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season
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2013-2014



vocalescence

Welcome
Christmas

December 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15, 2013
Stillwater, Minneapolis, Apple Valley & Edina

2013-2014
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2013-2014
45th Anniversary Season

Welcome Christmas

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Dan Chouinard, *piano*

Mariachi Mi Tierra

Philip Brunelle, *conductor*

Dave Hagedorn and Fernando Meza, *percussion*

Lynne Aspnes, *harp*

Rahn Yanes, *double bass*

Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 7:30 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 4 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church

Friday, December 13, 2013 at 7:30 pm
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 7:30 pm
Colonial Church of Edina

Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 4 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church

VocalEssence

1900 Nicollet Avenue
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612-547-1451

www.vocalescence.org

VocalEssence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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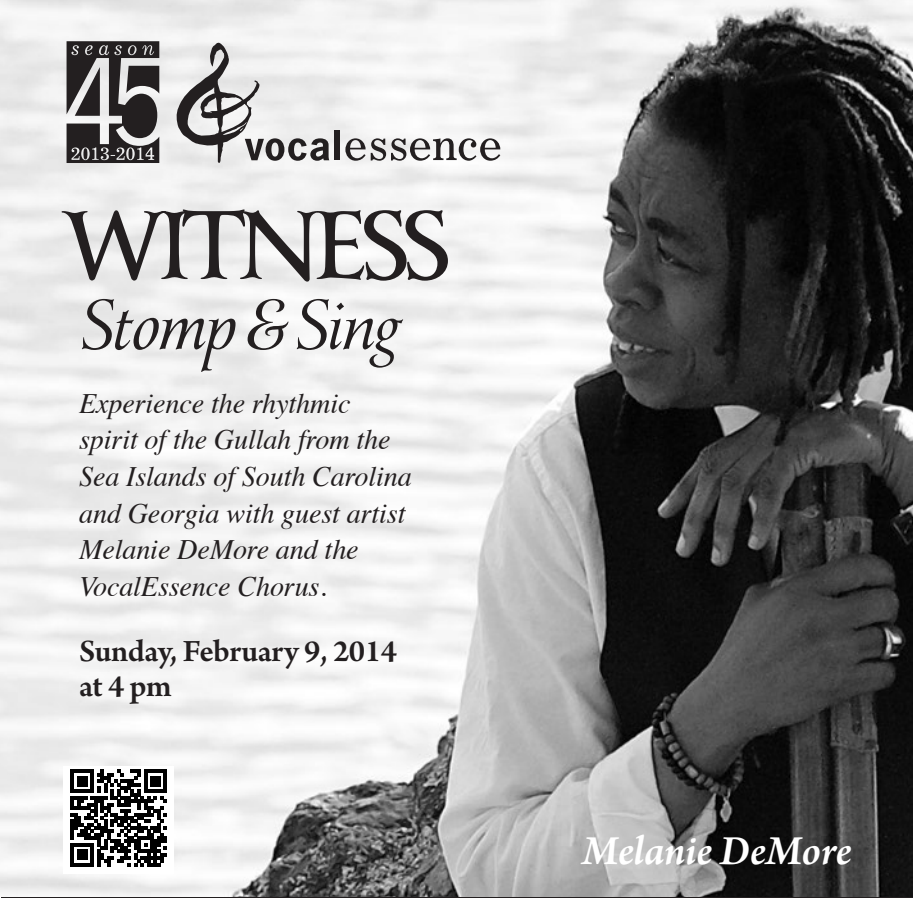
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- Accessible seating is available at all of our concert venues. However, some of our facilities do not have elevator access to the balcony level. Please make your needs known when you order tickets.
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2013-2014

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The Program

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers Mariachi Mi Tierra Dan Chouinard

Philip Brunelle, *conductor*

La Fiesta de la Posada

JoAnna Swantek, *soprano*

Michael Fairbairn, *tenor*

Ryan French, *baritone*

Joseph Ellickson, *bass*

Dave Brubeck

– Intermission –

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

When Christmas Morn is Dawning arr. Leland Saterén
Celebrating the centenary of Leland Saterén's birth

Go Tell It on the Mountain arr. Steve Barnett
Angela Grunstad, *soprano*
Krista Palmquist, *alto*
Seth Keeton, *bass*

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear arr. Philip Brunelle
Jennifer Bevington, *soprano*
Bill Pederson, *tenor*

The Twelve Days of Christmas arr. Mack Wilberg

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Sound Over All Waters William Malpede
World Premiere — Welcome Christmas Carol Contest Winner

Jesus Anatonnia (Huron Carol) arr. Susan LaBarr
Carolyn M. Steele, *soprano*

Deck the Halls arr. Francisco Núñez and Jim Papoulis
*2012 Winner of "Stepping into Philip's Shoes" Live Auction
guest conductor Robert L. Lee — December 15 performance*

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers & Chorus

Still, Still, Still arr. Norman Luboff

Ring Out, Ye Bells! Dale Trumbore
World Premiere — Welcome Christmas Carol Contest Winner

Audience Sing-Along

Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Todd Wilson

45th Season: Welcome Christmas



It's one of the busiest times of the year for everyone here at VocalEssence, but it is well worth the time and effort to share our music and celebrate the season with you. For 45 years, I have always enjoyed working with our singers to give you and your family wonderful music. And, seeing friends and family gather together to celebrate this music is why I look forward to every single Christmas season. This year, we celebrate the memory of Dave Brubeck, an innovative composer, jazz musician and dear friend. His La Fiesta de la Posada is an energetic way to celebrate the music of Christmas — as only Dave could do.

