

FIRST UMC FOX HILL



MUSIC LIVE!



SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT 2:30 PM

PATRIOTIC AND AMERICANA SELECTIONS,
READINGS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
COMBINED CHURCH CHOIRS WITH
GUEST SOLOIST OPERA BASS-BARITONE
BRANCH FIELDS

1 SALT POND ROAD
HAMPTON, VA 23664

OUR PATRIOTIC HERITAGE

	The Star- Spangled Banner F.S. Key	Branch Fields leads
Choral	"Song for the Unsung Hero" Joseph Martin	
	Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln	Jean Bernstrom
Hymn	UMH 697	"America"
	"At the River" Aaron Copland	Branch Fields, solo
Choral	"Who Are the Brave" Williams/Martin	
	Letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby Abraham Lincoln	Jean Bernstrom
Choral	"The Mansions of the Lord" Wallace/Smith	
	"Hail Columbia" Traditional	Branch Fields, Solo
	Excerpt from Second Inaugural Abraham Lincoln	Jean Bernstrom
Choral	"I Hear America Singing" Andre Thomas	
Hymn	UMH 696	"America the Beautiful"
	"Old Glory" Howard Schnauber	Jean Bernstrom
Hymn	"I Vow to Thee, My Country"	

AMERICANA SELECTIONS

SUNG BY BRANCH FIELDS

"If Ever I Would Leave You"
Lerner/Loewe

Medley

"Some Enchanted Evening"
Rodgers & Hammerstein

Branch Fields
& Choir

"You'll Never Walk Alone"/Climb
Every Mountain"

Finale

"God Bless America"

Branch Fields, Choir, &
Congregation

All are invited to a reception in the Narthex
following our program.

Grateful thanks for the financial generosity of our
members and friends who helped make today's
concert possible.

Branch Fields, Bass-Baritone

Andrew Blackmon, Pianist

Nancy Basford, Organ

Jean Bernstrom, Reader

Kyle Love, Harmonica Solo for Lincoln readings

BRANCH FIELDS

Branch Fields, described by Opera America as “a bass of resonant richness,” is a versatile performer engaged throughout North America and beyond in opera, musical theater, and concert. He has sung with Santa Fe Opera, New York City Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Edmonton Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Utah Opera, Opera San Jose, and many other regional companies throughout the U.S. and Canada. In concert, Branch has performed with the Munich Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Symphony, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and the American Symphony Orchestra. His Broadway debut was Lincoln Center Theater’s 2008 Tony Award winning production of South Pacific, understudying the role of Emile de Becque. He has since been Emile in 7 productions of South Pacific throughout the U.S. and Canada, and was nominated for “Best Actor in a Musical” by theater critic circles in Boston, Massachusetts, and Richmond, Virginia. Recent performances for Mr. Fields include 3 productions of The Sound of Music as Captain Von Trapp for Charlottesville Opera, Montana Theater Works, and the Southwest Michigan Symphony. He was Leporello in Don Giovanni at Indianapolis Opera, and Il Commendatore in Don Giovanni as well as Frank in Die Fledermaus for Opera in Williamsburg. He has been a frequent guest in Greensboro, playing King Balthasar in Amahl and the Night Visitors, and performing as a guest artist for galas and concerts with Greensboro Opera. He was asked to sing the Verdi Requiem and Simone in Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi for Utah Festival Opera, and he will be Leporello at Greensboro Opera this coming fall.

Mr. Fields recently joined the highly acclaimed Virginia Chorale, performing concerts with them over the past 3 seasons, and was the bass soloist in their performance of Rossini’s Petite Messe Solennelle. Mr. Fields has been seen throughout the years at the Williamsburg Community Chapel as a guest artist for their Christmas concerts. He has been a guest artist with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra in their Beethoven 9th Symphony, their Christmas Pops concerts, and galas over the years. Mr. Fields has been the bass soloist for the Williamsburg United Methodist Church’s Messiah performances for several years, was the bass for Haydn’s “Lord Nelson” Mass with the CNU Chamber Singers, and sang in Vaughn Williams’ Serenade to Music for The Williamsburg Choral Guild. As one of their bass section leaders, Mr. Fields recently sang the bass chorus and solos for Bruton Parish’s performance of Bach’s choral cantata, Christ lag in Todes Banden, and he was recently hired as the weekly soloist and hymn leader at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Williamsburg. His album Be Thou My Vision, contemporary solo arrangements of favorite Christian hymns by composer and pianist Paul S. Jones, can be streamed or purchased on all the major online music platforms.

