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Sheepscot Valley Chorus and St. Cecilia Chamber Choir
Holiday Concert

Linda Blanchard, Director and Sean Fleming, Accompanist & Assistant Director



Camille Saint-Saëns

Christmas Oratorio

Mary Sullivan, Soprano

Andrea Graichen, Mezzo-Soprano

Jamie Knobloch, Alto

Michael Gonzalez, Tenor

John David Adams, Bass

Plus More Christmas Favorites!

Sunday, December 5, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor

In Memoriam Harold "Sandy" Falconer



All of us in the music community were saddened at the passing of Sandy Falconer on Oct. 24. Sandy was a great friend to us, and a patron and friend to music in this community and beyond. Sandy led several choral groups over the course of his long medical career, and also found time to sing and play in several more groups, including Sheepscot Valley Chorus, St. Andrew's Church Choir, St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, Tapestry Singers (which he directed for many years) and Lincoln Festival Chorus, among others.

Sandy had a love of music that inspired those around him, and an encyclopedic knowledge of many aspects of music, including and especially Bach, Mozart, and Gilbert and Sullivan works. We'll miss Sandy's inspiration, enthusiasm, and his wonderful, ready smile.

It is with gratitude that the members of Sheepscot Valley Chorus and St. Cecilia Chamber Choir dedicate tonight's concert to the memory of our dear friend and colleague, Sandy Falconer.

~ Linda Blanchard, Artistic Director, and Sean Fleming, Assistant Artistic Director