I am also delighted that we can celebrate our 16th year of the Welcome Christmas Carol Contest with two delightful pieces — both by California composers! And rounding out the concert will be some arrangements of familiar carols — all by composers from the United States.

Enjoy and ¡Feliz Navidad!

—Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director and Founder

Special Thanks

American Composers Forum
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Texts and Translations

La Fiesta de la Posada

Dave Brubeck (1975)

La Posada (instrumental introduction)

Processional

Behold! a virgin shall be with child! Born Emmanuel!
And she shall give us her firstborn son. Born Emmanuel!

The Lord Himself shall give a sign...
A little child shall lead them...

And He shall be the Prince of Peace!...
The Lord of Lords, the King of Kings...

In the Beginning

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God,
And the Word was God.

All that came to be was alive with His life!
And that life was the light of all,
The light shines on in the dark!
And the darkness has never mastered it.

Where is He?

Where is He that is born king of the Jews?
We have followed His star from afar.

Herod and his court, the priests and all the scribes,
They say that He is here. All of Jerusalem say:
He is here in Bethlehem of Judea.

He is here that is born! Savior!
Emmanuel, God with us!
We have come to worship Him that is born!

So the Word became flesh; He came to dwell among us.
And we saw such glory as befits the Father's only Son,
Full of grace and truth.

Gloria

Shepherds and lambs were all trembling with fright
When they wakened to voices and radiant light!
They sang *Gloria! Gloria!*

Angels from heaven came down to the earth
Singing, "Lo, never fear! We bring news of His birth,
So rejoice! He is here! We bring news from on high!
Let our *Gloria, gloria* fill the night sky!"

Wise men and shepherds and beasts of the field
Were all gathered in awe when God's love was revealed!
They sang *Gloria! Gloria!*

All of God's creatures that gathered that night,
Every man, every beast was amazed at the sight

Of the rich and the poor, and the weak, and the strong,
Singing *Gloria, gloria* all the night long!

Joseph and Mary, so humble, yet proud,
Were amazed at the joy that had swept through the crowd,
Singing *Gloria! Gloria!*

He shall be born in the city of David!
Shepherds and kings bow before Him!
Under the stars they all worshipped as one!
At the news of the most wondrous birth of God's Son.
They sang *Gloria! Gloria! Gloria!*

We Have Come to See the Son of God

We have come to see the Son of God.
We have come to worship Him.

Behold! The Holy One

Behold! Behold the star that's like a sun!
It lights our path, so quickly we must run
And spread the news, spread the news!
The angels say He's here! He's near! He is the holy One!

He is the holy One! the holy Son of God!
God is born in Bethlehem!
The prophecies of old, His coming foretold:
The holy Son of God!
And a star burning bright shone day and night
Upon the Son of God.
And a world once fearful, dark and tearful,
Now in joy does sing to welcome the King!

The angels on high all sing to glorify the holy Son of God!
God is born in Bethlehem!
Now the God of all creation gave to us salvation;
Through this holy birth sent joy to all the earth.
He is the promised One, the long awaited Son of God!

Run, Run, Run

Run, run, run to Bethlehem.
Born this day! Christ, our Savior!
Peace on earth, good will to men!

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Gold, frankincense and myrrh we bring.
Honor to the newborn King!
Glory to His holy name!
His dominion we proclaim!

His presence, like a guiding light,
Shall lead all wise men near and far.
We chart the course for all mankind
Across the space of soul and mind.
The world we knew is ever gone.

Sleep, Holy Infant, Sleep

Sleep, holy Infant, sleep, holy Child.
Thy light has filled our darkness.
Angels herald Thy birth.

Shepherds run from the field.
Wise men cross the barren earth.
Thou art Christ revealed.

Sleep, holy Infant, sleep, holy Child.
Hark to sweet Mary's voice;
Hear her tenderly sing.
All the earth shall now rejoice!

Sleep, holy Infant, sleep.
Thy light has filled our darkness.
Fearful hearts shall be stilled;
God is with us again.

Thou art prophecy fulfilled,
Light and life to all.
Thy light has filled our darkness.
Sleep, holy Infant, sleep.

God's Love Made Visible

God's love made visible! Incomprehensible!
He is invincible! His love shall reign!
From love so bountiful, blessings uncountable
Make death surmountable! His love shall reign!

Joyfully pray for peace and good will!
All of our yearning He will fulfill.
Live in a loving way! Praise Him for every day!
Open your hearts and pray, His love shall reign!

Holly and mistletoe! Candles and faces glow!
All little children know it's Christmas Day!
Stockings and candy canes, wreaths on the window panes!
Sleighing down country lanes! It's Christmas Day!

Mothers and fathers join in our play,
Laughing and singing on Christmas Day!
Each happy family shares in the mystery
Of the Nativity! It's Christmas Day!
—text by *Iola Brubeck*

When Christmas Morn is Dawning

arr. Leland Sateren (1951)

When Christmas morn is dawning in faith I would repair
Unto the lowly manger; my Savior lieth there.

Good news from heav'n the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
"To us this day a Child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven."

All praise and glory be to Thee
For wisdom, power and majesty;
And for Thy grace and mercy,
Lord, forever be Thy name adored.

How kind, O loving Savior, to come from heaven above!
From sin and evil save us, and keep us in Thy love.

We need Thee, blessed Savior, Our dearest friend Thou art;
Forbid that we by sinning should grieve Thy loving heart.

