2026 Second Sunday Concert Series

Second Congregational Church of Newcastle, Maine

Second Congregational Church is excited to announce the performance lineup for its third season of the popular "Second Sunday" community concert series.

The Season will start on January 11 and extend through October 11, with an assortment of extraordinary performers and groups in a variety of musical genres that will bring enjoyment to all.

January 11th at 2 PM
No Spring Chickens

No Spring Chickens, featuring Linda Picceri and Michelle Tanguay, is the Mid Coast's very own free-range acoustic duo. Their dynamic vocals and lush harmonies, paired with high-energy guitar accompaniment make for a memorable concert experience. You can expect a blend of crowd-pleasing originals and unique interpretations of well-loved folk, country, rock, and blues classics that will make you want to sing along.

February 8th at 2 PM
DaPonte String Quartet

The DaPonte String Quartet performs at major national and international venues but is proud to call Maine its home. We are excited to welcome them back to the Second Sunday stage for a program featuring Haydn's String Quartet in D Major, Op. 20, no. 4 and Beethoven's String Quartet in E Minor, Op. 59 no 2. This concert is made possible by support from the Elizabeth Ann Leach Charitable Trust.

March 8th at 2 PM

Jud Caswell and Friends

While Maine singer-songwriter Jud Caswell is known for his own compositions and interpretations of guitar and vocal classics, he is also a supporter of emerging talent. Jud will be joined for this performance by up-and-coming acoustic duos "The Curl Tapes" featuring Blake Zuniga and Coleman Martin and "Acadia Pines" featuring Rylee Delaney and Liz Annmarie.

April 12th at 3 PM

Koto Performance with Sarah and Tom Oeste

Sarah Oeste, Music Director at Second Congregational Church, and her husband Tom will present an immersive program featuring Japan's national instrument, the koto. The pair will guide the audience through a seasonal journey—from the timeless elegance of "Sakura" (Cherry Blossoms) to the soaring, high-energy modern duet "Taka" (Falcon). Come experience an hour of "Light and Wind" as we celebrate the fresh greenery of spring through the strings of the koto.

May 10th at 3 PM

Matt Dillon and The Golden Road

Matt Dillon and the Golden Road will entertain with an eclectic program of modern folk, jazzy blues, and bluegrass music. Matt and bandmates Jamie Peghiny, and Ebon and Terry Salter have been writing and performing music in venues across New England for decades. Their songs are sure to delight.

June 14th at 3 PM
Ray Cornils

Acclaimed organist Ray Cornils returns to our 1902 Hutchings-Votey organ for an afternoon of extraordinary organ music, from the classical masters to the contemporary and back again. Enjoy hearing the many voices of the organ and learn how composers and organists have used this powerful instrument to thrill and inspire. This is a concert not to be missed.

July 12th at 3 PM
Castlebay

Castlebay, composed of multi-instrumentalists and vocalists Fred Gosbee and Julia Lane will regale with historical songs from Maine's past, sea chanties from around the world, and love songs that will warm your heart. The pair has toured the eastern U.S., Ireland, England, and Scotland performing at festivals and art centers as well as on radio and television.

August 9th at 3 PM
Royal River Chorus

Royal River Chorus is an acclaimed women's acapella singing group whose members live in southern and mid-coast Maine. They perform familiar songs in the traditional 4-part barbershop style. The group, which is affiliated with Sweet Adelines International, formed in 1985 and has received numerous awards in national and international competitions.

September 13th at 3 PM

Sean Fleming Ragtime Orchestra

Ragtime is a quintessentially Americal form of music which reached the height of its popularity in late 19th and early 20th centuries. The name derives from the "ragged" or syncopated beat which was unique for its time. This high energy performance by the Sean Flemming Ragtime Orchestra will demonstrate the enduring appeal of this musical form.

October 11th at 3 PM

Obscure Notation

Obscure Notation, a New England–based jazz-blues fusion group, blends classic repertoire with original compositions, drawing inspiration from artists of the 1960s through the 1990s, including ECM musicians, jazz innovators, and blues legends. Their sound is shaped by decades of collective experience, enabling them to move fluidly between atmospheric fusion, straight-ahead jazz, and soulful blues.

About Second Sunday Concerts

Concerts are held at the sanctuary of the Second Congregational Church, 51 Main Street, Newcastle. Handicapped parking is available at the side parking lot. An elevator and stair chair lift are available to assist with access.

All Second Sunday concerts are offered for a donation of $20 for adults, $10 for students, and FREE for children below school age. Proceeds from the concert series will be used to upgrade accessibility features of our 180-year-old church facility. Following each performance, you are invited to enjoy refreshments and a chance to mingle with the musicians in our Fellowship Hall.

For more information, contact Phil Helgerson (703) 328-0866 or phelgerson@verizon.net or call the church office at (207) 563-3379.