

C·O·L·L·A V·O·C·E

Chamber Singers

PRESENT



THE
HEART
OF
CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2019



PERFORMANCES

SEASON 15 | 2019 – 2020

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

December 12, 2019 · Thursday · 7 p.m.

Pioneer Methodist Church, 1338 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA

*December 14, 2019 · Saturday · 7 p.m.**

Grace Lutheran Church, 1979 Ridge Road, Grass Valley, CA

December 15, 2019 · Sunday · 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.*

Auburn State Theatre, 985 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA

**with Colla Voce Youth & Children's Chorus*

STARDUST

WITH VISIONS OF THE SKIES BY ASTROPHOTOGRAPHER. TONY HALLAS

May 2, 2020 · Saturday · 7 p.m.

General Gomez Arts and Events Center, 808 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA

May 3, 2020 · Sunday · 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

General Gomez Arts and Events Center, 808 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA

May 6, 2020 · Wednesday · 7 p.m.

Center for the Arts, 314 Main Street, Grass Valley, CA

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

PROGRAM

Interlude: A Ceremony of Carols,

Op. 28, No. VII

Benjamin Britten

Harpist: Emily Mader

Hymn to the Virgin

Music ~ Michael McGlynn

Text ~ 6th Century

**Soloists: Nicole Toppel, Bridget Yarbrough,
Raena Cole, Leah Cole**

A Savior From on High

Music ~ Stephen Paulus

Text ~ Wm. Ballet, 17th Century

Soloists: Jenny Brown, Jessy Wallace

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Music ~ Lewis H. Redner,

Arr. Stephen Paulus

Carol of the Bells

(Ukrainian Christmas Carol)

Music ~ M. Leontovich,

Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Text ~ Peter J. Wilhousky

Ubi Caritas

Music ~ Ola Gjeilo

Original Gregorian chant ~ 4th Century

Pianist: Angela Roland

Suzi's Carol

Music ~ John Rutter

Text ~ 15th Century

Soloist: Emily Smith

Wexford Carol

Irish traditional carol

Arr. Mack Wilberg

Sleep, Baby, Sleep

Music and Text ~ Carl Staedler

Harp Arr. ~ Janine Dexter

Soloist: Don Thomas

Sussex Carol

Traditional English Carol

Arr. Ian Crawford

O Magnum Mysterium

Music ~ Morten Lauridsen

Text 10th Century

In the Bleak Midwinter

Music ~ Gustav Holst, Arr. Abbie Betinis

Text ~ Christina Rossetti, John Storey

**Soloists: Timothy Smith, Jenny Brown,
Jessy Wallace**

The World for Christmas

Music and Text ~ Anders Edenroth

**Soloists: Bethanee Hunnicutt,
Bridget Yarbrough**

A 'Soalin'

Music and Text ~ Paul Stookey,
Tracy Batteast, Elena Mezzetti
Arr. Ronald Staheli

A Pentatonic Alleluia

Music ~ Ross Whitney
Soloist: Jennifer Wood

Where Are You Christmas?

Music and Text ~ Will Jennings,
James Horner, Mariah Carey
Arr. Mark Brymer
**Maggie Németh, Bethanee Hunnicutt,
Shay Muhonen, Randy Németh,
David Mendenhall**

La Source (The Wellspring)

Alphonse Hasselmans
Harpist: Emily Mader

COLLA VOCE YOUTH & CHILDREN'S CHORUS
(12/14, 12/15 3PM)

DIRECTOR: ANNE VAALER

Antiphonal Noel

Traditional Carol, Arr. Greg Gilpin

Cantate Domino

Nancy Hill Cobb

Dormi, Dormi

Italian Carol, Arr. Mary Goetze

Ring Silver Bells

Trad. Ukrainian Carol, Arr. Audrey Snyder

Tum Balalaika/Kalinka

Trad. Russian, Arr. A. Vaaler

Winter Fantasy

J. Pierpont/Jill Gallina

All Night, All Day

Spiritual, Arr. Greg Gilpin

Mary Did you Know?

Music and Text ~ Mark Lowry, Buddy Greene
Arr. Roger Emerson
**Nicole Toppel, Leah Cole, Timothy Smith,
Craig Wheaton, David Mendenhall**

Run, Toboggan, Run

Music ~ Abbie Burt Betinis
Text ~ Holly Windle
**Jenny Brown, Jessy Wallace, Jennifer
Wood, Jackie Care, Bridget Yarbrough,
Melia Borusso, Randy Németh,
Ken Pense, John Van Auker, Erich Parks,
Sam Johnson, Jim McGregor, Stan Shook**

The Sleigh á la Russe

Music and Text ~ Richard Kountz,
Arr. R. Baldwin
Featuring the Tenors and Basses

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

French Carol
Text ~ G.R. Woodward,
Arr. Carolyn Jennings

Christmas Memories

Music and Text ~ Michael McGlynn
Soloist: Randy Németh

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

(Ero Cras, I Will Come)
18th Century Latin Hymn
9th Century Origin
Arr. Michael John Trotta
**Soloists: Nicole Toppel,
Bethanee Hunnicutt**

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

PROGRAM NOTES

INTERLUDE: A CEREMONY OF CAROLS. OP. 28. No. VII

English composer Benjamin Britten composed this interlude as the seventh movement of the eleven movement choral work entitled "A Ceremony of Carols." The work was written for Christmas with the text from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, edited by Gerald Bullett. The text is primarily in Middle English, with some Latin and Early Modern English. The harp solo — based on the Gregorian antiphon "Hodie Christus natus est" — serves to unify the composition. Britten (Nov. 22, 1913 – Dec. 4, 1976) wrote the piece in 1942 while he was at sea, traveling from the United States to England.

