

Meritage
Vocal Arts Ensemble
presents



NOT

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



DECEMBER 5, 2021

ANAHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1000 S. State College Blvd

Anaheim, CA 92806

Admission \$20

All concertgoers must
provide proof of full
vaccination and wear a
mask. Please go to
meritage-vocalarts.org
for complete safety protocols.

WELCOME

Dear Friends of Merit ge,

Happy Holidays! We hope you and your family are healthy and that you will be able to enjoy time together this holiday season. Thank you for including us in your holiday traditions. Bringing people together in song is what we're all about.

As the end of the year approaches, please consider making a tax deductible donation to Merit ge. We can't continue to make beautiful music without your financial support. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Stephen Schulist, President
Board of Directors, FOCM dba
MERIT GE VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE

PROGRAM

- Riu Riu Chiu (*Spain*)Anon, 16th c.
Danny Dayton, Lucy Dunn, Bill Shelby, and Rebecca Boyd, soloists
- Once In Royal David's City (*England*).....arr. Bern Herbolsheimer
Grace Lee, soloist
- Ding! Dong! Merrily on High (*France*).....arr. Howard Helvey
- A La Nanita Nana (*Spain*).....arr. Roger Folstrom
Marjorie Campos and Kathy Pierce, guitar
- Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella.....arr. Mark Hayes
Catherine Wilson-Smith
- Christmas, the Way I Remember.....arr. Grigg/The High Kings
Teri Schulist
- Mariä Wiegenlied (The Virgin's Slumber-Song) Max Reger
Grace Lee and Janet Lewis

AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

O Come All Ye Faithful
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
The First Noel

- The Huron Carol (*Canada*)arr. Dan Forrest
Lucy Dunn, soloist
- Good Christian Friends Rejoice! (*Germany*).....arr. Neil Harmon
- Still, Still, Still (*Austria*)arr. Norman Luboff
- De Tierra Lejana Venimos (*Puerto Rico*).....arr. Gary Fry

**** INTERMISSION ****

PROGRAM

Betelehemu (Nigeria) arr. Whalum/Brooks

*Cameron Spicer, Mark Peter,
Michael Buss, Marjorie Campos, percussion*

Pat-a Pan (French Burgundian) arr. William Hall

*Linda Hammontree and Bill Shelly, recorder
Rebecca Boyd, Marjorie Campos, Henrietta Carter, Sally Garland, Grace Lee,
Mark Peter, Jamie Randell, Mark Salters, Teri Schulist, percussion / handbells*

Shchedrik (Ukraine) arr. Mykola Leontovich

Ai, nama mamina (Latvia) arr. Andrejs Jansons

Gesu Bambino Pietro A. Yon

Grace Lee and Teri Schulist

In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst, arr. Getty/Rea/Dayton

Danny Dayton

The 12 Days lbs. of Christmas "Traditional" English

Lucy Dunn

AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

Angels We Have Heard on High
Away in a Manger
Joy to the World

Coventry Carol (England) arr. Gerhard Schroth

Wexford Carol (Ireland) arr. Howard Helvey

We Wish You a Merry Christmas (England) arr. Alice Parker

I Saw Three Ships (England) arr. John Frederick Hudson

Teri Schulist, soloist

This concert is a special one for many reasons. First and foremost, we get to do a Christmas concert again! This season is marked by joy and singing, and this is a time when everyone loves a choir. Our performance in July 2021 was very special. How many groups were able to pull off a masterwork of Handel (*Israel in Egypt*) with full orchestra and other inspiring pieces? But with a supportive donor base, fantastic board leadership, dedicated and vaccinated (!) members, we were able to prove that nothing was going to get in the way of helping our art survive. Second, this is also a sequel of sorts to our Christmas concert in 2019, *An American Christmas*. My plan was always to do this concert, so even though it is a year late, I am sure you will agree this was worth the wait!

I will allude to this in my concert comments, but this is also now my fourth concert with the group. Two before the pandemic outbreak and two after the outbreak. While we are not out of the woods yet, what we are making sure we remember is that we are in this together. Our first concert back was fun, filled with great music, beautiful melodies, and wonderful pieces from our favorite movies. This concert, however, is a little more profound. What I hope and trust we notice is that this season, and indeed this issue facing us all, is another example of how we can come together. I firmly believe more connects us than divides us. Appreciating others that are different than “us” is part of how we heal and how we learn.

