

MUSIC AT SOMERS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The music program at Somers Congregational Church is dedicated to enhancing spiritual experience by bringing quality music to the church community through worship, fellowship, education, and performance. There are many opportunities to be involved in music at the church. Our choirs include an Adult Choir, Children's Choir, and Handbell Choir. The Music and Arts Committee oversees the program, hiring, and concerts. Work on the committee does not require a musical background. If you are interested joining in any of the music programs, please contact our Music Director, Mahlon C. Peterson, at mahlon.c.peterson@gmail.com, for more information.

Adult Choir

The Somers Adult Choir is open to all people who love to sing. They rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 in the Music Room at the church, and sing for all regular church services at 9:30 and for many special services. Singers of all levels and experience are welcome to join at any point in the liturgical year.

Children's Choir

Somers Congregational Church is home to a growing Children's Choir. Rehearsals currently take place after the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday mornings. The choir performs annually at the Christmas Eve Family Worship Service and the Easter Sunday Service.

Handbell Choir

Playing and ringing bells is one of the most fun musical activities at the church! No musical experience is needed, just a love a music and willingness to learn.

Concerts

The Music and Arts Committee organizes several concerts each year, bringing some of the area's best musicians to sing or play at Somers Congregational, featuring both sacred and secular music. In recent years, we have hosted many programs, including the Irish folk band, the Jolly Beggars, Chris Houlihan, a nationally renowned concert organist from Somers, our Artist-in-Residence, Christa Rakich, in combination with some of the finest cellists and flutists from the area, The Hofstra University Chamber Ensemble of 30 highly talented singers, and the Shoreline Ringers, who have appeared for an annual Christmas concert since 2010. Our newly rebuilt sanctuary (completed in 2013) was constructed and furnished with an emphasis on excellent acoustics.

Our Organ – Richards, Fowkes & Co. Opus 21

Following the completion of construction of the new Meeting House in May 2014, in June of 2014, the church installed a beautiful, new tracker organ built by Richards, Fowkes & Co. Our organ builders, having 50 or more stops to choose from in constructing an organ, chose stops specifically for our church and its purposes, first to accompany congregational and choral singing, and secondarily as a potential concert instrument. They have worked closely with the architect to ensure that the organ not only fills the church with beautiful sound but also looks at home and natural in the space. The pipes, in a mahogany case, provide a simple but elegant look that harmonizes visually with our church interior. The console, where the organist plays, was designed and built by hand with similar attention to our particular space.