HYMN TO THE VIRGIN

"Born in 1964 in Dublin, Ireland, composer Michael McGlynn came late to choral music singing in his first choir at the age of nineteen. Despite the rich and sophisticated musical forms that lie at the centre of Irish traditional music, choral music does not exist as part of that tradition. Michael's compositional language combines elements of modality and contemporary compositional practices with a distinctive melodic awareness influenced strongly with the essence of traditional Irish song (sean nós).

He founded the choral ensemble Anúna, Ireland's National Choir, in 1987 as both a vehicle for his compositions and in an attempt to create a unique choral form for Ireland."
~ *Michael McGlynn Biography*

Although choral music does not exist as part of Irish traditional music, through this composer, Irish choral music has become its own genre, inspiring compositions from many composers — both Irish and otherwise.

SUNG IN LATIN:

*Cantemus in omni die concinnantes uarie
Conclamantes Deo dignum ymnium, Sancte Marie.
Bis per chorum hinc et inde conlaudemus Mariam
ut uox pulset omnem aurem per laudem uicariam.
Sante Marie*

*Maria de tribu Iuda Summi Mater Domini
oportunam dedit curam egrotanti homini.
Gabriel aduexjt Verbum sinu prius Paterno
quod conceptum et susceptum in utero materno.*

*Sante Marie meritum imploramus dignissimum
ut mereamur solium habitare altissimum
Hec est summa hec est sancta uirgo uenerabilis
Que ex fide non recissit sed exstetit stabilis.*

*Huic matri nec inuenta ante nec post similis
nec de prole fuit plane humane originis.
Sancte Marie meritum imploramus dignissimum
ut mereamur solium habitare altissimum
Sante Marie.*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

*Let us all sing together each day, crying aloud to God,
a hymn that is worth of Saint Mary.
Twice on alternating sides, let us praise together the Virgin,
so that there will be continuous sound on the ear.
Mary of the line of Judah, mother of God, gave ailing
man a great cure.
Gabriel placed the Word in the mother's womb, which
came from the breast of the Father.
This is the great, the holiest worthy virgin who has held
fast in faith, and not turned away.
Noble Saint Mary, we beseech you, That we may be
worthy to ascend the highest throne.*

A SAVIOR FROM ON HIGH

The music of Stephen Paulus (1949–2014) is “described by critics as rugged, angular, lyrical, lean, rhythmically aggressive, original, often gorgeous, moving, and uniquely American. *The New Yorker* characterizes his music as having ‘impeccable technique and well-honed audience appeal,’ while *The New York Times* says ‘Mr. Paulus often finds melodic patterns that are fresh and familiar at the same time ... His scoring is invariably expert and exceptionally imaginative in textures and use of instruments.’” ~ *Stephen Paulus Biography*

*O sweet was the song the Virgin sang
When she to Bethlehem Judah came
And was delivered a son, And Jesus was his name
Lullee, lully, lullo, lullaby*

*“O sweet babe,” sang she, “my son.”
And so a Savior is born. Who was given from on high
to visit us that were forlorn
Lullee, lully, lullo, lullaby*

*And Jesus was his name.
And sweet was the song she sang*

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by*

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.*

*O morning stars together
Proclaim the Holy Birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born to us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.*

CAROL OF THE BELLS

(Ukrainian Christmas Carol)

This popular Christmas carol, originally written in 1914 by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych, is based on the Ukrainian folk chant “Shchedryk.” The original folk story related in the song was associated with the coming New Year, which in pre-Christian Ukraine, was celebrated with the coming of spring. The original Ukrainian title translates to “the generous one” derived from the Ukrainian

word for bountiful, and tells a tale of a swallow flying into a household to proclaim the bountiful year that the family will have.

American composer (of Ukrainian heritage), Peter Wilhousky, wrote new English lyrics first aired during the Great Depression.

*Hark how the bells; Sweet silver bells,
All seem to say "Throw cares away"
Christmas is here, Bringing good cheer,
To young and old, Meek and the bold
Ding dong, ding dong. That is their song,
With joyful ring, All caroling.*

*One seems to hear, Words of good cheer,
From everywhere Filling the air.
O, how they pound, Raising the sound,
O'er hill and dale, Telling their tale,
Gaily they ring, While people sing
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here.
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas,*

*On, on they send, on without end
Their joyful tone To every home.
Ding, dong, ding dong.*

UBI CARITAS

Composer and pianist, Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978, Norway), continues to explore his own musical language, influenced by classical, jazz and folk music. He studied in Norway and London and completed his Master's degree in composition at The Juilliard School. Talented pianist Angela Roland is featured in the performance of the piece. She is worth her weight in gold to the Colla Voce Chamber Singers and her touch and musicianship are irreplaceable.

SUNG IN LATIN:

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.*

*Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Amen.*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

*Where charity and love are, God is there
The love of Christ has gathered us together
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
Amen*

SUZIE'S CAROL

English composer, John Rutter, (b. 1945) is one of the most prolific and well-known choral composers of our age. He wrote this new carol in 2017, at about age 72.