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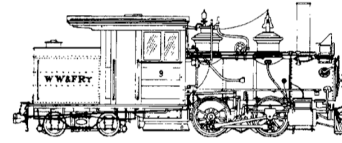
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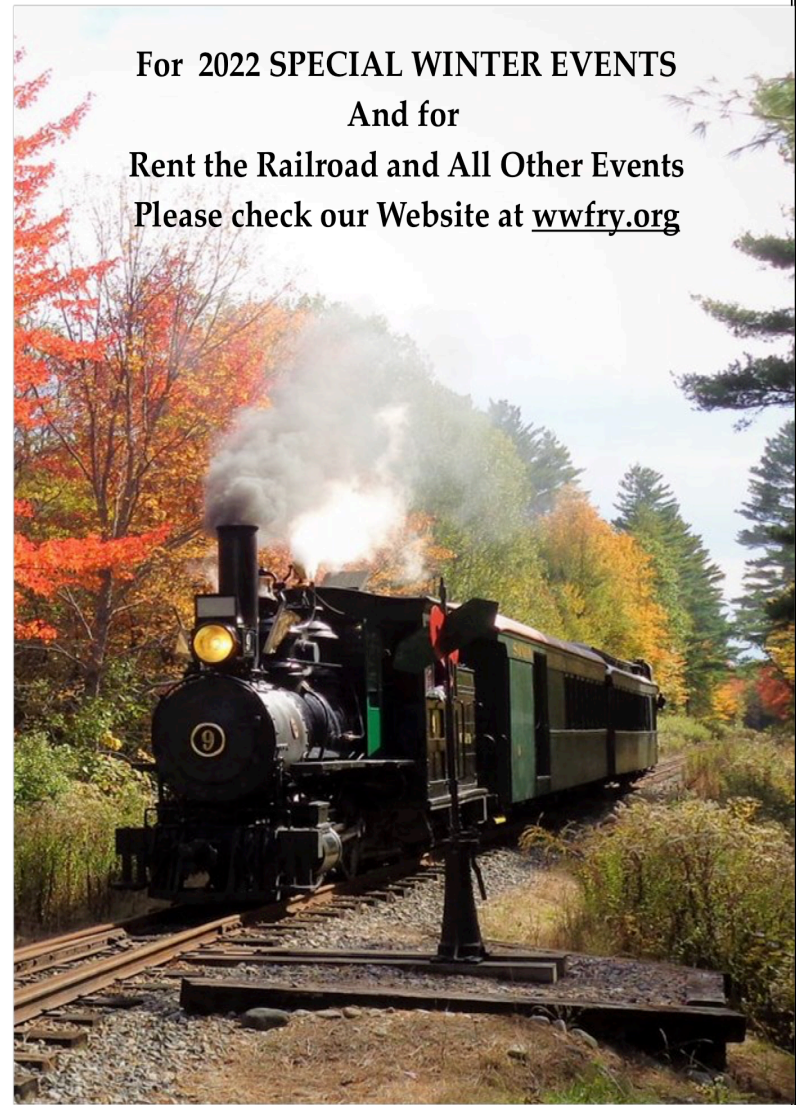
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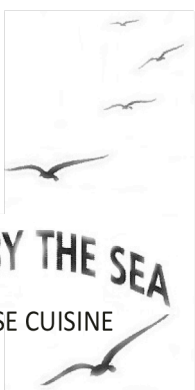
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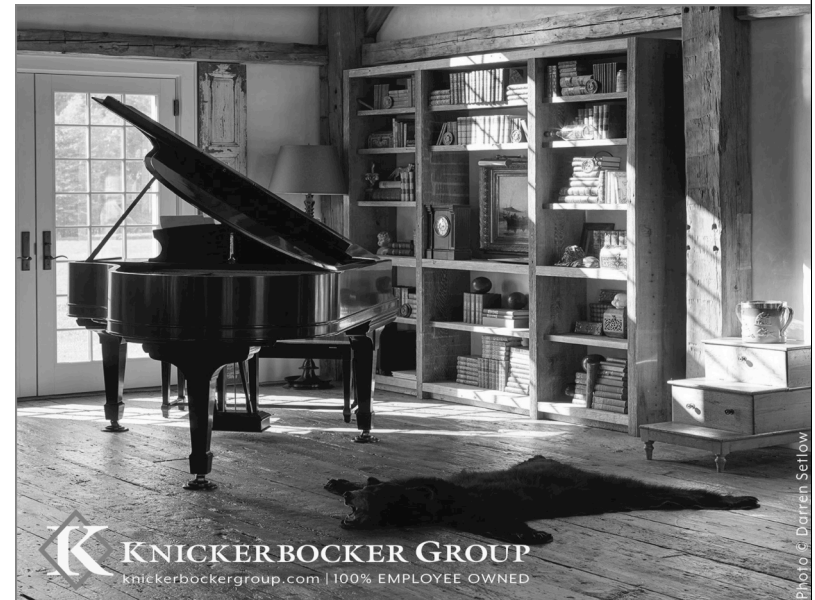
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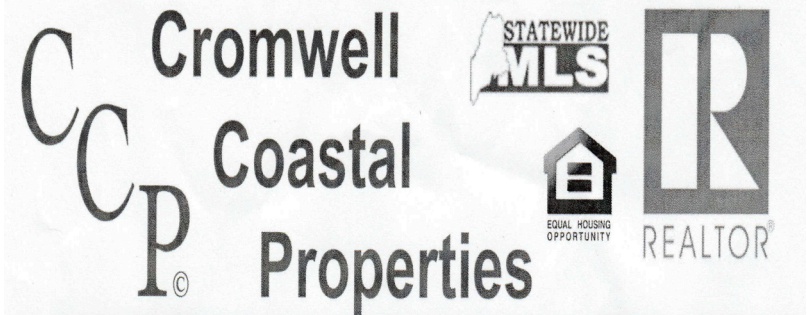
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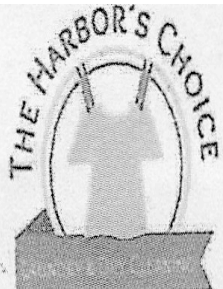
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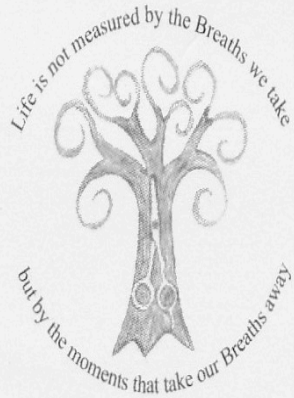