In fact, even this concert is not as expansive as it should be – there are many who do not even celebrate Christmas—where are they in this concert? This concert is just one step, one of many, where we will reach out to all different types of people, different faiths, different languages, different cultures, and show that what we all have in common, our voice, is more powerful than all those differences. The rest of this season will see us singing African-American spirituals (again, very timely) and closing with masterworks from master composers from four different countries and time periods. And I am already starting to put together next season where we will do even more to bring people together.

None of this can happen without you. Holding this program means you supported us during this very trying time. Thank you. Either a friend or family member is in the chorus, or you just love what choirs mean to the world. We’ve missed this, and you’ve missed this. And your support means we can continue to do this. More support means we can do even more. As we close out the year, sing your hearts out (with a mask on, I know!), and remember, harmony makes this world a better place.

Merry Christmas to you all!

MERRY
Christmas



Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

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

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

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens
of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest;

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King”
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King”

Hail the Heaven-born
Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris’n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of Earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King”

The first Noel



The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they
lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night
that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east,
beyond them far;
and to the earth
it gave great light,
and so it continued
both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises
to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made
heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood
mankind hath bought
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo



Away in a Manger

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
'Til morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever,
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
to live with Thee there.



Joy to the World!

Joy to the world!
the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart
prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven,
and nature sing

He rules the world
with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories
of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders
of His love



Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace



Brian Debn, artistic director and conductor

Mark Salters, piano and organ

Grant Rohr, piano

Rebecca Boyd
Michael Buss
Marjorie Campos
Henrietta Carter
Susan Davis
Danny Dayton
Lucy Dunn
Sally Garland
Linda Hammontree
Ron Hargreaves
Mark Henson
Mike Jacobs
Susan Jacobs

Leslie Jensen
Liana Koeppel
Grace Lee
Janet Lewis
Melanie McDonald
Dennis Nasitka
Mark Peter
Katherine Pierce
Barbielynn Pullen
Jamie Randell
Teresa Raridan
Leslie Rudolph
Marc Russo

Sandy Schaefer
Paul Schmidt
Teri Schulist
Bill Shelly
Hardeep Singh
Cameron Spicer
Wendy Stokes
Bob Strickler
Paige Taylor
Catherine
Wilson-Smith

SPECIAL THANKS

**to the following singers who gave extra of their time
and talent to ensure this concert's success:**

Rebecca Boyd, Michael Buss, Marjorie Campos, Danny Dayton,
Lucy Dunn, Sally Garland, Linda Hammontree, Mark Henson,
Grace Lee, Janet Lewis, Mark Peter, Katherine Pierce,
Jamie Randell, Teri Schulist, Bill Shelly, Cameron Spicer,
and Catherine Wilson-Smith.



BRIAN DEHN

Brian Dehn has conducted his ensembles in some of the world's most remarkable venues including Carnegie Hall, the Sistine Chapel, St. Mark's in Venice, St. Peter's in Rome, St. Mathias in Budapest, St. Tomaskircke in Vienna, St. Patrick's and The Riverside Church in New York, St. Anne's Cathedral in Sydney, St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's in Dublin, and the Beijing Central Conservatory. His selection of top-quality repertoire and special work with vocal development has him in frequent demand as a guest clinician with choirs throughout California and the Western United States.

Dehn is also founder and artistic director of Meistersingers, a semi-pro group also based in Orange County. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts at Claremont Graduate University, where he has been awarded the Department and Blaisdell fellowships. He recently completed 15 years of teaching at the high school level where his ensembles were awarded consistent "Superior" ratings, and invitations to prestigious festivals around the state, including an invitation to perform at the 2018 ACDA Western Region Convention. He took his programs on

performance tours to New York, Spain and Portugal, San Francisco, China, Italy, Ireland, England, and Australia. For over 20 years he has also held positions as Director of Music for a variety of Southern California churches, currently serving as Director of Music Ministry for First Christian Church of Orange.

As an accomplished tenor soloist, Dehn has performed in Chicago Symphony Hall for Chapman University, The New Century Singers, The California Women's Chorus, Pasadena Pro Musica as well as soloist for many other professional music ensembles, colleges and churches throughout Southern California. An accomplished ensemble singer in his own right, he has performed with Zephyr, De Angelis, and the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Dehn maintains membership in a number of music organizations including the American Choral Directors Association, International Federation of Choral Music, Music Educators National Conference, California Music Educator's Association (where he was a presenter in 2016), Chorus America, and the National Association of Church Music, where he served as board member for Church Literature. He lives in Orange, California, with his wife Chelsea and their two sons.

