

As a center for the arts in Old East Dallas, St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts revives an ancient tradition of cathedral churches in proclaiming the presence of God through the beauty of human creativity, bringing vitality to St. Matthew's Cathedral, our neighborhood and greater Dallas.



Concert photos by Virga Heft

## THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON RECENT EVENTS AND THINGS TO COME

Since our last installment, several major Cathedral Arts events have taken place, and plans are being finalized for the upcoming 2025-26 season, beginning in September. A full audience attended January's evening fundraiser on Epiphany Sunday, celebrating Tommy Bourgeois' annual crèches installation in the Cathedral nave. Hosted by Janet Lumpkin and a remarkable group of volunteers (and cooks!), the program with seasonal refreshments was introduced by Dean Rob Price, with engaging meditations on the three crèche scenes by Canon Victor Austin and beautiful music from harpist Alison Read and cellist Vilma Peguero. Thanks to everyone for a wonderful event!

Despite bitterly cold weather, the Great Hall was packed with concertgoers on February 21 for the annual Distinguished Artist Recital with the celebrated Lithuanian vocal duet, soprano Kristina Zmailaitė and tenor Edmundas Seilius. Accompanied by Performing Arts Director Mary Dibbern, Kristina and Edmundas gave a delightful program of art songs and opera arias ranging from Robert Schumann to Cole Porter, and introduced their daughter Barbora, who is currently a voice student at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theater in Vilnius. The 2025 Distinguished Artist Recital was dedicated to the memory of Richard J. Boul. This fine event was produced in partnership with the Dallas Lithuanian American Community, who provided many attendees and a spectacular array of traditional Lithuanian foods for the post-concert reception. Very special thanks go to Chairman Greta Patpovaite-Bryant and photographer/videographer Virga Heft for everything they did to make this season's recital such a grand success! Kristina and Edmundas returned to conduct a successful master class on Saturday afternoon with outstanding young vocal artists from The Dallas Opera Education and Outreach Program.

A remarkable chamber music recital was given on Sunday, March 30, featuring the gifted pianist Jialin Yao, violinist Aaron Boyd and cellist SaiSai Ding, in a brilliant performance of Franz Schubert's profound late masterpiece, the Piano Trio in E-flat. This concert was dedicated to our piano technician David C. Brown, who passed away in February. On Sunday, May 11, The Dallas Opera's Education and Outreach vocal artists return for a special Mother's Day Afternoon concert, along with pianists Mary Dibbern and Sara Steele. Join us!

Just ahead, Visual Arts Director Evelyn Luciani is finalizing a new Sundermann Gallery exhibition for late April through May, with artists Annie Foster, Grace Glover and Gary Hill, titled *Three Points of View*. And in some great performance news, Director Mary Dibbern has assembled a series of major piano recitals during next season, featuring the virtuoso pianists Victor Díaz Hurtado, Anton Nel, Eldred Marshall and Alex McDonald. More details for you soon!

Cathedral Arts' season of fine visual and performing arts events are free and open to the public. Send your email address to [info@cathedralartsdallas.org](mailto:info@cathedralartsdallas.org) and we'll stay in touch!



**A Trio of Crèches**  
A Star, a Son, a Song is Born!  
A Chorus of Crèche Celebrations  
The Very Rev. Robert P. Price  
Dean of the Cathedral  
The Rev. Canon Dr. Victor Lee Austin  
Theologian-Residence for the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas  
Alison Read, harp Vilma Peguero, cello  
Mince Pies, Refreshments, Sherry and Punch  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 6:00 PM  
CATHEDRAL NAVE REAR  
LIMITED SEATING / TICKETS \$25.00  
BY ADVANCE RESERVATION ONLY  
EMAIL: WENDY.HACKENACK@WHACKENACK.COM  
CATHEDRALARTSDALLAS.ORG



**PIANO MASTERS & MASTERWORKS**  
WITH  
**VICTOR DÍAZ HURTADO**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 AT 3:00 PM  
**ANTON NEL**  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026 AT 7:00 PM  
**ELDRÉD MARSHALL**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 AT 3:00 PM  
**ALEX MCDONALD**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 AT 3:00 PM

GREAT HALL  
ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL  
5800 KENN AVENUE AT NORTH HENDERSON  
DALLAS  
FREE ADMISSION & COVERED PARKING  
CATHEDRALARTSDALLAS.ORG

