeth Stephens International Organ Competition. Adam has performed throughout the United States and Poland and has participated in masterclasses with organists Janette Fishell, William Porter, and Arvid Gast. In 2022, he served as the first Sacred Music Intern at the Basilica.

Adam is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he earned his Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance with Jonathan Moyer; there, he also focused on choral singing and conducting. He sang in the Oberlin Musical Union, under the direction of Gregory Ristow, and Collegium Musicum, under the direction of Steven Plank; and studied choral conducting with Jodi Kerchner and Ben Johns. Adam likewise participated as a jazz pianist in Oberlin's Performance and Improvisation Ensemble, performing with Jamey Haddad, Jay Ashby, and Becca Stevens, among others.

As a Catholic musician, Adam previously served as the Director of Music at Saint Thomas More Parish in Rochester, New York, and at Saint James Parish in Lakewood, Ohio, and sang in the acclaimed Christ Church Schola Cantorum under the direction of Stephen Kennedy.

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The Hamblet Endowment

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In Concert

Choral Music for the Christmas Season

Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Peter Latona, *conductor*

Saturday, December 19, 2026 ◆ 6:00 p.m.
Great Upper Church

Free and open to the public

Basilica *of the* National Shrine *of the* Immaculate Conception
Department of Music

Peter J. Latona, D.M.A.
Director of Music

Benjamin J. LaPrairie, M.M.
Associate Director of Music

Adam Chlebek, M.M.
Assistant Director of Music

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Administrative Assistant

Crossley Hawn, M.M.
Choir Manager

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BASILICA *of the* NATIONAL SHRINE *of the* IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
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