Elisabeth Ehrenborg-Posse
(translated by *Claude William Foss*)

Sound Over All Waters

William Malpede (2013)

Sound over all waters, reach out from all the lands,
Sing chorus of voices, the clasping of hands;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born,

Sound all the peoples, the marches of peace,
All speech flow to music, the long quarrel cease;
Sing with gladness the song that the angels began,
Sing glory to God and goodwill unto man!

With glad jubilations bring hope to the nations
The dark night is ending, and dawn has begun;
Sound over all waters, reach out from all the lands,
Sing chorus of voices, the clasping of hands;

Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born,
Rise hope of the ages, rise like the sun;
All speech flow to music, and all hearts beat as one!

— *John Greenleaf Whittier* from "A Christmas Carmen"

Jesus Annattonnia (Huran Carol)

arr. Susan LaBarr (2012)

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wandering hunters heard the hymn:
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless Infant there
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

Oh children of the forest free, oh sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria."

Ring Out, Ye Bells!

Dale Trumbore (2013)

Ring out, ye bells!
All Nature swells
With gladness at the wondrous story,—
The world was lorn,
But Christ is born
To change our sadness into glory.

Sing, earthlings, sing!
To-night a King
Hath come from heaven's high throne to bless us.
The outstretched hand
O'er all the land
Is raised in pity to caress us.

Come at His call;
Be joyful all;
Away with mourning and with sadness!
The heavenly choir
With holy fire
Their voices raise in songs of gladness.

The darkness breaks
And Dawn awakes,
Her cheeks suffused with youthful blushes.
The rocks and stones
In holy tones
Are singing sweeter than the thrushes.

Then why should we
In silence be,
When Nature lends her voice to praises;
When heaven and earth
Proclaim the truth
Of Him for whom that lone star blazes?

No, be not still,
But with a will
Strike all your harps and set them ringing;
On hill and heath
Let every breath
Throw all its power into singing!
— *Paul Laurence Dunbar*

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Todd Wilson (1992)

Audience and chorus:

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strain.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Chorus only:

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Audience and chorus:

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!



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Welcome Christmas with host John Birge

Tuesday, December 10 at 8pm
Wednesday, December 18 at 12pm

Classical Minnesota Public Radio
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This year's VocalEssence **Welcome Christmas** broadcast features the music from our 2012 concert, including *Laud to the Nativity* by Ottorino Respighi and our two carol contest winners: "This Night" by David Biedenbender and "The Christmas Bird" by Sheena Phillips.

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Christmas Carol Contest Winners 1998-2013

2013: Carols with piano

William Malpede (West Hollywood, CA) *Sound Over All Waters*
Dale Trumbore (Los Angeles, CA) *Ring Out, Ye Bells!*

2012: Carols with concert C flute

David Biedenbender (Ann Arbor, MI) *This Night*
Sheena Phillips (Trenton, NJ) *The Christmas Bird*

2011: Carols for men's voices (TTBB) accompanied by English horn

James Kallembach (Chicago, IL) *That Yönge Child*
Robert Sieving (Minnetonka, MN) *O Stella de Bethlehem*

2010: Carols with handbell accompaniment

J. David Moore (St. Paul, MN)
I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Mark Shepperd (Woodbury, MN) *Come Join Their Song*

2009: Carols with viola

Michael J. Glasgow (Raleigh, NC) *Welcome the King*
Robert Sieving (Minnetonka, MN) *See Amid the Winter's Snow*

2008: Carols with French horn

Scott Ethier (Astoria, NY) *A Mother's Carol*
Peter Hilliard (Roslyn, PA) *Christ's Nativity*

2007: Carols with celeste

Matthew Brown (Los Angeles, CA) *Sweet Was the Song*
Stephen Main (San Francisco, CA)
The Darkest Midnight in December

2006: Carols with acoustic guitar

Diego Luzuriaga (Ardmore, PA)
Un Nacimiento (A Nativity Scene)
John Rommereim (Grinnell, IA)
Calm on the Listening Ear of Night

2005: Carols with cello

Paul Gibson (Downey, CA) *It Fell Upon the High Midnight*
Jocelyn Hagen (Minneapolis, MN) *See Amid the Winter Snow*

2004: Carols with recorder

Keith Bradshaw (Lexington, VA) *Soft, the Light*
James Sclater (Clinton, MS) *Piping Carol*

2003: Carols with instrumental accompaniment

Thomas Fielding (Bloomington, IA) *Behold the Dark
and Bitter Night*
Alan Higbee (Beechwood, OH) *In the Bleak Midwinter*

2002: Carols with percussion accompaniment

Mary Lynn Place Badarak (Cochiti Lake, NM) *Brightest and Best*
Paul Lohman (Minneapolis, MN) *Angels Heard on High*

2001: Carols with string orchestra accompaniment

Clive Muncaster (Princeton, NJ) *Shepherds, Shake Off Your
Drowsy Sleep*
Sergey Khvoshchinsky (St. Paul, MN) *The Christmas Silence*

2000: Carols with harp accompaniment

Brian Holmes (San Jose, CA) *The Shepherd and the King*
Emily Maxson Porter (Fridley, MN) *I Sing the Birth*

1999: Carols with audience participation

Robert A.M. Ross (Philadelphia, PA) *What Child Is This?*
Jonathan Santore (Plymouth, NH) *This Holy Christmas Night*

1998: Carols for a cappella chorus

Joan Griffith (Minneapolis, MN) *Sweet Noel*
Richard Voorhaar (St. Paul, MN) *The Virgin's Cradle Hymn*



Program Notes

La Fiesta de la Posada

Dave Brubeck

The *Posada*, a custom depicting Joseph and Mary's search for lodging on the eve of her confinement, is re-enacted from December 16 to Christmas Eve throughout Latin America and in our own Southwest. Religious and secular traditions, never far apart in the lives of most Mexican villages, are at Christmas indefinably joined.

