



MUSIC at
OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2020-21 season

Virtual
Messiah Sing
from many places, one voice



featuring

Iris Fairfax, soprano
Amanda Staub, alto
Toffer Mihalka, tenor
Matthew Lulofs, bass

with

Paul Fleckenstein
organist
Christopher Gage
conductor

Sunday, December 6, 2020
3:00 p.m.
Overbrook Presbyterian Church

*You are invited to sing the choruses in boldface.
Please hold your applause until the conclusion of the work.*

Part the First

“The prophecy and realization of God’s plan to redeem mankind by the coming of the Messiah”

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Sinfony | |
| 2. Recitative, accompanied (tenor) | Comfort ye, comfort ye my people |
| 3. Air (tenor) | Every valley shall be exalted |
| 4. Chorus | And the glory of the Lord |
| 5. Recitative, accompanied (bass) | Thus saith the Lord |
| 6. Air (bass) | But who may abide the day of His coming |
| 7. Chorus | And He shall purify |
| 8. Recitative (alto) | Behold, a virgin shall conceive |
| 9. Air (alto) and Chorus | O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion |
| 10. Recitative, accompanied (bass) | For behold, darkness shall cover the earth |
| 11. Air (bass) | The people that walked in darkness |
| 12. Chorus | For unto us a Child is born |

13. Pifa

*During this movement, a free-will offering will be received.
A suggested donation of fifteen dollars will help defray the cost of this program.*

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 14. Recitative (soprano) | There were shepherds abiding in the field |
| 15. Recitative, accompanied (soprano) | And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them |
| 16. Recitative (soprano) | And the angel said unto them |
| 17. Recitative, accompanied (soprano) | And suddenly there was with the angel |
| 18. Chorus | Glory to God |
| 19. Air (soprano) | Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion |
| 20. Recitative (alto) | Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened |
| 21. Air (alto and soprano) | He shall feed His flock like a shepherd |
| 22. Chorus | His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light |

Part the Second

*“The accomplishment of redemption by the sacrifice of Christ, mankind’s rejection of God’s offer,
and mankind’s utter defeat when trying to oppose the power of the Almighty”*

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 44. Chorus | Hallelujah |
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Part the Third

“A Hymn of Thanksgiving for the final overthrow of Death”

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 45. Air (soprano) | I know that my redeemer liveth |
| 46. Chorus | Since by man came death |
| 47. Recitative, accompanied (bass) | Behold, I tell you a mystery |
| 48. Air (bass) | The trumpet shall sound |
| 53. Chorus | Worthy is the Lamb that was slain; Amen |

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Iris Fairfax is a versatile artist who performs roles in soubrette, lyric coloratura, and dramatic coloratura *Fächer*, and she is in her twenty-first season as soprano soloist in the Overbrook Quartet. Her repertoire spans the idioms of opera, early and contemporary classical music, musical theater, and the American Songbook.

Ms. Fairfax has sung with the Delaware and Lancaster Symphonies, Cincinnati Opera, Pioneer Valley Symphony, Philadelphia Singers, the Encores! Series at City Center in New York City, and the American Music Theatre Festival. She is the recipient of several awards and honors, including first place in the New York Vocal Artists Millennium Competition and the Legacy Award of the National Opera Association Competition.



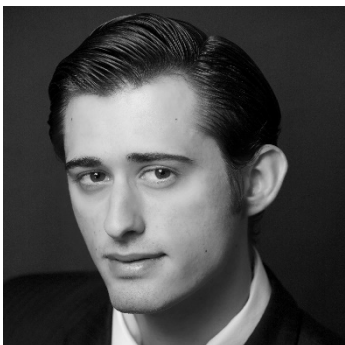
Paul Fleckenstein served as Organist and Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware, from 1993 to 2019. A native of California, he holds degrees from the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music and Westminster Choir College, where he held an assistantship as accompanist for the famed Westminster Symphonic Choir.

Noted for the diversity of his musical activities, he has performed extensively as solo organ recitalist, conductor, piano and organ accompanist, organ soloist with orchestras, organ accompanist for silent movies, cocktail pianist, and professional choral singer. Organ performance venues have included the Washington National Cathedral, the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in San Diego, the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, and New York's Radio City Music Hall.



Christopher Gage has earned praise for his style of organ playing, especially his convincing interpretations of the music of the North German Baroque, at home and abroad—recent performances include those in Kansas City, Missouri; Tampa, Florida; and Groningen, the Netherlands. He received his doctorates in organ performance and music theory from the University of Kansas in 2016 and 2019, respectively; among his past teachers are Michael Bauer, David Higgs, and David Herman.

A strong advocate of keyboard pedagogy, Chris currently teaches music theory at the University of Delaware and has previously taught at the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, and University of Kansas.



Matthew Lulofs has been praised for an “aptly lush and unctuous tone” by Steven Winn of *San Francisco Classical Voice*. Last season, he performed Malatesta in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* with Opera Libera, Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with Delaware Valley Opera Company, Raoul de St. Briche in *The Merry Widow* with Temple Opera, and Ben in Opera Upper West's production of *The Cell*. Recently, he sang with the Philadelphia Opera Chorus in Puccini's *Turandot* and looks forward to singing with them in the spring for *Carmen*.

Matthew, now in his fifth season at Overbrook, holds degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance, where he studied under Dr. Marcus C. DeLoach.



