

I Will Praise You With Music At St. Paul's by-the-Sea

Psalm 104:33 - *"I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."*

Lynne Radcliffe first served as Music Director at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (SPBTS) from 1997- 2004. Lynne then retired from SPBTS in 2004, and then after working for the Symphony and attending graduate school in Memphis, Tennessee, Lynne was recruited to audition as Music Director at SPBTS in 2011. Of course, she won the audition and has been back at SPBTS since 2011.

In addition to serving as Music Director at SPBTS, Lynne has very much enjoyed serving on the Beaches Fine Arts Series Board, writing program notes for the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra (JSO), and hosting "WJCT presents the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra."

Some of the 350 Jacksonville Symphony performers that Lynne has brought to SPBTS since 2011 to elevate SPBTS's musical performances are:

- Alexei Romanenko - Alexei Romanenko is a Russian-born cellist. Romanenko was born in Vladivostok, Russia, Romanenko began playing the cello at six-years old. He studied at the Moscow Conservatory under cello professor Valentin Feygin. He is now Principal Cello at the JSO.
- Piotr Szewczyk - Besides being a violinist at the JSO, Szewczyk also a full time composer of all kinds of music, from solo, through chamber, to orchestral and theme song for 89.9 WJCT First Coast Connect with Melissa Ross. You can hear his music at his website: www.VeryNewMusic.com
- Max Huls – Max Huls is a violinist with the JSO. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music and Philosophy from Stephens College; and a Master of Music from University of Memphis.
- Claudia Minch – Claudia Minch is 3rd Oboist with the JSO. She's played with the JSO for 36 years. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the New England Conservatory, graduating with honors.

- Eric Olson – Eric Olson is Principle Obe for the JSO. He received his education at Northwestern University.
- Ellen Olson – Ellen Olson plays Viola for the JSO. She received her music education from Hofstra University.
- Linda Minke – Linda Minke plays cello for the JSO. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in music education and music performance at Northern Michigan University; and a Master’s degree in cello performance from Memphis State University.
- Les Roettges – Les Roettges has been Principle Flute for the JSO since 1986. He also plays for the Eastern Music Festival in the summer. In addition, he plays 2nd flute for the "All-Star Orchestra" They record programs for PBS and have won three Emmys to date.
- Melissa Barrett – Melissa Barrett is Associate Concertmaster for the JSO. She earned a Bachelor of Music in performance from Michigan State University; and a Master of Performance and Literature from Eastman School of Music.
- Betsy Federman - Betsy Federman plays Cello for the JSO. She earned her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University while studying with Distinguished Professor Janos Starker.

Today, in addition to providing pipe organ music to accompany various SPBTS music programs, Lynne manages the SPBTS Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir and the Children’s Choir. She also hosts sumptuous soirees complete with performances from JSO performers as fundraisers, and the money is used to support the SPBTS choirs.

Lynne shares why she is so enamored with working at SPBTS in the music ministry, “I love the church. I love it because of the people in the church. I think it’s a rare place. SPBTS members are an unusually warm, friendly group of people. As a musician, I love the acoustics in the church. The choir members like to be challenged and they are all talented, dedicated people. SPBTS really feels like a family to me. I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything. My dreams for growing the music program are that I want to keep finding new and challenging projects. We’re currently working on growing the children’s program. Additionally, I’m always looking for new and interesting world music for the SPY youth group.”

The choirs feel they are serving the church community by fulfilling the mission of the SPBTS music ministry, by providing spiritually uplifting and liturgically supportive music for worship services of the church.

“We are also called to share our musical gifts in support of special church events, or outside the church altogether. Our choir members truly enjoy taking on challenging music... music that has complexity... music that is inspiring. This makes my ministry so very enjoyable,” says Lynne.

Our Chancel and Bell Choirs work to provide a festive Christmas and Easter that include multiple services enhanced with choral literature, bell literature, and the solo talents of some of our members. In addition, our collaboration with the St. Andrew’s AME choir in the Martin Luther King, Jr. worship celebration is a joyful blessing that we look forward to each year.