

September 20, 2025
Three O'Clock

The Music Ministry is proud to present
WILLIAM CALLAWAY, organist
celebrating 50 years of public performance

Concerto in A Minor	.....	Antonio Vivaldi
Meditation from "Thais"	.....	Jules Massenet
Toccata in D minor ("Dorian")	.....	J. S. Bach
The Bells of St. Anne de Beaupre	.....	Alexander Russell
Overture in D minor	.....	G.F. Handel
Evensong	.....	Charles Callahan
<i>organ duet with Mrs. Becky Sanders</i>		
How Great Thou Art	.....	Stuart Hine
<i>piano & organ duet with Mrs. Becky Sanders</i>		
Clair de Lune	.....	Claude Debussy
Wedding Processional ("The Sound of Music")	.....	Richard Rogers
Adagio for Strings	.....	Samuel Barber
To God Be the Glory	.....	Linda McKechnie
<i>piano & organ duet with Mr. Zack Wright</i>		
Overture to "William Tell"	.....	Gioachino Rossini
I. Morning in the Swiss Alps		
II. Storm Over Lake Lucerne		
III. Song of the Cowherds		
IV. Martial Call-to-Arms		

Immediately following the concert, please join us in Fellowship Hall
for a reception honoring Bill's remarkable career milestone.

A Note from the Organist

I gave my first public recital on August 31, 1975, at my home church, First United Methodist Church of Covington. Although I had played in student recitals during grade school and college, this was my first solo program open to the public. From that moment, I knew this was something I truly enjoyed and wanted to continue—and I have been blessed with many wonderful opportunities over the past fifty years.



Since 1985, I have had a long and meaningful association with the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, where I have performed more than twenty times on their Evensong Recital Series—more than any other organist. In 1999, I was honored to play the renowned 10,000-pipe Aeolian Symphonic Organ at Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia. Another highlight came in 2014, when I performed at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco on their magnificent 1934 Aeolian-Skinner organ, joined by an entourage of twenty-five friends and family members. That was truly a mountaintop experience!

The greatest musical thrill of my life was in 1994, when I gave a solo recital at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, performing on the Grand Organ beneath Sir Christopher Wren's great dome—a keyboard once played by Handel and Mendelssohn. To share that moment with family, friends, and members of my home church made it all the more unforgettable.

For thirty years, I served as accompanist for the West Atlanta Douglas Choral Society, an experience that brought countless memorable performances. We toured North Carolina and collaborated with many marvelous soloists, instrumental ensembles, and guest choirs, including the Georgia Boy Choir. Over the years, I have had the privilege of accompanying singers from the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Soviet Georgia Opera, and Atlanta Opera.

Beyond the concert hall, I have enjoyed serving as organist for Christmas at Callanwolde, playing piano at banquets in the Governor's Mansion, and providing music for numerous Veterans' Recognition Services at the Georgia State Capitol. I have also been enriched by participating in thirteen organ study tours across Europe, where I had the privilege of playing more than 200 historic instruments in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany, and Switzerland.

Through it all, the greatest honor of my life has been to play the King of Instruments for the King of Kings every week at Chamblee First United Methodist Church. With God's help—and your encouragement—I hope to continue making music for at least another decade!

Thank you for sharing this special occasion with me.

Blessings,
Bill

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