Toffer Mihalka is in his sixteenth season as tenor soloist in the Overbrook Quartet. Toffer comes originally from southern California, where he discovered his love of music and performing at an early age. He launched headlong into musical studies at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he was fortunate to receive training from some of the legends of the opera world.

After receiving both bachelor's and master's degrees in vocal performance, Toffer moved to Philadelphia. He has performed with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Cincinnati Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and many more.



Described as having a voice that “soars” (*PG Sentinel*), mezzo-soprano **Amanda Staub** has extensive experience in opera, oratorio, and art song. This season, Ms. Staub joins Tri-Cities Opera in Binghamton, New York, as a Resident Artist, where she will perform the roles of Monkey Queen and Lord Tiger in Kamala Sankaram's *Monkey & Francine in the City of Tigers*, as well as understudying the role of Anjana in TCO's virtual production of Sankaram's *Miranda: A Steampunk VR Experience*.

Equally at home on the concert stage, Ms. Staub has performed as a soloist in recital at The Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, with Capital City Symphony alongside renowned operatic stars Kevin Short and Delores Ziegler, and the University of Maryland Wind Ensemble with conductor Andrea Brown.

Ms. Staub is a graduate of the Maryland Opera Studio, where she studied under the tutelage of mezzo-soprano Delores Ziegler. She now lives in Philadelphia where she studies with Sheryl Woods Olson.

MUSIC AT OVERBROOK

Since the days of the Old Testament, music has been central to the worship of God, and Overbrook has long been known for its excellent music program. While the **Westminster Handbell Choir** and **Overbrook Junior Choir** are currently on hiatus due to the suspension of in-person worship, the **Overbrook Choir** has gone virtual, with anthems scheduled approximately once per month, including the 9:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve; members of the **Overbrook Quartet** sing year-round. For more information about the music program at Overbrook, including opportunities in the context of virtual worship, contact Dr. Christopher Gage, director, at music@overbrookpresb.org.

ORATORIO TEXT

PART THE FIRST

2. Recitative, accompanied (tenor)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(Isaiah 40:1-3)

3. Air (tenor)

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain. *(Isaiah 40:4)*

4. Chorus

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. *(Isaiah 40:5)*

5. Recitative, accompanied (bass)

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. *(Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1)*

6. Air (bass)

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire. *(Malachi 3:2)*

7. Chorus

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. *(Malachi 3:3)*

8. Recitative (alto)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.

(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)

9. Air (alto) and Chorus

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah,

behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 40:9, 60:1)

10. Recitative, accompanied (bass)

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. *(Isaiah 60:2-3)*

11. Air (bass)

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. *(Isaiah 9:2)*

12. Chorus

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. *(Isaiah 9:6)*

14. Recitative (soprano)

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. *(Luke 2:8)*

15. Recitative, accompanied (soprano)

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. *(Luke 2:9)*

16. Recitative (soprano)

And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

(Luke 2:10-11)

17. Recitative, accompanied (soprano)

And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

(Luke 2:13)

18. Chorus

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men." *(Luke 2:14)*

19. Air (soprano)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh

unto thee; He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen. (*Zechariah 9:9-10*)

20. Recitative (alto)

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (*Isaiah 35:5-6*)

21. Air (alto and soprano)

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (*Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 11:28-29*)

22. Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light.
(*Matthew 11:30*)

PART THE SECOND

44. Chorus

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah! (*Revelation 19:6, 11:15, 19:16*)

PART THE THIRD

45. Air (soprano)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

(*Job 19:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20*)

46. Chorus

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

(*1 Corinthians 15:21-22*)

47. Recitative, accompanied (bass)

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

(*1 Corinthians 15:51-52*)

48. Air (bass)

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality. (*1 Corinthians 15:52-53*)

53. Chorus

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.

Amen. (*Revelation 5:12-14*)

Acknowledgements

The following people have contributed to the success of this event, and their time, talent, and support have been greatly appreciated:

The Reverend Dr. Adam Hearlson, Designated Pastor
The Overbrook Choir
The Worship and Music Committee

Visit us on the web: www.overbrookpresb.org

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT OVERBROOK

Monday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.: Despite the trappings of gifts, special meals, and Christmas carols, the season can be darker than other times of the year for those who struggle. Many people have trouble feeling “in the spirit” of Christmas because of the recent (or anticipated) death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or other trying changes. The **Service of the Longest Night** helps us to remember that for us a savior is born, to lift the burden from our shoulders, to wipe away the tears from our eyes; we are not alone.

Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m.: Overbrook will host a special **Service of the Hanging of the Greens**, with Advent music, special readings, and an exploration of the symbolism of Christmas.

Thursday, December 24: Stop by the church for a special **Live Nativity** starting at **12:00 p.m.** Then, the **Family Christmas Eve Service** will follow Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child to the manger in word, song, and drama, including the annual Christmas pageant.

Thursday, December 24, 9:00 p.m.: Our traditional **Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols** celebrates the birth of Christ with readings, choral anthems, and congregational singing.

*All of our worship is currently conducted on Zoom;
please visit www.overbrookpresb.org for links and information.*



*Adoration of the Shepherds (1622)
Gerard van Honthorst (1592-1656)*

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Overbrook Presbyterian Church is a vibrant, growing congregation of about 400 members located since 1889 at the corner of City and Lancaster Avenues, in the historic Philadelphia neighborhood of Overbrook Farms. Our church attracts members from throughout the Philadelphia metro area, from city and suburb alike. We are a multicultural church that values our tremendous diversity, and warmly embraces all people as full members of God’s family. We invite you to join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.