An excerpt from his short autobiography, found on his website:

"I've known I wanted to be a musician ever since I could walk and talk, and the story is true that I first discovered music at home when I lifted the lid of the old upright piano in my parents' London apartment and started to prod the keys, while at nursery school I sang along loudly with all the other kids at morning assembly each day. My bewildered parents, probably driven crazy by the hours of piano improvisation and piping treble singing they endured, thought that if you can't stop it, at least get him to do it better, so they sent me at age seven for piano lessons where my piano teacher told me to be a composer, or singer (or anything but please not a pianist)...

I'm not sure where the intervening years have all gone, but in a way I'm still that kid doodling at the piano with his inventions, only now I get paid for it. I compose, conduct, produce recordings, and try to cope with the flood of commitments that a musician's life involves. Some day I'll get round to some hobbies." ~ John Rutter

Nowell!

*A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we singen both night and day;
Veni Creator Spiritus.*

*At Bethlehem, that blessed place,
The child of bliss born he was
Him to serve, God give us grace
O lux beata Trinitas.*

*There came three kings out of the East
To worship the King that is so free,
With gold and myrrh and frankincense
A solis ortus cardine.*

*The angels came down with one cry,
A fair song then sung-en they
In the worship of that child
Gloria tibi Domine.*

WEXFORD CAROL

This traditional Irish carol was artfully arranged by Mack Wilberg, composer, arranger, conductor, choral clinician and music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square.

*Good people all, this Christmas time
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending His beloved Son
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas day
In Bethlehem upon that morn'
There was a blessed Messiah born*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God's angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear*

*"Prepare and go", the angels said
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid
For there you'll find this happy morn'
A princely Babe, sweet Jesus born*

SLEEP. BABY. SLEEP

Carl Staedler (b. 1945–1995), was a brilliant musician and composer from the San Francisco bay area. Musicians and friends remember him fondly for his tight vocal harmonies and exacting levels of musicianship.

*Sleep, baby, sleep, on your bed of hay,
while angels keep watch this first Christmas day,
born in the cold of a winter's night.
Prophets have told us of your heavenly
might, wise-men and shepherds fall at your feet.
They know that with your birth, God's love is complete.
Sleep, baby, sleep while the heavens ring,
as they proclaim the birth of a king*

SUSSEX CAROL

*On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring*

*News of great joy, news of great mirth
News of our merciful King's birth
Then why should men on earth be so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad
Then why should men on earth be so sad
Since our Redeemer made us glad*

*When from our sin He set us free
All for to gain our liberty
When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its place
When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its place*

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

The music of Morten Lauridsen occupies a permanent place in the standard vocal repertoire of the 21st Century. His music is performed throughout the world and has been recorded on over two hundred CDs, several of which have received Grammy nominations. In 2007 he was awarded the National Medal of Arts, the highest artistic award in the United States, by the President in a White House ceremony “for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power, and spiritual depth.”

SUNG IN LATIN:

*O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum
Ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentum in
praeseptio!*

*Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum. Alleluia*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
That animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in
their manger!*

*Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear
The Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia*

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Composer Abbie Betinis writes music called “inventive” (*The New York Times*), “joyful... shattering, incandescent” (*Boston Globe*), and music that “expands into wondrous realms” (*Cambridge University Press*). In this concert we have included her fresh arrangement of the English carol, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, as well as two of her original carols written for the family Christmas cards.

*In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;*

*Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
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, beast and wise men,
They 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,
I give my heart.*

THE WORLD FOR CHRISTMAS

“For a long time I have been trying to find a way to express my concern for the future of our planet in music and words. I only had the phrase ‘Give me a present for the future!’ which with its double meaning, captured my feelings exactly. But I couldn’t come up with anything else. So one day ... I met my friend Emma’s three day old daughter, Leia. She

made me realize that it wasn't my worry that needed to be expressed but rather Leia's unspoken wish. I have borrowed her voice in order to ask you all to take care of our planet so that one day she and all the children of the world can inherit the beautiful blue-green, healthy planet of their dreams."

~ Anders Edenroth, Stockholm, Sweden

*It's the night before Christmas, and all through the house
not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse.*

*The stockings are hung by the chimney with care.
But hopes for saint Nicholas I wish I could share.*

*I am new to this world, I arrived here this morn
to this beautiful planet though beat up and torn.
I don't need a gift, need no more than I've got.
Hear the unspoken wish from a tiny, tiny tot:*

*I only want the world for Christmas,
the blue, green forever turning world for Christmas.
Nothing more, nothing less. I want it for keeps and I
promise to share,
so that everyone who wants can cuddle and care.*

*I only want the world for Christmas,
the blue, green forever turning world for Christmas.
To restore, to repossess.
Please make it last, my fate is in your hands.
Oh give me a present for the future.*

*You could follow your heart but you follow a whim,
and fill up your stockings way over the brim.
Ignoring the signs in our frail crystal ball
you wish away, wish away, wish away all.*

*The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow
gives a luster of midday to objects below.
Why your eyes won't see
when they've given all this light.
I wonder, I wonder
this very special night.*

*I only want the world for Christmas,
the blue, green forever turning world for Christmas.*

To restore, to repossess.

Please make it last, my fate is in your hands.