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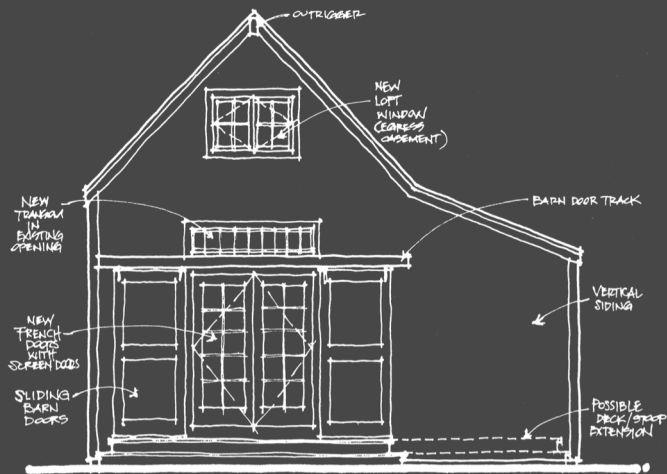
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Sheepscot Valley Chorus

was founded in 1980. The society would become an amateur adult community chorus of 40 to 60 members and a conventional, if amateur, orchestra of strings, woodwind, brasses and percussion.

Today, Sheepscot Valley Chorus is a thriving Community Chorus, presenting programs with professional chamber orchestras, singing for community events and showcasing talented local students in our concerts.

The chorus is a non-profit organization. We are funded by paid advertising from businesses located in the Lincoln County community, the generous contributions of Benefactors and you, the communities, as you listen to the beautiful music we as a Chorus so love to bring to you.

If you would like to come and share your voice with us, we would love to have you! Please, Join us! We perform 2 concerts per year, Christmas & Spring. Our rehearsals are on Tuesday nights 7:00 to 9:00 at the Congregational Church in Wiscasset

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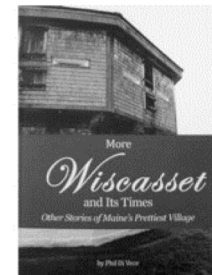


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Sheepscot Valley Chorus would like to thank all the support of its Advertisers, Friends and Concert Attendees. Without this support choral groups cannot exist and serve their communities with beautiful music. Please thank our advertisers by patronizing their places of business.

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Happy Holidays
From
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&
St. Cecilia Chamber Choir



Hailed for her “power, suppleness, and expressive depth,” soprano **Mary Sullivan** has appeared as a soloist with numerous ensembles in New England. She has appeared as a recitalist at Bowdoin College’s Studzinski Recital Hall with pianist and Artist in Residence George Lopez, and has been a featured soloist for Opera Maine. Recent repertoire highlights include the Strauss *Vier letzte Lieder*; the Mozart *Requiem*; Handel’s *Messiah*; the Pergolesi *Stabat Mater*; Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*; and the Haydn “Creation Mass.” She recently performed the role of Violetta in the Colby College Symphony Orchestra’s presentation of scenes from Verdi’s *La Traviata*.

A gifted teacher and vocal coach, Ms. Sullivan is the co-founder of Amethyst Chamber Ensemble, an instrumental and vocal chamber ensemble, offering salon, recital, and full concert programs throughout the season. Ms. Sullivan maintains a private voice studio in Brunswick, Maine.

“Sullivan unfurled her resplendent soprano... her powerful voice and dramatic conviction made her a worthy successor to Marian Anderson” (Bay Windows, 2003). “... crystal clear and perfectly pitched interpretation... simply ravishing” (Christopher Hyde, Portland Press Herald, March 2014).

“Soprano Mary Sullivan was in rare form in three display pieces... all of them works of high drama and fiendish difficulty.... heart-wrenching... shades of the Tantra” (Christopher Hyde, Maine Classical Beat, April 2016). “Sullivan gave intensely dramatic readings, with ample measures of ecstasy in the Holmès, and anger, terror, and resignation in the Larsen” (Allan Kozinn, Portland Press Herald, April 2016).



