

# BASILICA CONCERT SERIES

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

## A Concert in Memory of Monsignor Fachtna Joseph Harte

(1930-2020)

featuring

## Requiem in D Minor, K.626

by

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

(1756-1791)

*Generously sponsored by the kind friends of Monsignor Harte*

Thursday, May 30, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.



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

# Monsignor Fachtna Joseph Harte

*“It was Mary. Mary built this shrine!  
I couldn’t have done it without the Mother of God.”*

*Monsignor often said to me “Our Lady brought you to us.”*

*In 2000, after having served at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg for 6 years, I began interviewing at several Cathedral jobs. A friend in the organ industry suggested I contact then-Father Joseph Harte about an opening at the Shrine.*

*I started an email conversation in September of 2000 by sending my resume to which he responded, “Very impressive. But would you move to Orlando? I have no doubt we will be in touch.”*



*And in touch we were. Monsignor loved to send emails. By the end of September he wrote, “If you are still available we will be inviting you for an interview. We would like to have a reliable organist on board to help with the selection of a new pipe organ and of course to handle all the liturgies. The Shrine should have the best liturgies in the USA!” On October 10th, he wrote “It would be good for us to sit down and chat.... Come next Thursday at 1:30.”*

*By November 3rd, Msgr. Harte emailed “This is to let you know that the committee has agreed to offer you the post as organist at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine.... I hope your pastor will be agreeable to let you go amicably!”*

*We agreed that I would start at the Shrine on January 1, 2001. Msgr. Harte wrote, “I look forward to scheming with you for good music and the pipe organ....welcome aboard. Fr. Joseph”*

*By the end of January, he wrote, “You have gotten off to a roaring start! Blessings! Joe.” He told me I could call him “Joe”, but I never could quite do that!*

*Msgr. Fachtna Joseph Harte passed away May 30th, 2020 after a long illness. We were blest to have him with us for so many years.*

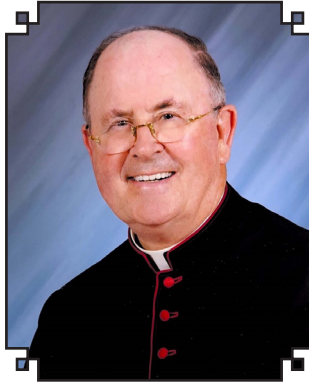
*I am grateful for my years at the Shrine with five wonderful rectors, each of them amazingly supportive. But there will always be something special about Msgr. Harte. I am blessed to have been hired by him, work and laugh with him and to get to know him. He was a visionary, an inspiration, a hero to many and a very funny man.*

*In one of my last conversations with him, in the days close to his death, I asked him, “If we were to do a memorial concert for you some day, what piece would you like us to perform?”*

*He said, without hesitation, “Mozart’s Requiem.”*

*So, here we are. Four years to the day since this special priest entered eternal life. This concert is for you, Monsignor. Pray for us.*

*Dr. William F. Picher*



**Monsignor Fachtna Joseph Harte** (1930-2020), was an Irish-born Catholic priest, who served in Washington and Orlando. He was named the first Director of Tourist Ministry by Bishop Thomas Grady and was the visionary behind the establishment of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, serving as its founding rector.

Born in 1930 in County Mayo, Ireland, he was educated at St. Gerald's Secondary School in Castlebar and St. Mary's Secondary School in Athlone. He trained as a teacher in De La Salle College Waterford and joined the Marist Teaching order which he left in 1955. He was ordained for the priesthood in All Hallows College, Dublin in 1961, working first in Diocese of Yakima, Washington State where he worked as a priest and school teacher then being transferred to the Diocese of Orlando. He gained a Masters in Education from the University of Portland and later a Masters in Religious Education from Barry University in Miami.

After becoming pastor of Holy Family Parish in Orlando in 1975, that parish became the center for a tourism ministry, leading to his appointment as Director of Tourist Ministry in 1980. He was honored with the title Monsignor, Chaplain to His Holiness in 2003, and retired in 2007.

