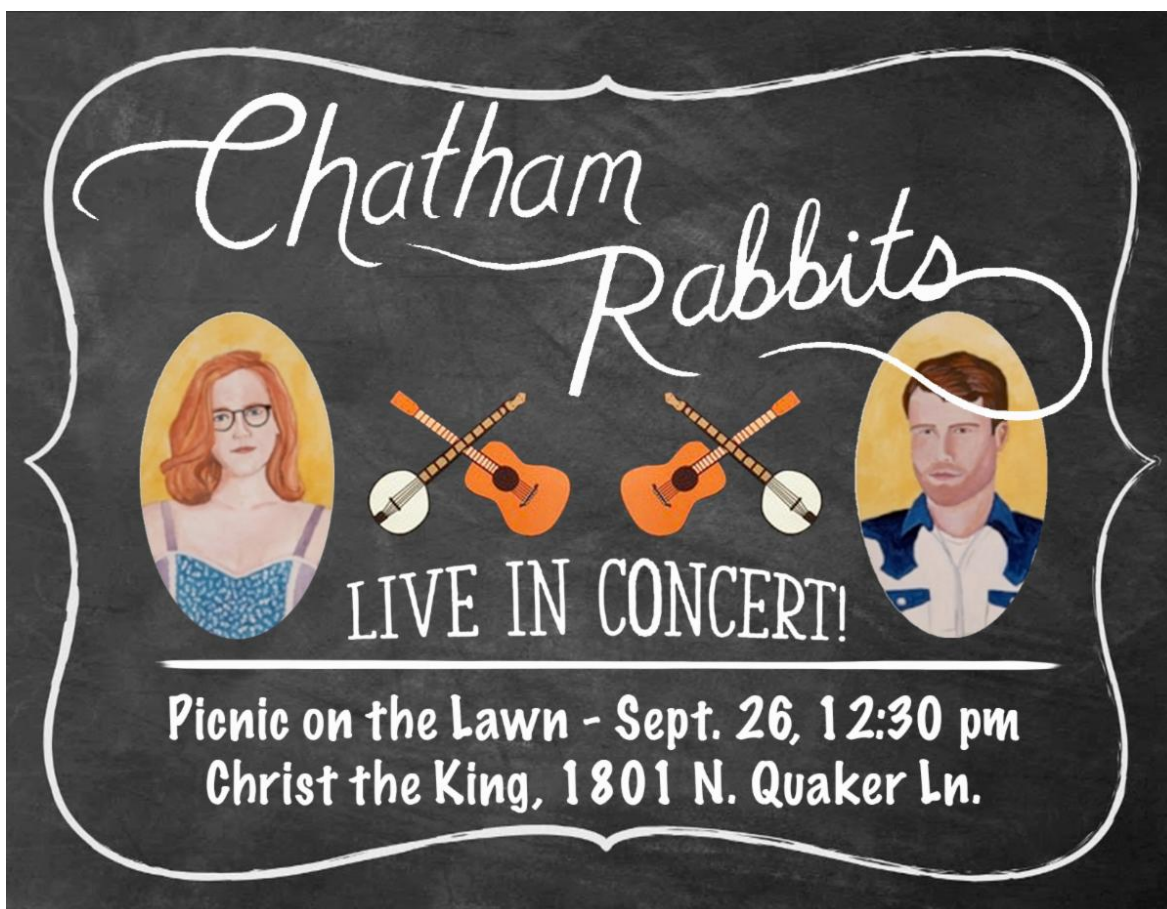


# friends of MUSIC

AT  CTK

Fall 2021 Special Edition



## FREE CONCERT AND BBQ!

Join us at 12:30 for an old-fashioned picnic with barbecue and bluegrass! We welcome our fabulous friends Chatham Rabbits back at CtK. They will sing at the 11:15 service as well. Please come, invite your friends! For more information, click [here](#).

**WELCOME BACK, SARAH AND AUSTIN!**



## Charles Calotta:

### On to Miami!

#### *An Interview*



**Ann:** Charlie, it would be impossible to attend *Christ the King*, even while we were strictly online, and not to be familiar with your phenomenal voice. We'd love to know more about your musical background, as well as some of your exciting projects and accomplishments since joining us at CtK.

**Charlie:** I started taking voice lessons when I was a boarding student at Choate Rosemary Hall with Maksim Ivanov, a baritone with the Metropolitan Opera Chorus. I attended Vanderbilt University on a full scholarship, where I earned my Bachelor's of Music, and then became a member of the Maryland Opera Studio in 2018, when I first started working with CtK's choir. Since earning my Master's in Vocal Performance in May 2020, I've put together an online voice teaching community, have worked on producing several digital concerts (several with CtK), and have continued to perform with local companies around the East Coast where the opportunities have arisen.

**Ann:** Between various other commitments, you have been a vital part of the Music Ministry at Christ the King. I personally would like the CtK community and our Friends to know that, like so many other dear and talented members and guests, you took a personal interest in the success of the Music Ministry within the broader work of the church. Besides providing beautiful solos and ensemble work for Sunday and special services, you have helped in numerous other ways: the Friends of Music website; music recordings; tech support; consultation; and in general, just being my right arm through an incredibly challenging season. (Had recording or mixing remote accompaniments with vocal solos been up to me, I think it's safe to say that the Music Ministry would have decisively sunk this past year.) You also completely produced *A Song of Peace and Unity*, other virtual choir offerings, and the COVID Benefit concert. Tell us about your experience at Christ the King.

**Charlie:** When we started putting together virtual programs in March 2020, I think we were all so musically starved. I need to mention how blessed and grateful I am to have had the opportunity to continue working as a soloist and media curator with you from then on. At the time, I was a resident cantor at another music ministry, and when reaching out to several music directors with

ideas to keep the music going in digital services, Ann, you were the only one who was in 100%. While it was challenging and required the retraining of many skills that I had fortunately acquired in high school and beyond, we developed an awesome work flow to keep musicians involved in worship at CtK. I'm incredibly proud of what we were able to accomplish for the congregation and for all the good we were able to do for the community. At the core of the work we did, I just felt like I had a responsibility with the tech tools and know-how at my disposal, and I couldn't have thought of a better way to use those skills to make offerings.

**Ann:** You will be relocating soon for a very exciting new position. Tell us about it!

**Charlie:** I'll be joining the *Florida Grand Opera* as a studio artist this season. I will be spending most of my time doing outreach and benefit concerts for the company, in addition to putting together a children's opera and playing roles in their mainstage productions in the spring. *You can check out some details on their website too.*

**Ann:** We are so thankful for your support, service, prayers, and dedication. Like others who have moved or needed time for other things, we hope you'll be back to see us and sing with us. So we will not say goodbye, but blessings on your next chapter. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

**Charlie:** I've worked as a staff singer in many different church communities--different denominations from different areas around the country--however, I've never felt as welcomed as I have at CtK. I am incapable of words that would adequately thank Ann Lee for everything she has afforded myself and my colleagues since I started singing for you all. The immense kindness and cognizance that she has offered us as a music director and boss will ensure that the top singers in the DMV will be continuing to arrive at Sunday services. I will miss everyone dearly, and I'm looking forward to the next time!

*Wish Charlie well by signing his e-card here!*

## BETTER TOGETHER: CHECK OUT MY BLOG TO SEE OUR RECENT JOURNEY!



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## At-Home Music Resources

*SPECIAL MUSIC: ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE JOURNEY:* Music of comfort and encouragement from the archives of Christ the King.

*SING FOR JOY!:* Music selections that support every Sunday of the liturgical calendar with pastoral commentary.

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