

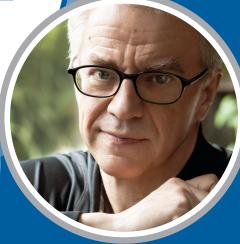




VOCALESSENCE

SING AND CELEBRATE

season 49 2017 - 2018





# **FALL CONCERTS**

Finlandia Forever

Bach & Bluegrass Jamboree

Welcome Christmas

Star of Wonder

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial



#### VOCALESSENCE

1900 Nicollet Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403 612-547-1451 vocalessence.org

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



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#### PLEASE NOTE:

- Concerts will be recorded for possible broadcast—please help us keep the performance space quiet. Take
  a moment now to check that all cell phones, paging devices, wristwatch alarms, and the like are turned off
  before the concert begins. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Recording devices and cameras are prohibited. No photography, video, or audio recording is allowed in the
  concert hall. Please abstain from texting, tweeting, or checking your email during the concert.
- Student and group discounts are available for most VocalEssence concerts. Half-price tickets are available
  to students (ages 6-18 and college) with a student ID. Groups of 10 or more save 15% on tickets. Children
  under age 6 are not allowed at VocalEssence performances, except for select community and family
  concerts, including VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! and Star of Wonder.
- 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.
- You may return VocalEssence single concert tickets for resale up to 48 hours prior to a performance. No
  refunds or exchanges can be given; however, you will be sent a receipt for your tax-deductible contribution.
  (VocalEssence subscribers may call 612-371-5642 to request free ticket exchanges and lost ticket
  replacement.)
- Latecomers will be seated at appropriate pauses in the concert according to the conductor's wishes. Please
  plan plenty of time for locating the concert venue and parking. Or, better yet, allow an extra hour and join us
  for Concert Conversations with the composers and artists, held one hour before most concerts.



## 2017-2018 49TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THIS CONCERT





#### FINLANDIA FOREVER

Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 4 PM and 7 PM Larson Hall at the American Swedish Institute 2600 Park Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55407

**VocalEssence Ensemble Singers** Osmo Vänskä, clarinet Sara Pajunen, fiddle Mary Jo Gothmann, pianist Philip Brunelle, conductor

#### **2017-2018 SEASON SPONSORS**











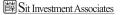


 $This\ activity\ is\ made\ possible\ by\ the\ voters\ of\ Minnesota$ through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant ora from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.















#### THE PROGRAM

Halavan Himmeän Alla

(In the shade of the willow)

#### **VocalEssence Ensemble Singers**

Jean Sibelius Finlandia Hvmn (1900)

> Einojuhani Rautavaara (1998)

Commissioned by VocalEssence

Melancholy (*Ikävyys*)

2. The Squirrel (Laulu oravasta)

3. Song of My Heart (Sydämeni laulu)

A Finnish Waltz Sara Pajunen

Three Piae Cantiones Songs Olli Kortekangas Osmo Vänskä, clarinet (2006/2017)

Robert Graham, tenor

1. Tempus adest floridum

2. Personent hodie

3. Jesus Christus nostra salus

-World Premiere-

#### Women of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Horloge, Tais-Toi Kaija Saariaho

(2008)

Tulatulla Stephen Paulus (1985)

A Finnish Polska Sara Pajunen

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Canticum Calamitatis Maritimae Jaakko Mäntyjärvi (Maritime Calamity Song) (1997)

Margaret Sabin, soprano; Robert Smith, baritone

Sheena Phillips En Etsi Valtaa. Loistoa

(2014)

Sara Pajunen, fiddle

I am the great sun Jussi Chydenius

(2010)

Men of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Aftonbön (Evening Prayer) Mikko Heiniö (2014)

Osmo Vänskä, clarinet

**Audience Sing** 

Jean Sibelius Finlandia Hymn (1900)

VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi El Hambo

(1996)

#### WELCOME

Welcome to the opening concert of this 49th season of VocalEssencean amazing moment for this plucky organization! Through all these years we have maintained our ideals of performing music at the highest level and keeping creativity as a watchword.

These goals are so appropriate with our opening concert—celebrating the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence. It was eighteen years ago that we brought Einojuhani Rautavaara to the Twin Cities for a Rautavaara Festival—the first time this incredible composer had been celebrated with a festival outside of his native Finland....and this was before Osmo Vänskä arrived!

Finland, like Minnesota, is a place for singing and its composers have embraced the voice as a beautiful way to experience the Finnish landscape. You will be delighted with the sounds of composers from Finland with exotic-sounding names like Heiniö, Mäntyjärvi, Kortekangas, and Saariaho. And beautiful music will be heard with the exquisite singing of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, the lilting sounds of Sara Pajunen's fiddle, and the languorous beauty of Osmo Vänskä's clarinet!

Welcome to this amazing and delightful beginning to another fantastic season!

- Philip Brunelle Artistic Director and Founder, VocalEssence

#### **TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS**

#### **FINLANDIA HYMN**

Jean Sibelius

#### PROGRAM NOTE:

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) was the first composer to discover 'Finland's own voice', although his idiom was so original and innovative that he did not inspire a school of followers. He was also the first to set texts in Finnish following the cadence of the language rather than imposing Central European general Romantic musical models on Finnish texts.

Oi Suomi, katso, sinun päiväs koittaa, yön uhka karkoitettu on jo pois, ja aamun kiuru kirkkaudessa soittaa kuin itse taivahan kansi sois. Yön vallat aamun valkeus jo voittaa, sun päiväs koittaa, oi synnyinmaa.

Oi nouse, Suomi, nosta korkealle pääs seppelöimä suurten muistojen, oi nouse, Suomi, näytit maailmalle sa että karkoitit orjuuden ja ettet taipunut sa sorron alle, on aamus alkanut, synnyinmaa.

—V. A. Koskenniemi

#### HALAVAN HIMMEÄN ALLA (IN THE SHADE OF THE WILLOW)

Einojuhani Rautavaara

1. Melancholy (*Ikävyys*)

What misery, what gloominess my soul surrounding, Like autumn twilight over desert land.

In vain are all our efforts, wasted is the struggle, Existence is stripped of all purpose!

I seek not after Heaven, nor the night of Hell, No longer now would I embrace a maid;

O let my lot be this then; to quit the pain of knowing, And be in the silent emptiness.

O friends of mine! I beg of you one final favor, Lend your ear to my fervent plea: Out of Tuoni's cabin make a dwelling place for this lad, And know he will soon be buried.

O dig my grave beneath the shadow of my willow And cover it with black soil once more, For evermore be gone from my estate; In peace I would lie for evermore.

Nor would I have upon my grave a mound rising, The soil should rather bend to a bower, So none shall know my resting chamber lies in secret Beneath the shade of the willow.

2. The Squirrel (Laulu oravasta)

Slumber sweetly, little squirrel, in thy moss-lined chamber napping;

Safe art thou from hounds of hunting and the wicked poacher trapping,

Out of the reach of harm.

O, behold the world of yonder from within thy lofty manor.

Strife and struggle all around thee; overhead, the fir branch banner  $\,$ 

Peacefully fluttering.

What a happy life in eyrie, cradle-castle gently swinging! In the fir tree's mother-bosom, softly hear the forest singing:

Rocking thee gently to sleep.

Slumber sweet, thou bush-tailed squirrel, at thy tiny open skylight,

Lilting birdsong in the heavens transports thee in evening twilight

To the sweet land of dreams.

3. Song of My Heart (Sydämeni laulu)

Grove of Tuoni, grove nocturnal! Finest sand for sleep eternal, There I'll take my child to sleep.

May my child have pleasant hours In the Dark Lord's fields and bowers Tending the cattle of Tuoni.

May my child have pleasant hours Fast asleep amidst the flowers, Rocked by the gentle Dark Lady.

Happy darling in safe keeping, In a golden cradle sleeping, Hearing the song of the nightjar.

Grove of Tuoni, grove of calmness!
Far away from worldly madness,
Far from all strife and beguiling.
—Aleksis Kivi; translation by Jaakko Mäntyärvi
and Philip Brunelle

#### **THREE PIAE CANTIONES SONGS**

Olli Kortekangas

1. TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

The flowery time is here, for the flowers are coming up; In everything they mimic the habits of spring.

Warmth restores what the cold had injured;

We see this happen through many labors.

—Translation from the Latin by

-Translation from the Latin by Christopher Brunelle

2. PERSONENT HODIE

On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us; Him our God gave us. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came down to earth, Bethlehem saw his birth; Ox and ass beside him From the cold would hide him. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring, Praising Christ, heaven's King, Born on earth to save us; Peace and love he gave us. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

-Translation from the Latin by Jane M. Joseph

3. JESUS CHRISTUS NOSTRA SALUS Jesus Christ our blest Redeemer (Truth denied by proud blasphemer) Gave his flesh in wondrous fashion In remembrance of his passion.

> O how pure this breast, and holy, It is thou, Christ Jesus, wholly, Sacramental bread of heaven Here is found and to us given.

'Tis a gift, the best, the sweetest, Pledge of love divine, completed; Eucharist of mighty power, Grace's channel, heavenly dower.

Hail, thou divinity's true form,
God united in thee, the norm;
Whoever in thee delightest,
Then the truth by faith observeth.

—John Huss, translation by Robert Leaver

#### **HORLOGE, TAIS-TOI**

Kaija Saariaho

Calm, by the wall, stands the clock...
I hate its noise, it torments me...
It reminds me that time is passing...
And that...poor me...whatever I do...
I must, one day, pass away...
Ah! This incessant tick-tock is unbearable!

Oh, dear God, silence. Clock, shut up! Do you not hear me, clock? Shut up! Stop, hands! I want silence.

I hate that noise, it torments me. It reminds me that Time is passing. Don't you hear me, clock? Be quiet!

—Text by Alexandre Barrière;

translation by Philip Brunelle

#### **TULATULLA**

Stephen Paulus

Tulatullallaa, the boy's cheeks are full of a bun.

Come over, we might or might not give you some warm bread. Come through the door, not from a corner and don't you dare lean over me.

Come in the evening – you'll be safe and I'll hold you in my arms.

