



54th Davies Concert Series Presents

Best of Broadway

Season Opener

Sunday, October 5, 2025

4:00 PM

Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation

7400 Temple Hills Road

Temple Hills, MD 20748

“Act I”

featuring Dr. Alex Chan, piano

“Music of the Night” Andrew Lloyd Webber (1948)
The Phantom of the Opera (1986) Charles Hart (1961) and Richard Stilgoe (1943)
Sean Scriber as the Phantom

“In a Crowd of Thousands” Stephen Flaherty (1960)
Anastasia (2016) Lynn Ahrens (1948)
John T. Roberts as Dmitry; Reese Newhouse as Anya

“Out There” Alan Menken (1949)
The Hunchback of Notre Dame (2014) Stephen Schwartz (1948)
John T. Roberts as Frollo; Sean Scriber as Quasimodo

“My Green Light” Jason Howland (1971)
The Great Gatsby (2023) Nathan Tysen (1977)
John T. Roberts as Jay Gatsby; Ariel Friendly as Daisy

“What Would I Do if I Could Feel” Charlie Smalls (1943 – 1987)
The Wiz (1974)
Sean Scriber as Tin Man; Company

“For Her” Jason Howland (1971)
The Great Gatsby (2023) Nathan Tysen (1977)
John T. Roberts as Jay Gatsby

“The Wheels of a Dream” Stephen Flaherty (1960)
Ragtime (1996) Lynn Ahrens (1948)
Sean Scriber as Coalhouse; Ariel Friendly as Sarah

“Journey to the Past” Stephen Flaherty (1960)
Anastasia (2016) Lynn Ahrens (1948)
Gillian Reese Newhouse as Anya

“Agony” Stephen Sondheim (1930 – 2021)
Into the Woods (1986)
John T. Roberts as Cinderella’s Prince; Sean Scriber as Rapunzel’s Prince

INTERMISSION

“Act II”

featuring Dr. Alex Chan, piano

“Agony Reprise” Stephen Sondheim (1930 – 2021)
Into the Woods (1986)

John T. Roberts as Cinderella’s Prince; Sean Scriber as Rapunzel’s Prince

“In My Dreams” Stephen Flaherty (1960)
Anastasia (2016) Lynn Ahrens (1948)

Gillian Reese Newhouse as Anya; Company

“The Hardest Part of Love” Stephen Schwartz (1948)
Children of Eden (1991)

Sean Scriber as Noah; John T. Roberts as Father

“Someday” Alan Menken (1949)
The Hunchback of Notre Dame (2014) Stephen Schwartz (1948)

Ariel Friendly as Esmeralda; John T. Roberts as Phoebus

“Make Them Hear You” Stephen Flaherty (1960)
Ragtime (1996) Lynn Ahrens (1948)

Sean Scriber as Coalhouse

“My Days” Ingrid Michaelson (1979)
The Notebook (2022)

Ariel Friendly as Middle Allie

“For Good” Stephen Schwartz (1948)
Wicked (2003)

Ariel Friendly as Elphaba; Gillian Reese Newhouse as Glinda

“Heaven’s Light/Hellfire” Alan Menken (1949)
The Hunchback of Notre Dame (2014) Stephen Schwartz (1948)

Sean Scriber as Quasimodo; John Roberts as Frollo; Company

“Finale Ultimo” Alan Menken (1949)
The Hunchback of Notre Dame (2014) Stephen Schwartz (1948)

FIN

Program Notes

Mary Coy Whitmore, DMA

Music of the Night from Andrew Lloyd Webber's award-winning hit *The Phantom of the Opera* appears in the show immediately after the title song; the Phantom has lured the soprano Christine Daaé to his lair beneath the Palais Garnier, where he proceeds to seduce and entrance her with his song of unspoken love, urging her to forget her former life and remain with him as his muse.

In a Crowd of Thousands from *Anastasia* sets to music the moment that the orphaned amnesiac Anya and her roguish companion Dmitry realize that Anya is the Grand Duchess Anastasia of Russia's Imperial Romanov family, who were executed by the Bolsheviks.