Details of *las posadas* may vary from region to region, but certain essentials remain wherever the custom is observed. Children, always an important part of the festivities, join with adults to form a torch and lantern procession and the streets become as crowded and bustling as ancient Bethlehem's at census time. Joseph leads a donkey, bearing a young girl dressed as The Virgin, or perhaps the children carry a litter of pine boughs which holds decorated clay figures of the Holy Family.

As the procession of villagers' winds through the streets singing litanies, they knock at various doors along the route. Each time they are turned away with the cruel words, "There is no room," until the procession arrives at the appointed home or church. Then, the doors are flung wide open in the spirit of Christmas and the celebration, with Mary as its central figure, begins. Guests kneel before *el nacimiento* (or, *crèche*), candles are lit, and the Christmas story is retold in song, dance, music and mime and The Christ Child is welcomed to earth. The unvarying finale of the celebration is the introduction of the *piñata*, a colorful, symbolically decorated figure of papier maché. The *piñata* is suspended above the heads of the children. Blindfolded and armed with long poles, youngsters vie for the honor of breaking the *piñata* and showering the contents of sweets and tiny gifts among all assembled.

I was born in a California town founded by the Spanish, raised on a cattle ranch that had been a Mexican land grant, and have absorbed and observed Mexican folk music all my life. As a musician, I have toured Mexico six times and always enjoyed listening to the folk music of the various regions. The ethnic music reflects those qualities I most admire in people... dignity in moments of tragedy, infectious high spirits in moments of joy, and an unshakeable religious faith made evident in a strong sense of one's own worth and a deep respect for the shared values of one's own group — family, church, and village. These qualities, I think, are universal to people with a strong communal sense — an increasingly rare attribute in urban culture. It is this sense of *sharing* in an event, which I have tried to capture in the simple retelling of the Christmas story.

— Dave Brubeck



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Our Mission

The American Composers Forum enriches lives by nurturing the creative spirit of composers and communities. We provide new opportunities for composers and their music to flourish, and engage communities in the creation, performance and enjoyment of new music.

The American Composers Forum is committed to supporting composers and developing new markets for their music. Through granting, commissioning, and performance programs, the Forum provides composers at all stages of their careers with valuable resources for professional and artistic development. By linking communities with composers and performers, the Forum fosters a demand for new music, enriches communities, and helps develop the next generation of composers, musicians, and music patrons.

The 16th Annual Welcome Christmas Carol Contest

Every December VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum celebrate the Christmas tradition in their own unique way: championing today's composers, exploring new works, and rediscovering lesser-known works of the past.

This year marks the sixteenth year of the **Welcome Christmas Carol Contest** as VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum provide composers with the opportunity to compose a modern-day carol. Open to composers of all ages, this year's contest required writing a carol for SATB chorus accompanied by piano.

The two winners will each receive \$1,000, and the winning carols will be premiered at the December 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15, 2013 **Welcome Christmas** concerts featuring the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers. The performances will be recorded for national broadcast in 2014 via American Public Media.

Composer's Note: Ring Out, Ye Bells!

-By Dale Trumbore

In Paul Laurence Dunbar's text for Ring Out, Ye Bells!, the first three stanzas are populated by exclamations (and exclamation marks): calls to praise, to proclaim, to ring bells and sing of the birth of Christ. As I set this poem to music, though, I was struck by the shift in tone and punctuation of the fourth and fifth stanzas. Here, Dunbar gives us gentle and gorgeous imagery, as rocks and stones themselves sing sweetly. In contrast to the raised voices and bell-like piano accompaniment of the music prior, here the piano part ripples, and the voices of the choir are staggered in a gradual awakening. Finally, the music returns to the ringing bells and struck harps; the choir throws "all its power into singing!" and the song ends, triumphant.

Composer's Note: Sound Over All Waters

-By William V. Malpede

The text of "Sound Over All Waters" is adapted from the poem, "A Christmas Carmen" by the American author, John Greenleaf Whittier. In Latin, "Carmen" translates to "song" or "poem." Mr. Whittier, who lived from 1807-1892, was known as an influential Quaker poet and an avid abolitionist, founding member of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and writer of the anti-slavery pamphlet, "Justice and Expediency." With some 18 volumes of poems to his credit, a number of his works have been adapted as hymns, "Sound Over All Waters" among them.

This text itself has numerous settings. I was inspired by its spirit of unity, love, freedom, and celebration of song in announcing Jesus' birth, to compose a piece that employs some element of contemporary popular dance rhythms. The "strophic" element of the poem is reflected in the first two verses, each line opening with a pyramid-chord in the choir. The keyboard accompaniment

is both syncopated, and steadily propulsive. After the verses, the dance-ostinato rhythm then begins in the chant-like reading of "With glad jubilations, bring hope to the nations!" This section is then interrupted by the slow, somewhat ethereal reading of "The dark night is ending, and dawn has begun." Upon this realization, we return to a repeat of the A section (first verse). The piece closes with a brief return to the chant, coupled with the harmony from the ethereal section, and finally a joyous fortissimo on "all (hearts) beat as one!" I decided to write the last chord not a unison note, but rather a rich layered chord to reflect all varied cultures and peoples joined together.

