

# BASILICA CONCERT SERIES

Very Rev. Anthony Aarons, *Rector* Dr. William Picher, *Concert Series Artistic Director*

## Rhapsodic Keyboards

Joseph Irrera, *piano*

William Picher, *organ*

*An offering will be gratefully accepted to benefit  
Give Kids The World Village*

Friday, April 26, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.



BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF  
MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

# About the Artists

Cited by the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* as a “local prodigy,” **DR. JOSEPH IRRERA** has concertized across the globe including appearances at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Spivey Hall. At the age of 18 he made his debut as guest soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra performing Rachmaninoff’s Second Piano Concerto.

Joseph completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Performance at the Eastman School of Music in 2005. He earned his Master’s Degree in Piano Performance in 2007 from the Peabody Conservatory and went on to complete the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in 2014 at the Eastman School of Music in Piano Performance and Literature, with a minor in Pedagogy.

In addition to his solo piano concert engagements, Joseph is also very active as a chamber musician appearing with his brother, violinist Dr. John Irrera. The internationally acclaimed Irrera Brothers Piano & Violin Duo has appeared throughout the United States, Europe, and Central America. They made their Carnegie Hall Debut in 2009 and were invited back in 2012 and again in 2013.

As a recording artist, Joseph can be heard on albums featuring the Irrera Brothers Duo including “Beethoven & Prokofiev” (2012), “Vitali” (2014), and “Complete Works for Violin and Piano by Robert Morris”, released in 2019 on the Centaur Records label. He has also recorded solo piano works of Scarlatti, Schumann, and Chopin for Steinway & Sons (2015). Joseph is laureate of many national and international piano competitions including the Guthman International Piano Competition in Atlanta, Georgia, the Young Artists International Piano Competition in Washington, D.C., the Eastman Young Artists International Piano Competition, and the American Protégé International Piano Competition in New York City.

For more information visit: [www.josephirrera.com](http://www.josephirrera.com)

For information about piano lessons with Joseph visit: [www.irrerapianostudio.com](http://www.irrerapianostudio.com)

Joseph is a Steinway Artist.

**DR. WILLIAM PICHER**, was born to a musical family in Portland, Maine, and began taking organ lessons at the age of 7 with his father, Frank Picher. At age 13, he began to study trumpet and has continued playing both instruments throughout his career. He holds degrees from the University of Maine, Eastman School of Music and Catholic University of America and has served as Director of Music/Organist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (Portland, Maine), the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle (St. Petersburg, Florida) as well as a trumpet instrumentalist in the famed United States Navy Band in Washington DC where he toured throughout the U.S. and performed in many ceremonies at the White House, Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery. In 2000, Bill was awarded the St. Jude Medal by Bishop Robert Lynch in recognition for his service to the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle and the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Never a fan of cold weather, Bill is happy to reside in Florida, where he and his wife of 42 years have raised two sons, both of whom have gone on to pursue careers in the arts.

# Rhapsodic Keyboards

Joseph Irrera & William Picher

Friday, April 26, 2024 - 7:30pm

## The Program

Fantasia for Organ and Piano . . . . . Clifford Demarest (1874-1946)

Sonata in C Minor, Hob.XVI:20 . . . . . Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

- I. Moderato
- II. Andante con moto
- III. Finale: Allegro

“Evening Star” from *Tannhauser*. . . . . Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

Sonata in D Minor, K. 9. . . . . Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

Novellette in F Major, Op. 21 No. 1 . . . . . Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Basso Ostinato . . . . . Rodion Shchedrin (b.1932)

## INTERMISSION

Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565 . . . Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43 . . . .Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

### Variation XVIII

Were You There . . . . .Spiritual, arr. Rosa Rio (1902-2010)

Blessed Assurance . . . . .Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)

Mrs. Joseph F. Knapp (1839-1908)

arr. Rosa Rio

Rhapsody in Blue . . . . .George Gershwin (1898-1937)

*Please no audio or video recording*

*Ushers will be available in the narthex to accept an offering for Give Kids The World Village*

# The Peter Nero Piano



The late two-time Grammy Award-winning pianist and Steinway Artist Peter Nero has been hailed as one of the premier interpreters of Gershwin. With an additional ten Grammy nominations, the Washington Post has called him “the epitome of the Pops Conductor/ Performer.”