ABOUT OUR ACCOMPANIST



MARK SALTERS

Mark Salters is opera co-director, vocal coach, and pianist at California State University, Fullerton. Originally from New York, he served on the coaching staff of the Opera Department at the University of Michigan under Gustav Meier. Prior to that, he was on the faculty of the Yale University graduate opera program headed by noted director Tito Capobianco.

Salters has accompanied master classes by many well-known singers and coaches, including Frederica Von Stade, Roberta Alexander, Vladamir Chernov, Carlo Bergonzi, Sherill Milnes, Madame Régine Crespin, Richard Bonyngue, Rodney Gilfry, George Shirley, Carol Neblett, Horst Günther, Marni Nixon, Paul Sperry, Richard Pearlman, Lili Chookasian, as well as many others. In addition, he has worked with conductors and directors from Los Angeles Opera, New York City Opera, Frankfurt Opera, St. Louis Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera.

He has also served on the music staffs of the University of Connecticut, Opera Theater of Connecticut, and the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven, Connecticut.

Currently, Salters regularly accompanies the National Association of Teachers of Singing symposiums in Los Angeles and Orange County, as well as the Classical Singers Association classes and concerts. He has also worked for Opera Pacific, Opera Ala Carte, Cal State Long Beach, Pacific Chorale, Pacific Symphony, Riverside Opera, Southland Opera, and the Intimate Opera Company. He also serves as Director of Music and Principal Organist at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church in Irvine.

As an active freelance accompanist, Salters regularly accompanies many of the finest young vocal artists of the Los Angeles area in recitals and competitions.

THANK you

to all who have contributed to
the success of Merit ge Vocal Arts
Ensemble for our concert season

CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE (\$2500+)

*(includes four tickets to all Merit ge concerts plus
four tickets to our annual fundraiser)*

Lucy Dunn

Chuck Murphy and Bill Boland

Teri and Steve Schulist

GRAZIOSO LEVEL (\$1000-\$2499)

*(includes two tickets to all Merit ge concerts plus
two tickets to our annual fundraiser)*

Stan Wong

Dennis Nasitka

Bill Shelly

Chris and Bill McCandless

Rita Lee

Nick Yee

CANTABILE LEVEL (\$500-\$999)

Henrietta Carter

Michael Moore

Peter Donovan

Kathy and Sheridan Ball

CON ANIME LEVEL (\$250-\$499)

Paul Schmidt

Leslie Jensen

DOLCISSIME LEVEL (\$100-\$249)

Leslie Rudolph

Glenn Cunningham

Richard Ullrich

Teresa Raridan

Sandy Schaefer

Marjorie Campos

Penny Peters

Diane Brownlee

Jamie Randell

Kathy and Donald Casados

Nobuko DuVall

Sandra Denisac

Susan Davis

ESPRESSIVO LEVEL (\$25-\$99)

Randy Johnson

Grace Lee

Douglas Bello

JoAnn Anderson

Pauline Klein

Stanley Wong

Gary Dudley

Rosemary Moreno

Chris Neighbors

Margaret Nolde

Ron Witt

Katherine Pierce

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Friends of Choral Music (FCM) helps support community choral programs, including funding for music, orchestras, vocalists, venues, school scholarships, and outreach programs. 100% of the profit from board sponsored events is used to help keep choral arts viable in our community.

Friends of Choral Music is responsible for governance, finance, and fundraising and meets at least six times a year. The board is also responsible for all operating responsibilities of Meritage and Starlight Carolers. FCM consists mostly of singing members of these choirs that volunteer their time and services to the board.

Friends of Choral Music is a non-profit IRC 501 (c) (3), Tax Id 95-4584695

SUPPORT CHORAL MUSIC

Ticket sales and recording income account for only one-third of the cost of presenting our season each year. Our continued growth and success is only possible through the generous contributions of donors like you. All donations are tax deductible (Tax Id 95-4584695). Your gift will be gratefully acknowledged in our concert programs.

To make your tax-deductible donation,
speak with any singer or
visit our website, www.meritage-vocalarts.org

To mail your contribution,
please send to:
Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble
174 W. Lincoln Ave. Suite 200
Anaheim, CA 92805

Please include your name(s)
as you would like them to appear in our
program.

Questions? Please call us at
(714) 519-6370 or send an email to
info@Meritage-VocalArts.org.

Any level of support is appreciated!
Thank you for your support!

Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble
presents

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM

SINGING

BRIAN DEHN, CONDUCTOR

SAVE
THE DATE

4pm
MARCH 6, 2022

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

DANIEL FORREST

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

ANTON BRUCKNER

BRIAN DEHN, CONDUCTOR

SAVE
THE DATE

4pm
MAY 15, 2022

Meritage

Vocal Arts Ensemble