The piece tells of the coming of Christ as a time heralding the clasp of hands, the end of the dark night, and the long quarrel ceasing. I believe the heart of the text is timely today, and hopefully the mix of energetic syncopation with some of the dramatic dissonances will be enjoyed by the listener.

The image shows a hand holding a pen, writing on a document. The document contains a flowchart and a promotional message for HealthPartners.

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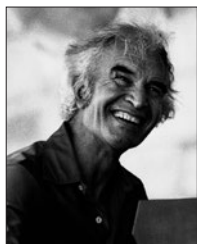
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Biographies



Jazz legend **Dave Brubeck** (1920-2012) was equally distinguished as both composer and pianist. He studied at the College of the Pacific and at Mills College, which led to

the founding of the experimental Jazz Workshop Ensemble. And, in the Dave Brubeck Quartet, its experimentation with time signatures unusual to jazz produced works like *Blue Rondo a la Turk* and *Take Five*, introducing millions of young listeners to jazz. Brubeck composed and recorded several large-scale works including two ballets, a musical, an oratorio, four cantatas, a mass, works for jazz combo and orchestra, and many solo piano pieces. In February of 1975, Dave made his first appearance with the VocalEssence Chorus performing his "Light in the Wilderness" oratorio at Central Lutheran Church and a few years later he returned to perform the local premiere of his Pange Lingua Mass with VocalEssence. For his last visit to Minneapolis, he performed at the Dakota Jazz Club (age 89). Dave performed at the White House in 1964 and 1981 and at the 1988 Moscow Summit honoring the Gorbachevs. His many awards include the BMI Jazz Pioneer Award, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and a 2009 Kennedy Center Award. VocalEssence is proud to have had Dave as one of our Honorary Directors.



Pianist, accordionist and occasional storyteller **Dan Chouinard** is a Minneapolis native who plays, tours and records regularly with an ever-expanding roster of musicians

and writers. Dan grew up in a musical family, attended St. John's University and spent four years as a teacher of French and Italian at the University of Minnesota. He regularly creates special programs blending storytelling, interviews and music, many of these for Minnesota Public Radio. He has been

heard on "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor, and served as rehearsal accompanist to Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin and Lindsay Lohan on the set of the Robert Altman-directed movie *A Prairie Home Companion*. He was featured with VocalEssence in 2000 when Brubeck's *La Fiesta de la Posada* was first performed.



Mariachi Mi Tierra is the oldest Mariachi ensemble in the Twin Cities. Rosalio Castro, who formed the group in 2003, has been playing various Mexican styles of music since he was in his teens. Most of the members of Mariachi Mi Tierra have brought a great number of regional and current favorite tunes into the group's repertoire. In addition to events in the local Mexican community, "Mariachi Mi Tierra" also plays at schools, colleges, businesses, casinos, and festivals.

Rosalio Castro, *Trumpet*
Eduardo Castro, *Trumpet*
Jose Antonio Rendon, *Vihuela*
Isidro Peñafort, *Guitarron*
John Poole, *Violin*



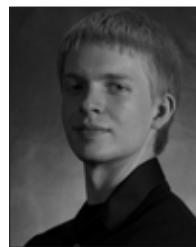
JoAnna Swantek has been with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers since 2011 and currently resides in the Twin Cities. Originally from Thief River Falls,

MN, JoAnna attended the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities for her Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance. In addition to singing in VocalEssence, she currently works full time in Property Management and is a Soprano Section Leader with the Wayzata Community Church.



Baritone **Ryan French**'s vocal career encompasses chamber music, oratorio, choral, and early music. He is in his 13th season with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers and

is a former member of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, the Milwaukee Chamber Singers, the Rose Ensemble, and the Dale Warland Singers where he is a featured soloist on the critically-acclaimed recording *Bernstein & Britten* (2000). A 1994 graduate of St. Olaf College, he was a member of the renowned St. Olaf Choir.



Baritone **Joseph Ellickson** holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Iowa and is in his second year of singing with the Ensemble Singers. He also performs with

the ensembles Silver Swan and Academy of Voices, both based in the Twin Cities. Joseph is an active soloist as well, singing with the Performing Arts Institute of Wyoming Seminary, the Amman Symphony Orchestra, and Dozan wa Awtar.



Composer/Orchestrator **William V. Malpede** holds a Graduate Certificate in Film Scoring from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor's Degree in Music Business

from Elmhurst College, Illinois. William has served as synthesizer programmer and technical assistant on such films as *Urban Legend*, *Runaway Jury*, and *Spiderman 3*. His original scores include *Angels Don't Sleep Here*, *Dog Gone Love* and *Guys 'n Divas*. As a songwriter and producer, William has co-written songs and recorded music for *The Interpreter*, *Domino*, *Brokeback Mountain*, Disney's *Quiet Is*, and the animated feature,

Rango. He co-scored (with Rick Garcia) the feature film, *Another Harvest Moon* starring Ernest Borgnine and Doris Roberts, for which he and Mr. Garcia won the Best Original Score Award at the Rhode Island International Film Festival. Currently, William is a professor of Music in Film and private composition at California State University, Northridge, is composing a vocal/orchestra piece based on the writings of Kahlil Gibran, and has teamed again with Rick Garcia to compose the songs and score for Disney Junior's first animated featurette, *Lucky Duck: A Tub Toy Tale*, due for release in 2014.