Out There from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is sung by Quasimodo after his guardian, the Judge Claude Frollo, manipulates him into believing that, for his own safety, he can never leave the Notre-Dame de Paris. Quasi longs to join the Feast of Fools festivities in the city and laments his situation, positing what it might be like "just to live one day out there."

My Green Light is the finale of Act I of *The Great Gatsby*, where the mysterious and very wealthy Jay Gatsby is reunited with his former love, the unhappily-married Daisy Buchanan. Daisy finds out from Gatsby that his wartime letters to her were destroyed by her father in an effort to keep the lovers apart; the two initiate an affair.

What Would I Do if I Could Feel is the sentiment expressed by the Tin Man as he pleads his case to the Wizard in the Emerald City. *The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical "Wonderful Wizard of Oz"* is a retelling of L. Frank Baum's classic novel in the context of contemporary African-American culture.

For Her is Jay Gatsby's confession to his new friend Nick Carraway; Gatsby says that he has built his fortune and his estate to win back his prewar sweetheart, Nick's cousin Daisy. He asks for Nick's help in reacquainting them, even though Daisy is currently married to someone else.

The Wheels of a Dream from *Ragtime* is the beginning of the end for a tragic pair: Coalhouse Walker, a popular Harlem pianist, and Sarah, his former love and mother of his newborn son. Coalhouse, inspired by the words of Booker T. Washington, dreams of a just, future America "that lets a man like me own a car, raise a child, and build a life with you."

Journey to the Past from *Anastasia* expresses Anya's desire to follow sparse clues about her past in the hopes of learning more about her family and who she is. The song closes

Act I as Dmitry and Vlad, with Anya, finally arrive in France, continuing on to Paris with the intent of trying to pass Anya off as the Grand Duchess Anastasia to extract money from the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna. Little do they know: Anya really is the Grand Duchess, escaped from execution by the Bolsheviks.

Agony from *Into the Woods* is sung by two spoiled, royal siblings who have fallen in love with two women they have just encountered in the woods. They struggle to understand (and complain bitterly about) why they haven't gotten married already to their new loves. After a happy ending to Act I, the song's **Reprise** takes the absurdity even further: the princes have fallen in love with two new women, who they haven't even officially met yet, despite now being married to the women from the first song!

In My Dreams happens early in Act I of *Anastasia*; Anya explains to Vlad and Dmitry that she has no memory of her past. Amazed by her story and in need of a suitable Anastasia imposter, they decide to use Anya to try and extort money from the Dowager Empress in Paris. Little do they know: Anya really is Anastasia.

The Hardest Part of Love comes from a little-known musical called *Children of Eden* by Stephen Schwartz, written 12 years before *Wicked*. This song from Act II deals with the struggles of fatherhood: "the hardest part of love is the letting go."

Someday was used during the end credits for the original animated film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and the melody from it appears in several moments in the film as underscore. The song appears in Act II of the stage version, after Esmeralda has refused Frollo's offer to save her from public execution if only she will submit to him.

Make Them Hear You appears in Act II of *Ragtime* after Coalhouse is forced to admit defeat in his campaign against Will Conklin and the fire squad's destruction of his new Model T and the murder of his fiancée Sarah at a campaign rally. Coalhouse's final sentiment encourages his allies to use the power of their words, since violence cannot solve injustice.

My Days comes from Act II of the musical adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' novel *The Notebook*. In a vignette of elderly couple Noah and Allie Calhoun's younger life, a 24-year-old Allie struggles with her recent decision to remain engaged to another man.

For Good comes from Act II of Stephen Schwartz's 2003 hit musical *Wicked*, now a blockbuster movie franchise. Elphaba, having embraced her reputation as the Wicked Witch of the West, shares a tearful goodbye with her friend Glinda before giving up her grief-driven crusade against Dorothy to retake the ruby slippers.

Heaven's Light from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is sung by Quasimodo as he reflects on his recent interactions with Esmeralda, who has given him hope that the world isn't as

cruel and wicked as Frollo has made him believe. Meanwhile, Frollo struggles with pride and his lust for Esmeralda, comparing the feelings to **Hellfire**. He concludes with an ultimatum: “be mine or you will burn.”