Mr. Nero’s recording career spanned nearly 60 years and produced 70 recordings. In 1960 he was signed to a three-year contract with RCA Victor records, which was then renewed for another five years, producing more than 26 LPs, including Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue and Piano Concerto in F with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops. In 1961, he won his first Grammy, “Best New Artist of the Year.”

Peter Nero’s first major national TV success came at age 17 when he was chosen to perform “Rhapsody in Blue” on a TV special hosted by Paul Whiteman. He subsequently appeared on many top variety and talk shows, including 11 guest appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show and numerous appearances on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.

Dr. Irrera is performing tonight on Mr. Nero’s personal Steinway concert grand, courtesy of Steinway Piano Gallery Orlando.

## Give Kids The World Village



Rated Four Stars by Charity Navigator, Give Kids The World Village is an 89-acre, whimsical nonprofit resort in Kissimmee, Florida, that provides week-long, cost-free wish vacations to critically ill children and their families from around the world who want to visit Central Florida.

Since 1986, Give Kids The World Village has welcomed more than 188,000 families from all 50 states and 77 countries. The Village is made possible by the support of

generous donors and community partners, as well as thousands of passionate volunteers – who donate their time and talent making wishes come true.

A stay at the Village is much more than a vacation. During one incredible week, wish families laugh, play, and create priceless memories together away from hospital visits and medical procedures. It’s a magical week of “YES” where wish kids can experience the simple joys of childhood, and where families can recapture some of the precious moments that may have been missed due to illness.

# Coming Events

in the

## Basilica Concert Series

*All concerts offered free-of-charge, no tickets required.  
An offering will be accepted.*

### Mozart's Requiem

*Thursday, May 30, 2024 | 7:30PM*

Join us in this special concert featuring Mozart's celebrated "Requiem" commemorating founding rector of the Basilica, Monsignor F. Joseph Harte, on the 4th anniversary of his entering into eternal life.



*Monsignor F. Joseph Harte*



*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

Mark your calendars now!

# 2024-2025 Basilica Concert Series

## Silent Movie with Organ Accompaniment

*Friday, October 18, 2024 | 7:30PM*

Join Tampa Theatre organ virtuoso Stephen Ball with a screening of the classic “Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ” (1925) featuring the spectacular chariot race scene!

## Christmas with the Basilica Choir

*Friday, December 13, 2024 | 7:30PM*

Our yearly tradition, and most popular concert.

## The Iterra Brothers, Piano and Violin Duo

*Friday, February 20, 2025 | 7:30PM*

“Riveting and dynamic performance” (*New York Carnegie Hall review*).

## Brahms Requiem

*Friday, March 28, 2025 | 7:30PM*

Johannes Brahms’ seminal masterpiece performed by the Basilica Choir and Orchestra under the direction of Dr. William Picher.

## Tenebrae: A Holy Week Service of Darkness

*Friday, April 11, 2025 | 7:30PM*

Join Basilica rector Fr. Anthony Aarons and the Basilica Choir as they lead a reflective evening of scripture and gorgeous a cappella choral literature. The perfect preparation for Holy Week.

## Orlando Concert Band

*Friday, May 9, 2025 | 7:30PM*

Entertaining and fun program for the whole family featuring music for band and the Mighty Basilica Organ!

# Sponsorship *Opportunities*

The following opportunities are available to help defray costs of the coming 2024-2025 Basilica Concert Series.

All sponsors will be gratefully acknowledged in each program of next year's series.

## **Sheet Music Sponsor**

Sheet music for orchestra players and other needed scores.

*\$1,000*

## **Orchestra Music Folders**

Permanent black folders for orchestra music will protect our music library for concert use.

*\$1,000*

## **Orchestra Rechargeable Stand Lights**

Economic re-chargeable stand lights would enable orchestra musicians to see their music more clearly.

*\$1,000*

## **Choir Outreach Program**

It is our dream to bring the Basilica Choir to do regular free concerts in the community. Concerts in retirement communities, hospice, prisons and other churches are wonderful ways to bring the Shrine to those who are unable to come to us.

*\$1,600 for each Outreach Concert*

**For more information, contact the music department at:  
(407) 239-6600, [wfpicher@cfl.rr.com](mailto:wfpicher@cfl.rr.com)**



**For More Information:**

(407) 239-6600

[mqus.org](http://mqus.org) | [wpicher@mqus.org](mailto:wpicher@mqus.org)

*or visit:*

[www.mqus.org/concerts](http://www.mqus.org/concerts)

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<https://mqus.org/donate> to  
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support!



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