

# The FATHER Project

The FATHER (Fostering Actions To Help Earnings and Responsibility) Project's mission is to assist fathers in overcoming the barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally.

Founded in 1999 by the City of Minneapolis, the FATHER Project became a program of Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota in 2004. Since then, the FATHER Project has served thousands of fathers through an extensive network of community partners.

A Return on Investment study by the Wilder foundation showed a long-term financial return of \$3.41 for each dollar invested in the FATHER Project. Evaluation outcomes have shown increased parenting skills, educational achievement, job placement and benefits for the children of participating families.

In 2025, the Minnesota legislature awarded a \$1.5 million grant to FATHER Project over two years to continue and expand its work across Minnesota in Rochester, St. Cloud, Minneapolis and St. Paul.

To learn more about the FATHER Project, please visit:  
<https://www.goodwilleasterseals.org/services/family-stability>

## THANK YOU FOR AN INCREDIBLE 15<sup>TH</sup> SEASON OF FITV!

The Fridays in the Valley Concert Series will break for the months of July and August while we get ready for our 16<sup>th</sup> season of music! Concerts will resume their normal 2nd Friday of every month schedule on Friday, September 11 at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you again for the 2026-27 season. Thank you for your support of Fridays in the Valley!



Valley Community Presbyterian Church  
3100 Lilac Drive North • Golden Valley, MN 55422  
763-588-0831 • [www.valleychurch.net](http://www.valleychurch.net)



FATHER PROJECT



Give Online

# Fridays in the Valley



**Presents:**

Marimba Bullies



**Friday, June 12, 2026 | 7:00 pm**

Valley Community  
Presbyterian Church

# Fridays in the Valley Chamber Music Series

Friday, June 12, 2026 | 7:00 pm



Caderas (U.S.)	Michael Coolins
Nhimutimu (Zimbabwe)	Traditional
Shagu-Yekermo Sew (Ethiopia)	Mulate Astatke
Mashamba (Zimbabwe)	Traditional
Astrid's Granny (U.S.)	James Holdman
I Want You Back (Motown)	Berry Gordy, Freddie Perrin Alphonso Mizell & Deke Richards

## ~Intermission~

Kapotso (Zimbabwe)	Dumi Maraire
Afro Blue (U.S.)	Mongo Santamaria
I Already Have a Husband (U.S.)	Carey Sirianni
Taireva (Zimbabwe)	Traditional
Mouna Bowa (France)	Jean-Luc Ponty

## Marimba Bullies

The Twin Cities-based **Marimba Bullies** play upbeat, high-energy music on diatonic marimbas. Our sound is built on the rhythmically complex music of the African mbira, as played by the Shona people of Zimbabwe. The **Bullies'** repertoire includes traditional African tunes, music composed specifically for the ensemble, and arrangements of popular Western music. All these influences combine to create the lively, danceable, fun style that is unmistakably the **Marimba Bullies**.

**David Birrow**, percussionist and educator, teaches music at Breck School. A versatile performer, his interests range from orchestral to world music to jazz to new music. David has performed in the U.S., Europe and South America, and performs as a freelance percussionist as well as with the Marimba Bullies.

**Al Epp** has played guitar and percussion in various bands throughout the years. His musical tastes run from Cajun to Afro-beat to psychedelic to drone and back again.

**James Holdman** is a composer and multi-instrumentalist performer. He has performed a range of musical styles including jazz and other popular music, Argentine tango, and African, Arabic and Greek music. He has studied and performed music in Greece and Turkey. Currently he also plays with two local activist street bands: Brass Solidarity and Unlawful Assembly.

**Carey Sirianni** studied and taught in Africa and has been playing the Zimbabwean Marimba for over 30 years. She uses music to soften the world's hard edges and bring buoyancy to both teens and humans. Her love for exploring different cultures led her to start Breck School's BATO BATO! Marimba ensemble in 2008. Currently she is working to help settle refugees here in the Twin Cities.

The Fridays in the Valley concert series was established in 2012 by Vicki Wheeler and Sue Ruby.

Funding is made possible by gifts from Greg & Mary Rom and Vicki & Kurt Wheeler.