Andrea Graichen, mezzo-soprano, is a frequent soloist in the Greater Portland area, performing a wide variety of alto and mezzo-soprano repertoire. She is a longtime member of ChoralART. Andrea sang with the St. Mary Schola early music ensemble for ten years. She was also a founding member of Portland’s Dirigo Ensemble.

Andrea has appeared as a guest artist with the

Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO). She sang the role of Mother Jeanne in the PSO's presentation of Poulenc's opera *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. Andrea's most recent recital appearance featured French art song, works from Broadway, and an extensive variety of American art song. Solo repertoire includes Mozart's *Parto! Ma tu ben mio (La Clemenza di Tito)*, Schubert's *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen*, Robert S. Cohen's *Alzheimer's Stories*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*; Poulenc's *Gloria*; Stravinsky's *Mass*; Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*; Bach's *Mass in B minor*; Handel's *Messiah*; Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, *Regina Coeli*, and *Requiem*; plus many smaller works, among them Strozzi's *Lagrime Mie*, Ballio's *The Old Bridge at Florence*, Monteverdi's *Lamento d'Ariana*, and the tone-deaf diva comedy piece, *A Word on My Ear* by Flanders and Swann.



Jamie Knobloch, alto, has been singing just for the joy of it all her life. Singing with family, school and church choirs developed that passion in her early life. Later, she added community choruses wherever she lived, including the Colby Camerata, the Occasional Chorale and the Colby Kennebec Choral Society as well as the Sheepscot Valley Chorus.

For 22 years, Jamie directed an office choir at Thorndike Press in Waterville, where she was Publisher, to perform at company holiday parties and to bring cheer to local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She established the bell choir at the Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor in 2014 and is currently its director.



Michael Gonzales, tenor, has been praised as having a "sweet and resonant" tenor voice as well as "sonically stunning." And is quickly making himself known in the performing arts world. He has performed a variety of roles ranging from Colonel Fairfax - Yeomen of the Guard, Gilbert and Sullivan to Satyavan - Savitri, G. Holst along with international performances most recently with the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria.

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- *to support Maine composers through the commissioning of new music

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Artistic Director Linda Blanchard earned her MA in Choral Conducting from University of Michigan School of Music, Ann Arbor. She is recipient of the Susan Winchell Burnett Music Prize, the Abraham Goldberg Prize and the St. Botolph Emerging Artist Award. She studied orchestral conducting with Gustav Meier and choral conducting with Theodore Morrison, Jerry Blackstone, and Robert Greenlee. Ms. Blanchard is founding director of St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, directs the Sheepscot Valley

Chorus and Lincoln Arts Festival Chorus, and is Director of Choirs at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Newcastle. She has worked as a festival adjudicator, directed the Bowdoin College Chamber Choir, University of Michigan Orpheus Singers, worked in Maine and Michigan as a church organist and choir director, taught junior high and high school chorus in Maine, taught voice at Bowdoin College, and worked extensively as a musical theater director.

Assistant Artistic Director Sean Fleming is a performer and arranger who performs regularly with Bowdoin Chorus, Down East Singers, Lincoln Academy Lincolnaires, Lincoln Festival Chorus, Maine Friends of Music, Midcoast Community Chorus, St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, Sheepscot Valley Chorus, and Tapestry Singers. He serves as the music director of the Hearts Ever Young Chorus in Damariscotta. He has collaborated with Ann Arbor Camerata, Bowdoin Chamber Choir, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival Chorus, Coastal Chorale, Colby College Chorale, Maine Pro Musica, Oratorio Chorale, Portland Early Music Festival, Renaissance Voices, University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society, University of Southern Maine Chorale, University of Southern Maine Chamber Singers, and Vox Nova Chamber Choir. He has music directed and accompanied over seventy-five musicals, with organizations such as Camden Civic Theater, Heartwood Regional Theater Company, Lincoln Theater, Lyric Music Theater, State Theater of Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Waldo Theater, and Watts Hall Community Players. Sean studied organ and piano with Ray Cornils, John Doney, Michael Lindsey, and Gerald McGee. For the past twenty-seven years he has served as the organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Newcastle. He is recipient of a 2009 St. Botolph Club Foundation Emerging Artist Award.