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Thanks to an amazing group of individuals, in the Spring of 2017 a magnificent 8-foot 4-inch Schimmel K256 grand piano in ebony was donated to Cathedral Arts and installed in the Great Hall, having now hosted many solo piano concerts, vocal and instrumental recitals, chamber music events and jazz evenings, for eight remarkable seasons. The entire \$53,000 capital campaign was completed in only 10 weeks! Some history for you to know: the **Wilhelm Schimmel** piano factory began in 1885. The first piano was built in a small workshop near Leipzig, Germany. The young company took off rapidly in the following years. Fridolin Schimmel, younger brother of Wilhelm, set off for America in 1890. Fridolin founded his own piano factory in Faribault, Minnesota three years later, under the name Schimmel & Nelson. Until 1911, numerous pianos were produced for the American market under the Schimmel brand. In 1897, Wilhelm finally built his own factory in Germany, a spacious new building in Leipzig-Stötteritz, where the company remained until 1928. Wilhelm was made an honored citizen of Leipzig for his services to piano manufacturing. His sons Arno and Arthur became increasingly active in the company, so that Schimmel was represented successfully worldwide by 1925. Schimmel headquarters were moved to Braunschweig, Lower Saxony in 1929. Following the catastrophes of a worldwide depression and World War II, piano construction was resumed in the 1950's. In 1958, a special Schimmel piano was built for the renowned physician, theologian and musician **Albert Schweitzer**, which had to withstand the difficult climatic conditions at his West African hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon. Schimmel is well represented today in all major piano playing regions of the world. Thanks to everyone who brought this treasured piano to Cathedral Arts!

## ARTIST NEWS

Congratulations to mezzo-soprano **Kayla Nanto**, a member of the growing list of Cathedral Arts recital artists ([link](#)), who won The Dallas Opera Lone Star Vocal Competition on March 7 with a stunningly beautiful performance! Kayla will be cast in a future Dallas Opera season and will automatically advance to the final round of The Dallas Opera's 2026 National Vocal Competition. Kayla will certainly participate in a future Cathedral Arts season!

One of the consequences of a maturing organization is that we must occasionally say goodbye to dear colleagues. We're sad to announce the recent passing of two fine Cathedral Arts artists, who were our great friends and direct contributors to many events in the Great Hall. The distinguished photographer **Richard J. Boul**, a frequent participant in Justus Sundermann Gallery exhibits, passed away in January, followed in February by the renowned piano technician **David C. Brown**, who took such good care of our Schimmel grand piano. Our sincerest condolences to their families and friends. Richard and David will be sorely missed, and always remembered.

## THE 2025 PILLARS CAMPAIGN

**2025 PILLARS CAMPAIGN**  
 Goal—\$30,000  
 Celebrating fourteen years of superb performing and visual arts at St. Matthew's Cathedral.  
 Support the free public programs of Cathedral Arts, presenting an annual season of internationally-renowned performers and visual artists.  
 Scan here for a secure online donation:

As we prepare to announce our fourteenth season of fine performing, visual arts and educational events, the 2025 Pillars Campaign is about to launch. Your support of Cathedral Arts is essential! This year's goal is \$30,000 — only 300 gifts of \$100. The annual Pillars Campaign helps underwrite an entire season of free public Cathedral Arts events. Pillars Campaign donors fund professional artist fees, administration, printing, catering, security and custodial services, photography, postage, gallery installations and maintenance, and marketing and digital communications. Please join the fine list of patrons whose contributions become carefully curated experiences of arts, discovery and community at Cathedral Arts, free and open to the public. Your gift is so important — we look forward to hearing from you! Send a tax-deductible gift with an optional dedication of your choice to: 2025 Pillars Campaign, St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts, 5100 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75206, click [here](#), or scan the QR code to the left for a secure online transaction, .



### CATHEDRAL ARTS LEADERSHIP

H. Michie Akin  
*Founding Artistic Director Emeritus*

#### Executive Committee

Mary Dibbern, PhD  
*Performing Arts Director*

Evelyn Luciani  
*Visual Arts Director*

Wendy Hackemack  
*Treasurer*

Jon White  
*Media & Communications*

#### 2024-25 Advisory Council

- Richard Boul †
- Tommy Bourgeois
- Jane Burruss
- Roger Carroll
- Annie Foster
- Ron Hackemack
- Betty Anne Hunter
- Adele Ichilian
- Bob Jones
- Carolyn Jones
- Claude Lee
- Janet Lumpkin
- Jane McConnell
- Margo Miller
- Marilyn Pitzinger
- Betty Rosenthal
- Nelson Spencer

## MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON CONCERT

SUNDAY, MAY 11 AT 3:00 PM, GREAT HALL

with  
**THE DALLAS OPERA EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SINGERS**  
**MARY DIBBERN and SARA STEELE, PIANO**  
 free admission & covered parking

