



WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH: AMY BEACH, AMERICAN COMPOSER

Amy Beach was the first American woman to succeed as a composer of large-scale concert music.

She was born Amy Marcy Cheney on 5 September 1867 in West Henniker, New Hampshire, during an era when the world of work was divided into two distinct spheres: the public and professional for men, the private and domestic for women. In Europe the extraordinarily talented Fanny Mendelssohn set aside a creative career in favor of her brother Felix, as did Clara Schumann for her husband Robert. Despite her family’s and society’s lack of support, however, Amy Cheney knew even as a young child that “no other life than that of a musician could ever have been possible for me.” In 1885, when she made her debut with the renowned Boston Symphony Orchestra, critics deemed her performance of Chopin’s *Second Piano Concerto* “perfect.”

Marriage at the age of eighteen to prominent Boston physician Henry Harris Aubrey Beach, twenty-five years her senior, changed Amy’s career path. On Henry’s insistence, and in keeping with her newly elevated social status, she limited her performances on the piano to a few charity concerts per year and – happily for posterity – devoted herself entirely to composition. In this field she was self-taught, yet she achieved remarkable success with works published under her married name, Mrs. H. H. A. Beach. Apart from many songs and piano pieces, her most significant works are the *Mass in E-flat*, the “*Gaelic*” *Symphony*, and the *Piano Concerto* which she herself premiered with the Boston Symphony in 1900.

Widowed at age 43, she went to Germany to present her compositions and revive her career as a pianist, under the name Amy Beach. On her triumphant return to Boston in 1914, she devoted herself to concert tours and composition, completing the balance of her three hundred works. Many were written at the MacDowell colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire, a rural retreat founded by the composer Edward MacDowell for artists, writers, and musicians to meet and create in peace and mutual inspiration. Conceived in that idyllic setting in 1921, *A Hermit Thrust at Morn* includes actual bird-calls, notated “in the original keys but an octave lower,” as Amy Beach remarks in a footnote to the score.

Long a hero to women composers, Amy Beach died on 27 December 1944 in New York City at the age of seventy-seven.

— Rudy Shackelford

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, March 10, 2024

****WELCOME, VISITORS! We are happy to have you join us in worship today.****
Please be sure to sign the Welcome card found in the pew pocket. Thank you!

NURSERY is available for infants to 3-year-olds during the Sunday school hour and 11:00 service.
The nursery is located in the main hallway between the office and fellowship hall.
Nursery volunteers are needed. WILL YOU HELP? Sign-up sheet is outside the nursery.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY		
Sunday, March 10	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Worship (8:30 Informal; 11:00 Traditional)
	9:30 a.m.	SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST (WBFH)
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	12:15 p.m.	VBS Planning Meeting (Youth Room)
	12:15 p.m.	Prime Timers (WBFH)
Tuesday, March 12	10:00 a.m.	Music Camp Planning Team (WBFH)
	5:00 p.m.	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal (Lacey Martin)
	6:15 p.m.	Stewardship Committee (WBFH)
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee (WBFH)
Wednesday, March 13	9:00 a.m.	Trustees (WBFH)
	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	AARP Tax-Aide (by appointment only)
	5:30 p.m.	Praise Team (Mary Lotsey)
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00 p.m.	Program Development Team (WBFH)
Thursday, March 14	9:00 a.m.-noon	Bazaar Workshop (Lacey Martin)
	10:00 a.m.	York River Garden Club (WBFH)
	6:30 p.m.	House of Prayer / Special Congregational Prayer Meeting thru 5/2 (Sanctuary)
	7:00 p.m.	Bethany Bible Study (Lacey Martin)
Friday, March 15	8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Homeschool Music Academy of Gloucester
Saturday, March 16	9:00 a.m.-noon	Cantata Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sunday, March 17 ST. PATRICK’S DAY One Service/No Sunday School	10:00 a.m.	Combined Worship Service
	11:00 a.m.	Family Covered-Dish Lunch & Activities (WBFH)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Doe Breen for filling in for Pastor Paul this morning!

