



*George E. Nelson, Jr.*

*The George Nelson Memorial  
Concert Series  
2009-2010*

*Bethany United Methodist Church  
1860 Hayes Road  
P O Box 527  
Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062  
804-642-2110*



*All concerts are free and open to the public, although  
donations are encouraged.*

*A reception will follow each concert in the  
Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall*

*Timothy Seaman in Concert  
September 13, 2009  
4:00 p.m.*



Acoustic soloist Timothy Seaman brings together an eclectic blend of music styles unlike any other: sometimes the deep voice of his four-octave extended-range hammered dulcimer takes on the heart of a Chopin ballade, and at other times the festivity of an old-time mountain dance or a glistening contemporary interpretation of a whitewater canoe ride or a highland hike among fir trees. His bamboo or silver flute improvisations and passionate folk renditions leave the air glowing with meaning --- and then the bowed psaltery or the crafted vocal carries one's mood into yet another exploration.

A specialist in Virginia themes, nature, parks, Celtic roots and folk hymns, Timothy has since 1978 produced or co-produced sixteen recordings totaling 98,000 copies, including the well-received *Here on This Ridge*, for Shenandoah National Park; *Celebration of Centuries*, for his home town, Williamsburg's tri-centennial; *Sycamore Rapids*, featuring the hammered dulcimer in "adventures out among the trees of Virginia's Parks and Forests," *Virginia Wildlife*, for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; *Jamestown: On the Edge of a Vast Continent*, for the 400<sup>th</sup> commemoration; and *Cleansing Fountain*,

folk hymn interpretations for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Although many tracks on these CDs are full ensemble arrangements (often with all instruments played by Seaman himself), they carry the same variety and flow of thought that characterize his solo presence.

At a Seaman concert, expect to be exhilarated, amused, awed, surprised, personally involved (maybe singing a chorus or playing along on Irish bodhran or Thai frog), and enriched by real substance. Come and find traditional, newly composed, and Baroque music that reviewers have referred to as "soul-to-soul" and "highly lyrical."

*Rudy Shackelford*  
*Organ and Piano*  
*October 25, 2009- 4:00 p.m.*

*Back and the Romantics,*  
*Part I:*  
*Felix Mendelssohn*



As Bethany's annual organ/piano concerts move into their second decade, we are launching a new series of programs exploring the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and its influence on later composers.

By happy coincidence in 2009-2011 we shall celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> birthdays of three 19<sup>th</sup>-century "Romantic" musicians profoundly inspired by Bach: Felix Mendelssohn, Robert Schumann, and Franz Liszt. Indeed, it was Mendelssohn's 1829 revival of the *St. Matthew Passion* that rescued Bach from a century of neglect and secured his place in the pantheon of great composers.

Eleven years later, on a visit to St. Thomas' Church in Leipzig, where Bach himself was organist, Mendelssohn performed the *Passacaglia in C Minor* that will close our program. This consummate set of variations served as the model for Mendelssohn's *Organ Sonata No.6*, based on Martin Luther's version of "The Lord's Prayer," and the *Serious Variations* on an original theme for piano. Both masterpieces attest to

Mendelssohn's reputation as a peerless keyboard virtuoso. Moreover, the passion and variety of this music will astonish anyone who thinks of Mendelssohn only as the composer of the *Wedding March* or *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*.

Finally, a 20<sup>th</sup>-century American perspective on the Mendelssohn-Bach tradition will be provided by Rudy Shackelford's concise *Sonata for Organ* and Charles Ives' iconoclastic *Variations on "America."* Do join us on Reformation Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, for an afternoon of serious fun!

Rudy graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Music degree, and from the University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois with a DMA.

*Elisabeth von Trapp in Concert*  
*March 21, 2010*  
*4:00 p.m.*



For Elisabeth von Trapp, "the sounds of music" are part of her earliest memories. Born and raised in Vermont, Elisabeth is the granddaughter of the legendary Maria and Baron von Trapp, whose story inspired *The Sound of Music*. Singing professionally since childhood, Elisabeth has enthralled audiences from European cathedrals to Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center.

Inspired by her father Werner von Trapp's guitar playing and singing, Elisabeth has carried on the legacy of the internationally renowned Trapp Family Singers. She began taking piano lessons when she was eight and by the age of sixteen she was playing guitar and traveling the back roads of New England performing with her siblings at weddings, gospel meetings and town halls.

Elisabeth has created her own artistic style, at once ethereal and earthy, delicate and powerful. Listeners have likened her to Judy Collins and Loreena McKennitt. Critics have called her voice... "hauntingly clear", "joyfully expressive" and "simply beautiful."

Elisabeth's concert repertoire ranges from Bach to Broadway. . Schubert to Sting. With equal ease and eloquence she sings timeless wonders like Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Favorite Things* and *Edelweiss*.

Elisabeth has released five self produced albums, and has performed across the United States, Austria and Russia. Her music has been featured on National Public Radio, BBC-Radio, Japanese National Radio and CNN Spanish Radio. She has appeared on CBS's Eye on People, ABC's Good Morning America and BBC-TV.

Audiences of all ages are drawn by the promise of her famous name...awed by the beauty of her voice and musical arrangements...their hearts touched forever by the astonishing sound of her unique new music.

*George Corbett*  
*English Horn*  
*and*  
*Lee Jordan-Anders*  
*Piano*

*April 25, 2010*  
*4:00 p.m.*



George J. Corbett traverses the East coast and beyond to meet the demands for his services as oboist, English hornist and clinician. Foremost, he is English hornist and oboist with Virginia's premier ensemble, The Virginia Symphony, under the baton of JoAnn Falletta. As an active recitalist and chamber musician, he is a founding member of Chamber Works, a diverse musical ensemble in Philadelphia dedicated to commissioning and performing new compositions of local leading composers. A Graduate of Eastman School of Music and New England Conservatory. He is currently on the faculty of Old Dominion University's Community Education Department as well as the Governor's School for the Arts and has created a day camp for young oboists.

Lee Jordan-Anders is Professor of Music and Artist-in-Residence at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Virginia, and Music Director and Conductor of the Orchestra of the Eastern Shore with its home in Onancock, Virginia. She received both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from Northwestern University's School of Music in Evanston, Illinois. In 1986 she became a part of the Virginia Wesleyan College faculty where she teaches courses in aesthetics, listening, music

theory, chamber music, and piano. She made her debut with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in 1998 as piano soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto in C Major, K. 467, and has also performed frequently with them as part of the orchestra. She continues to be an active performer and scholar, giving concerts and lectures throughout the United States.

The concert will feature Mr. Corbett playing several lyrical English horn solos in the tradition of the romance and the nocturne, accompanied by Jordan-Anders on the piano. She will also favor us with a number of solo selections on the piano. This is a rare opportunity to hear two world-class performers from the Hampton Roads area and promises to be most enjoyable.