Having received both a bachelor's and a Masters in Vocal Performance from the New England Conservatory, Michael maintains an active partnership with several organizations including the Boston Cathedral singers who recently released an Album, *From the bell tower*. Other active partnerships include Piccola Opera, Cambridge Chamber Ensemble, Amethyst Ensemble and Hartford Opera Theater.



John David Adams, bass-baritone, is an accomplished artist with a professional career spanning concert, opera, recital, and vocal ensembles. Praised for the “depth and power” of his singing and “consistently polished and graceful” performances, his concert repertoire ranges from Baroque masterworks to world-premiere compositions including engagements with the San Francisco Symphony, Berkeley Symphony, Berkeley Lyric Opera Orchestra, San

Francisco Bach Choir, Hartford Symphony, Bangor Symphony, North Shore Philharmonic, Arlington Philharmonic, Midcoast Symphony, Maine Pro Musica, St. Mary Schola, Masterworks Chorale, Oratorio Chorale, Nashua Choral Society, Longfellow Chorus, Colby Symphony and Chorus, Bowdoin Chorus, as well as being a returning artist for the Lincoln Arts, Blue Hill Bach, White Mountain Bach, and Portland Early Music festivals. He is also a member of the New England-based Zenith Ensemble and Maine's Amethyst Chamber Ensemble.

He has been equally praised for diverse opera and musical stage roles, from Handel (*Acis and Galatea*) to Sondheim (*Sweeney Todd*, *A Little Night Music*), including productions with Opera Boston, San Francisco Lyric Opera, San Francisco Summer Opera, Berkeley Opera, Granite State Opera, Opera Maine (formerly PORTopera), Apollo Opera, Maine State Music Theater, and New England Light Opera. He studied voice and opera at Hartt School of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and currently serves on the voice faculty at Bay Chamber Concerts Music School in addition to his private voice studio.

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Sarah Duggan
Clara Fagan
Lynn Kimball
Natalie Norris
Cathy Shepard
Margo Stiassni

Tenors

Laurie Asche
Mal Briggs
Taylor Briggs
Nancy Chandler
Carol Cragin
Jody Lunt

Altos

Pam Baldwin
Jessi Diamond
Kathleen Goetzman
Marty Grant
Jamie Knobloch
Lauren Liberman
Katherine Osborne
Sharon Pedersen
Martha Speed
Ann Spencer
Susan Taylor

Basses

Jim Crowley
John Fischer

St. Cecilia Chamber Choir Members

Sopranos

Maya Bailey
Ann Creamer
Natalie Norris

Tenors

Laurie Asche
Richard Francis
John Ward

Altos

Cathy Johnsen
Arden G. Thompson

Basses

David Blanchard
Tom Crutcher
John Fischer
David Wright

Chorus: He who was to come into this world.

5. Benedictus Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord.
God, the Lord of Light, he hath shined upon us. Thou
alone my God art: and all my trust is in thee. Oh Lord!
thou art my God. I will exalt thee, and praise thy
name.

6. Chorus Wherefore do the heathen clamor? Why do the nations
imagine vain and foolish things?

Glory unto the Father, and unto the Son and Holy
Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

7. Trio My soul doth magnify the Lord: my spirit hath
rejoiced in God. For mine eyes have seen Thy glory.

8. Quartet Alleluia! Ye heavens sing praises! Be joyful on earth.
For the Lord hath poured his consolation upon his
people, and He to His afflicted will be merciful.

9. Quintet and Chorus

Quintet: Arise now, Daughter of Zion! Alleluia!
Praise God in the night! Praise him in the first watches
of the nighttime. Alleluia!

Chorus: Alleluia!
That Zion's true glory might be manifested, that her
Savior might rise and shine before the nations.
Alleluia!

Chorus: Praise ye the Lord of hosts, sing adoration, bless his
name, show forth his praise in his holy house!

