

SPECIAL 15TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON AT GRACE CHURCH CONCERT SERIES

The Grace Church Concert Series in The Plains begins its fifteenth year of fine music with a new artistic director and a special celebratory slate of artists. Dr. Jason Farris assumed the position of organist and choirmaster at the church on August 1, and will also direct the concert series. He comes to Grace Church from The University of the South, and will be introduced to the community in a free recital on **Sunday, September 21, at 5 pm**, followed by a reception to meet Dr. Farris.

The 2014-2015 season opens with the **Treble Choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir** of Men and Boys from Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York City. Considered the outstanding choral ensemble in the Anglican tradition in the USA today, its services and concerts are broadcast around the world. The treble choristers (grades 3-8) attend Saint Thomas Choir School, the only church-affiliated boarding school of its kind in the USA. To accommodate the choir's touring schedule, this first concert will be at the *Special Date and Time* of **Friday, October 17, at 7:30 pm**.

Returning to our usual schedule, on **Sunday, November 9, at 5 pm** the brilliant young cellist **Sebastian Bäverstam** brings his "consummate instrumental mastery" (*The Strad*) to The Plains. Acknowledged as a leading virtuoso of his generation, this competition winner is heard internationally as a recitalist and concerto soloist. *Musical America* says, "He's headed for a major career." Hear him now!

Just after St. Patrick's Day, **Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill**, Irish fiddle and guitar, will present our first concert of Irish traditional music. One of the world's great musical duos, these superstars of the traditional music world join us on **Sunday, March 22, at 5 pm**. Martin Hayes counts among his major international awards six All-Ireland fiddle championships before he was 19. Dennis Cahill's spare guitar accompaniment is considered a breakthrough in Irish music. Don't miss these legendary figures.

As a 15th-anniversary finale, we welcome Washington's internationally-acclaimed **Opera Lafayette** to the parish hall on **Sunday, April 26, at 5 pm**. They will present a chamber version of the opera that closes their 20th-anniversary season! *L'Épreuve Villageoise* (The Village Trail), by greatly-admired 18th-century composer André Grétry, depicts the tribulations of a small country town. We get a preview before Opera Lafayette, which has "underlined its own unique place in... America's cultural life" (*Anne Midgett, The Washington Post*), takes the full production to Washington and New York.

Concerts are followed by receptions to meet the artists. Brochures for the season, tickets, and other information are available from Grace Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 32, The Plains, VA 20198, by calling 540-253-5177, or by visiting www.gracetheplains.org. Season subscriptions remain \$100 (one free ticket for a child under 12), with single tickets \$25. This year we offer a **student ticket rate of \$15**. The series helps support the music program at Grace Church, and is funded in part by Mrs. Jacqueline Mars in memory of her mother, Mrs. Forrest Mars, who was devoted to music and loved Grace Church.