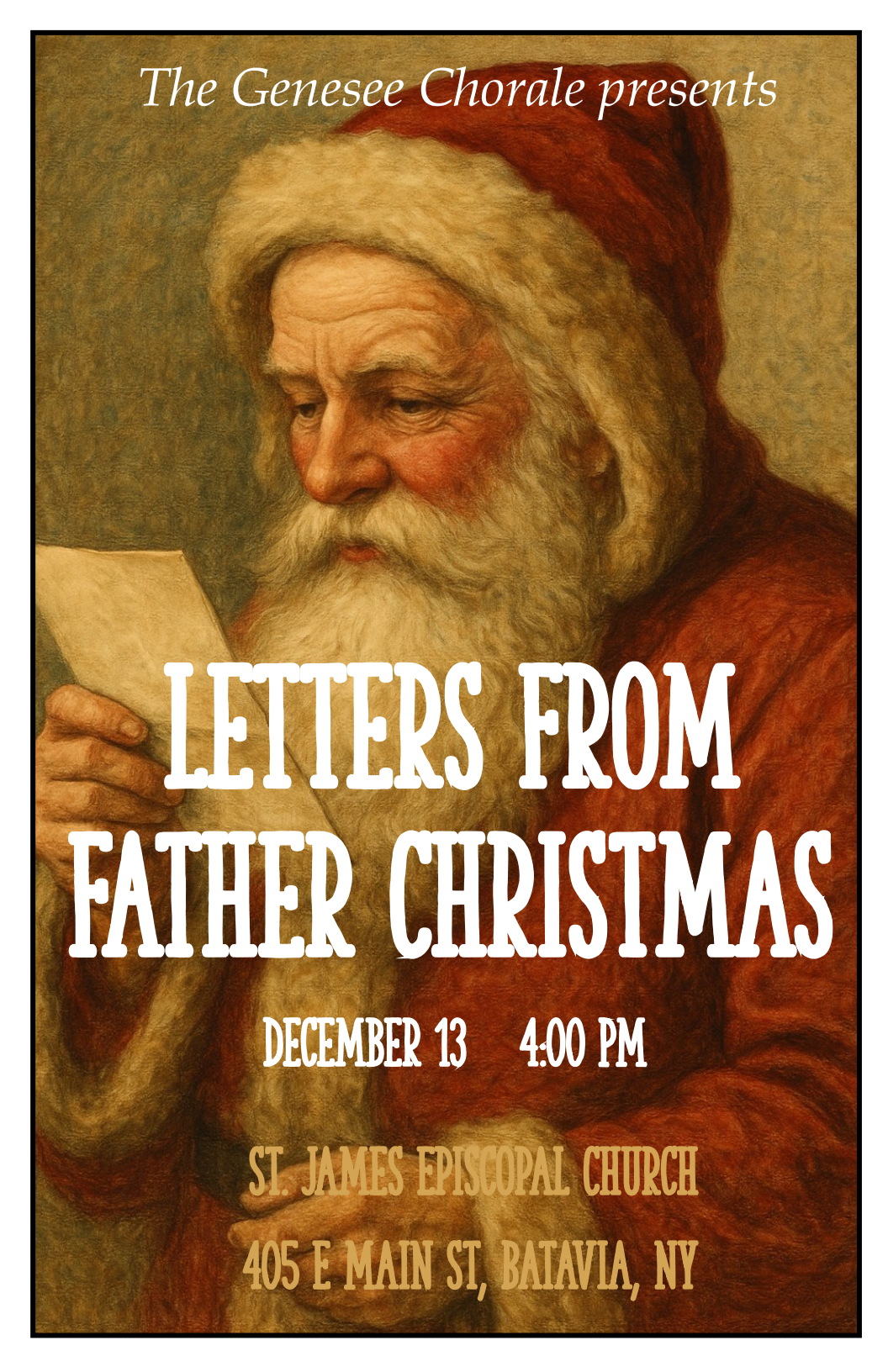




The Genesee Chorale presents

LETTERS FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 13 4:00 PM

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
405 E MAIN ST, BATAVIA, NY

WELCOME

Good afternoon, and welcome.

This afternoon's program begins with a simple question—yet one filled with wonder:

If Santa were to write *us* a letter, what truths, what comforts, what hopes might he share?

Narrated by Mr. Jim Meahl, our performance is shaped by an original "Letter from Father Christmas," a thread of story weaving through the music. It carries us across drifting snowscapes and star-bright skies, offers glimpses from Santa's sleigh, and lingers in the colors, sounds, and shimmering mysteries of the season. Along the way, it pauses in moments of childhood magic, in memories we treasure, and in the tender spaces of longing and loss. At its heart, it returns us to the timeless story of Christ's birth—a story that whispers of hope, healing, and peace.

May what you hear today warm your spirit, steady your steps, and send you home renewed by the quiet, enduring light of Christmas.

