

“A week rarely passes in which a number of the inhabitants do not assemble for the purpose of spending an hour or two at the church, while the ancient organist, or some of his pupils perform upon this instrument; and often is the passerby invited into the place on a fine evening by hearing the pealing anthem swell the note of praise . . . “

– St. George Tucker
Williamsburg Judge
1795

Peter Pelham, Bruton Parish’s first organist, was born in London in 1721. As a young boy he moved with his family to Boston, and at the age of 12, Peter began a nine-year apprenticeship with Charles Theodore Pachelbel, son of the great German organist Johann Pachelbel. It appears that Pelham followed Pachelbel to Newport, Rhode Island, and while there began teaching spinet and harpsichord lessons to students of the aristocrats residing in the area.

From there his career led him to Trinity Church, Boston, where he was hired to install the organ (approved by G.F. Handel) and serve as the first organist of this distinguished church. In 1746 Pelham was married to Ann Cresse with whom he had 14 children, seven of whom survived him. During the early 1750s Pelham moved his family to Virginia and began teaching music on various plantations.

In 1755 a new organ arrived in Williamsburg for Bruton Church. Mr. Pelham was eventually hired to set up the organ and served as organist for nearly 50 years. When Mr. Pelham practiced or instructed students, local residents would assemble and listen to the organ. This provided the inspiration for the more than 120 Candlelight Concerts held each year.

We invite you to mark these dates on your calendar and to attend along with family and friends. For further information please call the Parish Office at 229-2891.

Dr. JanEl B. Will, Director of Music & Organist
jwill@brutonparish.org

Rebecca E. Davy, Associate Organist & Choir Director
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The Peter Pelham Concert Series 2009-2010

*Bruton Parish
Church
Williamsburg,
Virginia*



The Peter Pelham Concert Series 2009-2010

Thursday, Oct. 15 **8:00 PM** **Organ, Harp and Flute**

An Evening of Elegance

Debra Wendells Cross, Flute

Barbara Chapman, Harp

Dr. JanEl B. Will, Organ

Tickets: \$10, \$5 Children/William & Mary Students

Saturday, March 6 **8:00 PM** **Keyboard Duets**

4 Hands, 4 Feet

Dr. JanEl B. Will, Organ and Harpsichord

Rebecca E. Davy, Organ and Harpsichord

Tickets: \$10, \$5 Children/William & Mary Students

Thursday, Nov. 12 **8:00 PM** **Concertos of Handel**

Handel Festival

James S. Darling, Organ

Rebecca E. Davy, Harpsichord

Kevin Piccini, Oboe

Dr. JanEl B. Will, Organ

String Quartet

Tickets: \$10, \$5 Children/William & Mary Students

Sunday, April 25 **5:30 PM** **50th Anniversary
John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
Memorial Concert**

Coronation Mass by W.A. Mozart

Musick's Jubilee by Andrew Carter

The Choirs of Bruton Parish with Orchestra

Dr. JanEl B. Will and Rebecca E. Davy, Directors

Tickets: \$15, \$5 Children/William & Mary Students

Saturday, Nov. 14 **8:00 PM** **The Wren Masters**

Handel Festival

Dr. Ruth van Baak Griffioen, Recorder

Susan Forster Via, Baroque Violin

Sarah Gentry Glosson, Baroque Cello

Thomas M. Marshall, Harpsichord

Tickets: \$10, \$5 Children/William & Mary Students

Sunday, June 6 **9 & 11:15 AM** **Sung Latin Mass**

Missa Brevis in C Major by W.A. Mozart

The Pelham Choir of Bruton Parish

and the Chancel Choir of St. John's

Episcopal Church, Hampton

Rebecca E. Davy and John Siderius, Directors

No Ticket Required.

Friday, Dec. 11 **8:00 PM** **Handel's Messiah, Part I**
& **Saturday, Dec. 12**

Handel Festival

Choirs of Bruton Parish with Orchestra

Rodney Eichenberger, Conductor

Tickets: \$15, \$5 Children/William & Mary Students

Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling the Bruton Parish office at (757) 229-2891 or at the door the night of the concert. The entire series may be purchased in advance for \$50.