Oh give me a present for the future.

A 'SOALIN'

Some will recognize this arrangement of folk songs and carols from Peter, Paul and Mary's 1963 recording. Others of us remember it recorded as "Soul Cake" on musician Sting's 2009 album *If On a Winter's Night*.

A soul cake, (also known as a soulmass-cake) is a small round cake, traditionally made for Halloween, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day to commemorate the dead in the Christian tradition. The cakes, often simply referred to as souls, are given out to soulers (mainly consisting of children and the poor) who go from door to door during the days of Allhallowtide singing and saying prayers "for the souls of the givers and their friends." The practice in England dates to the medieval period, and was continued there until the 1930s.

*Hey ho, nobody home, meat nor drink nor money have
I none,
Yet shall we be merry.*

*A soal cake, please good missus a soul cake,
An apple, a pear, a plum, a cherry
Any good thing to make us all merry
One for Peter, two for Paul, three for Him who made us all.*

*God bless the master of this house, and the mistress also
And all the little children that 'round your table grow.
The cattle in your stable, the dog by your front door,
And all that dwell within your gates We wish you ten
times more.*

*Here we come caroling among the leaves so green.
Here we come awand'ring so fair to be seen
Love and joy come to you, and a Merry Christmas too,
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year.*

*Go down into the cellar and see what you can find.
If the barrels are not empty we hope you will be kind.
We hope you will be kind with your apple and strawberr',
For we'll come no more a 'soalin' till this time next year.*

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save, for to save us all.*

*From God our Father the blessed Angels came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same.
That there was born in Bethlehem the Son of God by name:
Oh tidings of comfort and joy.*

*The streets are very dirty, my shoes are very thin
I have a little pocket to put a penny in
If you haven't got a penny, a ha' penny will do
If you haven't got a ha' penny then God bless you.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas of beauty and of grace
Oh tidings of comfort and joy.*

Love and joy come to you, and God bless you!

A PENTATONIC ALLELUIA

This is an entirely aleatoric composition (also called chance music: from the Latin word *alea*, meaning "dice"), where the primary element of the work's realization is left to the determination of its performers.

WHERE ARE YOU CHRISTMAS?

This piece was written for little six-year-old Cindy Lou Who, living in Whoville in Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Cindy Lou Who believes that everyone is missing the point about Christmas by focusing too much on the gifts and festivities and too little on the personal relationships. More recently the song was recorded by Pentatonix.

*Where are you Christmas?
Why can't I find you?
Why have you gone away?
Where is the laughter
You used to bring me?
Why can't I hear music play?
My world is changing, I'm rearranging
Does that mean Christmas changes too?*

*Where are you Christmas?
Do you remember
The one you used to know?
I'm not the same one
See what the time's done
Is that why you have let me go?*

*Christmas is here
Everywhere,
Christmas is here
If you care,
If there is love in your heart and your mind
you will feel like Christmas all the time.*

COME IN! COME IN!

"In 1922, Rev. Bates G. Burt, a self-taught musician, began composing Christmas carols and sending them as seasonal greeting cards to his friends, family, and parishioners. In 1942, he passed the job of composing the music to his son, Alfred Burt, a jazz trumpeter who had just received his music degree from the University of Michigan. The father-son team produced five carols together before Bates' death in 1948. Alfred Burt went on to write a total of fifteen Christmas carols, including the popular "Caroling, Caroling," and "Some Children See Him," made famous originally by the Voices of Jimmy Joyce and now recorded by artists all over the world. Since 2001, Abbie Burt Betinis has been continuing this family tradition begun so long ago by Bates, her great-grandfather."
~ Abbie Betinis

Each new carol uses a text relating somehow to the Burt family tradition. In *Come In!* *Come In!*, Abbie honors the memory of her grandfather, Rev. John H Burt, who so joyfully greeted his family at the door for the holidays. It was the carol written for the Christmas cards of 2011.

Come In! Come In!
Ye carolers trudging around in the snow,
Come in! Come in! Sit by the fire and drink up some cider
and warm up your fingers and toes.

LA SOURCE

(The Wellspring)

Alphonse Hasselmans (1845–1912) was a Belgian-born French harpist, composer and teacher. His father led the Conservatory in Strasbourg, his daughter was a concert pianist and his son was a conductor of the Metropolitan Opera and later a Professor of Music at Louisiana State University. Hasselmans' concert étude, *La Source*, was his most famous composition for harp.

MARY DID YOU KNOW?

This song was originally recorded in 1991 by Michael English, a singer in the Gaither Vocal Band. The composer, Mark Lowry, writes, "I just tried to put into words the unfathomable. I started thinking of the questions I would have for her if I were to sit down & have coffee with Mary." The song is now a Christmas classic, most recently made popular again by Pentatonix.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day
walk on water?
Mary, did you know, that your baby boy would save our
sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you
new?

This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to
a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a
storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy has walked where
angels trod?

When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of
the lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day
rule the nations?

Did you know that your boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great I am.

RUN. TOBOGGAN. RUN

"The most famous American Christmas carol family is indisputably the Burt family. The carols of Bates and Alfred Burt and the Christmas carol cards they sent are now part of our hymnody and folklore.

