



Bethany Lutheran Church, ELCA

We reflect Christ in message and actions!

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Summer Sundays at Bethany: An Afternoon on Stage | Sunday, July 9, 2023 at 3:00pm

“Giants in the Sky” FROM *Into the Woods* | Stephen Sondheim

“Later” FROM *A Little Night Music* | Stephen Sondheim

“She Cries” FROM *Songs for a New World* | Jason Robert Brown

Aaron Knodle, tenor | Ayesha Casie Chetty, piano

Into the Woods (1987) intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. “Giants in the Sky” features Jack describing his adventure climbing the beanstalk. *A Little Night Music* (1973) was inspired by the 1955 Ingmar Bergman film *Smiles of a Summer Night* and deals with the romantic lives of several couples. “Later” is sung by Henrik, a young seminary student, who expresses his frustration of being ignored. *Songs for a New World* (1995) is “...about one moment. It's about hitting the wall and having to make a choice, or take a stand, or turn around and go back.” (Jason Robert Brown) Accordingly, “She Cries” features a man who describes the power the woman he is in love with holds over him.

“Show me” FROM *My Fair Lady* | Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe

“Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man” FROM *Show Boat* | Oscar Hammerstein II & Jerome Kern

“Art Is Calling for Me” FROM *The Enchantress* | Victor Herbert & Harry B. Smith

Ayesha Casie Chetty, soprano | Aaron Knodle, piano

My Fair Lady (1956) is based on George Bernard Shaw's 1913 play *Pygmalion* and follows Eliza Doolittle who takes speech lessons so she may pass as a lady of society. “Show me” details Eliza telling Freddy Eynsford-Hill that she has heard enough words and that if he really loves her, he should show it. *Show Boat* (1927) deals with themes of racial prejudice and tragic, enduring love and is based on the Edna Ferber's 1926 novel of the same name. “Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man” is a warning from Julie to Magnolia that it is not that easy to stop loving someone despite their actions or character. *The Enchantress* (1911) is a 2-act comic opera that deals with a prince who is enchanted by a commoner, a beautiful actress. If he marries her he must forfeit his kingdom thus causing the serio-comic plotting on the part of spies, conspirators, and ambitious princesses. The production deals with inherited power and female ambition, and the song, “Art Is Calling for Me” features one of the princesses seeking to catch the eye of the prince by becoming an opera singer, a life she finds more appealing than being royal.

“Taylor, the Latte Boy” | Marcy Heisler & Zina Goldrich

“Say the Word” FROM *The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown* | Kait Kerrigan & Brian Lowdermilk

“Watch What Happens” FROM *Newsies The Musical* | Alan Menken & Jack Feldman

Kristine Hester, soprano | Aaron Knodle, piano

“Taylor, the Latte Boy” (2004) is a song based on the composers' experience with a Starbucks barista, and details the infatuation the narrator has for the coffee boy at a Starbucks. *The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown* (2014) deals with the titular character's processing of grief following the death of her best friend and learning how to take risks again. “Say the Word” is directed at Samantha's boyfriend, asking him to say he loves her and where life might lead if he does. *Newsies The Musical* (2011) is based on the 1992 film *Newsies*, which was inspired by the Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City. “Watch What Happens” features the character Katherine deciding to cover the strike, which she sees as an opportunity to be taken more seriously as a journalist.

“Love to Me” FROM *The Light in the Piazza* | Adam Guettel

“Johanna” FROM *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* | Stephen Sondheim

“Being Alive” FROM *Company* | Stephen Sondheim

Sean Watland, tenor | Ayesha Casie Chetty, piano

The Light in the Piazza (2003) is based on Elizabeth Spencer's 1960 novella of the same name. The story revolves around the experiences of the wealthy Margaret Johnson and her daughter Clara, who is developmentally disabled due to a childhood accident, as they summer in Florence, Italy and encounter love, hope, and regret. “Love to Me” features Fabrizio assuaging all

of Clara's fears after she tells him she cannot marry him because she does not want to cause him pain. **Sweeney Todd** (1979) is based on Christopher Bond's 1970 play *Sweeney Todd*, though the character, a barber who murders his customers, first appeared in a Victorian penny dreadful titled *the String of Pearls* (1846–1847). "Johanna" the name of Todd's daughter, details the character Anthony's pledge to return to her. **Company** (1970) was one of the first book musicals to deal with contemporary dating, marriage, and divorce. "Being Alive" shows the character Bobby's changing desire and urgency for loving intimacy, even with all its problems, and the wish to meet someone with whom to face the challenge of living.