—Finnish folk song, translation by Eeva Savolainen

## CANTICUM CALAMITATIS MARITIMAE (MARITIME CALAMITY SONG)

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi

May the eternal light shine upon them, O Lord; may perpetual light shine upon them.

Over eight hundred people perished in a shipwreck in the northern Baltic Sea.

The car ferry Estonia, en route from Tallinn to Stockholm, was overturned in a severe storm and sank.

Have mercy, O Lord.

There were about 1000 passengers on board. 910 people lost their lives in the wreck of the Estonia; 139 were saved.

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters:

These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.

They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble.

They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end.

Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.

He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

-Psalm 107: 23-30, King James version

(The news text is from Nuntii Latini, the weekly news broadcasts in Latin by the Finnish Broadcasting Company. These extracts are from the reports broadcast on September 30, 1994 and October 7, 1994, translated into Latin by Reijo Ptkäranta.)

#### **EN ETSI VALTAA, LOISTOA**

Sheena Phillips

We seek no power or glory, Lord, we seek no wealth or gold, We only ask for heaven's light on this our earthly fold.

At Christmas we shall joyful be and raise our song of prayer to

Not power, nor glory, wealth nor gold, but peace here in this fold.

—Martti Korpilahti,

translated and paraphrased by Sheena Phillips

#### I AM THE GREAT SUN

Jussi Chydenius

I am the great sun, but you do not see me,
I am your husband, but you turn away.
I am the captive, but you do not free me,
I am the captain but you will not obey.
I am the truth, but you will not believe me,
I am the city where you will not stay.
I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me,
I am that God to whom you will not pray.
I am your counsel, but you will not hear me,
I am your lover whom you will betray.
I am the victor, but you do not cheer me,
I am the holy dove whom you will slay.
I am your life, but if you will not name me,
Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.
—Charles Causley

#### AFTONBÖN (EVENING PRAYER)

Mikko Heiniö

Now I lay me down in silence, In this still and quiet hour. Sorrow's hold on me is fading, Clamoring voices lose their power.

Take this day which now is ended. Let me rest until tomorrow. For I know that you can finish What I found of joy or sorrow.

All my harmful thoughts and actions, Heal and make them new and wholesome. Take my days and make them over; Come, transform their dust to diamond.

Lift them up and bear them from me,
I will leave them in your keeping.
Lead me, guide me, walk beside me,
Let me rest as I am sleeping!

—Karin Boye, translation by Gracia Grindal

#### FINLANDIA HYMN - AUDIENCE SING

Jean Sibelius

Finland, behold, the daylight now is dawning,
The threat of night has now been driv'n away.
The skylark calls across the light of morning,
The blue of heaven is offering its ray,
Night's darkest pow'r the daylight now is scorning:
The morning dawns on Finland, yours and mine.

Finland, arise, and strive to reach the highest
With all thy strength and mighty memory.
Finland, arise; and see what thou descriest:
For you have cast off years of slavery,
No longer 'neath oppression's yoke thou liest.
Morning has come, O Finland, yours and mine.
—translation by Keith Bosley and Philip Brunelle

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**



**Sara Pajunen** is a Minnesota-based musician who, after receiving classical music degrees (violin) in both Minneapolis and Helsinki, founded three touring ensembles based on her Finnish heritage. Her current duo, Aallotar, explores the similarities and differences of cultures grown apart, and in her solo work she melds audio interviews, concept, and acoustic

and electronic music into live sound presentations. Sara's folk fiddling was featured on the VocalEssence *Nordic Nativity* CD. sarapajunen.com



Finnish conductor **Osmo Vänskä** is recognized for his compelling interpretations of repertoire from all ages, passionately conveying the authentic message of the composer's score. He began his career as a clarinetist, occupying, amongst others, the co-principal chair of the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra. Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra for over a

decade, Osmo's success recently won him and the orchestra the Grammy Award for Best Orchestral Performance of Sibelius's Symphonies No. 1 and 4. minnesotaorchestra.org/about/who-we-are/musicians-soloists-conductors/music-director



#### **VOCALESSENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**



Did you know that isolation and loneliness for older adults is a critical issue? The health risks associated with social isolation are equivalent to smoking a pack of 20 cigarettes each day!

VocalEssence is combatting this with VocalEssence Vintage Voices. Created using best practices, the program's interactive, ongoing approach aims to elicit proven health benefits of creative arts. It includes:

- Rehearsals: Weekly rehearsals over 12 weeks focus on the process of singing together, incorporate sensory-rich activities, social and reflection time, and are led by a professional conductor and pianist trained to work with older adults.
- VocalEssence Concert Attendance: Choir participants are invited to attend a VocalEssence concert with a guest.
- Final Performance: Vintage Voices singers perform for their family, friends, and the site
  community at a sharing concert.

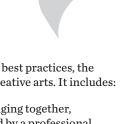
Please welcome our fall VocalEssence Vintage Voices sites—Ecumen Seasons at Apple Valley and Parkshore Senior Living in St. Louis Park—at Welcome Christmas performances this December.

"My memory is improving! Since I've been coming here and singing with you every week, I feel like it's the first time that I don't have to check my calendar to see what day of the week it is!"

 $-\operatorname{VocalEssence}\operatorname{Vintage}\operatorname{Voices}\operatorname{singer}$ 

For more information, please contact VocalEssence at info@vocalessence.org or 612-547-1451.





#### **SEASON CELEBRATIONS:**

FINLAND AT 100

#### A brief history of Finland

#### 12TH CENTURY — 1809

Finland was part of Sweden.

#### 1809

Following a pact between Napoleon and Tsar Alexander I of Russia, Finland was annexed by Russia in the Russo-Swedish War of 1808-09 and became a Grand Duchy in the Russian Empire with a high degree of autonomy: for example, Alexander pledged to uphold the [Swedish] pre-conquest Constitution of Finland.

#### **LATE 19TH CENTURY**

Nationalism began to grow in Finland as elsewhere in Europe. Finns had a strong need to see themselves as a nation among nations. "We are not Swedish, we will not become Russians, let us therefore be Finnish." Although the cultural élite still spoke Swedish, Finnish came to be seen as the nation's own language.

#### THE KALEVALA

Of immense importance to national self-esteem was the Kalevala, the national epic compiled by Elias Lönnrot and first published in 1835. The tales of the Kalevala did not form a coherent narrative entity in the oral tradition, but Lönnrot fashioned them into a continuous whole with remarkable sensitivity; only about 3% of the final text is from his pen. Other folk poetry and folk songs were also eagerly collected.

#### 1899

Tsar Nicholas II signed the 'February Manifesto', which was aimed at curbing the autonomy of Finland. This unconstitutional act sparked a broad-based passive resistance movement to which all the arts contributed, too. This period of oppression culminated in the assassination of the draconian Governor-General Bobrikov in 1904.

#### **DECEMBER 6, 1917**

Finland became independent in the aftermath of the October Revolution, and the new Soviet Government was one of the first to recognize Finland.

#### 1918

The newly-independent country fell into a vicious Civil War between the Whites (German-backed right-wingers) and Reds (Russian-backed left-wingers). The Whites won, but the scars never healed properly until the Second World War united the nation against a common enemy.

#### 1995

Finland joined the European Union.

Created by: Jaakko Mäntyjärvi, EMO Ensemble & Pasi Hyökki, 8th World Symposium on Choral Music, Copenhagen, Denmark, July 2008





# **2017-2018**49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON



SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THIS CONCERT

Kay and Mike McCarthy

# **BACH & BLUEGRASS**JAMBOREE

Friday, November 10, 2017 at 8 PM Roseville Lutheran Church 1215 Roselawn Ave W Roseville, MN 55113

Concert Conversation with Carol Barnett and members of Monroe Crossing at 7 PM

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Monroe Crossing
Joshua Conroy, Michael Fairbairn, Erik Krohg, Jake Watson,
gospel quartet

Harrison Hintzsche, the archangel
Anders Eckman, soloist
Minnetonka High School Treble Choir
Paula Holmberg, director

Mary Jo Gothmann, organist
Philip Brunelle, conductor

G. Phillip Shoultz, III, conductor

#### 2017-2018 SEASON SPONSORS













This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating
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#### **WELCOME**

B & B conjures up many ideas: Bach and Beethoven, bed and breakfast, bratwurst and beer, but to me it means BACH AND BARNETT—J.S. Bach and Carol Barnett!

The VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers will celebrate the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in music of Johann Sebastian Bach and with a special solo by Monroe Crossing's Matt Thompson: I'm sure Bach would have written for the modern mandolin if he were alive today!

Ten years ago we premiered Carol Barnett's stunning *The World Beloved:* A Bluegrass Mass, a work that has caught on throughout the USA with more than 150 performances, an amazing record for a new work. Now Carol, with Marisha Chamberlain, gives us Mortals & Angels: A Bluegrass Te Deum, an equally inspiring work involving the same bluegrass band, the incredible Monroe Crossing. If you find your foot tapping to the music—that is fine! This is music that gives you the same outpouring of joy that Bach offers in his amazing compositions!

Philip Brunelle,
 Artistic Director and Founder,
 VocalEssence

#### THE PROGRAM

#### **VocalEssence Ensemble Singers**

Der Geist hilft unsrer Schwachheit auf (BWV 226) Johann Sebastian Bach (1729)

#### **VocalEssence Chorus**

August, lebe, lebe, König! (BWV 207A) Johann Sebastian Bach

(1734)

Du wollest dem Feinde nicht geben (BWV 71)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Matt Thompson, mandolin

(1708)

#### **VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers**

Wir danken dir, Gott (BWV 29) Johann Sebastian Bach

(1731)

#### INTERMISSION

#### VocalEssence Chorus & Monroe Crossing

Micah 6:8 Lisa Fuglie and Mark Anderson,

arr. Carol Barnett

(2017)

World Premiere

Into the Fire Lisa Fuglie, arr. Carol Barnett

(2017)

World Premiere

#### **Monroe Crossing**

Unclouded Day Josiah Kelley Alwood, arr. Monroe Crossing

(2017)

# VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, Monroe Crossing, Minnetonka High School Treble Choir

Mortals & Angels: A Bluegrass Te Deum Carol Barnett (2017)

- I. Angel of God
- II. Te Deum
- III. Who Makes the Sun to Rise?
- IV. Holier Than Thou
- V. Idumea
- VI. Bad Days Are Coming
- VII. We Don't Stay Afraid for Long
- VIII. Down to the River
  - IX. Jacob Wrestled with the Angel
- IXa. Jacob Wrestled with the Angel
  - X. Every Step to Heaven is Heaven
- XI. Angels Hov'ring'Round
- XII. Angel Band

#### **TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS**

#### **DER GEIST HILFT UNSRER SCHWACHHEIT AUF (BWV 226)**

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Spirit helps our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for, but the Spirit itself intercedes for us with groans which cannot be expressed. God, who searches hearts, knows what is in the mind of the Spirit because God intercedes for the saints according to that which pleases God.

