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**GREAT MUSIC AT ST. BART'S PRESENTS CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE ST. BART'S CHAPEL:**

- **Chamber Music from Apple Hill presents the New York premiere of a Michael Kropf Quartet on Sunday, March 31**
- **Pianist Marilyn Nonken's "American Voices of the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century" Salutes Scott Joplin & Charles Ives on Sunday, May 5**



*Apple Hill musicians, Marilyn Nonken*

*Great Music at St. Bart's*, the concert series produced by the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation (MMPAF) continues its eighth season in 2019 with March and May concerts of chamber music: two programs of masterworks and new repertoire perfectly suited to the intimate atmosphere and brilliant acoustics of the St. Bart's Chapel.

**[Sunday, March 31, 2019, at 2:30 pm in the Chapel](#)**

**CHAMBER MUSIC FROM APPLE HILL**

Elise Kuder, Anne Takeda, violins  
Mike Kelley, viola  
Rupert Thompson, cello  
Mikael Darmanie, piano

Apple Hill musicians have earned praise around the world for their concerts presenting interpretive mastery of traditional repertoire—including Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Schumann, Beethoven, and Ravel—as well as new and commissioned works. For this *Great Music at St. Bart's* program, the ensemble will perform the New York premiere of Michael Kropf's String Quartet (2017), a work the group commissioned; Dmitri Shostakovich's Piano Preludes, Op. 87D, arranged for string trio by Mike Kelley; and Gabriel Fauré's Piano Quartet in C Minor, Op. 15.

Central to the mission of Apple Hill is "Playing for Peace," an innovative outreach program that focuses on social change and conflict resolution through music in areas of conflict, particularly the Middle East. Founded in 1971 and situated on 100 acres of fields and woodlands in rural New Hampshire, Apple Hill is a center of chamber music performance and teaching. It is stewarded today by the organization's director, Leonard Matczynski, and ensemble-in-residence, the Apple Hill String Quartet, founded in 2007. [www.applehill.org](http://www.applehill.org)  
Tickets: \$25, \$15 for students and seniors

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### **Sunday, May 5, 2019, at 2:30 pm in the Chapel**

#### **MARILYN NONKEN, PIANO – "AMERICAN VOICES OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY"**

After bringing Morton Feldman's *Patterns in a Chromatic Field* to the St. Bart's Chapel in spring 2018, pianist Marilyn Nonken returns with a program that pays tribute to Scott Joplin, the master of ragtime, and the modernist Charles Ives. Joplin's *Bethena* (1904) livens the classical waltz with the spirit of ragtime, paying poignant tribute to his wife, Freddie, who died just ten weeks after their wedding. Ives's *Concord Sonata* (1911) weaves together popular music from the Civil War, along with quotes from Beethoven, Wagner, and Debussy. "There is genuine majesty in the *Concord Sonata*, and nobody else, in my experience, has brought it out so convincingly as Nonken," said *The Washington Post*.

Pianist Marilyn Nonken has been heralded as "a determined protector of important music" (*The New York Times*) and "one of the greatest interpreters of new music" (*American Record Guide*). Her repertoire comprises the complete piano music of Schoenberg, Boulez, and Murail, as well as works by pioneers of the New York School, New Complexity, and spectral music. She has recorded more than 30 CDs for the New World, Lovely Music, Hanging Bell, Harrison House, Albany, Divine Art, Innova, CRI, BMOP Sound, New Focus, Kairos, Metier, Mode, and Bridge labels. Highlights of her 2017-18 season include collaborations with cellist Stephen Marotto, mezzo-soprano Jessica Bowers, violinist Rolf Schultz, and pianists Joseph Kubera, Stephen Beck, and Irina Kataeva-Aimard. A Steinway Artist, she is also the author of *The Spectral Piano: From Liszt, Scriabin, and Debussy to the Digital Age* (Cambridge University Press, 2014). A graduate of the Eastman School and Columbia University, Marilyn Nonken is Associate Professor and Director of Piano Studies at New York University. [www.marilynnonken.com](http://www.marilynnonken.com)  
Tickets: \$25, \$15 for students and seniors

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**MIDTOWN CONCERTS: A FREE WEEKLY SERIES OF CONCERTS OF EARLY MUSIC BY GEMS**

Gotham Early Music Scene, in conjunction with the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation, presents Midtown Concerts, a weekly series of 35-minute early music concerts in midtown Manhattan featuring soloists and ensembles from the U.S. and abroad.

For a schedule, visit [www.gemsny.org/midtownconcerts.html](http://www.gemsny.org/midtownconcerts.html)

Admission is free

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The *Great Music at St. Bart's* series concludes with **Empire City Men's Chorus "Resplendent: A Silver Anniversary Concert,"** kicking off World Pride 2019, on [Saturday, June 1, 2019](#).

***Tickets are available through the Box Office at St. Bartholomew's Church, 325 Park Avenue, New York, NY, and are available by phone, 212-378-0248, and online at [www.mmpaf.org](http://www.mmpaf.org).***

[Great Music at St. Bart's](#), the concert series produced by the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation ([www.mmpaf.org](http://www.mmpaf.org)) that embraces a wide range of music in programs that shine in St. Bart's spaces, is the most recent installment in the rich musical history (see below) of St. Bartholomew's Church. St. Bart's features two of New York's unlikely but outstanding concert spaces: the 150-seat chapel is an intimate and acoustically brilliant venue perfectly suited for contemporary chamber music, and the majestic 1,000-seat sanctuary boasts an Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ that is the largest in New York City and one of the finest examples of the American Classic Organ in the U.S.

**St. Bartholomew's Church**, the historic Episcopal parish on Park Avenue in New York City, was founded in January 1835, and this fall celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first service in its current location. The magnificent 1918 Romanesque-style church, a National Historic Landmark that features a portal designed by Stanford White and a grand Byzantine-style interior and iconic dome designed by Bertram Goodhue, has had a vital presence in New York for a century. St. Bartholomew's also became a force in the musical life of the city and the wider church: Legendary musicians such as Leopold Stokowski, who went on to a career as one of the world's great conductors, Harold Friedell, and James Litton have served the church as Organist and Choirmaster. For many decades, a world-famous weekly series of Evensongs featuring performances of the great oratorios by St. Bartholomew's Choir was offered free of charge, stressing the parish's commitment to inclusion by ministering to a wide community. *Great Music at St. Bart's*, an outgrowth of these Evensongs, still offers the greater New York City community top shelf concert performances at very reasonable ticket prices.

For more information on the centenary, visit <http://stbarts.org/stbarts100/>.

*March 4, 2019*