

ALL PHOTOS: NANCY ADLER

THE CHOIR OF ST. LUKE IN THE FIELDS

DAVID SHULER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

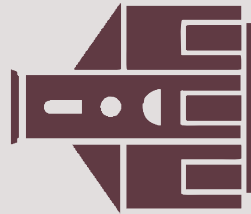


We invite you to hear masterpieces of choral, vocal and instrumental music of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, performed by the Choir of St. Luke in the Fields, one of New York's finest professional vocal ensembles, under the direction of David Shuler. The Choir, known for its interpretation and performance of early music, performs in the resonant and historic sanctuary of the Church of St. Luke in the Fields. Each concert is preceded by a lecture given by a noted authority on the music of the evening.



"ONE OF THE CITY'S FINEST CLASSICAL CHOIRS." - *Time Out NY*

Music & Arts
Church of St. Luke in the Fields
487 Hudson Street
New York, NY 10014
stlukeinthefields.org/music-arts



First Concert Thursday, October 23

"CONCERT PERFORMANCES KNOWN FOR THEIR ADVENTUROUS PROGRAMMING AND INTIMATE SCALE."

- *Early Music America*

PHOTO: NANCY ADLER



David Shuler
Music Director
Twenty-seventh Season
2025-2026

CONCERTS AT SAINT LUKE IN THE FIELDS



“THE CHOIR’S
PERFORMANCE
IS POSITIVELY
STUNNING”

- ACDA Choral Journal

October 23, 2025

Palestrina at 500

Choir of St. Luke in the Fields

Palestrina remains a monumental figure in music history, celebrated for his unmatched mastery of sacred polyphony during the Renaissance. His compositions blend technical brilliance with profound spirituality, creating works that illuminate the divine mysteries they seek to express. This concert is in honor of the 500th birthday of this venerable master. The program will showcase Palestrina as a consummate craftsman with a wide range of his works.

December 4, 2025

A Baroque Christmas in Rome

Choir of St. Luke in the Fields
with Baroque in the Fields Orchestra

Rome is a city of magnificent churches, and of those, one of the most beautiful is the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. This concert will offer music that might have been heard on Christmas Eve in the basilica in the early years of the 18th century. The centerpiece will be Alessandro Scarlatti’s *Messa per il Santissimo Natale*, a Christmas mass in the Roman polychoral style composed for Santa Maria Maggiore in 1707. The mass, a masterful fusion of Renaissance *stile antico* and the Baroque *stile concertato*, perfectly captures the essence of the Christmas narrative, from the joyously dancing violin ritornelli to the quiet reverence of the Nativity scene. The program will also include festive motets by Scarlatti and Giacomo Carissimi, and organ works by Bernardo Pasquini.

March 12, 2026

Johann Sebastian Bach’s Motets

Choir of St. Luke in the Fields

Bach’s appointment in 1723 as Thomaskantor in Leipzig heralded a period of intense creative energy for the composer. Over the next four years, Bach would use his considerable talents

to write works for choir that reach levels of virtuosity, expression, and jubilation unmatched by any other composer of the German Baroque. The Motets, as a collection, are the lodestar of Baroque choral polyphony and were likely performed repeatedly until Bach’s death in 1750. Approachable and deeply moving, the Motets are among the few Bach works that did not fall out of fashion after the composer’s death. They represent Bach both at his exuberant best, in particular, the large double choir works *Singet dem Herrn* and *Der Geist hilft*. As with virtually every other genre that he composed in, Bach brought motet composition to its pinnacle.

May 7, 2026

George Frideric Handel: Esther

Choir of St. Luke in the Fields
with Baroque in the Fields Orchestra

Handel’s *Esther* has long enjoyed the cachet for being the first English Oratorio. Though this is Handel’s first oratorio, it already demonstrates Handel’s ability to create an enormous variety of orchestral color and to bring to life compelling drama in music. Recounting the story of Esther and Haman from the Hebrew Scriptures, the work incorporates elements of masque, pastoral and opera.

Four Thursday Evenings at 7:30 pm

Pre-Concert Lectures at 6:30 pm

Church of St. Luke in the Fields
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stlukeinthefields.org/music-arts

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Student and Senior Tickets @ \$35

Total \$ _____

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