-Romans 8:26-27

CHORALE: O holy warmth, sweet comfort, help us now with joy and confidence to remain steadfast in your service, and not let sorrow drive us away. O Lord, through your strength prepare us and sharpen the feebleness of the flesh so that we may bravely struggle through life and death to reach you.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

-Martin Luther

#### AUGUST, LEBE, LEBE, KÖNIG! (BWV 207A)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Long live Augustus,

Live long, o King!

O Augustus, our guardian, be the harsh foe's opponent; May you live long for your country, and may God protect your soul and hand;

Then, through Augustus' life our welfare as Saxons will be confirmed.

Then no enemy will dare rise up against our prosperity.

#### **DU WOLLEST DEM FEINDE NICHT GEBEN (BWV 71)**

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Lord will not suffer your foot to be moved, and He that keepeth thee will not slumber or sleep.

-Psalm 121:3-4

#### WIR DANKEN DIR, GOTT (BWV 29)

Johann Sebastian Bach

We give you thanks, O God, and proclaim your wonders.

—Psalm 75:1

#### **MICAH 6:8**

Lisa Fuglie and Mark Anderson, arr. Carol Barnett

The wrongs of one to another can seem too much to understand. We hate in turns, we never learn.

An eye for an eye leaves both blind. It's a pound of flesh for an ounce of crime

And no one wins, the wheel just spins.

#### CHORUS

He has shown you, oh man, what is good; what does Yahweh require of you?

Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.

Let mercy fall like gentle rain, without compulsion, without strain.

When grace is real, we all can heal.

When we forgive another's debt, we free ourselves to love, and yet We honor those we miss the most.

This light of mine is not my own;

It shines from these few seeds I've sown.

On just terrain will mercy reign.

-Lisa Fuglie and Mark Anderson

#### INTO THE FIRE

Lisa Fuglie, arr. Carol Barnett

Three men don't know what to do.

How can they turn their back on God?

King Nebuchadnezzar said, "Your God is not the truth.

Renounce, or you must go

Into the fire.

Go into the fire.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego."

And they went into the fire.

How can this be? There are not three

But four, standing in the flames.

This king will concede, "Bring them to me.

Their God is the One who saves

From the fire."

They went into the fire,

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Not alone in the fire.

There were four in the fire.

When those who wield the power say you must do

That which goes against our God,

Don't be afraid. You are not alone:

Have faith, even as you go

Into the fire.

Go into the fire

Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Feed the hungry, clothe the poor.

When they knock, open up your door.

God is seen in everyone.

Let us pray His kingdom comes.

Love your brother as yourself.  $\,$ 

Love defies the fires of Hell.

Illuminate the false command;

Take a step for God and man.

Step into the fire,

Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

They went into the fire.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

-Lisa Fuglie

#### **MORTALS & ANGELS: A BLUEGRASS TE DEUM**

Carol Barnett

#### **Program Note:**

Commissioned by the Distinguished Concerts International New York Premiere Project and premiered at Carnegie Hall, January 2016 with the DCINY Singers and the bluegrass band Dailey & Vincent, tonight's performance is the premiere of the revised edition.

The Te Deum is a Latin prayer which many composers have set to music – but never before a Te Deum for chorus and bluegrass band in Latin! Te Deum means 'to God' and in the first words of the prayer all creation praises God. Mortals and Angels praise God. There's something about angels; the ancient idea of winged messengers occurs in almost every religion.

Representations of angels in art tend to be human shapes with wings added, and in many traditions angels willingly guide us. We mortals, however, have problems with guidance. How on earth would angels know better what we should or should not do, given their immortality and their ability to hover, appear and disappear? We will eventually die, while they fly on and on. In this setting, the Angels are represented by the choir, the Mortals by the band. And there are the children – sometimes Angels, sometimes very mortal. And out in the audience: Mortals? or Angels?

—Carol Barnett and Marisha Chamberlain

#### I. ANGEL OF GOD (traditional prayer)

(Mortals)

Angel of God,

My guardian dear,

To whom God's love

Entrusts me here,

Ever this day

Be at my side

To light and guard

And rule and guide.

#### II. TE DEUM (traditional)

(Angels)

Te Deum laudamus (O God, we praise Thee)

Te Dominum confitemur. (We acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.)

Te aeternum Patrem (Everlasting Father)

Omnis terra veneratur. (All the earth doth worship Thee.)

Tibi omnes Angeli; (To Thee all the Angels cry aloud)

Tibi caeli et universae Potestates; (the Heavens and all the Powers)

Tibi Cherubim et Seraphim (all the Cherubim and Seraphim)

 $Incessabili\ voci\ proclamant:\ (unceasingly\ proclaim)$ 

Sanctus, Sanctus, (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Dominus Deus Sabaoth. (Lord God of Hosts.)

(Kids and Mortals)
All of earth adores thee,

Lord God above. Mortals--

(Angels) –et Angeli... (Kids and Mortals)
-Fathers, mothers, children,
Uncles, aunts and cousins,
Adore Thee, adore Thy creation.

#### III. WHO MAKES THE SUN TO RISE?

(Mortals)

Who makes the sun to rise?

It ain't me.

Who makes the rain to fall?

It ain't me.

Who turns the chilly winter to spring?

It ain't me, oh Lord, it ain't me.

Can you make the sun to rise?

Nor can we.

Can you make the rain to fall?

Nor can we.

Can you turn the chilly winter to spring?

Nor can we, oh Lord, nor can we.

#### IV. HOLIER THAN THOU

(Mortals)

(Chorus) You want us to harken and take heed?

You want us to scrape and bow?

You want us to fall on our knees?

Then drop that angel attitude,

Holier than thou.

You got that angel attitude,

Holier than thou.

Make yourselves unpopular?

Holier than thou.

Down here, we don't have time for that

Holier than thou.

If you come down to earth, come all the way,

Not holier than thou.

#### V. IDUMEA (traditional)

(Mortals)

And am I born to die?

To lay this body down?

And must my trembling spirit fly

Into a world unknown?

A land of deepest shade

Unpierced by human thought;

The dreary regions of the dead

Where all things are forgot.

Soon as from earth I go

What will become of me?

Eternal happiness or woe

Must then my portion be.

(Angels)

Waked by the trumpet's sound You from your grave shall rise, And see the Judge with glory crowned, And see the flaming skies.

#### VI. BAD DAYS ARE COMING

(Kids)

(Chorus) We know bad days are coming.

The shores start to crumble And the glaciers all shrink, The rivers dry up And there's nothing to drink.

And the air is all ashes. Soon nothing will thrive, And the cities are burning, And zombies arrive.

#### VII. WE DON'T STAY AFRAID FOR LONG (Mortals)

Frighten us with the wrath of God, But we never stay frightened long. Hell to pay, but you know us, We don't stay afraid for long. God help us, we don't stay afraid for long.

Oh, some of us believe in zombies, Some, in fairies and elves. Some of us believe in angels, And some of us just believe in ourselves-

We may not have the sense That God gave geese. We don't have the wings Of angels. But Lord Almighty, We do have nerve, And we don't stay afraid for long.

#### VIII. DOWN TO THE RIVER

(adapted from the poem by Lisel Mueller) (Archangel)

The sun drapes the river

With a shiver of light.

The children come down to be healed.

The fathers who gave them

Their wounds and their bruises

Come to be healed of their rage.

The mothers grow lovely; their faces soften,

The birds in their throats awake.

They stand hand in hand

And the trees around

Lean over them, singing of heaven.

#### IX. JACOB WRESTLED WITH THE ANGEL

(Mortals and Archangel) Jacob's people crossed the river While Jacob staved on alone. And caught him an angel, laid hold of an angel, Though Jacob was frightened to the bone.

(Chorus) Oh, Jacob wrestled that angel; They wrestled till the break of day. "I won't let you go till you bless me," said Jacob, Though the angel tried to get away.

The angel never tired for a minute, Though he wanted to be gone. "I won't let you go till you bless me," said Jacob, So the two of them wrestled on.

Jacob got a cramp in his elbow, In his knee, in his shoulder, in his hip. "Let's shake hands and go," the angel said, But Jacob was too stubborn to quit.

"Okay," said the angel, "I'll bless you, "Cuz it looks like you're in pain. Okay," said the angel, "I'll bless you, But first I gotta know your name."

#### IXa. JACOB WRESTLED WITH THE ANGEL

(Final chorus) Oh, Jacob wrestled that angel; They wrestled till the break of day. "I won't let you go till you bless me," said Jacob, Though the angel tried to get away.

#### X. EVERY STEP TO HEAVEN IS HEAVEN (All)

(Chorus) Ev'ry step to heaven is heaven. Every step to heaven is heaven itself. Every step to heaven is heaven.

Every step to heaven is heaven. Through the valley of shadow, Through the valley of light, Every step to heaven is heaven.

Every step to heaven is heaven. Through the valley of laughter, Through the valley of tears, Every step to heaven is heaven.

#### XI. ANGELS HOV'RING 'ROUND (traditional) (All)

There are angels hov'ring'round To carry the tidings home To the New Jerusalem. Let all that hear them come. There are angels hov'ring'round.  $\operatorname{XII}$  . ANGEL BAND (adapted from the hymn by Jefferson Haskell)

(All)

The latest sun is sinking fast, My race has yet been won. The troubles of the day are past, Toward sleep I gently turn.

