

“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 (757) 229-2891.

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

Rebecca E. Davy, Organist & Choir Director
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The Peter Pelham Concert Series 2010-2011

*Bruton Parish
Church
Williamsburg,
Virginia*



The Peter Pelham Concert Series 2010-2011

Saturday, September 18

8:00 PM

The Adagio Trio + One
Kathryn Daniels, flute
Michael Daniels, cello
Linda Grieser, harp
Dr. JanEl B. Will, organ & harpsichord

Tickets: \$10, \$5 students

Saturday, October 16

8:00 PM

Arise in Beauty: An Evening of Music by Dan Locklair
The Choirs of Bruton Parish
Brass Quartet, Flute, Organ & Percussion
World premiere of "Arise in Beauty"
commissioned by Bruton Parish
and through a gift from Carolyn Weekley

Tickets: \$10, \$5 students

Friday, December 10

8:00 PM

Saturday, December 11

8:00 PM

The Christmas Rose: Advent & Christmas Music of
Michael Praetorius
The Choirs of Bruton Parish & Orchestra
Dr. JanEl B. Will & Rebecca E. Davy, directors

Tickets: \$15, \$5 students

Sunday, Dec. 26

9:15 AM & 11:15 AM

Christmas Lessons and Carols
The Choirs of Bruton Parish Church
Dr. JanEl Will and Rebecca Davy, directors

No Ticket Required

Saturday, March 5

8:00 PM

Music for Organ and Brass
Arum Sonus Brass Quartet
Rebecca E. Davy, organ

Tickets: \$10, \$5 students

Saturday, April 2

8:00 PM

51st Annual John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Concert

Out of the Depths, I Call to Thee by J.S. Bach
Requiem by Bob Chilcott

The Choirs of Bruton Parish with Orchestra
Dr. JanEl B. Will & Rebecca E. Davy, directors

Tickets: \$15, \$5 students

Sunday, June 5

9:15 AM & 11:15 AM

Sung Latin Mass

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

Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling the Bruton Parish office at (757) 345-2947 or at the door the night of the concert. The entire series may be purchased in advance for \$50.