Hailed by the *New York Times* for her "soaring melodies and beguiling harmonies," composer **Dale Trumbore's** compositions have been performed widely in the United

States and internationally by ensembles including the Kronos Quartet, ACME, and

the USC Thornton Symphony. Dale has received awards for her compositions from Chanticleer, Center City Opera Theater, the Harmonium Choral Society, Lyrica Chamber Music, the Society for Universal Sacred Music, and the National Federation of Music Clubs. She has received commissions from organizations including the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and WomenSing. Dale has also been awarded a Copland House Residency Award, the Artist in Residence Grant at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico, and the American Composers Forum *Subito* grant.

Dale's dual interest in language and music leads her to collaborate frequently with contemporary poets, and her works for voice have been recorded by the New York Virtuoso Singers (*Toward Lasting Peace*), Six Degree Singers (*Six Degrees of Composers*), and soprano Gillian Hollis (*Snow White Turns Sixty*).

A New Jersey native and current resident of Los Angeles, Dale holds a Master of

Music degree in Composition from the University of Southern California, where she studied with Donald Crockett and Morten Lauridsen, and a dual degree in Music Composition (B.M.) and English (B.A.) from the University of Maryland.

Celebrate Christmas Eve

at Plymouth Church in Minneapolis

Tuesday, December 24

4:45 p.m.
Family Service
Youth Choir & Children's
Choirs

7:45 p.m.
Candlelight Service
of Scandinavian
Lessons & Carols
Solo Quintet and Organ
James Gertmenian
preaching; Philip Brunelle,
organist

10:45 p.m.
Candlelight Service
of Lessons & Carols
Senior Choir, Organ &
Handbells
James Gertmenian
preaching;
Philip Brunelle, organist



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Education Spotlight

Raise your voice! Choral Advocacy

Music education changes lives. From our ¡Cantaré! program to WITNESS, VocalEssence is dedicated to choral music education. We recognize emerging high school talent through our apprentice programs. We raise up talented choral leaders as models in our school communities by awarding them for groundbreaking work. And, our board of directors has defined it as a priority for VocalEssence in our strategic plan: Strengthening the field of music education.

Choral Music Education: Strengthening the field of music education

There is a troubling decline in choral singing opportunities for children in Minnesota. From 2000-2010, music education specialists in Minnesota public schools have been cut by 28%, which has resulted in:

- Substantial reduction in elementary choral and general music programs
- Decreased contact time for music classes (once every five to six days) and/or doubled-up classes.
- Music programs increasingly only available for more affluent students
- Further compounding the music education climate, 37% of Minnesota's public school students live at or near poverty. These students and families typically aren't able to participate in after-school activities including choirs, lessons and other music opportunities.

In spite of these sobering statistics, we have rich empirical evidence of the impact of choral singing on student achievement rates, and its ability to build characteristics that make them remarkably good citizens.

- Arts education prepares students for success in school and in life.
- Choral singing is an integral part of arts education.
- Choral singing builds community.

Join us in our advocacy efforts and raise your voice for choral music by visiting www.vocalessence.org/advocacy.

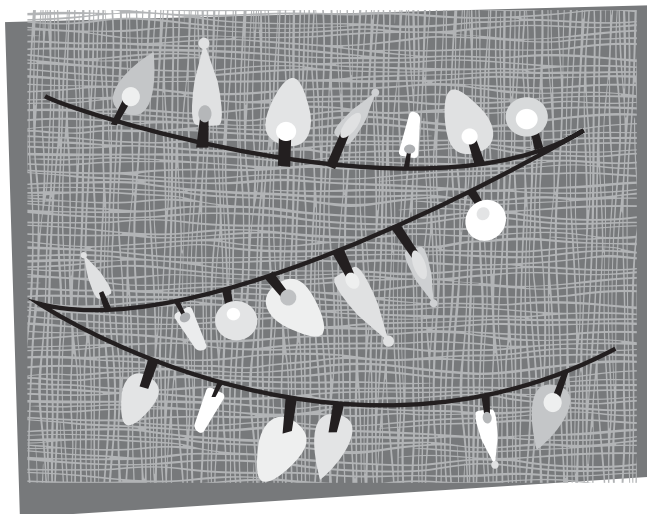


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with special guests Maria Jette and Dan Chouinard

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The ROSE
ENSEMBLE

About VocalEssence

The Mission of VocalEssence

VocalEssence champions choral music of all genres, celebrating the vocal experience through innovative concerts, commissions, and community engagement programs.

VocalEssence is renowned for its innovative exploration of music for voices and instruments under the enthusiastic direction of Artistic Director and Founder Philip Brunelle. Each season, VocalEssence presents an eclectic series of concerts featuring the 100-voice VocalEssence Chorus, the 32-voice professional Ensemble Singers, and an array of guest soloists and instrumentalists.

VocalEssence was founded in 1969 as the Plymouth Music Series, an arts outreach program of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis and incorporated as a separate 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1979. In 2002, the Plymouth Music Series changed its name to VocalEssence, capturing the essence of its mission to explore music for the human voice, from the spoken word to choral singing.

In addition to championing lesser-known works of the past, VocalEssence has an unwavering commitment to today's composers, which has resulted in more than 160 world premieres to date. The organization has received the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music six times and has been honored with more Chorus America awards than any other ensemble nationwide, including the once-in-an-organizational-lifetime Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence.