Next week Pastor Paul will continue his Lenten sermon series, "The Message of Jesus' Passion."

March 17 --- Unjust Trial, Matthew 27:11-26

March 24 – Humiliated by Soldiers, Matthew 27:27-31

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE IS TODAY. Please complete your form and put in offering plate, along with your payment, or place it in Church Office Administrator's mailbox.

VBS PLANNING MEETING — TODAY, after the 11:00 service (Youth Room)

We are beginning to plan our Vacation Bible School for this Summer. If you would like to be involved, please join us for our first planning meeting of the year on March 10th. This will be a brief introductory meeting to share the curriculum and contemplate a potential date and start time. Looking forward to seeing everyone then!

PRIME TIMERS will meet **TODAY immediately following the 11:00 service.** Bring a sack lunch and join us in the fellowship hall. Prime Timers is open to widowed, divorced, and unmarried adults.

THURSDAY NIGHTS AT BETHANY

6:30 p.m. – House of Prayer – Eighteen weeks of special prayer through May 2 (Sanctuary)

7:30 p.m. – Bethany Bible Study

PEANUT BUTTER NEEDED —During the month of March, the Friendship Class will be collecting jars of peanut butter for Helping the Homeless. If you'd like to contribute, please leave in the Friendship Classroom (formerly Lacey Martin classroom next to Youth Room).

The **Hospitality Committee** would like to thank all those who helped with Jim Durette's funeral reception. Your participation and assistance were greatly appreciated.

EASTER EGG HUNT

If you would like to help us prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt, we are asking for donations of candy or small prizes for the eggs. We appreciate any and all donations for this activity. Easter Egg Hunt Supplies can be placed in Brad's office.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 each Sunday for fellowship and celebration!

Birthdays

3/10 Teresa Sullivan; Brenda Thomas
3/11 Kathy Jacobs
3/12 Kevin Thompson
3/13 Kyle Bunting; Katie Doggett
3/14 Randy Williams; Matthew Byrne
3/15 Angela Day Waliszewski
3/16 Lynne Barnes

Anniversaries

3/10 Rev. Steve & Susan Young (23)
3/14 Linda & Wendell Fletcher (16)

HUGS MINISTRY has received the following thank you notes for prayer shawls and lap robes:

"Thank you for the lap robe you made for me. A lot of love and caring goes into each of those you make. What a great group of people we have at Bethany. So glad I've been able to be a part of it for many years. That gift is very special. Again, THANKS. – *Milton Hudgins*

"Dear Bethany HUGS and all the Bethany family: Thank you with a grateful heart for the beautifully made purple & teal prayer shawl that you gave me today. I love it and it will stay on my "left chair" close to me. I appreciated the Psalm which came with it; the card and note are precious to me. Thanks always for your thoughtfulness. Love, *Barbara Holtry*

"Thank you so much for the lovely prayer shawl that you gave me. I will certainly use it. I appreciate so much receiving such a loving gift. Also thanks for all of your prayers. With love and prayers, *Alice Lee Northam*



ST. PATRICK'S DAY COVERED DISH MEAL

Sunday, March 17

No Sunday School

One Worship service at 10 am

Bring your favorite Irish dish

Dress in your St. Patrick's Day attire

Come and enjoy the Fellowship, Irish songs and Irish jokes!

It will be a great time of fellowship!

"May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back."

MUSIC CAMP BAKE SALE Palm Sunday, March 24



Come purchase baked goods and other goodies for your Easter feast. The sale will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the WBFH. Any unsold items, will be available for purchase following the 11:00 a.m. service with all proceeds going to fund the *Bethany Music Camp*.

Anyone wishing to participate by providing baked goods should deliver them to the church Saturday, March 23 between 10 a.m. and noon.

Cash donations are also accepted and encouraged.

