



**center city
concerts**
AT ST. PETER'S

Autumn 2020 Newsletter

To Honor the Common Good: A Message from CCC Board Member, Debbi David

Center City Concerts board member Debbi David spent 52 years in the world of education. Debbi counts the daughter of a U.S. President, a notorious inmate of Attica State prison, and many scions of Hollywood's elite among her former students. She has acted extensively and loves music almost as much as she does her chocolate lab, Kabutu and her beloved husband the Reverend Dr. Ron David. Debbi has served as principal of five schools, administrator with KIPP and Edison Learning, and retired in 2018 as Head of School at St. James' Episcopal School in Los Angeles.



I am a chronicler by temperament; a repository of family anecdotes; guardian of the ancestral line; keeper of birthdays and of all that is memorable, and also of much that should be forgotten.

As a member of the Board of Directors of Center City Concerts and a devotee of music, I find that the rich soundtrack that has always accompanied my panoply of memories has fallen largely silent in these increasingly colorless months. No more concerts or Broadway shows, no recitals, no operas, and no more CCC Monday noontime concerts, so dear to my heart, in the peaceful nave of St. Peter's Church. To keep my spirits up, I've piped the music of Jimmy Buffet's Radio Margaritaville through my earbuds as I walked the dog...but oh, what I wouldn't give to be screaming and dancing instead in the pit at a real live Jimmy Buffet concert. When my brother-in-law lay dying of Covid in May, I switched to the majestic harmonies of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. I've listened to hours of Hamilton and a wonderful Vivaldi concert by the Buffalo Philharmonic under the masterful baton of Joanne Falletta. I've thanked God a hundred times for WDAV in Davidson for keeping me balanced and cheerful whenever I'm in the car. And as I've succumbed to the ravages of age, I've learned to sync the music of my iPhone with my brand new hearing aids so I can be constantly immersed in music.

We have earnestly analyzed what our role as Center City Concert directors could or should be in this age of social distancing. To honor the common good, we have cancelled our planned musical events, postponed others, and sought to find technological fixes so that you and we can go on being inspired, exhilarated and soothed by the highest quality music we can bring to you. We are hoping through this newsletter to stay in touch with you and all the music lovers whose steady attendance has meant so much to us over the years. Until we can meet again live and in person, this will be our best tool for alerting you to alternative virtual concerts, recitals, and recordings. We'll keep you abreast of musical events everywhere the internet can reach...and we'll hope to see you continue to support us so that once the world is safe again, we can meet to hear live music as the loving, deeply bonded musical community we are. Until then, I'll be sorting out my memories, new and old; and with the members of the Board of Center City Concerts, I will be loving you from afar...as the beat goes on.

"We are the music makers and we are the dreamers of dreams
Sitting by lone sea breakers and wandering by desolate streams...
Yet we are the movers and shakers of worlds forever, it seems"
- Arthur O'Shaughnessy

CCC Media Partner, WDAV



Our Artists-in-Residence



A Center City Concerts' favorite, pianist Alyona Aksyonova and cellist James Waldo are the **A.W.Duo**. Concertizing around the U.S. with increasing frequency, the duo loves exploring the rich musical literature and sonic possibilities for cello and piano. They have performed widely in the Carolinas, including on the Piccolo Spoleto roster in Charleston.

The busy duo enjoys a diverse schedule of touring and festival appearances, chamber music collaborations with friends, as well as commissioning and performing new works.

The A.W.Duo loves community! Whether playing in their home city or touring, they endeavor to bring positive change to the places they visit. They have worked regularly with towns, churches, universities, and other communities to organize benefit concerts for local causes. The duo has helped various communities raise over \$12,000 for local causes.

Alyona and James began playing together in 2009, and were married in 2012, and recently have welcomed little Sofia into the family. They make their home in the lovely midwestern city of Madison, Wisconsin.

While we await their next visit with us, here is a link to their fine performance of the Debussy Cello Sonata in D Minor. <https://youtu.be/XinLW6oFFa8>

Enjoy!

Check out Brevard Music Center Online

In the North Carolina mountains just to the west of Charlotte and situated on a lovely wooded 180-acre campus in western North Carolina, Brevard Music Center stands as one of this country's premier summer training programs and festivals. Under the artistic direction of acclaimed conductor Keith Lockhart, Principal Conductor of the Boston Pops and Chief Guest Conductor of the BBC Orchestra in London, 500 gifted students (ages 14 through post-graduates) come to the Music Center each summer to study with distinguished faculty and renowned guest artists.



BMC's purpose is to bring talented students and faculty from across the country and around the world to the campus and into the Brevard community to participate in a transformative summer of study and performance. Although unable to join together in person this year, BMC is instead offering virtual performances, activities, and educational resources you can enjoy at home.