Beyond its work in performances and recordings of choral music, VocalEssence reaches into the community with programs that impact thousands of students, singers and composers every year. **WITNESS** celebrates the contributions of African Americans to our shared American heritage through concerts, recordings and comprehensive school programs. **¡Cantaré!** brings the talents of composers from Mexico directly into Minnesota classrooms. VocalEssence partners with American Composers Forum to offer the annual **Welcome Christmas Carol Contest**.

Philip Brunelle

Artistic Director and Founder



Philip Brunelle, artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, is an internationally renowned conductor, choral scholar and performer.

Believing that listeners and musicians alike must experience music of many genres and styles, he has worked enthusiastically — and tirelessly — to expand audiences for rarely heard works of the past and worthwhile new music. In addition, to date VocalEssence has commissioned more than 160 works. Philip has conducted symphonies (New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra among others) as well as choral festivals and operas on six continents.

Over the past decade Philip has been deeply involved with the International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM). He served as president of the Sixth World Symposium on Choral Music held in Minneapolis (2002), was on the Artistic Committee for the Eighth Symposium, held in Denmark (2008), and the Ninth Symposium, held in Argentina (2011). He is a Vice President of the IFCM Board and is now serving as Executive Director for the 2014 World Choral Symposium to be held in Seoul, South Korea.

Philip holds five honorary doctorates, was invested as an Honorary Member of the Order from the British Empire (MBE) in 2005 for his services to music, and was awarded Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit in 2007. He has also been honored by the governments of Sweden, Hungary, and Mexico.



Sigrid Johnson

Associate Conductor

As the associate conductor of VocalEssence, Sigrid Johnson is

affectionately known as “Ears” — for her unique skill in helping develop the choral blend and balance that give the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers their signature sound. She provides expert input in the selection of repertoire and assists throughout the audition process. Her ability to achieve excellence in choral blend and intonation is a priceless asset to VocalEssence.

Sigrid is a member of the voice and choral faculty of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and the conductor of the Manitou Singers, St. Olaf's 100-voice first-year women's chorus. She maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician at choral festivals, workshops and all-state music festivals across the country. She is known internationally for her work with musicians at all levels, having conducted workshops in Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland. In August 2008, Sigrid was one of the featured lecturers for the Eighth World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen; in 2011, she was featured in the Ninth World Symposium in Argentina.

Sigrid is active in the American Choral Director's Association, the Music Educator's National Conference, the International Federation for Choral Music, and Chorus America.

Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

Assistant Artistic Director



Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, Assistant Artistic Director of VocalEssence, previously served as Director of Choral Activities

at Freedom High School in Orlando, Florida. During his tenure at FHS, Tesfa was named Orange County Public School Teacher of the Year (2013) and received the Macy's National Gift of Teaching Award (2013). He led his choirs in performances at state conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (2010 & 2012) and the Florida Music Educators Association (2011).

Tesfa has presented workshops and conducted honor choirs in Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, and Costa Rica. As a tenor soloist, he has performed both in the United States and internationally in Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Costa Rica under the batons of such conducting luminaries as André Thomas, Anton Armstrong, Krzysztof Penderecki, and Rodney Eichenberger. Tesfa is active in the American Choral Directors Association, the Music Educator's National Conference, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Tesfa holds a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance from the Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Memphis.

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Minnesota is home to one of the truly international gems in choral music – the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers. This 32-voice professional chorus is a beloved national treasure that has been enjoyed by millions in Minnesota, around the country, and indeed, around the world.

The Ensemble Singers serve as the core of the larger VocalEssence Chorus, and returning members of the Ensemble Singers audition every year. The Ensemble Singers were featured last November at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. In March, they performed at the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Dallas, Texas, where they received standing ovations for their performances of music by Mexican composers.

VocalEssence Chorus

The VocalEssence Chorus is an exceptional group of talented, committed singers from many walks of life: doctors, lawyers, nurses, educators, homemakers, business people, and others. Most have college level or higher training in classical music and voice. Chorus auditions are held every spring, and returning members of the Chorus re-audition every two years.



VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

SOPRANO

Amanda Allen
AnnaLisa Anderson
Barbara Anderson
Stacey Athorn
Diane Balfany
Jennifer Bevington*
Hannah B. Bolt
Dana Brinton
Marie Colangelo
Maria Therese Deutsch
Judy Drobeck
Vickie Dunn
Elizabeth Egger
Mary Gossett
Angela Grundstad*
Kristina M. Guiffre
Alicia M. Hanson
Katie Henrichsen
Amanda Inhofer*
Ashley Jacobson
Sharanya Johnson
Meghan Kane
Anika Kildegaard
Jan Kilton
Kartra Kohl
Heidi Larson
Benta LeMunyon
Hannah Lindahl
Joy MacArthur
Jessica McMahan
Carolyn M. Steele*
Padra Ann Maria Moua
Christina Pederson
Laura Roche
Margaret Sabin*
Nadine Sanders
Ann M. Sather
Cheryl E. Roberts Saunders
Ann L. Schrooten*
Mari M. Scott*
Sandra Shallcross
LeAnn Stein
JoAnna Swantek*
Kristin Swedlund
Jennifer Vickerman
Jennifer E. Wallis
Sharon Williams

ALTO

Alanna Bach Kucera
Jo Michelle Beld
Rebecca Bellman
Kristin Borski
Patty Campbell
Sarah Fincham
Anne K. Gleeman
Kate Gordhamer
Yvonne Grover
Autumn Gurgel
Dee Hein
Robin J. Helgen*
Katherine Scholl Holisky
Kristin Howlett
Sally Jaffray
Kirkja Anna Janson
Jeanne Kavanaugh
Jennifer Kisner
Sheri Loeffring
Marita Link*
Judith McClain Melander*
Anna Meek*
Kristi Mueller
Laura J. Nelson
Clara Osowski*
Krista J. Palmquist*
Brandee Polson
Signe Reistad
Coral Sampson
Sandra Schoenecker*
Laura Tanner
Ruth Torkelson
Karen Wilkerson*
Andrea Young
Cynthia L. Youtz

