

FIKA

Concerts - Coffee - Cookies - Conversation

MUSIC SERIES

*Rhapsody & Song:
The Music of George Gershwin*

Featuring "Rhapsody in Blue" for four-hand piano
and a variety of vocal songs

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2PM



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIKA MUSIC SERIES

In Sweden, the tradition of fika (pronounced “fee-ka”) is as common as breakfast—something almost everyone does at least once a day. It’s a moment to take a break, often with a cup of coffee or tea and a baked good to enjoy alongside it. At its core, fika means “to drink coffee,” but it represents much more: a time to pause, socialize, enjoy good company, and slow down. To truly fika is to make space in your day for connection and refreshment. The Fika Music Series at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church embraces this same spirit, inviting audiences to pause from life’s busyness and gather around the joy of live music.

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2026–2027 season of the Fika Music Series, featuring four unique programs celebrating the variety and richness of musical storytelling. The season opens with *Rhapsody & Songs: The Music of George Gershwin* on October 11. Our two Family Fika performances invite listeners of all ages into magical musical worlds with Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker Suite* on November 21 and Ravel’s *Mother Goose Suite* on February 6. The season concludes April 11 with *Waltzing Through Vienna*. Concerts last about 40-50 minutes and are presented in the Sanctuary from either the choir loft or the front of the space, offering an intimate experience with the performers. Bring a friend, enjoy the music, and make time to fika with us!

Jordan Buchholtz, Coordinator of Fika Music Series

2026-2027 SEASON CONCERTS

Sunday, October 11, 2pm

Rhapsody & Songs: The Music of George Gershwin

Family Fika - Saturday, November 21, 10am

The Nutcracker Suite

Family Fika - Saturday, February 6, 10am

The Mother Goose Suite

Sunday, April 11, 2pm

Waltzing Through Vienna

PROGRAM ORDER

Prelude No. 1 Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

I've Got Rhythm

Someone to Watch Over Me

Love Walked In

I've Got a Crush on You

Prelude No. 2 Andante con moto e poco rubato

Prelude No. 3 Agitato

Blah, Blah, Blah

By Strauss

Let's Call the Whole Thing Off

Rhapsody in Blue

Musicians:

Amanda Jenkins, soprano

Tony Potts, baritone

Jordan Buchholtz, piano

Leah Siltberg, piano

PROGRAM NOTES

George and Ira Gershwin created some of the most enduring music of the American Jazz Age, blending the sophistication of classical music with the energy, rhythm, and unmistakable sounds of jazz and popular song. George, the composer, and Ira, the lyricist, formed one of the most successful creative partnerships of the twentieth century, producing beloved songs for Broadway and the concert stage, including works such as "Someone to Watch Over Me," "'S Wonderful," "Embraceable You," and "They Can't Take That Away from Me." George's remarkable ability to bring the language of jazz into the concert hall is heard in his *Three Preludes* for solo piano, which transform jazz-inspired rhythms, harmonies, and melodies into virtuosic concert pieces. This fusion reaches its fullest expression in *Rhapsody in Blue*, George's groundbreaking 1924 work that brought together a jazz ensemble's vitality with the scope and grandeur of the classical concert tradition. Together, these works celebrate the extraordinary musical world created by the Gershwin brothers—a world where Broadway, jazz, popular song, and classical music meet with wit, sophistication, and irresistible energy.

*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for conversation,
a cup of coffee, and treats.*

MUSICIAN INFORMATION

Amanda Jenkins is a versatile performer of opera, operetta, and musical theatre who has performed locally with The Minnesota Orchestra, Skylark Opera, Theatre Latté Da, The Minnesota Opera, and the Gilbert and Sullivan Very Light Opera Company. At Mount Olivet, she serves as Assistant to the Director of Worship and Music, is a soprano section leader in the Sanctuary Choir, directs the middle school Chancel Choir, and coordinates Summertime Players!, a summer musical theatre camp for middle school kids. Amanda earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance and Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Minnesota. She has worked as an elementary school music specialist and private voice teacher and will always advocate for the importance of music in education and in our community.

