



The Paramount Chamber Players are the Tri-Cities' premier chamber music ensemble dedicated to promoting artistic excellence, sharing chamber music with local audiences, and ensuring that chamber music is a vital part of life in our communities.



THE PARAMOUNT CHAMBER PLAYERS

Chamber Music for the Mountain Empire

Ancient, Modern and In-between

Chamber music by Handel, Vivaldi, Debussy and Dvorak
with guest violinist
Patrick Dalton-Holmes

Works of art make rules; rules do not make works of art.
—Claude Debussy

These guys were mavericks! Handel was among the first musicians to make a living wage from his music thus eliminating his need for wealthy patrons. Vivaldi was ordained a priest but within a year chose to compose music instead as a profession. Debussy assuaged his disdain for academia by composing music that purposefully broke the rules infuriating his teachers. Dvorak broke with European tradition and moved to the US where he lived four years discovering the native music that became our national pride—spirituals and jazz.

Thursday, February 18 • 7:30 p.m.

St John's Episcopal Church, Johnson City, TN

\$15 adults / \$10 seniors / students free

Friday, February 19 • 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Kingsport, TN

Suggested Donation: \$15 adults / \$12 seniors / students free

Saturday, February 20 • 7:30 p.m.

The Paramount Center for the Arts, Bristol, TN

Tickets: \$15 adults / \$12 seniors / students free

Sunday, February 21 • 3:00 p.m.

Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church, Abingdon, VA

The Spencer-Miller Memorial Concert Series

Tickets: \$10 adults / students free

2015-16 Concert Season Dates

February 13, February 18-21, April 14-17, 2016

For further details go to: www.paramountplayers.com

<https://soundcloud.com/paramount-chamber-players>

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Chamber Music News of the Mountain Empire

TPCP Musicians' Professional Highlights:

Rebecca Paluzzi will lecture at the Suzuki Music Autumn Festival in Melbourne, Australia and is recording flute on the PBS documentary, *The Truth about Trees*, music by Kenton Coe.

Craig Combs was invited to review classical CDs for Web Music International, a major source of CD reviews online.

Eugene Jones is recording clarinet on the PBS documentary, *The Truth about Trees*, music by Kenton Coe.

Thomas Maternik has been appointed to the principal cello chair for the Classical Concert Chamber Orchestra in California.

Luis Casal will appear in recital with violinist Funda Cismezioglu and at the 10th Anniversary of the Alfredo De Saint Malo music Festival of Panama.

George Figueroa formed Colpi d'Arco, a youth ensemble in Johnson City and is working with Sarasota Opera in Sarasota, Florida during the months of January and February.

Vicki Fey recently performed the Bach Fifth Brandenburg Concerto with Symphony of the Mountains and welcomed daughter-in-law #2 into the family.

Cherylonda Fitzgerald is cellist for the newly formed ETSU faculty piano trio, Trio d'Amici and is recording cello on the PBS documentary, *The Truth about Trees*, music by Kenton Coe

Bless Your Pea Pickin' Heart—The Birthplace of Country Music Museum is proud to partner with The Paramount Chamber Players to produce a one-of-a-kind evening dedicated to the music of Tennessee Ernie Ford on February 13 at 7 P.M. at the Paramount Center for the Arts. The Tennessee Ernie Ford Tribute Concert, on what would have been Ford's 97th birthday, will feature songs from Ford's vast repertoire performed by The Paramount Chamber Players, special guests The Jeff Little Trio, a choral ensemble, and vocal soloists, along with accompanying narration. The two-hour concert will include something for everyone: gospel tunes, country boogie tunes, patriotic and folk songs, and a new rendition of "Sixteen Tons." The program intends to reimagine and reinvigorate the significant contribution of Tennessee Ernie Ford to many genres of American popular music. It will also feature two premieres: newly-discovered lyrics from the museum archives and an arrangement of some of Ford's signature hymn tunes by composer Ann Holler, specially commissioned for this concert.

A Question of Light—Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to postpone the Feb. 27 concert, *A Question of Light* until October. Please watch this space for more information.

Johnson City Concert Series—Last October was the opening of our new concert series in partnership with ETSU. We were very excited when it was evident that the small 150 seat Mathes Hall filled up and the student ushers began putting chairs out on the stage portion of the room to accommodate the overflow crowd! Needing an organ for the February concert, we will move to St. John's Episcopal Church. We will return to Mathes Hall in April.