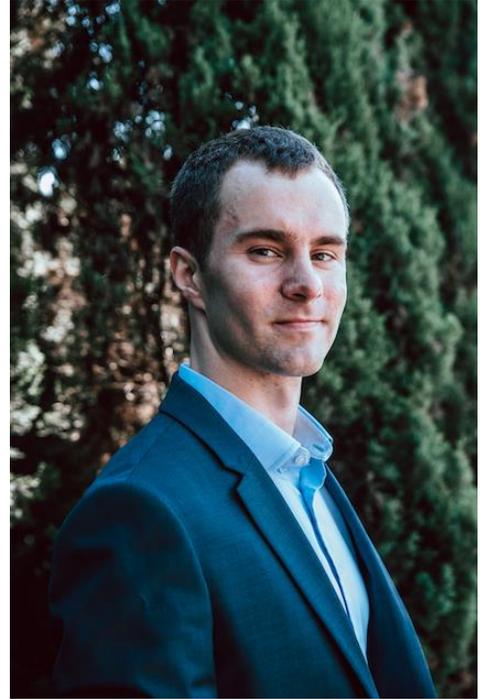
Visit [BMC'S @HOME](#) webpage for links to new video content from faculty, students and special guests, select past performances, featured live streams from a variety of organizations, shared articles, radio broadcasts, and more. While on the @HOME page, be sure to click on the [AROUND THE WEB](#) link. It's a great resource for an abundance of virtual performances available from around the world.

An Interview with Garrett John Law

St Peter's Episcopal Church Assistant Organist and Choirmaster, Garrett John Law, is also Assistant Director of The Choir School at St. Peter's and a frequent performer with Center City Concerts. We recently spoke with Garrett, a native of Toledo, Ohio. Here are a few things he told us.

Q: Tell us a bit about your musical training and professional experience as an organist.

A: I've been fortunate to have caring teachers and mentors from the very beginning. I started learning piano at the age of 10 and organ at 12. My first organ teacher gave me my first opportunities to play for church services and instilled me with a wonder of music. As a teenager I spent three years in the woods of northern Michigan at the Interlochen Arts Academy. At Interlochen I was surrounded by visual artists, actors, film-makers, dancers, and creative writers. I then moved to Cleveland where I took my first position as assistant organist at an Episcopal Church and studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM). Elizabeth Lenti was on the faculty at CIM at the time and little did I know that she would become my mentor and colleague here in Charlotte!



Q: You have recently committed to diversifying your repertoire choices. What caused this and how do you find new music?

A: Classical music has a diversity issue. According to research conducted by the Institute for Composer Diversity on the 2019-2020 season of over 100 American orchestras, of all works performed, 16% were by living composers, 8% by female composers, and only 6% were by composers from underrepresented racial, ethnic, & cultural heritages. I've thought about this issue for a while, but the summer of 2020 made it impossible for me to stand idle. In the midst of a national reckoning on racial justice, The Sphinx Organization published a call to action for individuals, educational institutions, performing groups, and performing arts presenters. I invite you to read more [here](https://www.sphinxmusic.org/sphinx-call-to-action) (<https://www.sphinxmusic.org/sphinx-call-to-action>). I'll admit that it is not always easy to find diverse music. It takes a conscious effort to seek out repertoire that is underrepresented. I find most new music by searching online databases dedicated to diversity, seeking out the lesser-known works of prolific composers, and observing what other musicians are programming.

Q: Any recommendations for music to listen to?

A: Yes! George Walker "Lilacs for Voice and Orchestra". This piece made Walker the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1996. [Listen here](#).

Click on the links below to hear organ performances from Garrett.

<https://youtu.be/wAnFhJu-3e8>

<https://youtu.be/tokMdTyDwL4>

To make a tax-deductible gift to Center City Concerts at St. Peter's, visit www.centercityconcerts.org/donate or send to 115 W. 7th Street Charlotte, NC 28202.

The Burli Singers – a CCC Seasonal Favorite



The Burli Singers, another performing group seen frequently by our audiences, are a regular December sight on the CCC schedule. Comprised of music educators, teachers, and musicians from the Charlotte area, they are led by Rob Burlington, Director of Music Arts at Cannon School in Concord, NC. Rob, who is also a member of the St Peter's choir, always presents a fresh and enchanting program for the holidays. The link below, while not professionally recorded, gives a good idea of why they are an audience favorite. Listen as the Burli Singers perform Moses Hogan's Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King. <https://vimeo.com/467731848>

Virtually There

Most of us concert regulars are living virtually, musically speaking, making the best of trying times. For many of us, the problem comes in finding virtual concerts to attend. We've done a bit of legwork and have come up with two outstanding resources that we think you'll find useful. Whether it's Classical music you're craving, or you're just wanting to get your Jazz on, take a look at these two sites.



Classical

<https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/live-streamed-classical-music-concerts-coronavirus/>

Jazz

<https://www.jazz.org/blog/coronavirus-jazz-livestreams/>

Click on the links below for recordings of some recent concerts a bit closer to home.

[Charlotte Symphony al Fresco chamber music concerts from Summer 2020](#)

[Carolina Pro Musica online from October 17, 2020](#)

[Bach Akademie Charlotte](#)

[Jarrett Cavagnaro](#)

(Christ Church Organist and Assistant Director of Music since August)

[Organist John Apple](#)

(Center City Concerts board member, and others in an August concert)