

CONCERT SERIES
Dinetia Newman
Lynn Nelson

In 2023, All Saints' established the All Saints' Concert Series as a part of the All Saints' community outreach efforts and supported by All Saints' parishioners. The All Saints' Concert Series is overseen and authorized by All Saints' Rector and Vestry (governing body).

To date, the Concert Series has held eight (8) concerts:

- A Musical Gathering in the Garden on April 30, 2023 - a string quartet performance, presented in memory of Mary Gardiner Tims
- A Summer Music Block Party on August 20, 2023 - featuring the Massey Tate band
- Annual Organ Concert on October 8, 2024 - featuring Jessica Nelson (with flutist Lynn Nelson)
- Advent Lessons and Carols on December 10, 2023 - featuring the choirs of All Saints' Episcopal Church of Tupelo and First Presbyterian Church of Oxford
- Winter Musicale on January 28, 2024 - performed by nationally and internationally known soloists, James Martin and Tessika McClendon, accompanied by David O'Steen
- Oxford Civic Chorus in concert on May 5, 2024
- Tom Kimmel in concert on August 18, 2024 - featuring nationally known musician, songwriter, and poet Tom Kimmel, former resident of Tupelo and member of All Saints'
- Annual Organ Concert on September 22, 2024 - featuring nationally known organist Dr. Jeff R. McClelland, from Birmingham, AL

All concerts are free and open to the public and followed by a reception where attendees have an opportunity to visit with the musicians.

Every concert presented by the All Saints' Concert Series has elevated, stimulated, and supported music and the allied arts in all their aspects in the Episcopal Church and the

larger Anglican tradition. The organ recitals are particularly geared toward that goal in their relationship to liturgy.

The Concert Series' goal of outreach to the community is realized at each concert with an average attendance that has grown to 150. The attendees are truly diverse in age, gender, race, and denomination and in their county of residence. We have a volunteer planning committee consisting of Dinetia Newman, Tommie Moore (Parish Administrator), Fr. Phillip Parker (Rector), Tracy Proctor, Lynn Nelson, and Debra Atkinson (prior to her departure). All Saints' choir and other All Saints' parishioners volunteer by hosting the reception, donating food and drink, and setting up and decorating the Parish Hall.

The popularity of the concerts has grown and with that popularity, the cost of presenting them has grown. As All Saints' budget does not fund the Concert Series, the volunteer planning committee applies for grants to provide concerts and requests (and appreciates) donations from attendees, members of All Saints' community and others in the community. The All Saints' music program received a generous grant from a former parishioner whose funds are managed by the Endowment Committee. The Endowment Committee "loans" to the Concert Series funds for concerts, which loans must be repaid through grant monies and donations.

Concerts scheduled so far for the 2025 season of the All Saints' Concert Series include:

- A March 2 concert by the Tupelo High School's "Structure," the band that supports the THS show choirs. Since this concert will precede Fat Tuesday by two days, the reception's food and decorations will reflect a Mardi Gras celebration.
- A May 4 return performance by the Oxford Civic Chorus featuring classics by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Leonard Bernstein, Rogers and Hammerstein and Irvin Berlin.
- An August 17 Block Party featuring the local folk/soft rock band Tom Foolery
- October 19 – open, but considering either a blue grass band or a vocal concert