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# Summer Sundays

PRESENTS

## Broadway (with a twist)!



June 30, 2024 | 3:00 p.m.  
Bethany Lutheran Church | Sanctuary  
76 W Crystal Lake Ave

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“Beyond My Wildest Dreams” FROM *The Little Mermaid (Broadway Musical)* | Alan Menken (b. 1949)

“Oom-Pah-Pah” FROM *Oliver!* | Lionel Bart (1930–1999)

“I Know Things Now” FROM *Into the Woods* | Stephen Sondheim (1930–2021)

Aaron Knodle, tenor | Ayesha Casie Chetty, piano

***The Little Mermaid*** (2007) is a stage musical based on the Walt Disney Animation Studios 1989 film *The Little Mermaid* and the fairy tale “The Little Mermaid” by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen about a mermaid who dreams of the world above the sea and gives up her voice to find true love. “Beyond My Wildest Dreams,” which was written for the musical adaption, details Ariel’s fascination with the human world after Prince Eric brings her to the palace. ***Oliver!*** (1960) is a stage musical based upon the 1838 novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. The character Nancy strikes up an old tavern song (“Oom-Pah-Pah”) at the request of boisterous customers at a local pub. ***Into the Woods*** (1987) intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters’ wishes and quests. “I Know Things Now” details Little Red’s reflections on her experiences with the wolf.

“Maria” FROM *West Side Story* | Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)

“You’ll Be Back” FROM *Hamilton: An American Musical* | Lin-Manuel Miranda (b. 1980)

“Bring Him Home” FROM *Les Misérables* | Claude-Michel Schönberg (b. 1944)

Ayesha Casie Chetty, soprano | Aaron Knodle, piano

***West Side Story*** (1957) is inspired by William Shakespeare’s play *Romeo and Juliet* but set in the mid-1950s in the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York City, then a multiracial, working-class neighborhood. “Maria” encompasses an infatuated and happy Tony serenading Maria outside her bedroom. ***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. “You’ll Be Back” is a satirical portrayal of King George III insisting on his authority over the colonies. ***Les Misérables*** (1980) is based on the 1862 novel of the same name by Victor Hugo and follows Jean Valjean, a French peasant, and his desire for redemption under the shadow of a French revolutionary period. “Bring Him Home” depicts Valjean praying to God to protect Marius, even if the cost for Marius’s safety requires Valjean’s own life.

“Corner of the Sky” FROM *Pippin* | Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)

“Run Away with Me” FROM *The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown* | Bree Lowdermilk

“Giants in the Sky” FROM *Into the Woods* | Stephen Sondheim (1930–2021)

Kristine Hester, soprano | Aaron Knodle, piano

***Pippin*** (1972) uses the premise of a mysterious performance troupe, led by the Leading Player, to tell the story of Pippin, a young prince on his search for meaning and significance. “Corner of the Sky” depicts Pippin addressing the other [troupe] Players as if they are the professors at his college graduation about his wish for fulfillment and belief that he must find his purpose in life. ***The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown*** (2014) engages with the titular character’s processing of grief following the death of her best friend and learning how to take risks again. Sam balances on the edge of her future, car keys in hand. As she sits in the driver’s seat, she faces a choice: will she follow in her mother’s footsteps, or take the dare of her impetuous best friend and chart a new path? ***Into the Woods*** (1987) is tied together by a story involving a childless baker and his wife and their quest to begin a family (the original beginning of the Grimm Brothers’ “Rapunzel”), their interaction with a witch who has placed a curse on them, and their interaction with other fairy tale characters during their journey. “Giants in the Sky” features Jack describing his adventure climbing the beanstalk.

“Stars and the Moon” FROM *Songs for a New World* | Jason Robert Brown (b. 1970)

“I Can Do Better Than That” FROM *The Last Five Years* | Jason Robert Brown

“Climbing Uphill/Audition Sequence” FROM *The Last Five Years* | Jason Robert Brown

Sean Watland, tenor | Ayesha Casie Chetty, piano

***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.” It is “neither [a] musical play nor revue, it is closer to a theatrical song cycle, a very theatrical song cycle.” (Jason Robert Brown) “Stars and the Moon” recounts the stories of two poor suitors and the rich man a woman eventually marries, and the woman’s realization of what she has sacrificed in exchange for wealth and comfort. ***The Last Five Years*** (2001) explores a five-year relationship between Jamie Wellerstein, a rising novelist, and Cathy Hiatt, a struggling actress. The show uses a form of storytelling in which Jamie’s story is told in chronological order (starting just after the couple have first met) and Cathy’s story is told in reverse chronological order (beginning the show at the end of the marriage). The characters do not directly interact except for a wedding song in the middle of the show as their timelines intersect. “I Can Do Better Than That” depicts a younger Cathy in the car with Jamie, on their way to meet her parents. She tells him about her past relationships and hopes not to end up in a small-town life like her friend from high school. She asks Jamie to move in with her. “Climbing Uphill/Audition Sequence” shows Cathy getting down about the rejection she faces as an actress as she complains about her experiences to Jamie.

## Meet today's artists

**Dr. Ayesha Casie Chetty** is a social scientist whose primary research interests lie at the intersection of race, gender, and culture. She currently works as a researcher at M+R, doing audience research and message testing for a range of progressive nonprofits around the U.S., and is the collaborative pianist at Bethany Lutheran Church. 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.

**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*.

## Thank you for joining us today!

Today's free-will donation will be directly donated to **New Directions Addiction Recovery Services**. New Directions, located in Woodstock, is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the process of recovery from Substance Use Disorders.

Please, come back and join us for our final Summer Sunday concert for 2024!

- **August 4:** A Journey through American Folk Music | 3:00 p.m. | Bethany Lutheran Church

## Additional summer arts experiences at Bethany

### Musical Theatre Camp: *The Wizard of Oz (Youth Edition)*

- **Performances:** July 12 @ 7:00 p.m. & July 13 @ 2:00 p.m.
  - Free entry
  - Family-friendly

### A huge thank-you goes out to...

- The staff and volunteers at Bethany Lutheran Church, especially Clara Solak!
- Today's performing artists as well as their friends, family, and partners!
- All of you! *Musicking* is a collective process that involves everyone. Thank you!