

Featured artists:

James (Jim) E. Thomas is founder and President of USSSP. He serves as principal narrator for events and Director of the “Spirituals” Choir. He has given presentations on Spirituals in Germany, Brazil, Austria, Sweden, Africa and various locations across the United States. Since 1976, he has been the founding Director of the American Red Cross Chorus at its Headquarters in Washington DC. He has recruited and directed military choirs in Vietnam and Germany. While attending Fisk University, Mr. Thomas sang with the world renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers. Later he sang with the Robert Shaw Chorale in Atlanta and the Paul Hill Chorale as soloist at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2006, he formed a “Spirituals” Choir on Martha’s Vineyard, MA dedicated solely to educating the public about Slave Songs.

The US Slave Song Project Inc (USSSP) is a non-profit organization that is solely dedicated to educating the public about authentic US Slave Songs. US Slave Songs are also known as Negro Spirituals circa 1619-1865. Spirituals are true American folk music. There were no new Spirituals after the ones that celebrated the emancipation of the slaves. Unlike Gospel music, no spirituals were composed. Slave Songs/Spirituals are indeed a fascinating body of work. “Ironically, Negro spirituals were born in the white church,” Mr. Thomas recently said in an interview with the *Vineyard Gazette*. “Almost always there were two meanings for a spiritual, the most obvious being religious. Since these songs were not originally sung as concert arrangements but used for means of ordinary conversation, the choir is not made up of professional singers. The choir is composed of persons interested in authentic spirituals.” This evening, Mr. Thomas will announce his choir’s program and give descriptive notes for each selection.

Guest choirs:



The Federated Church of Edgartown
<http://www.edgfedchurch.com/>
Peter Boak, Director of Music



First Parish Arlington, UU
<http://firstparish.info/>
Laura Prichard, Director of Music

Featured artists:

David Rhoderick directs the music program at the West Tisbury Congregational Church. He is the president of the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society and has served as the organist, pianist, and music director at the historic Union Chapel in Oak Bluffs.

Peter Boak moved to the Vineyard in 1994. He is the Founding Director of the 120-voice Island Community Chorus and is the Director of Music for the Federated Church in Edgartown. His first job as a teenager was as a church organist. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in music education from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.; a master's degree in sacred music from Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas; and secured a job as Minister of Music for the 1,200-member congregation of Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, N.J. He has taught music at the Tisbury School and directed the music program at Grace Church.

Philip R. Dietterich (b. 1931) was born into a musical family in Buffalo, New York. A lifelong Methodist, he is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, The Boston University School of Theology and Union Theological Seminary, New York City. For most of his adult life he was the full time Minister of Music at First United Methodist Church in Westfield, New Jersey. A widely published composer of church music his "Followers of the Lamb" AG 7223 has been a best selling anthem in the Hope catalog for many years. Mr. Dietterich now lives in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts and conducts the Vintage Voices and the Scottish Society.

Bass/baritone Michael Prichard began his professional career at nine singing treble with the Choir of Men and Boys of Trinity Church, New Haven, CT. At MIT, he studied voice and was a founding member of the MIT Chamber Chorus. A longtime member of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, he has appeared locally with the Island Community Chorus, the New World Chorale, and the Lexington Symphony. He made his solo debut at Tanglewood in Stravinsky's *Les Noces* with Charles Dutoit.



This Katharine Cornell Theatre concert benefits The One Fund Boston.

Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

The One Fund Boston was created at the request of Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. The Victim Relief Fund of The One Fund Boston will be used to assist those families of the victims of the victims who were killed and the victims who were most seriously affected as a result of the tragic events during the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013 and related events on April 18th and April 19th. Through the generosity of businesses, foundations, and individual donors, the One Fund Boston has received over \$37 million dollars.

Musicians from First Parish UU of Arlington, MA
Laura Prichard, director

That Lonesome Road (1980) James Taylor
One Voice by The Wailin' Jennies (2003) Ruth Moody
Let the River Run (1988) Carly Simon
Lorraine Cooley, Patricia Hawkins, Janice Hegeman, John Hodges, Jo Guthrie, Bella & Lee Jaffe,
Jason & Alice Merrill, George Pereli, Mike Prichard, Caleb & Lily Snyder DiCesare, Sue Streeter
Special thanks for Concert Management Help/Photography: Stuart Jester, Cola Hodges & Pooja Chakma

David Rhoderick, piano

Partita No. 6 in E minor, BWV 830 (1730) Johann Sebastian Bach

The Federated Church of Edgartown Choir
Peter Boak, director

His Eye is On the Sparrow (1905) Civillia D. Martin/
Charles Gabriel
City Called Heaven (1952) Edward Boatner

Scottish Society members Katrina Nevin and Dorian Lopes

To the Beggin' I Will Go Traditional 17th cen.
Jack of All Trades/Ae Fond Kiss (1791) Robert Burns
My Heart's in the Highlands (1789) Robert Burns

U.S. Slave Song Project
Jim Thomas, director

Oh Wasn't That a Wide River
In Bright Mansions
Soon I Will Be Done
Done Made My Vow
Sit Down Servant
My Soul's Been Anchored

Michael Prichard, baritone

O Isis und Osiris (Song of Blessing), 1790 Wolfgang A. Mozart
Aria and Chorus of Priests from *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)*
The Impossible Dream from *Man of La Mancha* (1965) Darion/Leigh

Vintage Voices
Phil Dietterich, director

Sentimental Journey (1944) Brown/Horner
Somewhere Over the Rainbow (1938) Arlen/Harburg
I'll Be Seeing You (1938) Fain/Kahal
Sweet Caroline Neil Diamond

Chorus: Hands, touching hands; reaching out, touching me, touching you.

Sweet Caroline! Oh, no, no. Good times never seemed so good.

I've been inclined to believe they never would.