Monsignor usually ended his Masses with the following prayer, "May the best day of your past, be the worst day of your future. Until we meet again, may God keep you all in the palm of His hand, and may His Blessed Mother watch over you."

Monsignor Harte's book *They Shall Bear You Up - Memories of a Catholic Priest*, was published in 2011. A second book, *Flames at Twilight: The Novel of St. Patrick and Ireland* was published in 2018 by Archway Publishing.

Monsignor died on 30 May 2020 after a long illness, and his remains were returned to Ireland.

# About the Artists

## The Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe



*Members of the Basilica Choir with Msgr. Harte in 2016*

**THE BASILICA CHOIR** was formed to minister to the many thousands of tourists to Central Florida who attend Mass at the Basilica. Under the direction of Dr. William Picher, The Basilica Choir provides the very best in liturgical choral music, as well as a vibrant and varied repertoire at liturgies and concerts throughout central Florida. The Choir's members come from all parts of the United States and have extensive choral and performance experience.

With a wide repertoire ranging from the ancient chants of the church to contemporary works written especially for them, the Basilica Choir has been called "one of the treasures of Central Florida." In addition to their regular ministry at

the Basilica which includes singing at three weekend Masses and selected holy days, the choir performs regular concerts and outreach into the community at churches, hospice, prisons, retirement communities and many others.

The Basilica Choir's latest CD, "A-LIVE and Blessed!" is available in the gift shop.

Organist, trumpeter, composer and conductor, **Dr. William Picher, AAGO**, 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, Dr. Picher 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.

*A Concert in Memory of*  
**Monsignor Fachtna Joseph Harte**  
(1930-2020)

Thursday, May 30, 2024 - 7:30pm

*The Program*

St. Patrick's Breastplate\* . . . . . Sean Christopher Stork  
Sarah Purser, *mezzo soprano soloist*

Be Thou My Vision\* . . . . . Traditional Irish, arr. Marshall Webb

Danny Boy\* . . . . . Traditional County Derry, words by Fred Weatherby  
arr. William Picher

Yani Araujo, *tenor soloist*

Mary's Lullaby\* . . . . . Traditional Irish, words by Msgr. F. Joseph Harte  
arr. William Picher

Erin Elizabeth Wolfe, *mezzo soprano soloist*

Irish Blessing . . . . . Molly Conole  
Samantha Barnes Daniel, *soprano soloist*

**I N T E R M I S S I O N**

Requiem in D Minor, K. 626 . . . . . Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)  
Completion by Franz Xaver Sussmayr (1766-1803)

- |       |              |  |
|-------|--------------|--|
| I.    | Introit:     | Requiem  |
| II.   | Kyrie        |  |
| III.  | Sequentia:   | Dies irae<br>Tuba mirum<br>Rex tremendae<br>Recordare<br>Confutatis<br>Lacrimosa |
| IV.   | Offertorium: | Dominus Jesu<br>Hostias  |
| V.    | Sanctus      |  |
| VI.   | Benedictus   |  |
| VII.  | Agnus Dei    |  |
| VIII. | Communio:    | Lux aeterna  |

*\*written especially for the Basilica Choir*

*Please, no flash photography, video or audio recording of any kind during this performance. Additionally, please turn off cell phones and pagers, or put in silent mode prior to the start of the performance.*

## **I. Introit: Requiem**

Grant them eternal rest, Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine on them.  
You are praised, God, in Zion,  
and homage will be paid to You in Jerusalem.  
Hear my prayer,  
to You all flesh will come.  
Grant them eternal rest, Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine on them.

## **II. Kyrie**

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

## **III. Sequentia**

### **1. Dies Irae**

Day of wrath, day of anger  
will dissolve the world in ashes,  
as foretold by David and the Sibyl.  
Great trembling there will be  
when the Judge descends from heaven  
to examine all things closely.

### **2. Tuba Mirum**

The trumpet will send its wondrous sound  
throughout earth's sepulchres  
and gather all before the throne.  
Death and nature will be astounded,  
when all creation rises again,  
to answer the judgement.  
A book will be brought forth,  
in which all will be written,  
by which the world will be judged.  
When the judge takes his place,  
what is hidden will be revealed,  
nothing will remain unavenged.  
What shall a wretch like me say?  
Who shall intercede for me,  
when the just ones need mercy?