Composer Abbie Burt Betinis the great granddaughter of Bates and grand-niece of Alfred, and is continuing the tradition with freshness and craftsmanship. A noted and often commissioned composer in her own right, she brings skill and talent to this unique genre in a way no one else could. The verse and chorus form reminds us of an English carol, but the text, taken most often from other Burt family members, are very American."

~ *Fred Bock Publications*

Run, Toboggan, Run was the carol that Abbie composed to include in her Christmas cards for 2007.

Anticipation's in the air

(Run, toboggan, run!)

The snow is fresh and waiting there;

The children chatter and prepare.

(Run, toboggan, run!)

Assemble sweaters, coats and caps,

The mittens, gloves, and fleeces,

The scarves and jackets, hats with flaps —

With buttons, zippers, clips, and snaps —

So many separate pieces!

A vee of geese flies overhead

As southward their migration,

While armed with snowballs, skates, and sled,

The families frolic, noses red,

With noisy jubilation.

Oh, sledding teaches useful skills,

Philosophy and science:

Respect the steepness of the hills;

And try again, despite the spills,

To steer with self-reliance.

The safest and most pleasant way

Is taking turns and sharing;

Help rescue any runaway,

And know the risks when you display

Outrageous feats of daring.

Find happiness to hold and keep.

The joys of just an hour

Become a comfort, strong and deep

To help you when the hills are steep

With mem'ries' golden power.

December days are cold and dark

(Run toboggan, run!)

In each of us there glows a spark

Where joy and hope have left their mark.

Soon Christmas day will come.

(Run, toboggan, run ...)

THE SLEIGH Á LA RUSSE

The Sleigh is evocative of a fast dash through a snowy Russian forest. This concert classic by American composer Richard Kountz (1896–1950) is short and sparkling. Can you hear the sleigh bells?

Lightly flying over snow

With sleighbells ringing, gaily singing

Merrily we go!

All the world's a blanket white

Of snow so cold and crisp and light

With sharp winds blowing, we are going

Onward through the night, Hey-a-oh-la!

DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

Composer Carolyn Jennings is a Professor Emerita of Music at St. Olaf College where she also served as Chair of the Music Department and Associate Dean for the Fine Arts. She has written many creative arrangements bringing new life to timeless melodies including this French traditional carol.

Ding dong! Merrily on high,

In heav'n the bells are ringing,

Ding dong! verily the sky

Is riv'n with angel singing,

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swungen,

And "I-o, i-o, i-o!"

By priest and people sungen:

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime

Your matin chime, ye ringers,

May you beautifully rhyme

Your eve'time song, ye singers:

Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

This is another song by Irish composer Michael McGlynn, written for his own, pure and clear tenor voice. This song was the inspiration for sharing the memories and photos of audience members in this concert: "The Heart of Christmas."

*On this cold December morn,
Snow in the air as the North winds moan.
I recall those younger days when star-light was in our eyes,
As we waited for that morning light
Dreams full of joy on a winter's night.
Those sweet Christmas memories will never fade away*

*And we're coming home,
We're coming home for Christmas Day
To our sweetest memories.*

*Walking on familiar roads,
Snow in the air as the cold wind blows.
Coming back to a warm embrace
Where those memories never fade away*

*And we're coming home
We're coming home for Christmas Day
To our sweetest memories.
Gloria in excelsis Deo*

VENI. VENI EMMANUEL

(Ero Cras, I Will Come)

"The text for this hymn first appears in the 18th century in the Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum (Cologne 1710). It is based on the much older "O" Antiphons which have their origins in the 9th century. When the antiphons are placed in the reverse chronological order, the first letter (after the "O") forms the acrostic ERO CRAS, literally 'tomorrow, I will be' translated here as 'I will come!'"

~ Michael John Trotta, composer

SUNG IN LATIN:

*Veni, Veni Emmanuel! ERO CRAS!
Veni, Emmanuel! Captivum solve Israel!
qui gemit in exsilio privatus Dei Filio.
Gaude, Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel*

*Veni, Rex Gentium, veni, Redemptor omnium,
ut salvas tuos famulos peccati sibi conscios.
Qui veniet, ERO CRAS!*

*Veni, Veni O Oriens solare nos adveniens
noctis depelle nebulas dirasque mortis tenebras*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

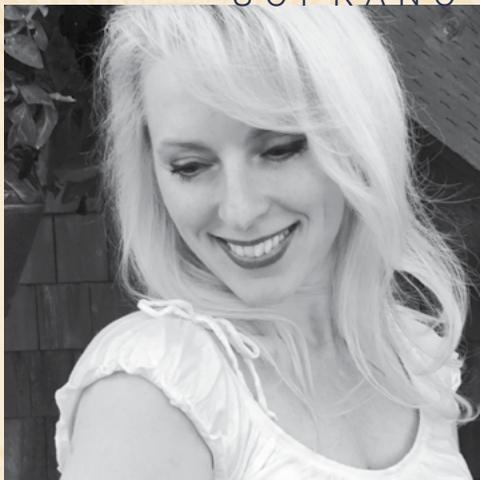
*O Come, O Come, the "I am" that is with us
Break the bond of the captive people!
Who mourn in exile
Derived of the incarnation of the Father
Rejoice! Rejoice! The great "I am"
Will be born for you.*

*O come, gatherer of all nations, Come to make all whole
To save you servants From their separateness*

*O Come, thou light of life (Morningstar), To shine on us
by your coming,
Dispel the clouds of night, Drive away the shadows of
death.*