Tony Potts is a singer, actor, and musician based in Minneapolis, MN. The Pioneer Press has described him as having “not only swagger, charm and charisma, but a baritone voice that blends beautifully...” He has appeared with numerous theaters both regionally and nationally, including Theater Latté Da, Schubert Club, Minnesota Opera, Opera Orlando, Dallas Opera, Lyric Arts, Skylark Opera Theatre, Crooner’s, and Minnesota Dance Theater. A two-time finalist at the international Lotte Lenya Competition, Tony finds himself equally at home on both opera and musical theater stages. Highlighting his versatility, the 2024-2025 season featured him in various roles including Harold Hill in Music Man (Lyric Arts), soloist in Loyce Houlton’s acclaimed production of Carmina Burana at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, and singing-actor in Libby Larsen’s The Silver Fox with Schubert Club. Describing his recent portrayal of Harold Hill— “Potts... brings a dash of Jim Halpert’s affability, a dose of Cary Elwes’s charm and a heaping helping of Jonathan Groff’s tireless showmanship to his version of Hill.” Offstage, Tony is a teacher at Mount Olivet School of Music and the Arts (MOSOMA), a section leader in the Sanctuary Choir at Mount Olivet, and a recording artist.

An active pianist and organist, **Jordan Buchholtz** regularly works, performs, and records with both vocalists and instrumentalists as well as local chamber ensembles and opera companies in and around the Twin Cities in Minnesota. She has worked on shows and projects with Lyric Opera of the North; St. Croix Valley Opera; Skylark Opera; An Opera Theatre; Oratorio Society of MN; Bach Society; Opera Reading Project; and Overdressed. Recent projects include: Overdressed's *Tosca* (August 2026), Opera Reading Project's *Hydrogen Jukebox* (April 2026); *Magic Flute for Kids & The Lost Prince* with St. Croix Valley Opera (April 2026); Opera Reading Project's productions of *Pagliacci & Alice Tierney* (June 2025); *Ofrenda* (April 2025); and *Transformations* (January 2025). Upcoming projects include: An Opera Theatre's Opera Underground Series (Nov. 2026) and their spring show (April 2027), and Skylark Opera for Seniors (Fall of 2026). Jordan serves as principal organist and pianist, as well as Handbell Choir Director, at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. Jordan holds degrees from the University of Minnesota (DMA); University of Missouri-Kansas City (Artist Certificate & MM); and Luther College (BA).

Pianist **Dr. Leah Siltberg** is an active and sought-after performer in several contexts. She has performed in the Minnesota Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra as well as for Minnesota Public Radio, the American Composer's Forum, the James Sewell Ballet, and the Schubert Club. Siltberg most often concertizes as a collaborative pianist, and has performed both solo and collaborative recitals in the United States, Canada, Central and South America, Spain, and New Zealand. Siltberg graduated from Toronto's Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music with a Performance Diploma, Bachelor of Music, and Artist Diploma under the tutelage of Boris Lysenko and Peter Longworth, and from the University of Minnesota with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano under Timothy Lovelace and Noriko Kawai. While not playing the piano, Siltberg homeschools her four children and soaks up all the outdoor time she can.

MUSIC & ART AT MOUNT OLIVET

MUSIC IN COMMUNITY

Sunday, December 6, 3:15pm rehearsal, 4pm performance

Messiah Sing-Along

Get ready for Mount Olivet's annual *Messiah* Sing-along!

This festive December tradition brings the community together in a powerful celebration of music and joy. Registration online coming

Sunday, December 13, 2 & 4pm, Mpls Campus

*Mount Olivet Annual Christmas Concert: **Amid the Winter's Snow***

Join us for a spectacular celebration of the Christmas season for these free must-see concert, filled with the beauty and joy of the holidays.

Thursday, March 4, 7pm, Mpls Campus

Requiem for the Living by Dan Forrest

This coming Lenten season, Mount Olivet is honored to present its third *Requiem* concert. All singers are invited to participate.

ART CLASSES

Tuesday, October 27, 6pm, Mpls Campus

No Fear Oil Painting: Fall Colors

Explore oil painting techniques and tools in a warm, beginner-friendly environment.

Monday, November 16, 6pm, Mpls Campus

Gouach Koi Pond

Experiment with gouache, an opaque watercolor medium that includes mixing, layering, and adding texture.

Tuesday, December 15, 6pm, Mpls Campus

Rosemaling Ornament

Learn a traditional Scandinavian folk art style using basic strokes and patterns.



Now in its 23rd year, MOSOMA continues to thrive with excellence and energy! With over 25 professional teachers and 250 students, the school continues to champion the importance of Music and Art. The MOSOMA represents a warm, welcoming environment where people come first, learning feels safe and supportive, and exceptional teachers inspire every step of the way. For more information, check out our MOSOMA teachers online and then fill out the private lesson interest form at mtolivet.org/mosoma.

BECOME A SUPPORTER!

Thank you for sharing your time with us today. If you are interested in helping support the FIKA Music Series or you would like to be added to our Mount Olivet Music Events email list, please use the QR codes below. Thank you for your generosity and support to Mount Olivet's School of Music & the Arts where music and art are made in community!

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