

Genesee
CHORALE 



From Star to Star

Ric Jones, Music Director
Janine Fagnan, Associate Conductor
Doug Hanson, Accompanist
Lisa Toth, Violin

Saturday, December 10, 2022

4:00 PM

St. James Episcopal Church
405 East Main Street
Batavia, NY

This program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council of the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, and administered by the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council.

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Program

STAR CAROL John Rutter

STARS Kyle Pederson

BEHOLD THE STAR William Dawson
Francis Thomas, soloist

WHEN THE STARS SHONE DOWN Steven Aldredge

COLD DECEMBER FLIES AWAY arr. Daniel Schreiner

O HOLY NIGHT arr. Tim Harbold
Amanda Konopa, soloist

~ Brief Intermission ~

THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING from "Creation" Joseph Haydn
Barbara Galliford, Soprano
Janine Fagnan, Tenor
Francis Thomas, Bass

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR arr. Daniel Elder

FLIGHT SONG Kim Andre Arnesen

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS arr. Kyle Pederson
Lisa Toth, Violin



IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR arr. Marianne Forman
Lisa Toth, Violin

BRIGHTEST AND BEST arr. Shawn Kirchner
Lisa Toth, Violin

The Genesee Chorale

Ric Jones, Music Director
Janine Fagnan, Associate Conductor
Doug Hanson, Accompanist

Soprano

Laura Anders
Dorothy Carrigan
Marsha Coy
Ruth Doyle
Joan Ellison
Alice Fedrigo
Barbara Galliford
Merry Lou Holley  
Janus Mary Jones
Joanne Kachelmeyer
Sharon Larsen
Pat Malone
Diane Ohlson
Pamm Seifert
Rachel Sovocool *
Sharon Stanley
Caryn Wood *

Bass



Ron DeFazio
Jim Ellison
George Graham *
Chuck Herman
Keith Konopa
Darrel Oakes
Duane Scarborough
Francis Thomas

Alto

Sara Balbi
Marie Barcomb
Patti Bartz
Deb Davis
Lindsay Edwards *
Marianne Garigen *
Julie Graham
Nancy Hoag 
Karen Jones
Amanda Konopa
Kathy Meloon *
Amy Perl
Michele Spoto
Peggy Thomas
Lilo Townsend

Tenor

Alan Barcomb 
Janine Fagnan  *

* Genesee Chorale Board Member
 Section Leader
 Genesee Chorale Librarian

Ric Jones

Music Director



Ric Jones is the founder and partner of Imagine Music Publishing LLC. Ric received both his Bachelor and Master Degrees in Music Education from Ithaca College.

Currently, Ric serves as the Music Director of the Middleport Community Choir, Music Director of the Genesee Chorale, and Music Director of the Brighton Symphony Orchestra. He is also the organist and Music Director at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Medina, and organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wolcottsville.

His educational experience includes directing high school bands, marching bands, pep bands, and chamber ensembles at Corinth High School, Cincinnatus High School, Greater Johnstown High School, Cicero-North Syracuse High School, Medina High School, and Fonda-Fultonville High School.

Ric has also served as Principal Trombonist with the Tri-Cities Opera Orchestra, St. Cecilia Orchestra, and the Gerald Wolff Singers Orchestra.

In addition to his musical endeavors, Ric enjoys being a freelance web designer. He is a member of the Orleans Renaissance Group, Inc., a volunteer organization dedicated to revitalizing the arts, culture and architecture in Medina. Ric also serves on the staff of the Oak Orchard Review, an online literary and art magazine that features writers and artists from the Western New York region.

Ric resides in Medina with his wife Karen, and is the proud father of three boys; Nicholas, Ryder, and River.

Doug Hanson

Accompanist

Doug Hanson has been the accompanist for the Genesee Chorale since September 2014.

He received his Bachelor of Music from University of Nebraska at Lincoln and his Master of Arts in Music from the University of Connecticut at Storrs. Doug also has a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music as well as a Master of Science in Computer Science from the Rochester Institute of Technology.



Doug served as organist and choir accompanist for the Union Church of Churchville before becoming the ECMS Adult Choir accompanist for two years at the prestigious Eastman School of Music. He later became the organist of the Lutheran Church of Peace, and was the chorus accompanist for the Red Creek School System in Wayne County.

Lisa Toth

Violin



Born and raised in Detroit, MI, Lisa Toth studied privately with three Detroit Symphony violinists. Appointed concertmaster of the Detroit Civic Orchestra in its inaugural season, she played under the batons of Kenneth Jean and the great Antal Dorati.

Since moving to Rochester, NY in 1980, Ms. Toth has played with Greece Symphony, U of R Orchestra, Finger Lakes Symphony, and the Rochester Philharmonic. She is an active member of both Fairport and Morning Musicales.

In 2000, she founded and conducted the Avon Symphony which performed works from the standard repertoire for nearly a decade. From 2001-2013, Ms. Toth was concertmaster of Genesee Symphony in Batavia under Raffaele Ponti; she was also concertmaster of Genesee Valley Orchestra and Chorus under Ponti for two years.