(Chorus) Oh come, angel band, Come and around me stand; O bear me away on your snowy wings To my eternal home.

I know I'm near the holy ranks Of friends and kindred dear. I brush the dew on Jordan's banks; The crossing may be near.

Whene'er I turn to God above, My spirit loudly sings. The holy ones, behold they come; I hear the noise of wings. —Marisha Chamberlain





# SPRING PERFORMANCES

**CONCERTS** 

VOCALESSENCE WITNESS: OF SUCH I DREAM SUN, FEB 18, 2018

> RUTTER RETURNS SAT, APR 21, 2018

#### **FAMILY & COMMUNITY EVENTS**

TOGETHER WE SING FESTIVAL SAT, JAN 13, 2018

RIVER SONGS & TALES NORTHERN MINNESOTA TOUR Apr 4-8, 2018

COMMUNITY SING WITH JOHN RUTTER Sun, Apr 22, 2018

> VOCALESSENCE GALA 2018 Sun, May 6, 2018

VOCALESSENCE ICANTARÉ! 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT TUES, MAY 22, 2018

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**



Carol Barnett creates audacious and engaging music, both for traditional instrumentation and for crosspollinations such as a Mass accompanied by a bluegrass band, or a

duet for steel pan and organ. A force in the Minnesota music scene since 1970, her work has been funded by multiple regional and national organizations, and published through major houses. Carol is a charter member of the American Composers Forum and a graduate of the University of Minnesota. carolbarnett.net



Marisha Chamberlain is a novelist, playwright, poet, and librettist. She has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller, Bush, McKnight, and

Jerome Foundations, and has served as guest faculty at Carleton, Macalester and Augsburg Colleges, at Hamline University, and the University of Minnesota. *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass* with text by Marisha and music by Carol Barnett was commissioned by VocalEssence and premiered in 2007.

marishachamberlain.com

Joshua Conroy is in his third season with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers. Previously, he sang in the Concordia Choir under the direction of René Clausen, a variety of opera and musical theatre roles, vocal ensembles, as well as instrumental ensembles. Josh grew up with a passion for music, playing the cello, and being an active vocalist.



Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and

heartfelt originals. Based in the Twin Cities, Monroe Crossing was awarded "Bluegrass Album of the Year" by the Minnesota Music Academy in 2003 and was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 2007. They have twice been selected to showcase at the annual "World of Bluegrass" convention hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) and they have

appeared twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City. monroecrossing.com

Anders Eckman has a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Gustavus Adolphus College and sang with the Gustavus Choir. By day, Anders works in Human Resources at Ameriprise Financial in Minneapolis. His favorite VocalEssence production was being featured as the Western Union Boy in Benjamin Britten's *Paul Bunyan*, in which he was required to sing a solo and ride a bicycle onstage—simultaneously! This is his twelfth season with VocalEssence.

Michael Fairbairn graduated from North Dakota State University in 2017. In addition to being a member of the NDSU concert choir under the direction of Dr. JoAnn Miller, Michael was also a team captain for the Bison football team. Mike is also an emerging choral composer with pieces published in 3 different publishing houses. He is currently a long term substitute choir teacher at Roseville High School. This is Michael's 4th season with VocalEssence.

Harrison Hintzsche is in his second season with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers. The Minneapolis-based baritone is quickly gaining recognition as an avid recitalist, concert singer, and ensemble musician. Other performances this year include *Ein Deutsches Requiem* ("London" version), *Fantasy on Christmas Carols*, and his Wigmore Hall debut in January 2018 with pianist Graham Johnson. Harrison holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from St. Olaf College. harrisonhintzsche.com

Erik Krohg is a graduate of Concordia College (B.M.) and Indiana University (M.M. Voice), where he served as an Associate Instructor of voice. Erik has performed a variety of roles in opera and is frequently heard in competitions and festivals, including Tanglewood, Source Song Festival, and the New York Oratorio Society Competition (2nd Place). An active ensemble singer, he has performed with the Concordia Choir, and the NOTUS Contemporary Vocal Ensemble.

Jake Watson graduated from Luther College in 2012. He was a member of the Luther College Nordic Choir for three years under the direction of Drs. Craig Arnold and Allen Hightower, serving as choir president his senior year. This is Jake's third season with VocalEssence. He previously sang with The Singers MCA for three seasons. He currently works for Gateway Music Festivals and Tours, specializing in planning international tours for music ensembles.

The Minnetonka High School (MHS)
Treble Choir is one of five choirs and
twelve performing ensembles at
Minnetonka High School. Led by Director
of Choral Activities Paula Holmberg, the
MHS Treble Choir is an auditioned choir,
comprised of 10th, 11th, and 12th grade
women. Consistently earning superior
ratings at state contests, the Treble Choir
was selected in 2012 as one of twelve
women's choirs for the American Choral
Directors Association of Minnesota SSA
Consortium Project.



Reserve your copy of Mortals & Angels: A Bluegrass Te Deum CD at the concert tonight!

The CD will be released on December 1, and will be available for pick up at all of our Welcome Christmas concerts.

# **SEASON CELEBRATIONS:**PROTESTANT REFORMATION AT 500

#### The Protestant Reformation and Johann Sebastian Bach

The 1517 publication of Martin Luther's *Ninety-five Theses* cemented the case for reform and separation from the Roman Catholic Church. Luther's document paved the way for Protestant thought which took issue with Papal authority, countering that scripture is the source of truth *(sola scriptura)* and only faith, not good deeds, brings about salvation *(sola fide)*.

The Protestant Reformation spread quickly, thanks in part to the evolution of Gutenberg's printing press, which made it possible to disseminate information in the language of the people (vernacular). This contributed to the rapid diversification of the Protestant Reformation, with Lutherans and Calvinists becoming the largest groups. While the Calvinists (Reformed) churches were located mostly in the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Hungary, and Scotland, Lutheran churches were found throughout Germany, Scandinavia, and the Baltics. (As you might expect, this explains the large propagation of Lutheran churches throughout our great state of Minnesota!)



Elias Gottlob Haussmann [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

In 1685, Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany, located in Thuringia, to a family of prominent Lutheran musicians. He learned the violin and organ, achieving a high level of proficiency on both instruments, which led to his appointment as organist to the Duke of Weimar in 1708. He eventually became music director (chapelmaster) in Cöthen from 1717-1723, until finally moving to Leipzig where he assumed the role of cantor at the Thomaskirche (St. Thomas's Church). He remained there until his death. Bach was known throughout Protestant Germany as an organ virtuoso and writer of learned contrapuntal works. His compositional output of sacred choral music alone consists of over two hundred surviving sacred cantatas, five masses, one Magnificat, five oratorios, seven motets, two passions, and numerous chorale arrangements. For the majority of his career, Bach wrote new compositions for each Sunday in the liturgical calendar. Most of his compositions made some use of the chorale. A chorale is the melody of a hymn sung in German Protestant services. Bach is known for

harmonizing the many chorales that were either created or adapted by Martin Luther beginning in 1532. These "new" chorales were necessary as Luther translated the Bible from Latin into German, and served as the primary source of congregational singing. Additionally, Bach incorporated chorales into his cantatas and passions, which intentionally wove scripture together with carefully crafted libretti to convey the biblical narrative, making him one of the most important evangelists and theological influences of the Protestant movement.

When we consider Bach's amazing sacred choral music output—its influence on the theological development of Protestants, add an additional twenty-eight secular cantatas and combine that with his impressive catalog of instrumental works, it becomes quickly apparent that he is one of the most prolific and most influential composers in the history of western music.

-G. Phillip Shoultz, IIIAssociate Conductor and Education Program Director

- <sup>1</sup> Donald Jay Grout and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, (W.W. Norton & Company: New York, 1996) 403.
- <sup>2</sup> Dennis Shrock, *Choral Repertoire*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) 293.



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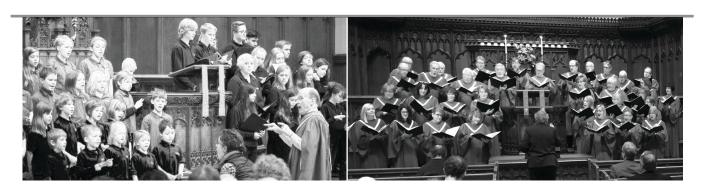
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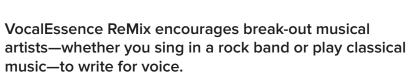
# We welcome you! Sundays—9:45 First Service especially for families & 10:30 Sanctuary Service

Plymouth Congregational Church Philip Brunelle, Organist and Choirmaster Proud to be the home of VocalEssence

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#### **VOCALESSENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**





Four talented, emerging composers/songwriters are selected to have a six-month one-on-one composer mentorship with renowned composers Libby Larsen, Carol Barnett, J. David Moore, or Timothy Takach as they each write two choral works, one of which is suitable for high school-level choirs. The program also includes a performance by the professional VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, and possible commission and publication through VocalEssence Music Press.

The 2017 VocalEssence ReMix composers are Isaac Lovdahl (Sartell, MN), Zack Pentecost (Minneapolis, MN), Shruthi Rajasekar (Plymouth, MN), and Daniel Sabzghabaei (Burnsville, MN). The VocalEssence Ensemble Singers will be performing their music at the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota State Conference in November 2017.

VocalEssence ReMix is a collaboration between VocalEssence, the American Composers Forum, the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota, and the Jerome Foundation.

For more information, please contact VocalEssence at info@vocalessence.org or 612-547-1451.





# **2017-2018**49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON



SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THIS CONCERT

Lowell and Cay Shea Hellervik Alfred P. & Ann M. Moore

## WELCOME CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 7:30 PM Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley

Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:30 PM Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville

Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 4 PM Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 4 PM Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers Mary Jo Gothmann, *pianist* Philip Brunelle, *conductor* G. Phillip Shoultz, III, *conductor* 

#### **2017-2018 SEASON SPONSORS**













This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.