MEET THE CHAMBER SINGERS

NICOLE TOPPEL
SOPRANO



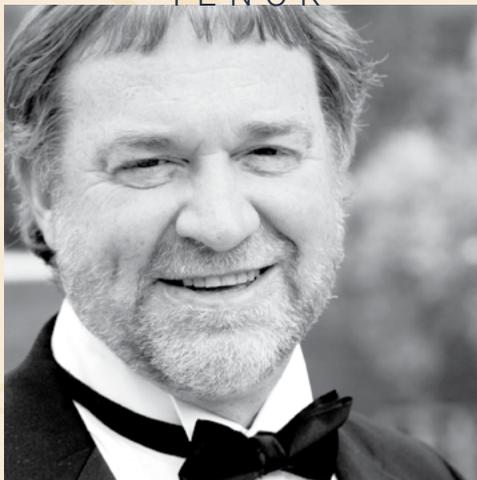
I sing when I am happy, sad, angry, sleepy, energized ... and there is always a song to go with it. It is one of the truest expressions of who I am.

DAWN MALICOAT
TENOR



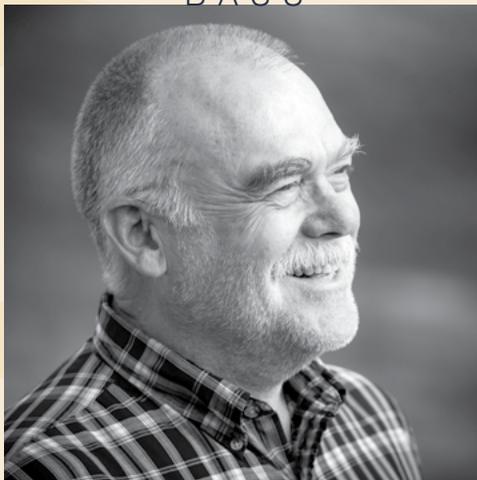
My voice is a gift. I sing to praise the Giver of Music and to experience the soul-filled joy of my fellow singers, our director, and our audience.

CRAIG WHEATON
TENOR



Singing is an extension of life — the highs, the lows and everything in between.

SCOTT WARREN
BASS



The notes and chords, the music itself, the stories conveyed by the lyrics, the friendships, the camaraderie, and the intense focus of the group of people and the intense ways it makes me feel ... there's more — but words just are not adequate to describe exactly why I sing...

DAVID MENDENHALL
BASS



I sing because of the sound that this gathering from our community creates fills the air full of wonderful music. It is a connection that I cherish and am honored to be a part of.

BRIDGET YARBROUGH
ALTO



Singing is an integral part of who I am and brings me much joy and comfort. It's a very personal thing.

MAGGIE NÉMETH
ALTO



I can't help but sing. It is like breathing for me ... Music is simply a part of me. Singing is a way to amplify the human condition. It brings up feelings of joy, contemplation, sadness, longing, and peace in both the singer and the audience. It is giving and receiving at the same time.

DEBBIE THOMAS
SOPRANO



Singing helps me to express feelings that have no other outlet. I think we are created that way.

JENNIFER WOOD
SOPRANO



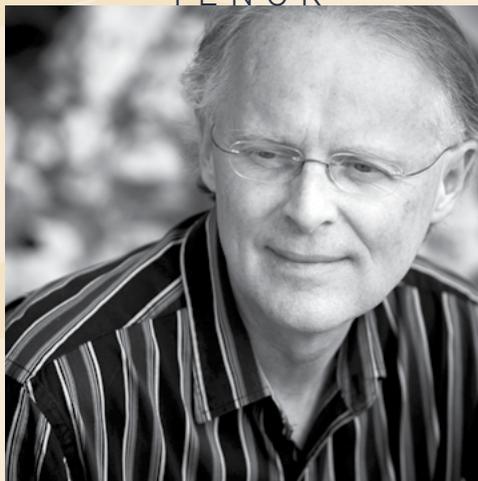
Singing feeds my soul. Combining my voice with friends to make music gives me great joy!

BETHANEE HUNNICUTT
ALTO



I sing because it is pure joy for me. What is more fun than having an instrument with me wherever I go!

KEN PENSE
TENOR



Singing and music have been ever-present companions for me — as necessary as food, air, and water. I sing because I must.

MELIA BORRUSO

ALTO



Music brings us together; it resonates in the souls of those making music and those listening. It reminds us of how human it is to create and appreciate art. It communicates joy, sorrow, longing and hope that words cannot express. It connects so many other areas of knowledge — math, literature, history, science! What a gift music is to all of us.

DON THOMAS

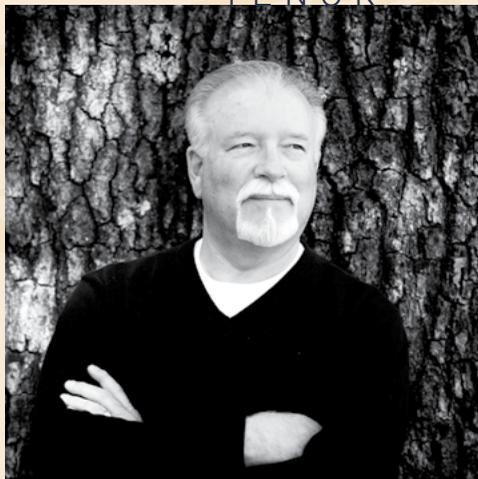
TENOR



Singing renews my soul and draws me close to God. It's His gift to me.