### **3. Rex Tremendae**

King of tremendous majesty,  
who freely saves those worthy ones,  
save me, source of mercy.

## **4. Recordare**

Remember, kind Jesus,  
my salvation caused your suffering;  
do not forsake me on that day.  
Faint and weary you have sought me,  
redeemed me, suffering on the cross;  
may such great effort not be in vain.  
Righteous judge of vengeance,  
grant me the gift of absolution before the day of  
retribution.

I moan as one who is guilty:  
owning my shame with a red face;  
suppliant before you, Lord.  
You, who absolved Mary,  
and listened to the thief, give me hope also.  
My prayers are unworthy, but, good Lord, have mercy,  
and rescue me from eternal fire.  
Provide me a place among the sheep, and separate me  
from the goats, guiding me to Your right hand.

## **5. Confutatis**

When the accused are confounded,  
and doomed to flames of woe, call me among the blessed.  
I kneel with submissive heart, my contrition is like ashes,  
help me in my final condition.

## **6. Lacrimosa**

That day of tears and mourning,  
when from the ashes shall arise, all humanity to be judged.  
Spare us by your mercy, Lord,  
gentle Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest. Amen.

## **IV. Offertory**

### **1. Domine Jesu**

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory,  
liberate the souls of the faithful,  
departed from the pains of hell  
and from the bottomless pit.  
Deliver them from the lion's mouth,  
lest hell swallow them up,  
lest they fall into darkness.  
Let the standard-bearer, holy Michael,  
bring them into holy light.  
Which was promised to Abraham  
and his descendants.

## 2. Hostias

Sacrifices and prayers of praise, Lord,  
we offer to You.

Receive them in behalf of those souls  
we commemorate today.

And let them, Lord,  
pass from death to life,  
which was promised to Abraham  
and his descendants.

## V. Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God of Sabaoth.  
Heaven and earth  
are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## VI. Benedictus

Blessed is He who cometh in the name  
of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

## VII. Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away  
the sins of the world,  
grant them eternal rest.

Lamb of God, you take away  
the sins of the world,  
Grant them eternal rest.

Lamb of God, you take away  
the sins of the world,  
grant them eternal rest forever.

## VIII. Communion

### Lux Aeterna

Let eternal light shine on them, Lord,  
as with Your saints in eternity,  
because You are merciful.

Grant them eternal rest, Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine on them,  
as with Your saints in eternity,  
because You are merciful.

# The Basilica Choir and Orchestra

William Picher *conductor*

**Soprano:** Samantha Barnes Daniel, Kathleen Elbert,  
Jamie Miller, Shannon Romba

**Alto:** Maggie Gifford, Samantha Petersen,  
Sarah Purser, Erin Elizabeth Wolfe

**Tenor:** Yani Araujo, Ian Gibb, Lex Goity

**Baritone/Bass:** Kevin Thomas Harris, Alvin C. James,  
Sean Christopher Stork, Marshall Webb

**Clarinet:** Maureen Gay Amaral, Erik Cole

**Bassoon:** Ashley Heintzen, Rich Ervin

**Trumpet:** Lyman Brodie, John Coppela

**Trombone:** Jeffrey Thomas, Joey Vascik,  
Charlie Boston

**Percussion:** Beth Gottlieb, Danny Gottlieb

**Violin 1:** Lisa Ferrigno (Concertmaster),  
Joni Hanze, Scott Knopf,  
Shelley Bareham Mathews

**Violin 2:** Bethany Confessore, Jennifer Guzman  
Jennie Rudberg, Amy Xaychaleune

**Viola:** Melissa Swedberg, Carl Kerner  
Lisa Loucks, Daniel Cortes

**Cello:** David Calhoun, Shona Mungall  
Mark Verrette, Adriana Stenvik

**Bass:** Kevin Gallagher

# 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!

### For More Information:

(407) 239-6600

[mqus.org](https://mqus.org) | [wfpicher@cfl.rr.com](mailto:wfpicher@cfl.rr.com)

or visit:

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