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#### **WELCOME**

We always look forward to our **Welcome Christmas** concerts for the joy and warmth that this music brings to everyone. This year we want to celebrate some of the many, many composers living in our Twin Cities: what an abundance of marvelous talent we have here!

Some of the music will be familiar settings of old hymns and carols while others will be new to you—and that is one of the joys of programming a **Welcome Christmas** program! We know you will be delighted with the colorful variety of music our composers offer.

It is also a delight to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Welcome Christmas Carol Contest with two new composers and their charming music for a cappella chorus. Best wishes to each of you; may this Advent and Christmas season bring you joy and happiness.

Philip Brunelle,
Artistic Director and Founder
and
G. Phillip Shoultz III,
Associate Conductor and
Education Program Director

#### THE PROGRAM

#### **VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers**

Processional from The Masque of Angels

Dominick Argento (1963)

(1903)

Wishes and Candles Stephen Paulus

(1998)

Christ was Born on Christmas Day arr. Randall Davidson

(1992)

In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst, arr. Abbie Betinis

JoAnna Johnson, soprano; Anna Mooy, alto (2006)

#### **VocalEssence Ensemble Singers**

Carol of the Night David Evan Thomas

2017 Welcome Christmas Carol Contest Winner (2016)

Jingle Bells arr. J. David Moore

(2006)

A Carol Cary John Franklin

Mari Scott, soprano (2003)

**VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers** 

Star in the East from An Appalachian Epiphany arr. Barbara J. Rogers

(2005)

#### **INTERMISSION**



#### VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Ringeltänze: Christmas Carol-Dances

Libby Larsen (1983)

- I. O Hark the Bell's Glad Song
- II. Beautiful Star

Anika Kildegaard, soprano; Erin Peters, alto; Bill Pederson, tenor; Ryan LaBoy, baritone

- III. Le Petit Nouveau Né
- IV. At Christmas Be Merry
- V. The Shepherds All Are Waking

#### VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Daniel Kallman (1991)

#### VocalEssence Chorus

Fill the Sky

Nancy Gifford

2017 Welcome Christmas Carol Contest Winner

(2017)

Winter Walk from The Longest Nights

Timothy C. Takach

(2015)

#### **VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers**

Child of Light\*

Daniel Kantor

(1990, 2017)

#### VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

The Nine Gifts

Steve Heitzeg

Samantha Noonan, soprano; Robin Helgen, alto;

(1998)

JW Keckley, tenor; Nathan Petersen-Kindem, bass

#### VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

G. Phillip Shoultz, III

(2017)

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz (1953)

\*Audience Sing



In gratitude for the inspiration that David and Ann Buran provided to VocalEssence for so many years, we are pleased to dedicate the first Welcome Christmas concert at Plymouth Congregational Church each season in their honor. We look forward to celebrating their contributions at these performances for years to come.

# ADD SPARKLE TO YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON WITH A JUST-RELEASED CD BY VOCALESSENCE!

Hot off the press, be the first to take home the VocalEssence new release *Mortals & Angels: A Bluegrass Te Deum*.

Available at the CD table and via vocalessence.org.

# At this concert Buy any 3 CDs get one FREE!

Just released!

#### **TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS**

#### WISHES AND CANDLES

Stephen Paulus

We have a wish for each candle we light,
Making the holidays shiny and bright.
A wish for the children, the young and the old,
To never go hungry, to never be cold.

Wishes and candles and love and laughter, Memories we'll treasure forever after. Families are gathered with presents to share. The best gift of all is that everyone's there.

A wish for the people who walk all alone, A roof overhead and a bed of their own. A candle for those in the need of a friend, A hand and a smile by the holiday's end.

Wishes and candles – they warm the season,
Hope for a world filled with peace and reason.
Think of the love that is waiting for you,
When all of our holiday wishes come true.

—Marilyn and Alan Bergman

#### **CHRIST WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

arr. Randall Davidson

Christ was born on Christmas Day, Wreath the holly, twine the bay. Christus natus hodie: (Christ is born today) The Babe, the Son, the Holy One of Mary.

He is born to set us free, He is born our Lord to be, Ex Maria virgine: (from the Virgin Mary) The God, the Lord, by all adored forever.

#### Refrain:

He came among us at Christmastide in Bethlehem; Let us bring Him from far and wide love's diadem. Eya, Eya,

Lo, He comes and loves, and saves, and frees us.

Let the bright red berries glow Everywhere in goodly show; Christus natus hodie: (Christ is born today) The Babe, the Son, the Holy One of Mary.

Christians all rejoice and sing;
'Tis the birthday of the King,

Ex Maria virgine: (from the Virgin Mary)

The God, the Lord, by all adored forever. Refrain.

—Medieval German Carol

#### IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Gustav Holst, arr. Abbie Betinis

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Christ a homeless stranger, so the gospels say, Cradled in a manger and a bed of hay; In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed, Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have thronged the air, Shepherds, beasts and wise men, may have gathered there, But only his mother in her tender bliss Blessed this new redeemer with a kiss.

What can I give you, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give you: give my heart.

—Poem by Christina Rossetti, John Andrew Storey
(modified by Abbie Betinis)

#### **CAROL OF THE NIGHT**

David Evan Thomas

#### **Program Note:**

"Carol of the Night" treats an image common to all religious traditions: the kindling of light in the darkness. The Spirit unfolds the mystery, but it is for humanity to "blow on the embers of the heart." In the music, searching harmonies set a melancholy tone, but a four-note, ascending "light"-motive soon spreads throughout the texture, as if from candle to candle.

Minneapolis poet Jean Greenwood is a Presbyterian minister and a recipient of a Bush Leadership Grant. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota with a BS in English Education, and received a Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary.

"Carol of the Night" was composed during the holiday season in 2016. As a former member of the Plymouth Music Series Chorus (now VocalEssence), I'm particularly pleased and honored to hear the work introduced by the Ensemble.

-David Evan Thomas

In this holy darkness, this quiet hour, the beating heart is heard, a gentle drumbeat of longing. This night, something so primal shakes the earth—the Spirit comes to us and rests among us.
Unfold for us, O Spirit, the mystery and power of Love, cradled in human form, not as king but peasant child.
Blow on the embers of the heart,

that Love may be born in us anew this night, and we might see the beauty of holiness in humble places, and bow down with grateful heart.

Now, the night beckons, for here we find the Light, a beacon on this uncertain road.

Here is the Light.

-Jean Greenwood

#### A CAROL

Cary John Franklin

The warmth of cows
That chewed on hay
And cherubim
Protected Him
As small He lay.

Chickens and sheep Knew He was there Because all night A holy light Suffused the air. Darkness was long

And the sun brief When the Child arose A man of sorrows And friend to grief. —Donald Hall

#### STAR IN THE EAST FROM AN APPALACHIAN EPIPHANY

arr. Barbara J. Rogers

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator, Down from the regions of glory descend! Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger, Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

#### Refrain:

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning! Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; Star in the east, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining; Low lies his bed, with the beasts of the stall; Angels adore him, in slumber reclining, Wise men and shepherds before him do fall. *Refrain:* 

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion, Odors of Eden and offerings divine, Gems from the mountains and pearls from the ocean, Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine? *Refrain:*  Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gold we his favor secure, Richer by far is the hearts adoration. Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor. *Refrain:* 

#### RINGELTÄNZE: CHRISTMAS CAROL-DANCES

Libby Larsen

#### I. O HARK THE BELL'S GLAD SONG

O hark the bell's glad song as it floateth so clear, Far and near!

A Virgin hath conceived and brought forth a son Here in Bethlehem.

The hosts of bright angels proclaim these tidings so new All are true.

Give praise to God on High, peace on earth and goodwill to all Here in Bethlehem.

Then hastened the shepherds so gladly to see the great sight, At midnight.

We seek a King, said they, as they straight made their way Unto Bethlehem.

The star in the East now leads them with heavenly light, Wondrous bright!

It resteth o'er the manger where lies in his state Christ of Bethlehem.

Their gifts great kings are bringing to lay at his feet – Offering meet!

O each, give thou thine heart unto Christ, heaven's King, Born at Bethlehem.

-11th century carol

#### II. BEAUTIFUL STAR

Beautiful Star whom I love, Wondrous Sun shining on me. Beautiful Star I ask only to love, None but Thee.

Refrain:

Beautiful Star, morning star Of this holy day, Gentle Star, light my nights, Light of my life.

From the skies you came down, bright star
To save my soul.
Gracious starbeam, you soothe my heart
And make me whole. *Refrain:* 

Constant Star, I want never to be
Far from your sight.
When the world darkens about me bright star,
I dwell in your light. Refrain:
—17th Century Carol

#### III. LE PETIT NOUVEAU NÉ

Shepherds, tell me where you're going gaily all together? We are going to see the child, born this day in a manger.

> Where is he, le petit Nouveau Né? O where, the baby Savior? -18th Century Carol

#### IV. AT CHRISTMAS BE MERRY

At Christmas be merry and thank God for all, And feast thy poor neighbors, the great and the small. All the year long have an eye to the poor,

And God shall send luck to keep open your door.

Let's sing and let's dance and let's make of good cheer. For Christmas comes but once a year. All the year long have an eye to the poor, And God shall send luck to keep open your door. -16th Century Carol

#### THE SHEPHERDS ALL ARE WAKING

The shepherds all are waking to greet this joyful day. Their toils and cares forsaking, the rites of love to pay.

Let everyone be gay, And raise a voice to Marv. Who laid in manger down, A Holy Child so blest, When all the skies were starry.

The angels all are singing alleluia, alleluia, Glad tidings they are bringing, alleluia, alleluia, To herald the news

These tidings true declaring, That Jesus on this morn was born, To save us all from sin, And teach us love and caring.

Ye shepherds here abiding, seek early and be wise, In faith and love confiding a place in Paradise.

Let thankful carols rise. As homeward ye are wending. The star that shone with light, so bright Will guide you evermore, Till time shall have an ending. -16th Century Carol

#### **INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY**

Daniel Kallman

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you!

