



Lenten Musical Moments

Wednesday, April 1, 2026
12:00pm

Cole Stephenson, bass-baritone
Nerva Altino, piano/organ

Welcome, Scriptures, and Prayer

But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming? G. F. Handel

For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth.....G. F. Handel

The People that Walked in Darkness.....G. F. Handel

Balm in Gilead.....H. T. Burleigh

Deep River H. T. Burleigh

Mache dich, mein Herze, rein..... J. S. Bach

Benediction

Postlude: Priez pour paix Francis Poulenc

Cole Stephenson (b.2000) is an up and coming bass-baritone hailing from central Iowa. Cole has worked with the Des Moines Metro Opera as a chorus member and cover and in the summer of 2025 he debuted with the Cincinnati Opera as the jailer in their production of Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*. In the 2024-2025 Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Competition Cole received the Encouragement Award and Audience Choice Award in the Iowa District. Cole has received his BM in voice from Iowa State University, his MM in voice from The University of Cincinnati, and is currently pursuing his MMA in Voice at the Yale School of Music.

Nerva Altino began his piano studies with his late father, a former amateur church pianist in his homeland, Haiti. At 12 years old, Nerva went on to study at the Davis Music Studio, where he studied piano and organ. At 18, Nerva continued his musical training at the Atlantic Union College (AUC), where he studied piano, organ, and Sacred music. Following his studies at AUC, Nerva was accepted into the Manhattan School of Music, where he received a Master's Degree in Piano Performance. Nerva's genre blending style has taken him all over the world, including tours throughout the US, China, Europe, and the Caribbean. As a pianist, he has performed in many prestigious venues which include Carnegie Hall, Avery Fischer Hall (now David Geffen), Shanghai Symphony Hall, and others. As an organist, he has performed on some of the largest pipe organs in the world, including the Riverside Church, NYC, Woolsey Hall (Yale University), Mechanics Hall, and churches/Cathedrals in Europe. Nerva is part of a piano duo team with his brother, Robenson — together, they are known as the “Altino Brothers”. In addition, he currently serves as Director of Music Ministries here at The Congregational Church of New Canaan.

You Are Invited

Thursday, April 2 at 8:00pm- Maundy Thursday service with Chancel Choir

Sunday, April 5 at 9:00am and 11:00am services- Easter Day with Chancel Choir, guest instrumentalists and organ. There will be a 10-minute prelude before each service.

For more information, please contact nerva@godsacre.org or 203.966.2651 x 104