TIMOTHY SMITH

TENOR



Singing fulfills my musical needs that exist deep within my soul. It enriches my life with that special spark that comes from the very reason we celebrate this season!

JOHN VAN AUKER
TENOR



I love the progression of our singing seasons — from intimidation of the music as we start, to the exhilaration of the performances. It has become very addictive!

MARTHA HARTMAN
ALTO



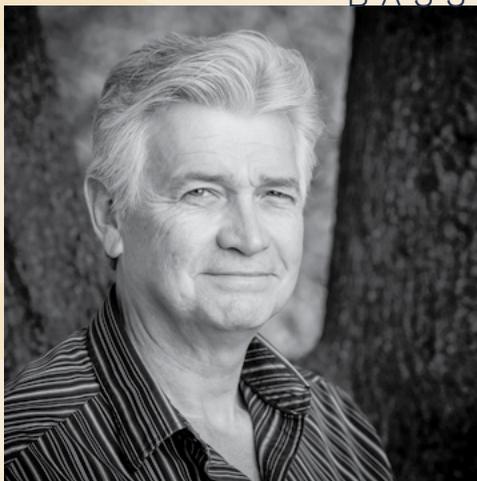
God gave me the gift — it brings me joy to blend with others and share it.

SHAY MUHONEN
ALTO



Singing for me expresses the universal journey of the heart and soul. When sharing a song, I deeply enjoy connecting with people across generations and various life experiences.

JIM MCGREGOR
BASS



I sing because singing heals my spirit and it is good for the soul.

RAENA COLE
SOPRANO



I sing because it is good for the soul. Singing changes lives for both the singer and the audience, and I am always honored to be a part of it.

ERICH PARKS
BARITONE



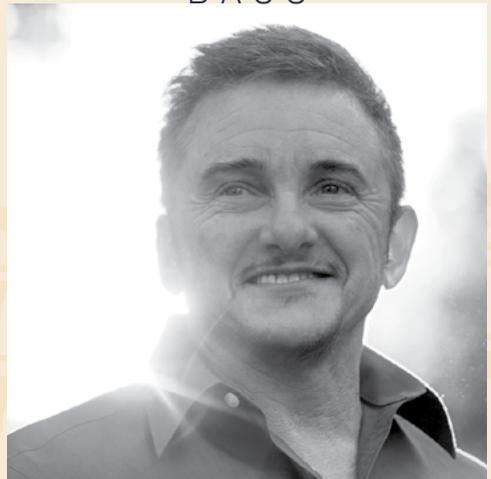
Singing has been a source of joy and inspiration ... Performing music from all ages and regions of the Earth is a way to help my soul 'time travel' to other cultures and times. What started as a hobby, has become a passion to support something bigger.

JACKLYN CARE
ALTO



Singing is truly meaningful for me in the connection it creates between a group of people, committed to achieve a unified and beautiful experience. The bond created by a harmony is always a thing I will cherish!

SAM JOHNSON
BASS



Music takes over when there are no words for the soul. Why experience life, when one can experience joyful life? That's what singing changes for me.

JENNY BROWN
SOPRANO



I sing because it brings me joy, and I sing for others because of the joy it brings them. It's such a beautiful way to express myself and connect with others.

TED HARTMAN
BARTONE



When I am singing I am especially aware of my emotional self.

JESSY WALLACE
SOPRANO



I sing because it brings joy to my soul and reminds me that I have been blessed with this beautiful gift of life. "I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live" ~ Psalm 104:33

EMILY SMITH
SOPRANO



Singing ignites a spark within me. I don't just sing the words and the notes, but I feel them. It is an emotional release, providing musical therapy for my soul. I can't imagine my life without it!

STAN SHOOK
BASS



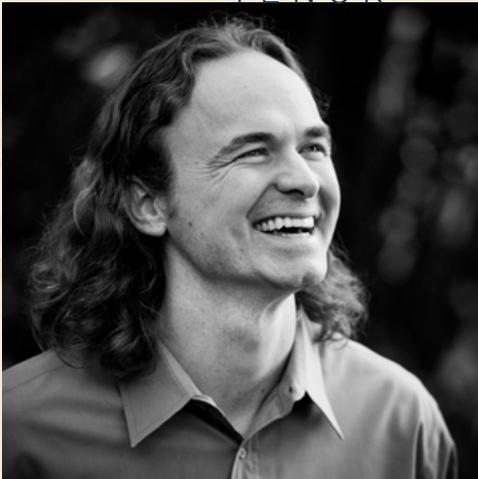
Choir gifts me with a soul connection that I get no other way. Singing is one of the moments in time that I get to experience every emotion. It is often a sacrifice of family time and activities but it is one of my hobbies and it is a gift shared with my community. I love it.

LEAH COLE
ALTO



I grew up singing with my sisters and parents. It was our way to grieve, to love, and to celebrate. I've come to realize why ... When we sing, our souls get to do the talking.

RANDY NÉMETH
TENOR



I sing because it's fun. Music can touch depths that nothing else can.