-Traditional Polish Carol

#### **FILL THE SKY**

Nancy Gifford

#### **Program Note:**

Singing angels, frightened shepherds, and the birth of the Holy Child are familiar images, often represented as a tableau in a Christmas card. The intent of this carol is to bring these images to life. My imagination tells me that angels danced across the sky as they sang the good news of Christ's birth. How could they not?

Fill the Sky follows a traditional format of verse and refrain. The refrain is celebratory, using Latin and English to connect past to present. Based on Luke 2:8-15, each verse reveals part of the story. Dancing dotted rhythms, syncopations, tone painting, alternating major and minor modes, and vocal imitation were inspired by 16th century madrigals.

Imitation opens the final section, when all parts sing in overlapping succession, "Still they sing on Christmas Day." The carol's message is that angels return each Christmas season, dancing across the sky, and joining us as we sing.

-Nancy Gifford

Dancing angels of the night Fill the sky with wings of gold. Never was there such a sight, Never such a story told.

Gaudeamus! Rise and sing Praises to the newborn King. Gaudeamus hodie, Christ our Savior, born this day.

Chanting angels of the night, Shepherds fallen to the ground; Nearly blinded by their light. Nearly deafened by their sound. Refrain:

Shining angel of the night Leads the shepherds from their fear, Telling them that all is right, Telling them that God is near. Refrain:

Guiding angels of the light Share the message of good will: "For to you is born this night Christ the Lord, Emmanuel." Refrain:

Dancing angels of the night Leave the shepherds on their way. Still they make the heavens bright, Still they sing on Christmas Day! -Nancy Gifford

#### WINTER WALK FROM THE LONGEST NIGHTS

Timothy C. Takach

The longest night
The brightest moon
The sharpest sting of cold
The barest branch
The hardest earth
My breath the only cloud

And I am out walking to ask the winter moon: Who will I be when the spring rains come?

The air so still Smoke rising straight The snowbanks sleep so deep The quiet star The silent night A lone bird wakes and sings

And I am out walking to hear my heart, And I am out walking to hear my heart. —Brian Newhouse

#### **CHILD OF LIGHT**

Daniel Kantor

Why only this darkened stable embraced the dawn of new life?
Lowly manger to welcome our savior,
This child of night, needs our light.
Could it be that Creator, Builder, has no home in creation?
In His house will he find no home?
Child of night needs your light.

Sleep, sleep as the morning daybreak in song and sun shall arise. Eyes of wonder look upward from under

The star of night, Child of light.

In this winter of aging darkness rays of youth will awaken. Warming hearts of unspoken love,

Star of night needs your light. Child of light.

-Daniel Kantor

#### **Audience:**

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

—William Chatterton Dix

#### THE NINE GIFTS

Steve Heitzeg

I bring you my body, darling dear: My ripening song, my jubilant ear. That's what Mary sang. *Alleluia!* 

And I bring surprise – this sweetest fragrance Made with love and hope in patience. That's what Elizabeth said. *Wonder!* 

I come with a trill and a blue light And followers stumbling through the night. That's what the star sang. *Rrrrr!* 

Well, my lamb, I've got you this fleece So your old mother can get some peace. That's what the shepherd said. *Yan! Tan!* 

I bring you the broken tooth of a giant, No compromise, the word that is silent. That's what the stone seemed to say.

I bring you guffaws and loops of mist And a band of hair for your right wrist. That's what the donkey said. *Eeyore!* 

I bring you my crown and an uneasy dream Of duty and honor, gossip and scheme. That's what the king said. *Heigh-ho!* 

Open your hand for this fitting glove: The name of the song in my throat is love. That's what the ring-dove sang. *Coo-oo!* 

But what can I bring you? I bring me.
Whatever I am and all I will be.
That's what the child sang. Little Jesus!
—Kevin Crossley-Holland

#### RISE UP, SHEPHERD, AND FOLLOW

G. Phillip Shoultz, III

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn. Rise up, shepherd, and follow. It will lead to the place where the Christ was born. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain:

Follow, follow; Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words, Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

-African American Spiritual

#### E'EN SO, LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might savéd be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!

> -Text arranged from Revelation 22 by Ruth and Paul Manz

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**



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. composersforum.org



Dominick Argento, America's pre-eminent composer of lyric opera, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Peabody Conservatory and a Ph.D. from the

Eastman School of

Music. He has received the Pulitzer Prize for Music, a Grammy Award, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1979. Dominick has composed many works for Minnesota organizations including VocalEssence, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, the Dale Warland Singers, the Guthrie Theater, and Plymouth Congregational Church.



Composer Abbie
Betinis writes music
called "inventive, richly
melodic" (The New
York Times) and
"superb... whirling,
soaring" (Tacoma News
Tribune). A 2015

McKnight Artist Fellow, and listed in NPR Music's "100 Composers Under Forty," she has written over 70 commissioned pieces and has been composer-in-residence with The Schubert Club, The Rose Ensemble, and The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists. She lives in St. Paul, where she is adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University. abbiebetinis.com



Music of humor and passion are the hallmarks of **Randall Davidson's** catalogue. His works have enjoyed hundreds of performances throughout the U.S. and Europe

and have attracted the attention of critics, performers, and audiences alike for their dramatic and accessible musical language. Randall's catalogue encompasses nearly every genre: choral, opera, ballet, oratorio, chamber orchestra, television commercials, incidental music for theater and puppets, and a major sound installation to inaugurate the Minnesota Children's Museum. boysartmusic.com



Cary John Franklin is a nationally recognized composer with commissions and performances from many of the leading performing ensembles in the United States.

His work ranges from chamber music to orchestral music, from choral music to opera. Cary John has received commissions from everyone from VocalEssence to the Washington National Opera. Educated in Minnesota at Macalester College and the University of Minnesota, Cary John studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Dominick Argento. caryjohnfranklin.com



Nancy Gifford is a composer and choral musician from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, who has directed church and school choirs in southeastern Pennsylvania for 30

years. She received a BA in Music from Rutgers University (Piano major) and Master of Music in Composition from Westminster Choir College. Nancy has had several commissions, often writing her own texts. Her music is listed in the catalogs of ECSchirmer, MorningStar Music, Hinshaw Music, Santa Barbara Music, and Choristers Guild.

nancygiffordmusic.com



Emmy Award-winning composer **Steve Heitzeg** is known for evocative and lyrical scores frequently including naturallyfound instruments, such as stones,

driftwood, Joshua Tree branches, manatee and Beluga whale bones, and sea glass. Steve has written more than 150 works for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensemble, ballet, and PBS films. His body of compositions address social and environmental issues with vision and compassion, and his music has been commissioned and performed by world-renowned performers including VocalEssence. steveheitzeg.com



Daniel Kallman's compositions for orchestra, winds, and choir are widely published and have been performed across North America, Europe, and East Asia. He has

composed for the National Symphony Orchestra, the Air Force Academy Band, the Hong Kong Children's Choir, the Minnesota Orchestra, and *A Prairie Home Companion*. Daniel received his musical training at Luther College and at the University of Minnesota where he studied composition under Dominick Argento and Paul Fetler. kallmancreates.com



Daniel Kantor is known for his Christmas choral work, "Night of Silence." Since it was first published by GIA in 1984, "Night of Silence" has gone on to become the publisher's

biggest selling Christmas octavo. Daniel received a B.A. in music/piano from the College of St. Thomas, and has completed graduate studies at Hamline University. Daniel is also the founder and Creative Director of KantorGroup, an awardwinning brand strategy and design consultancy. danielkantor.com or kantorgroup.com



Libby Larsen is one of America's most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 400 works spanning virtually every genre from

intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over twelve operas. Grammy Award winning and widely recorded, she is constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles, and orchestras around the world, and has established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertory. libbylarsen.com

Paul Manz, church organist, recitalist, and composer, was Cantor Emeritus of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His musical compositions are internationally known, including his motet, "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come." As a recitalist, he performed at Lincoln Center in New York City and with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Twice named one of the "Ten Most Influential Lutherans," he was the recipient of many honorary awards.



J. David Moore is a composer, arranger, conductor, teacher, and Southerner who has lived in the Upper Midwest for most of his life. His music has been called "endlessly

inventive," "glorious...haunting... breathtaking," and "joyous...wild and elemental." He publishes through his company Fresh Ayre Music. David lives in Minneapolis with his wife Anna, where he bakes bread, drinks tea, and is distracted by shiny objects. jdavidmoore.net



Stephen Paulus was a prolific composer of classical music. He wrote over 600 works for chorus, opera, orchestra, chamber ensemble, solo voice, concert band, piano,

and organ, receiving premieres and performances throughout the world as well as a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Classical Composition. His musical style has been described by The New York Times as "lush and extravagant," and his music has been commissioned, recorded, and performed by performers around the world. stephenpaulus.com



Barbara J. Rogers, whose carols have twice been featured in Schubert Club Courtroom Concerts of music by Minnesotans, has written commissioned works ranging

from a 40-second benediction to a 3-act grand opera. She served for fourteen years on the piano faculty of the University of Northwestern in St. Paul. Relocated to Lexington, KY, she performs collaboratively at two universities, maintains a private piano studio in her home, and is at work on her second opera.

#### G. Phillip Shoultz, III (See page 35)



The music of **Timothy C. Takach** has risen fast in the concert world and has been performed on *A Prairie Home Companion*, The Boston Pops tour, All-State and festival

programs, and at venues including the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914*. Tim is a co-founder of Cantus, Graphite Publishing, and a member of the band Nation. timothyctakach.com



Born in Rochester, New York, **David Evan Thomas** studied at Northwestern University, the Eastman School, and with Dominick Argento at the University of Minnesota. His

work has been commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra, honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and published by ECS, Augsburg Fortress, and MorningStar. David has been a member of the Plymouth Congregational Church Choir and Plymouth Music Series chorus. He writes about music for The Schubert Club. davidevanthomas.com

#### **SEASON CELEBRATIONS:**

#### WELCOME CHRISTMAS CAROL CONTEST AT 20

Twenty years ago we began the Welcome Christmas Carol Contest. Why? To many people carols at Christmas are something created in the distant past.... hundreds of years ago (think of "Deck the Hall" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"). And, what is the difference between a Christmas carol and a Christmas hymn?