The Paramount Chamber Players Award—May will mark our ninth collaboration with The Bristol Music Club to present the Paramount Chamber Players award. One deserving student will be chosen to perform with the ensemble next year. The auditions will be on Saturday, May 7 starting at 9 a.m., and are held in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. Auditions are open to the public! The winners' recital is the following day, May 8 at 3 p.m., also in the church sanctuary, also open to the public. We look forward to presenting violinist Cameron Lugo in our April concert series.

Souvenirs of Faith by Ann Holler—TPCP is delighted to have commissioned a new work by Ann Holler for the Tennessee Ernie Ford concert on Feb. 13 called *Souvenirs of Faith*. The composition in three movements is based on hymn tunes made famous to the American public by Ford during his 1950s TV show. We thank Ann for composing again for our group and look forward to presenting this delightful mash up of familiar tunes.

Colpi d'Arco—Congratulations to George Figueroa and the young musicians of Colpi d'Arco, Johnson City's new youth chamber ensemble for presenting two successful opening concerts last fall. Every person who attended these concerts have given their highest recommendation and glowing reviews. TPCP looks forward to collaborating with these talented young artists in the near future.

Commission: Mountain Empire Children's Choral Academy (MECCA)—TPCP is proud to announce the commission of a new work for choir and chamber ensemble to be written by Abingdon composer Beth McCoy. The choral work will be performed by one of the ensembles of the Mountain Empire Children's Choral Academy as determined by Jane DeLoach Morison, Artistic Director of MECCA. The premier is planned for April of 2016. Stay tuned to our newsletter and website for further details.

Program Notes: Extended notes in the concert program

Organ Concerto Op. 4, No. 2 in B flat Major, George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) English musical culture of the 1730s was complicated by a nationalistic movement, a growing preference for all things English, while the public's desire for novelty and virtuosity gradually moved the performance of music from theater to the first modern concert halls. An appreciation for English opera and oratorio versus those of Italy or Germany developed into a huge

rivalry between Handel's Italian opera company and that of a new company called *Opera of the Nobility*. The competition was fierce and partly because of his German heritage, Handel lost most of his best singers to the new company. To combat this challenge, Handel improvised organ concerti as intermission entertainment in his theater productions. His improvisational skills were unmatched. In reference to his organ improvisation, one of his patrons is quoted as saying, "...no entertainment in music could exceed it."

Concerto for Violin and Organ in C minor, RV766, Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) Like Mozart after him, Vivaldi set the conventions of the day in music making. He took the existing baroque concert form and created the standard to which it is upheld three hundred years later. He also standardized the use of repeating refrains of music in different keys called ritornello form and alternating these with more freely composed solo passages. His position in history's composer "hall of fame" is secured by the sheer number of existing compositions coupled with an adoring public.

Piano Trio op. 26 in G Minor, Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) 1875 was a pivotal year for Dvorak professionally and personally. He left the theater to take the organist position at St Adalbert's Church in Prague. He also received the Austrian State Prize bringing his music much needed public attention and improving his financial position. Judging his prize-winning work was none other than Johannes Brahms who recognized the extraordinary talent of Dvorak. Brahms offered his assistance by introducing Dvorak to the famous publisher, Nikolaus Simrock, who immediately published several works and remained Dvorak's publisher for the rest of the composer's life. By May of 1875, Dvorak wrote his first piano trio, inspired by the birth of his first child the previous fall. That piano trio is laced with a sense of happiness verging on oblivion as one might imagine given his new financial security and family bliss. However, in a sad twist of fate, in late August, he lost his second child shortly after birth which again fueled his creativity, producing a second piano trio finished in early 1876.

Piano Trio in G Major, Claude Debussy (1862-1918) In the summer of 1880 at the age of seventeen, Debussy traveled through Europe with Nadejda von Meck, a grand patroness of music best known for her long-time support of Tchaikovsky. Debussy taught piano to her children and provided musical entertainment. The summer ended with an extended stay in Florence and while there von Meck further employed a violinist and cellist who had just finished studies at the Moscow Conservatory. The three musicians played piano trios nightly for the patroness and her children. This experience inspired Debussy to write his own piano trio; however, it is very likely that the patroness and her children may have been the only people to have heard a performance of this trio until it was published 104 years later in 1984!

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