TENOR

Steve Aggergaard
Max Athorn
Kevin L. Bailey*
Scott Berger
Chase Daniel Burkhardt*
Christopher A. Bozeman
Richard J. A. Cedergren
Lloyd Clausen
Anders Eckman*
Michael Fairbairn*

Robert J. Graham*
Curtis Kettler*
David Kozisek*
Nicholas Mattsson
William Pederson*
Jordan Ray
Spencer Rudolf
Luke Slivinski
Bryan Oliver Smith
Rabindra Tambyraja

BASS

Eric Bartlett*
Steve Burger*
Deric W. Craig*
Joseph Ellickson*
Elwyn Alexander Fraser Junior
Ryan French*
John R. Henrich
Stephen Hughes
Seth Keeton*
Stephen Kemp
Benjamin Kucera
Joshua LaGrave
Philip Lowry
Robert Metzger
Paul L. Nevin
Milo Oien-Rochat
Sheridan O'Keefe
David Olson
Christopher William Paulson
Jonathan Pinkerton
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**indicates member of the Ensemble Singers*

Donor Spotlight: Mike and Donna Wolsted

Music Producers Helping Engineer a Strong Choral Community



Mike and Donna Wolsted have been a part of the choral music community for years. They are truly choral music producers who have helped engineer the success of the choral community in Minnesota, as part of the strong choral cultures created by dedicated people from F. Melius Christiansen of St. Olaf College to our own Philip Brunelle of VocalEssence. And, due to their work and dedication, they've helped increase the prestige of Minnesota choral music. "Whenever I travel, I am always reminded about how truly blessed we are in Minnesota," Mike said. "It's hard to find another state that has the breadth, depth and dedication to the choral arts."

Both Mike and Donna grew up in choral communities in Minnesota. In their hometowns of Harmony and Rochester, they sang in choirs — Donna as soprano and Mike as bass. But their voices didn't collide until they met at a college radio

"Our schools are losing funds for music...Programs are losing their focus and turning to simple pop music lessons. We need to challenge them musically."

—Mike Wolsted

station; it was then that they found sweet harmony. "He was going to make his money in radio," Donna said, "I was going to make mine working at the Mayo Clinic."

While they treasured Rochester, their love of music eventually drew them to the big city lights of Minneapolis, where Mike became engrossed in music producing and engineering. He worked at Sound 80, a recording studio that existed before MPR, as a producer, and created its first digital choral album. "He was always recording, listening and editing music. He was dedicated to the sound," Donna said. "But even with that love of music, after listening to track after track, we never sat down to listen to recordings — we always sought out live music."

From marimba bands in Mexico who played classical music to their favorite choirs in Minnesota, Mike and Donna tirelessly seek out live music — with good

reason. "Nowadays, it's even more important to find the thrill of listening to live music," Mike said. "When you can easily bend pitch of singers in recording studio, only live performances show the talent, the craft and the spontaneity of music."

Through a spontaneous meeting with Philip via mutual friends in the choral community, they saw the work that VocalEssence was doing in outreach programs, spreading choral culture and creating community, and decided to get involved.

"Our schools are losing funds for music," said Mike. "Programs are losing their focus and turning to simple pop music lessons. We need to challenge them musically." ¡Cantaré!, a VocalEssence composer-in-residence program in Twin Cities elementary and high schools, does just that by bringing world renowned classical composers from Mexico to write music for more than 400 students that is performed at a free concert each spring.

Mike and Donna support ¡Cantaré! to ensure the strength of the choral community long into the future. "We need to broaden our focus to encompass everyone," Donna said. "And, as always, we need to get them when they are young." Thank you, Mike and Donna, for supporting choral music in our community!

Choralia

VocalEssence Spring Gala

SAVE THE DATE for Choralia, the VocalEssence biennial spring gala.

Enter the whimsical land of Choralia and be inspired to raise your voice to benefit VocalEssence Community Engagement Programs. Play games of chance at a "not-so"-silent auction, sing for your supper, and join the after party sing-along.

Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 4:30 PM | Radisson Blu at the Mall of America

Registration opens February 2014. For more information visit vocalessence.org/Choralia. Tickets \$150 through April 1, \$175 through May 1

Event, corporate and table sponsorships available.
For more information, visit vocalessence.org/gala2014.

All proceeds benefit VocalEssence education programs ¡Cantaré! and WITNESS.

The Endowment Honor Roll

VocalEssence salutes the individuals and corporate and private foundations whose generosity and leadership sparked the creation of the Endowment Fund. This permanent fund was established in 1987 and is now valued at \$3 million. Its interest income provides ongoing support to VocalEssence. We welcome new contributions to the Endowment Fund and extend our deepest appreciation to the following for their generous gifts.

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Although we make every effort to ensure that our Honor Roll list is accurate and complete, we are capable of error. Please let us know if your name does not appear the way you prefer so we may correct it in the next program listing. Please call us at 612-547-1473 to make a correction. Thank you!

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Join like-minded singers and supporters of
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Copperfield Hill Senior Living Home
 Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00pm

***Sheet music will be provided.**