To bring a fresh look at this we created the Welcome Christmas Carol Contest—an opportunity for composers from anywhere in the USA to be original and think what a carol might sound like. Of course, carols were composed centuries ago but they can also be written today—and, who knows, someone might compose this century's next "Deck the Hall"!

In collaboration with our good friends at the American Composers Forum (who send out the word of the contest to their thousands of members), each year we receive many, many entries. To keep the idea fresh, we include a different instrument each year (or none at all); we ask that the carol be 3-4 minutes long, and that they find a text that speaks to them—sacred or secular.

The results have been amazing—composers have been inspired to think outside of the box and we have had more than 2,000 entries in these 20 years! Some are heartwarming, some quirky, some dark, some elegant. It is a joy to see what each year will bring. I am grateful to Cary John Franklin who collects and previews the entries and to Phillip Shoultz, my associate conductor, who assists me in looking at each carol.

The list of 20 years of carols is marvelous! We look forward to more exciting entries in the years ahead. Oh—and the difference between a carol and a hymn: in the Middle Ages a carol (*carole*) was a song to be danced while singing...not the same for a hymn!

-Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director and Founder



# THE 20TH ANNUAL WELCOME CHRISTMAS CAROL CONTEST

Every December VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum celebrate the tradition of caroling by championing today's composers, exploring new works, and rediscovering lesser-known works of the past. Through the **Welcome Christmas Carol Contest**, VocalEssence and the Forum provide composers with the opportunity to compose a modern-day carol. This year marks the 20th annual carol contest. Each composer receives a \$1,000 prize and the performances will be recorded for national broadcast in 2018 via American Public Media.

#### 2017: Carols for a cappella chorus

Nancy Gifford (Doylestown, PA) *Fill the Sky* David Evan Thomas (Minneapolis, MN) *Carol of the Night* 

#### 2016: Carols with vibraphone

Lee Blaske (Excelsior, MN) A Cradle Song Sean Sweeden (Kansas City, MO) Adam Lay Ybounden

#### 2015: Carols with trumpet

Josh Bauder (Crystal, MN) *Sleep Softly, Lullaby* Laura Caviani (Minneapolis, MN) *Go Tell It on the Mountain* 

#### 2014: Carols with folk fiddle

Justin Merritt (Northfield, MN) *Miles and Miles* Rachel DeVore Fogarty (Long Island City, NY) *The Song of a Shepherd* 

#### 2013: Carols with piano

William V. 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) with English horn

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

#### 2010: Carols with handbells

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

#### ${\bf 2006: Carols\ with\ solo\ acoustic\ guitar}$

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 solo instrumental accompaniment

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

#### 2002: Carols with percussion

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

#### 2001: Carols with string orchestra

Clive Muncaster (Princeton, NJ) Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep

Sergey Khvoshchinsky (St. Paul, MN) The Christmas Silence

#### 2000: Carols with harp

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

American Public Media and Classical Minnesota Public Radio present

#### **WELCOME CHRISTMAS**

WITH HOST JOHN BIRGE

Tuesday, Dec. 5 7pm-8pm

and stream on-demand in the Holidays section at YourClassical.org

#### **Classical Minnesota Public Radio**

99.5 FM in the Twin Cities and online at classicalmpr.org

This year's VocalEssence Welcome Christmas broadcast features music from our 2016 concert, including Conrad Susa's *Carols & Lullabies*, and our carol contest winners: "Adam Lay Ybounden" by Sean Sweeden and "A Cradle Song" by Lee Blaske.

99.5 classical

# **VOCALESSENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**TOGETHER WE SING FESTIVAL

Join us for our second annual **Together We Sing Festival**, a day-long celebration of song and service, on Saturday, January 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Creative Arts Secondary School in St. Paul. The festival is open to people of all ages—children, teens, and adults, and no prior singing or dancing experience is required.



This year we will sing with our whole selves. Attendees will learn how to build a strong connection between vocal expression and physical movement in morning and afternoon training sessions led by guest workshop instructors.

ComMUSICation, St. Olaf College Professor Therees Hibbard, LGBT and straight allies community choral group One Voice Mixed Chorus, the VocalEssence Youth Choir, and Mexican folkloric dance troupe Los Alegres Bailadores will all be lending their spirit, energy, and expertise to the two workshop sessions. Lunch will feature a service component focusing on helping young people experiencing chronic physical challenges.

To register, visit vocalessence.org or call 612-547-1451.





## 2017-2018 49<sup>™</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON



# STAR OF WONDER

Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 9:30 AM & 11 AM Guild Hall, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

VocalEssence **Ensemble Singers** Mary Jo Gothmann, piano Philip Brunelle, conductor

#### 2017-2018 SEASON SPONSORS







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THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION





This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.

#### THE PROGRAM

**VocalEssence Ensemble Singers** 

O Hark the Bell's Glad Song from Ringeltänze Libby Larsen

(1983)

Deck the Hall\* Traditional Welsh Carol

A Carol Cary John Franklin

(2003)

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come Paul Manz

(1953)

Jingle Bells\* James Pierpont (1857)

Beautiful Star from Ringeltänze Libby Larsen

(1983)

Christ was Born on Christmas Day arr. Randall Davidson

(1992)

Wishes and Candles Stephen Paulus

(1998)

O Come, All Ye Faithful\* John F. Wade

The Twelve Days of Christmas\* Traditional English Carol

Star in the East from An Appalachian Epiphany arr. Barbara J. Rogers (2005)

\*Audience Sing

#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

See page 28 of Welcome Christmas biographies.

#### TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

#### O HARK THE BELL'S GLAD SONG FROM RINGELTÄNZE

Libby Larsen

See page 25 of Welcome Christmas texts and translations

#### **DECK THE HALL\***

Traditional Welsh Carol

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la la la la la la. 'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la... Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la... Troll the ancient Christmas carol, Fa la la...

See the blazing Yule before us, Fa la la... Strike the harp and join the chorus. Fa la la... Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la... While I sing of beauty's treasure. Fa la la...

Fast away the old year passes, Falala... Hail the new, ye lads and lasses! Falala.. Sing we joyous all together, Falala... Heedless of the wind and weather. Falala.

#### A CAROL

Cary John Franklin

See page 25 of Welcome Christmas texts and translations

#### E'EN SO, LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME

Paul Manz

See page 28 of Welcome Christmas texts and translations

#### JINGLE BELLS\*

James Pierpont

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way; Bells on bobtail ring making spirits bright, What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight!

#### Chorus:

Jingle bells! Jingle bells! Jingle all the way! Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh! Jingle bells! Jingle bells! Jingle all the way! Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

A day or two ago I thought I'd take a ride, And soon, Miss Fanny Bright was seated by my side; The horse was lean and lank, misfortune seemed his lot, He got into a drifted bank and then, we got upsot. *Chorus:* 

Now the ground is white, go it while you're young, Take the girls tonight and sing this sleighing song; Just get a bobtailed nag, two-forty for his speed, Then hitch him to an open sleigh and crack! You'll take the lead. Chorus:

#### BEAUTIFUL STAR FROM RINGELTÄNZE

Libby Larsen

See page 25 of Welcome Christmas texts and translations

#### **CHRIST WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

arr. Randall Davidson

See page 24 of Welcome Christmas texts and translations

#### **WISHES AND CANDLES**

Stephen Paulus

See page 24 of Welcome Christmas texts and translations

#### O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL\*

John F. Wade

 Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
 Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, Born the King of angels;

#### Chorus:

Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him; Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest; Chorus:
—translated by Frederick Oakeley

#### THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS\*

Traditional English Carol

- 1. A partridge in a pear tree
- 2. Two turtle doves
- 3. Three French hens
- 4. Four calling birds
- 5. Five gold rings
- 6. Six geese a-laying
- 7. Seven swans a-swimming
- 8. Eight maids a-milking
- 9. Nine ladies dancing
- 10. Ten lords a-leaping
- 11. Eleven pipers piping
- 12. Twelve drummers drumming

#### STAR IN THE EAST FROM AN APPALACHIAN EPIPHANY

arr. Barbara Rogers

See page 25 of Welcome Christmas texts and translations

#### **ABOUT VOCALESSENCE**

VocalEssence, called "one of the irreplaceable music ensembles of our time" by Dana Gioia, past chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts—and the choral ensemble that Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones says "sings magnificently"—impacts thousands of students, singers, and composers each year through its initiative programs, contests, and support for innovative art. VocalEssence was founded in 1969 and has debuted more than 250 commissions and world premieres. For more information, visit vocalessence.org.



Philip Brunelle Artistic Director and Founder

Philip Brunelle, artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, is an internationally-

renowned conductor, choral scholar, and visionary. Philip has conducted symphonies,

choral festivals, and operas on six continents. He recently completed 9 years as Vice President of IFCM (International Federation for Choral Music), holds five honorary degrees, and has been recognized for his commitment to choral music by the governments of Norway, Hungary, Sweden, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. His thoughts on music are at RenaissanceManPodcast.com. vocalessence.org/philipbrunelle



G. Phillip Shoultz, III Associate Conductor and Education Program Director

Known for his innovative pedagogy

and ability to inspire singers, **G. Phillip Shoultz, III**, serves as the Associate Conductor and Education Program Director of VocalEssence. Phillip completed doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota and also earned degrees from the University of Georgia and Georgia State University. His

work in the public schools garnered multiple honors. Phillip won the 2015 ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition and will represent ACDA in the 2017 International Conductors' Exchange program. vocalessence.org/gps



Mary Jo Gothmann

**Mary Jo Gothmann** joined VocalEssence as staff accompanist in 2015. She enjoys

a varied career as a chamber musician, soloist, opera coach, and organist. Mary Jo performs frequently with the Minnesota Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Program, University of Minnesota, New England Conservatory, and St. Olaf College. Mary Jo is the founder and Artistic Director of the Joya Chamber Music Series at Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka.