Finale Ultimo to the *Hunchback of Notre Dame* leaves listeners with this final question: “what makes a monster and what makes a man?”

Meet the Artists

Dr. Alex Chan is an experienced voice accompanist, church pianist, orchestral keyboardist, and pianist for a variety of vocal ensembles in Maryland and Asia. In addition to playing the piano, he has also sung tenor in vocal ensembles in Asia, and the Chamber Singers of the University of Maryland, of which he has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in world-class performance halls. He won the gold prize in the piano duet category at the 3rd Piano Festival held in Singapore. Alex was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He has recently earned a doctoral degree in Collaborative Piano at University of Maryland, College Park, where his final dissertation dealt with songs with non-poetic texts.

John T. Roberts, a resident of Columbia, MD, is both an instrumentalist and vocalist. He graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro in 2019. He plays an array of instruments including trumpet, alto sax, soprano sax, clarinet, and flute. He is also a trained baritenor vocalist, having studied under both Barbara B. Masters and Dr. Theodore M. Guerrant. John has also studied trumpet performance with Monique E. Abbitt, and general music with Fred Mayes and Robert “Bob” K. Rausch. He is currently a member of the Southern Maryland Concert band in the trumpet section. He shares his vocal talent at a variety of churches in the MD and DC areas but enjoys serving as a cantor, member of the choir and occasional choir director at his church, St. Paul's Moravian Church in Upper Marlboro, MD. He tends to thrive best in the genres of Musical Theatre, Opera, and Spiritual Music. He is inspired by Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Placido Domingo and Jonas Kaufman. John has been given the gift of music which is truly his passion in life.

Sean Scriber is a native of Southern Maryland, hailing from the town of Hollywood, MD. Sean has had the honor and privilege of performing with choirs and show troops across Maryland along with being invited to solo at various public events. He is thrilled to be working with such talented, hard-working, and kind artists to bring you all an amazing show. Sean thanks his family, friends, and everyone who has come out to support. "As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others." -- Marianne Williamson

Ariel Friendly is so excited to be sharing her love for musical theatre with you all! She is a performer based out of the Northern Virginia area. She feels beyond blessed to be sharing the stage with such beautiful and talented artists who share her love for theatre as well. Her regional credits include Dragons love Tacos, She Persisted, Knuffle Bunny, Junie B. Jones (ATMTC) Ragtime, Private Jones (Signature Theatre); Buddy Holly, Cinderella (Florida Studio Theater); Additional D.C credits include Little Women (Arlington Players) Shrek the Musical, American Idiot (McClellan Players) Hunchback of Notre Dame, The Drowsy Chaperone, Urinetown (Workhouse Arts Center); Other credits include Outdoor Theatre: The Lost Colony (Lost Colony) Theatre; Grease, For God and Country, The Motown Sound (Wolfhart Haus Dinner). She holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Emory & Henry College. You can catch her performing as the Witch in Into the Woods this holiday season at Workhouse Arts Center. She shouts out her crew, her village and her family for their love and support @ariel_friendlyshow

Gillian Reese Newhouse is a Theatre student at the College of Southern Maryland and has spent the last few years there both On and Offstage. At CSM She could have been seen as Emma in The Prom or Wednesday in The Addams Family. Her other credits are as a Stage Manager for CSM productions such as The Murder on The Orient Express and The Glass Menagerie.

Davies Concert Series

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Davies Concert Series thanks Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation for the use of their Sanctuary and Zoom Visual and Audio System operated by Lora Bennett

Upcoming Concerts

Sundays at 4:00 PM

February 22, 2026

James Fernando Trio

April 19, 2026

**Amanda Densmoor, soprano
Dr. Alex Chan, piano**

May 31, 2026

Broadway Encore!
featuring John T. Roberts, Sean Scriber,
Ariel Friendly, and Gillian Reese Newhouse
Dr. Alex Chan, piano

Hope to see you there!

The Davies Concert Series is made possible by your generous financial support. Scan the QR code below to make a tax-deductible donation today.

Thank you for joining us for our 54th Season!

