

OLD NORTH CHURCH

Music Patrons Fund

8 Stacey Street, Marblehead, MA 01945

May 2026

Dear Friends,

The annual *Music Patrons Fund* initiative is essential to our music program here at Old North. As always, our collection will coincide with the 10am service on *Music Sunday* (also known as *Jazz Sunday*) – this year, taking place on **Sunday, May 10, 2026**.

Internationally-acclaimed jazz artists Mark Shilansky, *piano*, Dave Clark, *bass*, and Jeff Stout, *trumpet* – returning by popular demand – will provide an electrifying prelude and postlude, while our gifted soloists and Senior Choir have prepared joyful and exhilarating musical contributions. Of course, the congregation will be invited to join in singing throughout the worship service – I can promise you that you will not be able to sit still – so please feel free to invite family and friends on Sunday, May 10!

As I approach the conclusion of my 37th year as *Minister of Music* at Old North Church, I am thankfully aware that your enthusiasm for my work at Old North – along with encouragement from our amazing ministers, staff, and leadership – has been an essential cornerstone throughout my tenure. Of course, I cherish my countless and deep friendships with you – the members of our congregation – but I am especially grateful that you value our music program and continue to allow me to grow and flourish in this musically precious environment.

While our global church budget supports many core elements of the music program, several musical events we provide ultimately depend upon you and your generous gift to the *Music Patrons Fund*. We describe our *Music Patrons Fund* as a revolving account, supporting *special* music throughout the church year, including: Jazz Sunday (an entire worship service devoted to sacred jazz and gospel music); Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas services; and Easter services with brass and timpani. [*Our annual Festival Chorus Christmas Concerts are funded separately and do not rely on support from the Old North Church budget or the Music Patrons Fund.*]

Looking back over the last several months, the Music Patrons Fund...

- provided partial funding for the annual **Lenten Choral Concert** on the evening of Palm Sunday – which featured John Rutter's beloved *Requiem* and excerpts from Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and Brahms's *German Requiem* – with over 80 singers accompanied by an outstanding orchestra, superb performances by our soprano soloists Holly Cameron and Anne Burgett, exceptional leadership in the tenor section by Kevin Hayden, and a most appreciative and enthusiastic 300 fans in attendance;
- supported a stunning evening of **Musical Meditation on Good Friday**, with acclaimed double bass virtuoso Susan Hagen performing alongside prayers by Reverend Lindsay Popperson;
- provided funding for many outstanding and memorable performances – Longest Night Service, Sunday services throughout the year, Easter Morning, and Jazz Sunday on Mother's Day, to name a few – featuring acclaimed string quartets, jazz pianists, brass and percussion players, classical guitarists, African drummers, and others.

Looking forward to the next several months – and to name just a few – the Music Patrons Fund will:

- support our community ***Beatles Sing-Along*** on Wednesday, June 10, at 7pm, led by pianist Mark Shilansky, guitarist Eric Byers and former Paul McCartney drummer and Marblehead resident Dave Mattacks;
- provide essential “seed money” for our ***Concerts at Old North*** – whereby professional artists perform in our beautiful sanctuary to ever-increasing and enthusiastic crowds – which are free of charge; and
- support ***OnWeGo*** on Friday, June 19, at 7:30pm – a fabulous performance embracing jazz, popular, and world music, featuring David Thorne Scott, *vocals and bass*, Mark Shilansky, *vocals and piano*, Sara Caswell, *violin*, and Eric Byers, *vocals and guitar*.

While I firmly believe that the Old North Church community enjoys and appreciates all types of music, it is your ongoing commitment to support the quality and variety of our music program that I find truly inspiring. I am continually energized by the prospect of providing consistency and growth in our music program, and I am deeply moved by the rich connections that are made through the physical and spiritual acts of music making.

It is my sincere hope that you will attend ***Jazz Sunday*** on May 10, 2026, and support our vibrant music program with a gift to our ***Music Patrons Fund***. A special collection will take place on this occasion – with labeled envelopes provided for your convenience – but you are also welcome to mail your contribution. While we accept donations at any time of the year, our May collection helps inform the programming we can provide for the upcoming season (September 2026 through May 2027).

Kindly make your check payable to ***Old North Church***, noting “Music Patrons Fund” in the memo line, and mail to:

Music Ministry Board
Old North Church, 8 Stacey Street, Marblehead, MA 01945

Our Music Ministry Board – Co-Chairs Becky Robison and Ruth Ann Wallace, Dee Burgett, Pattye Comfort, Nicole Eicker, Kevin Hayden, Kristin Robinson, Andrew Rodger, and Barbara Tatum, as well as Bell Choir Director Liz Smith – join me in *thanking you* for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria

Maria van Kalken
Minister of Music