# AUDITION FOR THE VOCALESSENCE CHORUS 49<sup>TH</sup> SEASON SPRING CONCERTS

Please visit **vocalessence.org/audition** to schedule your audition online.

# VOCALESSENCE CHORUS



The **VocalEssence Chorus** is an exceptional group of talented, committed singers from many walks of life. A staple on the VocalEssence season, the Chorus also performs at community events including the VocalEssence WITNESS Young People's Concerts at Orchestra Hall and the VocalEssence iCantaré! Concert at the Ordway. In the 49<sup>th</sup> season, VocalEssence is honored that the Chorus was selected to perform at the 2017 Fall Convention for the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. **vocalessence.** org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-chorus

#### SOPRANO

Amanda Allen AnnaLisa Anderson Libby Anderson Barbara Anderson Jessica Belt Whitney Al Bembenek Ali Biatek

Ali Biatek
Julia Braaten
Jennica Date
Cathryn Davis
Regan Debban
Judy Drobeck
Kristina M. Guiffre
Jeanne Kenney
Gillian Koch
Kartra Kohl
Sarah Kurtz
Joy MacArthur
Hannah Miller
Lisa Moncur

Sophia Pechaty Christina Pederson Shira Rabkin Leah Refuerzo Elizabeth Robbins

Alexa Rosenbaum Cheryl Roberts Saunders Cassandra Schwartz Susan Scofield LeAnn Stein

Katherine Tonn Eisinger Amanda Troolin Jennifer S Vickerman\* Laura Walklet

Dannika Wright

ALTO

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Steve Aggergaard\*\*
Andrew Alness
Larry Brandts
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Minnesota is home to an international choral music gem—the **VocalEssence Ensemble Singers**. Declared by the Oxford Times (UK) as having "a blend that could—and should—be the envy of every choir in the business," this 32-voice professional chorus is enjoyed by millions from Duluth, Minnesota to Shanghai, China. The VocalEssence Ensemble Singers are equally at ease premiering music by Pulitzer Prize winning composers as well as teen moms in our Lullaby Project. **vocalessence**. **org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-ensemble-singers** 

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#### **VOCALESSENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**

VOCALESSENCE **V** Lullaby Project

VocalEssence is honored to be the first choir nationally to implement the **Lullaby Project**, a program of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. The **Lullaby Project** creates musical experiences for women facing pregnancy while enduring other hardships, such as homelessness or incarceration. In partnership with Longfellow Alternative High School, VocalEssence assists teen mothers in the creation of original lullabies for their young children. The experience of writing a lullaby promotes bonding with the baby (a key predictor in the future success of children), boosts development and attachment by encouraging moms to communicate with their children, and build parents' confidence by generating a sense of accomplishment in creating a song for their baby.

The inaugural year engaged Latina moms with one of our Mexican VocalEssence iCantaré! composers, creating Spanish language lullabies; last year African-American teen moms wrote lullabies with the assistance of VocalEssence WITNESS guest artist Melanie DeMore, and VocalEssence Associate Conductor G. Phillip Shoultz, III. Members of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers perform and record the lullabies for the moms to create a lasting keepsake that embodies the hopes and dreams the mother has for her baby.

"The recording was like angels singing—the singers touched my heart. I have sung the lullaby to my son, and he smiles and laughs. The song has made my strong feelings for my son even stronger."

-2016 Lullaby Project Mom, Minneapolis, MN

For more information, please contact VocalEssence at info@vocalessence.org or 612-547-1451.



#### DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# Innovation is a focus in life and art for VocalEssence board member Julie Bader



When Julie
Bader joined the
VocalEssence
board of directors,
she was looking
for a role that
would deepen her
impact in either
education or the
arts—and with

VocalEssence, she found both. The global controller for Research, Development & Engineering at Ecolab, Julie had heard of VocalEssence as a choral group before she started seriously looking into becoming a member of the VocalEssence team. Discovering the nonprofit's many community-building projects left an impression, and she joined the board in August of 2016.

"I was able to go out and observe the VocalEssence WITNESS program in the classroom, and I got really excited about what this organization does with children in schools. Their impact on children is so positive, and the quality of the product is so high—as in everything that they create."

Julie quickly learned that VocalEssence WITNESS was just one of many inspiring programs. "Everyone knows VocalEssence in a different way. Some people only know the concerts, others know it through the VocalEssence WITNESS program, and others through one of the community sing events. The range of impact sites, age groups, events is so broad—their reach really impressed me."

#### "They got us all singing!"

While she came from a family where the arts were prioritized, Julie was one of the few non-singers. "Two of my sisters took vocal lessons growing up, and my dad, a speech communications professor, sang every day—he had loved to sing and perform in his youth. He'd had a fall from a hayloft that left him with a limited range of hearing in one ear, and while you'd never know it listening to him sing, it kept him from majoring in vocal performance. Now that he's retired, he actually sings and directs at retirement and senior care

homes, leading singalongs for people with Alzheimer's. It's very fitting that I'm now working with VocalEssence, which does similar work through the Vintage Voices program for seniors."

It's telling that it took a VocalEssence Community Sing to get this non-singer in touch with the power of her voice. "My daughter, who sings, was home from college on a break, and I took her to the Together We Sing Festival at Central High School. We were in the hands of so many talented leaders-VocalEssence Associate Conductor G. Phillip Shoultz, III, Novelli Jurado, a former VocalEssence iCantaré! composer, and Melanie DeMore. They got us all singing—they even got us to sing in Spanish! It gave you a flavor of what the kids in the programs experience. And what was really cool was people from all different backgrounds, ages, and ethnicities were just coming together to sing."

#### A mission to always be reaching

Her work on the board forces her to look forward, imagining the next step for an institution that has changed and grown with its home community for nearly 50 years. "The word that comes to mind when describing VocalEssence is 'innovative.' Part of the mission is to always be reaching. They're always trying to introduce new kinds of choral music; they encourage composers to create original work."

"Their vision is never limited to what's expected, from the way VocalEssence WITNESS brings audiences African-American music outside expected forms like gospel, and how VocalEssence iCantaré! pushes beyond Mexican folk music. Even in something as traditional as the Welcome Christmas concerts, you'll find Philip Brunelle asking composers to come up with a new song for the Carol Contest. They're always trying to look at choral music in a new, unique way, putting a twist on what is familiar. They blend the familiar with the new, so there's a little something for everybody to enjoy."

# THANK YOU, VOCALESSENCE DONORS

# 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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The Philip Brunelle Founder's Society recognizes those who make a provision for VocalEssence in their will or estate plans. The society is names in honor of our visionary founder, Philip Brunelle, who every day inspires the community to open their ears to new music from diverse cultures.

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In honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Dan Dressen and Beth Comeaux *Philip and Carolyn Brunelle* 

In remembrance of Leslie Egan

Dannika Wright

In remembrance of Fern Friskey Ann Buran

In honor of Kathy Gagnon

Maria Mitchell

In remembrance of Elsie H. Goetz Goeta Goetz Bird

In honor of Our grandchildren: Charlotte, Josephine, Juliette, Miles, & Fleanor

Ann Barkelew and Jim O'Hagan

In remembrance of Frances B. Gray Heather McCormack

in remembrance of Mandal Gruesner John and Sheila Bjorklund

In remembrance of Louise Heffelfinger Russ Bursch and Lee Mauk John and Robin Helgen

In honor of Patricia Hoyt's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Philip and Carolyn Brunelle Susan and Herb Nyhammer

In honor of Grace Huenemann Richard and Carol Eick

In remembrance of Martha Hughes Deb Winge

In remembrance of Vivian Jones Doug and Mary Jones

In honor of Art and Martha Kaemmer Julia Kaemmer and Olivier Vrambout

In remembrance of N. Judge King Reatha Clark Kina

In honor of Joy Knoppel Anonymous

In remembrance of Audrey MacArthur Joy MacArthur and Sarah Cohn

In honor of Mary Rose and Dennis Manning William and Ruth Manning

In remembrance of Mary and Doug Lauren Johnson

In honor of Michael J. Mauriel John and Mary Anne Mauriel

In honor of Mary Anne and John Mauriel Joyce Jensen In honor of Ross Mumford Joseph Nabity

In honor of Music, and what it brings to people's lives

Mary Bowman

In honor of Dr. Glen Nelson's friendship with Philip Brunelle Marilyn Carlson Nelson

In remembrance of Miriam Lindeman Parsons Janet Colliton

In remembrance of Eddris Pridgen and John Twiggs Jacqueline Fleming

In remembrance of Joyce Reed, Choral Director

William and Barbara Read

In remembrance of John Sandbo
Philip and Carolyn Brunelle
Ann Buran
Mary Lou Judd Carpenter
John and Joan Colwell
Connie Keller

In remembrance of Roy and Shirley Sather Ann Sather and Jeff Stone

In honor of G. Phillip Shoultz, III Brian and Claudia Boysen

In honor of Luca Raffo Simoes Patricia Lindsley

In remembrance of Debra Ann Sit *Peter Berge* 

In honor of LeAnn M. Stein Jack Stamp

In remembrance of Barbara Strong Mary Wise

In remembrance of Vivian Stuck

Katie Anderson

Woody and Cynthia Andrews

Elaine Arndt

 ${\it Mary\,Ann\,Aufder heide}$ 

Ann Buran

John and Joan Colwell

Ronald and Vonda D'Errico

Ken and Suanne Hallberg

Connie Keller Irene Lovejoy

Judy Lund

Beverly Norris

Lizabeth Ralles and Al Aukee

Lisa Reed

Bill and Sara Stout

Charles and Marilyn Stuck

Jean Thomson

Emily Anne Tuttle

In honor of Jim and Colette Thesing Monica Thesing

In remembrance of Barbara Tiede David and Ruth Waterbury In honor of Ken and Diane Tonn Katie Tonn

In honor of Jennifer Wade Phil and Jane Wade

In honor of Dorene Wernke's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday Mary Ann Aufderheide

In remembrance of Jane Elizabeth Whitmore Sebastian Hart

In honor of Danielle Willis's wedding Ray and Marcia Giske

In honor of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Fannie Harrell



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