For the past several seasons, Ms. Toth has been concertmaster of Genesee Chorale Orchestra under Ric Jones. Ms. Toth has been concertmaster of Brighton Symphony since October 2010.

As a soloist, Ms. Toth has collaborated with pianists Dr. Kevin Nitsch, Linda Shapiro, Sonja Shelton, and Ines Draskovic.

In addition to her busy performing schedule, Ms. Toth is instructor of strings and piano at Toth Music Studio which recently opened new studios in Bushnell's Basin along the Erie Canal.

Ms. Toth is the proud mother of a daughter and son who are also musicians.

Program Notes & Lyrics

Star Carol—John Rutter

*Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

*Refrain: See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!*

*Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news, with its message of good cheer:
“Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!” Refrain*

*See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary. Refrain*

*Let us all pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas night;
Christ is come, bringing promises of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! Refrain*

Stars—Kyle Pedersen

“Stars” was born out of a life-long fascination with the night sky, and the text is a meditation on the interconnectedness of creation. The light from distant stars takes eons to reach our eyes, connecting us with an ancient past. And many elements that comprise our bodies were cast out of stars millions upon millions of years ago. Since we are the “stuff of stars,” where will we cast our own light? Whose world will we impact? Harmonically, the piece seeks to evoke the vastness and mystery of space, while simultaneously capturing the intimacy of connection.

*Stars, stars; Legacies of light;
Ages and ago you spun light into the bleak.
Ancient light lands in tonight's sky;
Ancient light falls on my eye.
And I?
A star
Sacred stellar dust, casting light out through time.
Star, in whose sky will my light fall?
In whose sky will your light fall?*

Behold the Star-William Dawson

*Refrain: Behold the star! Behold the star up yonder!
Behold the star! It is the star of Bethlehem.*

*There was no room found in the inn.
For Him who was born free from sin. Refrain:*

*The wise men cam from the East,
To worship Him, the "Prince of Peace." Refrain:*

*A song broke forth upon the night.
It is the star of Bethlehem;
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men."
Alleluia, behold the star of Bethlehem!*

When Stars Shone Down-Steven Aldredge

"Adoramus! Glorificamus!" English and Latin texts intertwine as this tender lullaby recounts the narrative of the birth of the Christ child from the heavenly perspective. Lovely vocal lines with nice inner movement are contrasted by the restrained piano accompaniment that allows the text to shine.

*O night when stars shone down, the Lord of Heaven was born.
While the shepherds abiding heard the song heaven was singing:
Adoramus te, glorificamus te, Rex, Gloria!*

*O night when stars shone down, the Son of God was born,
Angel choirs filled the sky over Bethlehem, the heavens were singing:
Adoramus te, glorificamus te, Rex, Gloria!*

*Glorious Lord of Light, light of our dark night,
Born to the world when stars shone down,
While heaven was singing:
Adoramus te, glorificamus te, Rex, Gloria!*

Cold December Flies Away-arranged by Daniel Schrader

A fresh and inspiring piano accompaniment fills this dynamic arrangement of the traditional Catalonian carol. The verses are expressed in unison and simple textures, and the sections of full harmony are expertly crafted with engaging interplay that makes it enjoyable to sing.

*Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor,
April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders
At the holy unseen power of the tree that bears the flower.
On the blessed tree blooms the rose red flower.
On the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden,
Full and strong in glory.*

*In the hopeless time of sin, shadows deep had fallen,
All the world lay under death. Eyes were closed in sleeping,
but, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light
Brings unending joy, of our hope, highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning,
Son beloved of heaven.*

*Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.
In the lily's purest flower, dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;
And its beauty lives.
In the flower it lives, and its beauty lives.
In the flower, and it spreads in its heavenly brightness sweet perfume delightful.
Full and strong in glory.
Son beloved of heaven.*

O Holy Night-arranged by Tim Harbold

This soulful, gospel-style setting of the favorite carol *O Holy Night*. Its gorgeous smooth harmonies and a stylized piano accompaniment bring a freshness to the standard.

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

*Fall on your knees, Oh bear the angel voices,
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O holy night, O night divine
Oh night divine*

*Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for we all are sisters and brothers,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.*

*Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
Fall on your knees, O hear, O hear, the angel voices,
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.*

The Heavens Are Telling-Franz Josef Haydn

Haydn composed what is regarded as one of his greatest oratorios, *The Creation*, in 1797–98 with librettist Baron van Swieten. Movement no. 13 of Part 1, *Die Himmel erzählen die Ehre Gottes* or “The Heavens Are Telling,” is based on Psalm 19:1-3. Haydn took an interest in astronomy and the discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton and held the view that an orderly universe substantiated a belief in divine wisdom. The victory of light over darkness is implied by Haydn's use of the key of C major, as opposed to C minor, which had begun Part 1.