PROGRAM

Jim Meahl, Narrator

Philip Nash, flute

We Need a Little Christmas

arr. Mark Hayes

On With the Snow

arr. Douglas Wagner

Glow

Eric Whitacre

Janine Fagnan, conductor

Above the Weary Waiting World

Kim Andre Arnesen

Celebruin Pierce, soloist

Luminous Night of the Soul

Ola Gjeilo

The Colors of Christmas

John Rutter

A Wreath of Carols

arr. Greg Gilpin

~ Brief Intermission ~

Silver Bells

arr. Jacob Narverud

Through the Shade

Blake Richter

Where Are You Christmas?

arr. Mac Huff

Karen Jones, soloist

Auld Lang Syne

Dan Forrest

Sung in memory of Ron DeFazio

Jennifer Neroni-Trupo, soloist

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Z. Randall Stroope

I Will Light Candles This Christmas

Kim Andre Arnesen

Carry the Light

Andy Beck

Janine Fagnan, conductor

James Barcomb, soloist

Believe

arr. Mark Hayes

I Believe in Father Christmas

arr. Christopher Alexander



This program is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council.

THE GENESEE CHORALE

Ric Jones, Music Director

Janine Fagnan, Associate Conductor

Doug Hanson, Accompanist

SOPRANO

Bethany Burgess
Dorothy Carrigan*
Marsha Coy
Joan Ellison
Lisa Gilebarto
Merry Lou Holley  ^
Veronica Michels
Diane Ohlson
Celebruin Pierce*
Charlene Schoenenberger
Pamm Seifert
Sharon Stanley
Caryn Wood*

TENOR

Alan Barcomb 
James Barcomb
Janine Fagnan
Lori Johnson
Eric Wood*

ALTO

Marie Barcomb
Patti Bartz
Lindsay Edwards*
Marianne Garigen*
Kristin Gordon
Julie Graham*
Nancy Hoag ^
Karen Jones
Kathy Meloon 
Jennifer Neroni-Trupo
Amy Perl
Rene Pierce
Denise Spadaccia
Lilo Townsend

BASS

James Ellison
George Graham*
Chuck Herman
Darrel Oakes*
Duane Scarborough
Daniel Shonn Jr.

* Genesee Chorale Board of Directors

 Section Leader

^ Music Librarian

RONALD DEFAZIO



Ronald E. DeFazio, passed away on July 26, 2025. He was born on September 15, 1947 in Batavia, NY, a son of the late Leonard and Carmella Polito DeFazio.

Ron was employed by Kodak and O-AT-KA Milk Products Coop., Inc. prior to his retirement. He was a longtime member of the Genesee Chorale and sang in the Resurrection Church Choir of which he was a parishioner. He was also a current member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Father Vincent R. Capodanno Assembly #0755 and over 20 years of service to the 3rd Degree William C. Kirby Council #0325. Served in National Guard and was a proud Veteran.

Ron was a devoted Catholic with strong Christian faith and enjoyed sharing the word with others. His family meant everything to him. Despite his health struggles Ron was a very happy person who had an infectious smile and enjoyed making others smile, always putting the needs of his loved ones above his own. He was an extraordinary person who touched on the lives of so many; the most loving, kind, caring, generous & selfless person you could meet. Ron was always so hard on himself for forgetting the small things in life but NEVER forgot anyone's birthday or anniversary. He had a remarkable ability to make each of us feel valued and loved. He truly had a heart of gold!

Ron loved life and enjoyed many things from playing cards and games with family and friends, to going to the YMCA to exercise, swim and be sociable with others. He loved to dance, play miniature golf and the thrill of amusement parks. Ron especially loved family game nights and the food that went along with it. He enjoyed cooking and baking to share with others and was known for his pizzelles. He was also very passionate about singing.

Ron was an avid Buffalo Bills and Yankees Fan as well as an Elvis Presley fan. He enjoyed dressing up as Elvis for Halloween and being Santa's Elf at the Knights of Columbus Christmas parties. Ron loved anything tie dye and bright – said bright colors make him smile which he did quite often.

Ron's final performance with the Genesee Chorale was on March 29, 2025 for our ***Classic Rewind: The 1960's*** concert. Fittingly, he sang "Love Me Tender" dressed in a full Elvis costume.

Ron was loved by the Genesee Chorale and he will be missed. This afternoon, we sing "Auld Lang Syne" in his memory.

RIC JONES



Ric Jones is a multifaceted musician residing in Medina with his wife Karen and is the proud father of three young men: Nicholas, Ryder, and River. He is the founder and partner of Imagine Music Publishing LLC.

Currently, Ric holds several music director positions, leading the Middleport Community Choir, the Genesee Chorale, and the Brighton Symphony Orchestra in Rochester. He also serves as the organist at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Medina and Trinity Lutheran Church in Wolcottsville. Additionally, Ric plays trombone in the MRJ Big Band.

