

“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.

Rebecca E. Davy, Music Director and Organist
bdavy@brutonparish.org

Dr. JanEl B. Will, Organist & Choir Director
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The Peter Pelham Concert Series

2011-2012

Bruton Parish
Church
Williamsburg,
Virginia



The Peter Pelham Concert Series 2011-2012

Sunday, October 23

5:00-9:00 pm

Progressive Dinner and Concerts Sponsored by the Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Wren Chapel: James Darling, Organist
Williamsburg Presbyterian: Norman Elton, Organist
Bruton Parish: Rebecca Davy & JanEl Will, Organists
Williamsburg Methodist: Thomas Marshall, Organist

Dinner Tickets Sold Out; Concerts Free

Tuesday, December 6

8:00 pm

Songs of Mary

Magnificats of Dieterich Buxtehude & Andrew Carter
Adult and Children's Choirs of Bruton Parish
with Orchestra, Rebecca Davy, Director

Tickets: \$10, \$5 students

Sunday, December 18

9:15 & 11:15 am

Advent Lessons & Carols

Choirs and Handbells of Bruton Parish
Rebecca Davy, Director; JanEl Will, Organist

Saturday, March 24 6:00 pm Dinner, 8:00 pm Concert

Dinner and a Concert

Les deux Clavecins: 20th Anniversary Concert

Premiere of commissioned work by Christopher Cook
Thomas Marshall & Allen Shaffer, Harpsichordists

Dinner Tickets: \$25, advance reservation only

Performance Only: \$10, \$5 students

Saturday, April 28

8:00 pm

52nd Annual John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Concert

The Creation by Franz Josef Haydn
The Choirs of Bruton Parish with Orchestra
Rebecca Davy, Director

Tickets: \$10, \$5 students

Saturday, May 12 6:00 pm Dinner, 8:00 pm Concert

Dinner and a Concert

Fire Pink Trio: Music from Romantic to Contemporary

Jacquelyn Bartlett, Harpist
Sheila Browne, Violist
Debra Reuter-Pivetta, Flutist

Dinner Tickets: \$25, advance reservation only

Performance Only: \$10, \$5 students

Sunday, June 3

9:15 & 11:15 am

Latin Mass Sung in Services

Choirs of Bruton Parish
Rebecca Davy, Director; JanEl Will, Organist

Tickets may be purchased online at
www.brutonparish.org, or by calling
the Bruton Parish office at (757) 345-2947.
Any remaining tickets will be available at
the door the night of the concerts.