# CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

## 2026-2027

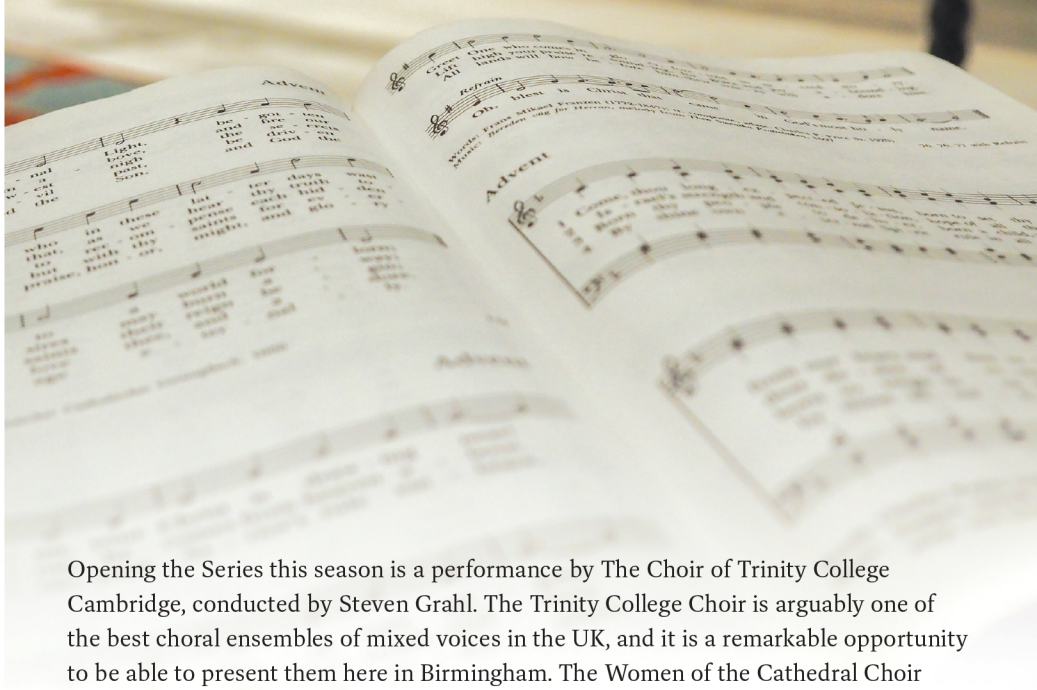
## CONCERTS AND SPECIAL SERVICES





# *Dear Members of the Advent Family, Concert Series Patrons, and Attendees,*

*We are grateful to God for the gift of music, the provision of this Cathedral Concert Series, and the opportunity to present internationally renowned artists in concerts of sacred music here in Birmingham, Alabama.*



Opening the Series this season is a performance by The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge, conducted by Steven Grahl. The Trinity College Choir is arguably one of the best choral ensembles of mixed voices in the UK, and it is a remarkable opportunity to be able to present them here in Birmingham. The Women of the Cathedral Choir will once again perform Benjamin Britten's timeless *A Ceremony of Carols* preceding our annual *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, after last year's enthusiastic reception, and we look forward to welcoming back harpist Diedre Augustin. This season's Holy Week Meditation features Passiontide music of Johann Sebastian Bach and Johannes Brahms. After Easter, our Cathedral Choir will present Johannes Brahms's iconic *Ein deutsches Requiem* in a version for chamber orchestra suitable to a choir of our size, featuring members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and guest soloists.

This year, 2026, marks the 25th anniversary of our beautiful Lammermuir continuo organ. We will commemorate this milestone with a special All Saints' Day Evensong, led by our Cathedral Choir and featuring our continuo organ, a string quartet, and music themed for the day.

I cordially invite you to these and all our events found in this brochure. Please join me in thanking our Concert Series Patrons, whose generosity makes the Cathedral Concert Series possible. I also want to thank you all for your interest and support, and for keeping a love for sacred music alive in the city of Birmingham.

***Solus Christus,***

**Frederick T. Teardo, D.M.A.**
Director of Music and Liturgy | Cathedral Church of the Advent

## CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES

# *The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge*

**Thursday, September 17, 2026**
**7:00 p.m.**

Steven Grahl, *conductor*

$35 Reserved Seating
$25 General Admission
$10 Student Tickets
*For ticket information, please call the Music Office at (205) 443-8553, or visit AdventBirmingham.org/Music.*

"Sitting front and center at a recent Trinity Choir of Cambridge concert…was, sonically speaking, a heavenly experience." *The New York Times*

The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge is a mixed-voice ensemble comprising thirty-six Choral Scholars and two Organ Scholars, and was voted the fifth best choir in the world in *Gramophone* magazine's "20 Greatest Choirs." The College's choral tradition dates back to the all-male choir of the fourteenth century. Directors of Music have included Charles Villiers Stanford, Alan Gray, Raymond Leppard, Richard Marlow and Stephen Layton (conductor of Polyphony, featured on last season's Cathedral Concert Series). Steven Grahl was appointed Director of Music in 2024. For more information, visit TrinityCollegeChoir.com.