Ric's educational background includes Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Music Education from Ithaca College. His experience in education involves directing various high school ensembles such as concert bands, marching bands, pep bands, and chamber ensembles at Corinth High School and Cincinnatus High School. He also assisted and composed music for numerous marching bands.

Beyond his musical pursuits, Ric is a freelance web designer and enjoys life as a father to many chickens and goats. He also enjoys restoring his family's 1870 farmhouse.

JANINE FAGNAN

Janine Fagnan received both Bachelor of Music Education and Vocal Performance degrees from Bluffton University. She taught music and directed five musical groups at Dock Academy in Pennsylvania. Presently, Janine continues to maintain a private music studio.



Janine has sung with the choir since 2012, served on the Board since 2014, and was President from 2019 to 2023. She has been Associate Conductor since 2022.

DOUG HANSON



Doug Hanson became the accompanist for the Genesee Chorale in 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.

OUR PATRONS

*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.*

VIRTUOSO

Dr. Alan & Cathy Barcomb
Liberty Pumps Inc.
Trust of Winston G. Pottle, Jr.

MAESTRO

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Janus Mary Jones
Lamb Farms
Mary Hodgins
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Gordon
Patti Bartz
The Holley Family
Townsend Land Surveying
United States Military Veterans

COMPOSER

Duane Scarborough, DC Chiropractic and Wellness Services
Genesee Valley Wind Ensemble
Morganville United Church of Christ
Tompkins Insurance Agencies

ARTIST

Charlene Schoenenberger
George Graham Fine Sculpture & Custom Stonework
Mother's Nature Landscaping

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people who assisted in the production of this program; too numerous to mention. However, we extend a special note of appreciation to:

GoArt! - Thank you for your continual support of The Genesee Chorale and all culture in Genesee and Orleans counties. Without your support, our 54 years of bringing choral music to Batavia and surrounding communities would not be possible.

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

Jim Meahl - Thank you so much for lending your voice and presence as our Father Christmas narrator. We're deeply grateful for the care, time, and heart you gave to this performance.

Philip Nash - Thank you for graciously giving your time and talents to help bring our music to life.

Genesee Chorale Board of Directors - Thank you for your time commitments and incredible dedication to our organization.

Merry Lou Holley & Nancy Hoag - Thank you for keeping our music organized and our folders full!

Joe Nugent, River Jones, Carmen Stalker - We are thankful for your assistance in making today's performance possible. Thank you for ensuring our risers are set and safe!

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS

In 2026, the Genesee Chorale will be celebrating 55 years of performing fine choral music.

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing!

March 2026

This special prism-style concert offers a continuous flow of music, with singers and ensembles positioned throughout the venue. The audience will experience an uninterrupted journey of sound as performances transition seamlessly from one to the next - without traditional pauses or applause. Building on a cherished Genesee Chorale tradition, this event will feature the full Chorale, smaller ensembles, and soloists from within the group, and guest performers from the broader community.

Gloria!

May 2026

This concert honors the Genesee Chorale's long-standing tradition of presenting fine choral repertoire and major masterworks.

The program will include beloved choral standards such as Randall Thompson's *The Last Words of David*, James MacMillan's *O Radiant Dawn*, W.A. Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*, and Moses Hogan's dynamic spiritual arrangement, *The Battle of Jericho*.

The evening will culminate with Antonio Vivaldi's magnificent *Gloria (RV 589)*, a Baroque masterpiece composed around 1715. This radiant work - alternately jubilant and reverent - sets the Gloria in excelsis Deo text with vivid contrasts of mood and texture. Featuring full chorus, soprano and alto solos, and a Baroque orchestra rich with trumpet and oboe

colors, the Gloria stands as one of the most enduring sacred works of its time.

Messiah (Part I)

December 2026

Our 2026 season will conclude in with a performance of Handel's *Messiah, Part I*, one of the most cherished works in the choral canon. This timeless oratorio traces the prophecy and birth of the Messiah, beginning with Old Testament foretellings from prophets such as Isaiah and Malachi and culminating in the joyous celebration of Christ's Nativity. The narrative unfolds through expressive recitatives, arias, and choruses that move from anticipation to revelation, capturing the awe and wonder of the season.

The concert will conclude with the beloved and exultant "Hallelujah Chorus," offering audiences a triumphant finale and an uplifting close to our 55th anniversary year.

For specific dates and information be sure to follow us on Facebook or at GeneseeChorale.com

COME SING WITH US!

New members are ALWAYS welcome!

Whether you have sung with us before, or are just interested in joining, we welcome you. Chorale membership is open to anyone interested in singing and joining in the camaraderie that we share through music.

Join us for our Winter/Spring season starting on January 12, 2026 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM at St. James Episcopal Church, 405 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020.

Come join us for our 55th Anniversary season!