"You'll Never Walk Alone" FROM *Carousel* | Richard Rogers & Oscar Hammerstein II

"Burn" FROM *Hamilton: An American Musical* | Lin-Manuel Miranda

"The Wizard and I" FROM *Wicked* | Stephen Schwartz

Nichole Nordschow, soprano | Aaron Knodle, piano

Carousel (1945) was adapted from Ferenc Molnár's 1909 play *Liliom*. The story revolves around carousel barker Billy Bigelow, who's romance with millworker Julie Jordan comes at the price of both their jobs. The character Nettie Fowler sings "You'll Never Walk Alone" to comfort and encourage Julie when Billy stabs himself with a knife whilst trying to run away after attempting a robbery and dies in her arms. **Hamilton** (2015) covers the life of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton and his involvement in the American Revolution and the political history of the early United States. "Burn" is sung by Eliza, Hamilton's spouse, as she burns the love letters Hamilton wrote to her after he publicly admits to an extramarital affair in an attempt to save his own professional legacy. **Wicked** (2003) is based on Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, in turn based on L. Frank Baum's 1900 novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. The story is told from the perspective of the witches of Oz. Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, sings "The Wizard and I" after being told that her powers might allow her to one day work with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

As you leave today, we are collecting a free will offering to benefit Kids in Need of McHenry County (KINMC), which works to identify and provide resources to help kids in need thrive during childhood.

Future Sundays | Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 3:00pm | String Serenades | Music for violin

Meet today's artists

Dr. Ayesha Casie Chetty is a social scientist whose primary research lies at the intersection of race, gender, and culture. She currently works as a researcher in federal contracting and is a consultant for Chorus America. Ayesha holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Cincinnati and is a classically trained pianist and singer holding an Associate and Licentiate in piano performance from Trinity College London.

Kristine Hester has been the director of choirs at Cary-Grove High School since 2005. She conducts all curricular and extra-curricular choirs, teaches dual-credit Music Theory and Music Appreciation, and serves as the vocal director and pianist for both the community-favorite Swing Choir and CG's award-winning annual musicals. Kristine earned a BM from Northwestern University, an MS in Education from Northern Illinois University, an MA in Educational Leadership from Aurora University, and is a National Board-Certified Educator. She and her husband, Devin, an English teacher at Cary-Grove, live in Fox River Grove with their three children.

Dr. Aaron Knodle is Director of Worship and Music at Bethany Lutheran Church where he plays the church's Clarence Agnes Carlson Memorial organ, and conducts the Bethany Choir and Bell Canto Ringers. Aaron has degrees in organ performance, music education, sacred music, and choral conducting from Luther College, Boston University, and the University of Cincinnati – College-Conservatory of Music.

Nichole Nordschow has a BA from Luther College where she studied Vocal Performance, and pursued her MM at Florida State University where she studied Opera performance. Nichole has loved musical theatre since she was a child and is excited to share some of her favorites today. Currently she is working for the TJX Companies as a retail store manager and performs lullabies nightly for her eight months old son.

Sean Watland is a Chicago-based tenor. He has a BME from Valparaiso University and an MM in Choral Conducting from Boston University (2017). Sean has sung as a soloist with the Bach Institute at Valparaiso, the William Ferris Chorale, the Boston Choral Ensemble, and with Marsh Chapel at Boston University—including as a soloist on their recording of James Kallembach's *Most Sacred Body*. In 2017, he performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with Moonstruck Theatre, a Boston-based community theatre, in *Songs for a New World* by Jason Robert Brown, and in 2013, Sean sang the role of Adolfo Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*.