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament;*

*Today that is coming speaks it the day,
The night that is gone to following night.*

*The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.*

*In all the lands resounds the word,
never unperceived, ever understood.*

The heavens are telling the glory of God, The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star-arranged by Daniel Elder

"Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" is an arrangement of the age-old tune, and strives to paint an atmospheric perspective on a familiar children's song. The vastness and wonder of this setting may help us to see certain questions once again through a child's eyes, and yet also hear the wisdom of a star's reply. From such a perspective, this timeless mystery can be both questioned and answered by the music.

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are!*

*In the dark blue sky you keep, And often through my curtains peep,
For you never shut your eye 'till the sun is in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are!*

*Though I know not what you are, twinkle, twinkle, little star.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are!*

Flight Song-Kim André Arnesan

"Flight Song" was written as a gift to Dr. Anton Armstrong and the St. Olaf Choir. Kim writes: "I've had the pleasure of working with Anton Armstrong and the choir, and their performances have always been sublime. With this piece, I want to show my gratitude."

The piece was also the first collaboration with the Welsh poet Euan Tait. The imagery sings of each singer's hidden song, and the conductor drawing that song from the singers: their hidden, unfolding life sto-

ries, their deep longings. The arms of the conductor, like great wings, shape the singing; music is compassion and the singers' longing is to fly towards other's suffering. The final message is that music-making is the song of new life, fragile as the fall of a feather.

*All we are, we have found in song:
you have drawn this song from us.
Songs of lives unfolding
fly overhead, cry overhead:
longing, rising from the song within.*

*Moving like the rise and fall of wings,
hands that shape our calling voice
on the edge of answers
you've heard our cry, you've known our cry:
music's fierce compassion flows from you.*

*The night is restless with the sounds we bear,
is broken, shaken by the cries of pain:
for this is music's inner voice,
saying, yes, we hear you,
all you who cry aloud,
and we will fly, answering you:
so our lives sing, sing,
wild we will fly,
wild in spirit we will fly.*

*Like a feather falling from the wing,
fragile as a human voice,
afraid, uncertain,
alive to love, we sing as love,
afraid, uncertain,
yet our flight begins as song.*

Sing We Now of Christmas-arranged by Kyle Pedersen

This ethereal setting of NOEL NOUVELET is a mystical take on what is normally a boisterous Christmas song. The harmonic texture is modern, and the violin adds to the plaintive and dreamy atmosphere.

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here.

*Hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near.
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel.*

*In stillness lays the world in silent reverie;
Longing for the birth of love and mercy.
Yearning for hope, good news to fill our souls;
Turning to the manger that grounds all mystery. Noel!*

*Angels bending low, shepherds bend their knee,
Wisemen from the east, all have come to see.
All of creation where love has come to dwell;
Sing we now of Christman, the good news that we tell.
Sing Noel!*

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear-arranged by Marianne Forman

The traditional carol is presented here in a new light through its gentle tempo, colorful piano accompaniment, violin, and contrasting original material. A compelling blend of comforting familiarity and fresh interest .

*It came upon a midnight clear; that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
‘Peace on the earth, good will to men from heaven’s all gracious King!’
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*All ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow.
Look, now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold!
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the world send back the song which now the angels sing.*

Brightest and Best-arranged by Shawn Kirchner

Kirchner first arranged a trio version of “Brightest and Best” for the 2004 CBS Christmas Special, *Enter the Light of Life*, and sang it with Kim Murray Shahbazian and Ryan Harrison, accompanied by his men-

tor Steve Kinzie on banjo and mandolin prodigy Jacob Jolliff. Kirchner says, "One of my favorite aspects of "Brightest and Best" is the rich text by Reginald Heber. He is constantly offering up vivid images in quick alliterative succession, such as 'cold on the cradle the dew-drops are shining, low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.' My favorite phrases are from the third verse: 'Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion, odors of Edom and offerings divine: gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?' Such a string of images is a delight for the tongue to tell and the ear to hear."

*Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator
down from the region of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,
lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.*

*Brightest and best of the sons 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 dewdrops are shining,
low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and monarch and Savior of all.*

*Brightest and best of the sons 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.*

*Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom and offerings divine,
gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?*

*Brightest and best of the sons 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.*

Our Patrons

Our members volunteer their time to rehearse and perform because they love to sing. But, as with all fine arts, it is an expensive love! We are challenged by the costs of paper, printing, postage, performance hall rental, advertising, and new music. Ticket revenues cover only a portion of season expenses.

The following supporters are essential to ensuring that the Genesee Chorale is able to continue it's tradition of providing fine choral music to Batavia and the surrounding communities.

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The Genesee Chorale is proud to call St. James Episcopal Church in Batavia our home. For more information about St. James, please visit their website at stjamesbatavia.org. Thank you, St. James, for your generosity and hospitality!

JIM ELLISON

Thank you for all of your assistance not just for this performance, but for the entire season.

THE GENESEE CHORALE BOARD MEMBERS

For their time commitments and incredible dedication to our organization.

DOUG HANSON

For your continued efforts and assistance to prepare for this season's performances.

JANINE FAGNAN & MERRY LOU HOLLEY

Thank you for all of your extra efforts in running rehearsals and sectionals.

MERRY LOU HOLLEY & NANCY HOAG

Thank you for somehow keeping all our music organized and our folders full!