Rejoice, ye heavens, and be joyful on earth. Rejoice in
the face of the Lord, for he cometh. Alleluia!

Rejoice, ye angels, and be joyful on earth. Rejoice in
the face of the Lord, for he cometh. Alleluia!

— English version by H.M. Dole

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write:
"May your days be merry and bright,
And may all your Christmas' be white."

Christmas Oratorio

2. Recitative and Chorus

Tenor: There were shepherds at night in that same country,
abiding in the fields, and silently keeping their watch
by night over the sleeping flocks around them.

Alto: And lo! an angel of the Lord appeared, standing there
beside them: And the glory of the Lord shone round
about them, and they were sore afraid at his coming.

Tenor: And unto them the angel said:

Soprano: Fear not, oh ye shepherds! For behold, I bring unto
you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all
people. For unto you is born today a Savior Christ, the
Lord, in the city of David. And this shall the sign be:
ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger low.

Baritone: And suddenly there was with the angel a great
multitude of the heavenly host praising God and
saying:

Chorus: Glory be unto God in the highest! And on earth peace,
goodwill unto all men.

3. Air Patiently, patiently have I waited for the Lord. And lo!
he heard my cry.

4. Air and Chorus

Tenor: In my heart I believe, O Lord, that thou indeed art
Christ, Son of the Living God.

Tenor: In my heart I believe, O Lord, I believe, O Lord, thou
art indeed Christ, son of the living God.
Christ, of the living God thou art the Son.
He who was to come into this world.

A Recording of Tonight's Performance

will be available on Sheepscot Chorus's website!
If you have friends or family who were unable to attend
due to limited seating, please direct them to:

sheepscotvalleychorus.org

*Thanks to Tom Dewey
for recording tonight's concert!*

Sheepscot Valley Chorus

presents a 40th anniversary performance of

Paul Winter's

Missa Gaia

a Celebration of Mother Earth

in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day

Coming Spring 2022

sheepscotvalleychorus.org

St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Johannes Brahms

Liebeslieder Waltzer

"Lovesong Waltzes"

Coming Spring 2022

ceciliachoir.org

Program

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Christmas Oratorio | Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921) |
| 1. PRELUDE | |
| 2. RECITATIVE AND CHORUS | There were shepherds |
| CHORUS | Glory be unto God |
| 3. AIR | Patiently have I waited
for the Lord |
| 4. AIR AND CHORUS | In my heart I believe |
| 5. BENEDICTUS | Blessed is He who cometh |
| 6. CHORUS | Wherefore do the heathen clamour? |
| 7. TRIO | My soul doth magnify |
| 8. QUARTET | Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia |
| 9. QUINTET AND CHORUS | Arise now, daughter of Zion! |
| CHORUS | Praise ye the Lord of Hosts |

Mary Sullivan, soprano
 Andrea Graichen, mezzo-soprano
 Jamie Knobloch, alto
 Michael Gonzalez, tenor
 John David Adams, baritone

~ Intermission ~

Processional - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

People, Look East Richard Francis
 b. 1969

O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Sir David Willcocks
 (1919-2015)

**Please join us in singing verses 1, 3 and 4! Words are below.*

Angels' Carol John Rutter
 b. 1945

A Musicological Journey Through the 12 Days of Christmas
 arr. Craig Courtney

The Holly and the Ivy arr. Sean Fleming
 b. 1968

Do You Hear What I Hear? Harry Simeone
 (1911-2005)

Jingle Bells arr. Willcocks

White Christmas - audience sing-along Irving Berlin
 (1888-1989)



O Come, All Ye Faithful

Chorus and Audience

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold him, born the King of Angels:
 [Refrain] O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Chorus

God of God, Light of Light,
 Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
 Very God, begotten not created: [Refrain]

Chorus and Audience

Sing, Choirs of Angels, sing in exultation,
 Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
 Glory to God, in the highest. [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
 Jesus, to thee be glory given.
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]
 — English Traditional, 18th century

White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,
 Just like the ones I used to know,
 Where the tree tops glisten
 And children listen
 To hear sleigh bells in the snow.