## CHORAL EVENSONG

# *All Saints' Day*

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our Lammermuir Continuo Organ

**Sunday, November 1, 2026**
**5:30 p.m.**

The Cathedral Choir



Our continuo organ, built by Lammermuir Pipe Organs of Scotland and given in memory of John Hiram Urmey, Jr. and Lucille McPhillips Urmey, celebrates its 25th anniversary. The Cathedral Choir will sing a service of Choral Evensong on All Saints' Day to commemorate the day. The instrumentation for the service will exclusively feature the continuo organ and a string quartet accompanying our Cathedral Choir. The music for the service will be the very same music sung and played at the dedication service 25 years ago. Please join us for this very special service of Choral Evensong on All Saints' Day.

CATHEDRAL
CONCERT SERIES

## *A Ceremony of Carols*
Benjamin Britten

**Thursday, December 17, 2026**
**5:30 p.m.**

The Women of the Cathedral Choir
Diedre Henson Agustin, *harp*
Frederick Teardo, *conductor*

Free Admission, preceding
*A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*



Though not even a century old, Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, Op. 28 composed in 1942 has become a Christmas musical tradition for choirs all around the world. Scored for three-part treble choir and harp, it marries older texts—Middle English, Scots, and Latin—with music of a modern yet timeless character. The sopranos and altos of the Cathedral Choir, along with guest harpist Diedre Henson Agustin, will once again present this cherished work as an extended prelude to our annual *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Benjamin Britten's death.

CATHEDRAL
CONCERT SERIES

## *Holy Week Meditation*

**Sunday, March 21, 2027**
**3:00 p.m.**

***Sei gegrüsset, Jesu gütig***, BWV 768
Johann Sebastian Bach
***Eleven Chorale Preludes,*** Op. 122
Johannes Brahms

Frederick Teardo, *organ*



The Passiontide chorale *Sei gegrüsset, Jesu gütig* epitomizes God's love and forgiveness for us through the death of his only Son Jesus Christ on the Cross. Johann Sebastian Bach set this chorale in his longest and most complex partita. Johannes Brahms completed his *Eleven Chorale Preludes* for organ in 1896 near the end of his life. Based on nine separate Lutheran chorales (several of which are for Passiontide or contain death as a subtext), the work is a profound final musical statement by Brahms. This year's Palm Sunday is a fitting day to perform these two great works side by side, as March 21st is the historical Julian calendar observance of Bach's birthday, and Brahms's choral preludes pay tribute to Bach, who mastered the art of setting Luther's chorales.

CATHEDRAL
CONCERT SERIES

# *Ein deutsches Requiem*
## Johannes Brahms

**Friday, April 16, 2027**
**7:00 p.m.**

The Cathedral Choir
Members of the Alabama
Symphony Orchestra
Adelaide Boedecker, *soprano*
Calvin Griffin, *bass-baritone*
Frederick Teardo, *conductor*

Free Admission; Registration required
*Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Music to register*



Rather than setting the traditional Latin Requiem Mass, Johannes Brahms's *A German Requiem* is entirely scriptural, drawing its text from Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible. Brahms focuses on the reassurance of the departed's salvation through faith and the consolation of those who remain, offering a deeply human meditation on grief, comfort, and hope. Across seven movements comprising just over an hour of music, the work is widely considered one of the great masterpieces of choral and orchestral literature. April 2027 marks 130 years following the composer's death, making this post-Easter performance timely and an echo of the resurrection promise. Our Cathedral Choir is joined by members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and guest soloists in a chamber arrangement of the work.



*"The aim and final end*
*of all music*
*should be none other than*
*the glory of God*
*and the refreshment*
*of the soul."*

**Johann Sebastian Bach**



# MIDDAY MUSIC

***Please note change of day to Thursdays!***

Thursday, September 24 at 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 22 at 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 12 at 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 28 at 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 29 at 12:00 p.m.



# SPECIAL SERVICES

## 2026

Thursday, September 3, 2026
7:30 p.m.
***A Service of Compline***

Thursday, October 1, 2026
5:30 p.m.
***Choral Evensong for Michaelmas***

Sunday, November 1, 2026
5:30 p.m.
***Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day***
*Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Lammermuir Continuo Organ*

Sunday, December 6, 2026
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
***Advent Lessons and Carols***

Thursday, December 17, 2026
6:00 p.m.
***A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols***
*Preceded by Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols at 5:30 p.m.*

Thursday, December 24, 2026
5:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m.
***Christmas Eve Services***

## 2027

Thursday, January 14, 2027
5:30 p.m.
***A Service of Epiphany Light***

Wednesday, February 10, 2027
6:00 p.m.
***Ash Wednesday***

Thursday, March 4, 2027
5:30 p.m.
***Choral Evensong for Lent***

Thursday, March 25, 2027
6:00 p.m.
***Choral Eucharist for Maundy Thursday***

Friday, March 26, 2027
12:00 p.m.
***Good Friday***

Sunday, March 28, 2027
7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.
***Easter Day Services***

Thursday, April 8, 2027
5:30 p.m.
***Choral Evensong with the Advent Episcopal School Choral Ensemble and Members of the Cathedral Choir***

Thursday, May 6, 2027
6:00 p.m.
***Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day***



# THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

## MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley, *Dean and Rector*
Dr. Frederick T. Teardo, *Director of Music and Liturgy*
Dr. Charles M. Kennedy, *Associate Director of Music*
Ms. Betsy S. Pate, *Music and Worship Administrative Assistant*

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