MEET OUR INSTRUMENTALISTS

FEATURED HARPIST



*EMILY
MADER*

Growing up in a musical “Von Trapp style” household, Emily developed a strong passion for music. She believes that music speaks what the heart longs to convey. In 2019, Ms. Mader graduated with honors from California State University Sacramento’s School of Music with her B.M. in Harp Performance. She has a thriving private harp studio in the Sacramento area and is currently the Principal Harpist of the Auburn Symphony.

PIANIST



*ANGELA
ROLAND*

Pianist Angela Roland is featured in the performance of Ubi Caritas. She holds a Master’s of Music in Piano Performance from California State University at Sacramento. She is worth her weight in gold to the Colla Voce Chamber Singers and her touch and musicianship are irreplaceable.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



*JANINE
DEXTER*

INSTRUMENTALISTS

*BRIANA
MACEDA*
OBOE

*LEIGH
DEXTER*
PERCUSSION

STORYTELLERS

LEAH COLE
RANDY NÉMETH

Photos and stories provided by the people of this community



MESSAGE FROM THE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Sonder—n. The profound feeling of realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as one's own. The understanding that everyone has a story.

Every one of us celebrates the winter holiday season differently. For some, it is a bustling, busy, exciting time of year full of lights and laughter — for others it is a time of reflection or a reminder of one's faith. Some enjoy the family gatherings, parties, festivities and gift-giving — others prefer quiet nights, special crafts, baking, traveling or winter sports. Each of us has different traditions and values that become the heart of the season.

The photos and stories contained within this concert have been shared by the people of this community. They give us, perhaps, a moment of sonder and a glimpse of the season through someone else's eyes, from someone else's memories.

We live in a complicated world right now. The news in our country can be overwhelming and anxiety provoking. My hope was to create a concert experience of serenity and peace through this music, to have a couple of hours of calm that would spark good memories and serve as a reminder that life here in the Sierra foothills is good — really good. My desire is to bring focus back home to family, friends and the simple joys of life — to sit in a room with some of our community, and together — hearts beating as one — feel the peace that the music provides. Peace to all — in this season and in every season.

GuineDexter

A decorative, golden flourish or scrollwork element that starts with a long horizontal line and ends in a curved, ornate tail.

C·O·L·L·A V·O·C·E

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S CHORUS



ANNE VAALER
DIRECTOR



SINGERS

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Frederic Abrahams | Jolie Gilman |
| Audrey Bennett | Elisheba Joseph |
| Alina Bernacki | Ava Kerns |
| Ivy Browne | Jesse Lee |
| Stella Browne | Maggie Lee |
| Alex Bullio | Rylie Mason |
| Gena Bullio | Desi Oakes |
| Corbin Cartzdafner | Clover Rashby |
| Riley Cervenka | Toni Swansick |
| Emily Cherry | Trinity Trevethick |
| Lilia Claussen | Josefine Vaca |
| Anya Cory | Lena Von Ruden |
| Loren David | Addie Weger |
| Lukas Foster | |

THE ART OF GIVING

These gracious individuals are continuing the development of a vibrant creative arts sector for this community.

15TH SEASON

This 15-year milestone for Colla Voce of the Sierra, Inc., is only possible because we all did it together.

Each of you has supported Colla Voce in significant ways: attending concerts, volunteering to be a music docent in the schools, sharing your voice and musical talents, investing time and energy in the Youth and Children's Chorus, volunteering to help at concerts or serve on the Board of Directors or support with financial gifts. **Thank you** —each one of you — for the gifts that you bring to this work.

Colla Voce has several donors that are dedicated, consistent and generous benefactors, investing significantly in the arts of this community every year through Colla Voce.

SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO THESE GOLDEN BATON DONORS (\$5,000 AND UP)

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(\$1,000–\$4,990)

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THE ART OF GRATITUDE **SPECIAL THANKS**

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Meadow Vista ~ Rehearsal Space and Chimes

Auburn State Theatre ~ Performance Host

Grace Lutheran Church

Grass Valley ~ Performance Host

Pioneer Methodist Church

Auburn ~ Performance Host

Magnolia School, Phil Richardson ~ Risers

49erPrinting, Cat Raymond ~ Posters, Programs

Shearer Design ~ Poster & Program Design

John Bacigalupi ~

Grace Lutheran Performance Coordinator

Roy Elsbernd ~ Lights

Emily Smith, Bridget Yarbrough ~

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Sam Johnson ~ PR & Marketing

Catherine McGregor ~ House Manager & Volunteer
Team Coordinator

Kevin Nations ~ Sound

Erich Parks ~ Fundraising Coordinator

Ken Pense ~ Sound Equipment Set-up/
Design and Projection Technology

Tim Smith ~ Concert Manager

Fran Wheaton ~ Music Librarian

Jennifer Wood ~ Costume Coordinator

Bridget Yarbrough ~ Tickets & Program Typist

Stan Shook, Tim Smith ~ Equipment Procurement

*Many thanks to the front of house volunteers and to the singers for all of
the extra non-singing assistance that makes these concerts possible.*

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C·O·L·L·A V·O·C·E

Chamber Singers



For auditions or bookings contact: Colla Voce director@collavoce.org
For concert information and other questions, contact: 530-270-9407 · info@collavoce.org · collavoce.org
Colla Voce: P.O. Box 3044 · Auburn, CA · 95604-3044

C·O·L·L·A V·O·C·E
of the Sierra

"Creating Life-Changing Opportunities for Engagement in the Arts"