



# Noel We Sing



Sunday 3PM  
Dec.15, 2024  
St. Ann Roman Catholic  
Church  
1525 Oak Hill Ave.  
Hagerstown

Free Concert  
With free-will  
donation

*without you  
how dark  
the night.*



**HAGERSTOWN CHORAL ARTS presents: NOEL, WE SING**

Songs and Carols of the Season

Congregational hymn -

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ; Hymn 395, verses 1 & 2

Full Ensemble

*Noel We Sing* . . . . . Louis Claude Daquin

*A Manger Carol* . . . . . Douglas Mears  
Daniel Ritchey, Elizabeth Phillipson, soloists

*O Magnum Mysterium* . . . . . Morten Lauridson

*Da Day Dawis / Christmas Day I'da Morning*, Traditional, Arr. Bonnie Rideout

Women's Select Ensemble

*Carol Of The Bells* . . . . . Mykola Leontovich

*Once In Royal David's City* . . . . . Arr. Howard Helvey

Congregational hymn -

*People, Look East*, Hymn 409, verses 1 & 2

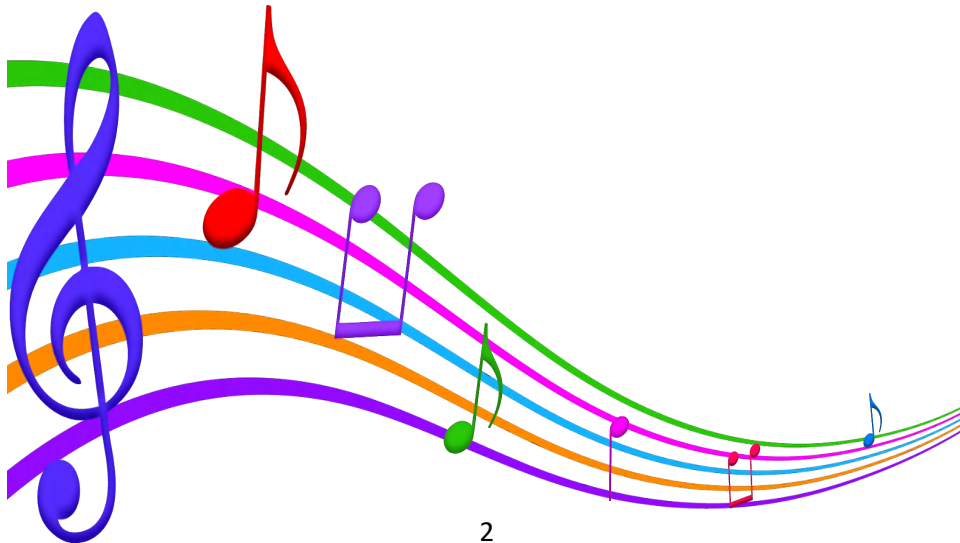
Full Ensemble

*Christmas Day* . . . . . Gustav Holst

Brian McClinton, Jed Hall, Erin Stuller, Robin Merchant Spickler, soloists

Free will offering

**INTERMISSION**



Congregational hymn -

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*; Hymn 445, verses 1 & 2

Full Ensemble

*Morning Star* .....Arr. John S.C. Kemp

Men's Select Ensemble

*O Little Town Of Bethlehem* .....Arr. Dan Forrest

Full Ensemble

*I Will Light Candles This Christmas* .....Kim André Arnesen

*Mid-Winter* ..... Bob Chilcott

*Follow That Star* .....Brad Nix

Beverly Kotchenreuther, Sierra Saunders, Soprano Descant

*Jesus Child* ..... John Rutter

Janet Palmer, Interim Artistic Director

Caleb Wescott, Interim Associate Artistic Director

Mary Remsberg, Accompanist and Rehearsal Assistant

Katelyn McClinton, DMA, Violin

Caleb Wescott, Saxophone

John Sabine, MSM, Organ



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# Hagerstown Choral Arts

## Soprano I

Linda Barnhart  
Zoey Breakall  
Beverly Kotchenreuther  
Mary Licht  
Marianne Mooney  
Kathy Robinson  
Sierra Saunders  
Sallie Sterling  
Erin Stuller

## Soprano II

Candice Craig  
Elyssa Doub  
Elizabeth Farmer  
Heather Hughes  
Kimberly McMurtrie  
Carolyn Mentzer  
Janet Palmer  
Robin Spickler  
Kimberly Stockslager

## Alto I

Maddy Cochran  
Ashley Cristobal  
Elizabeth Cuthbert  
Deb Danner  
Marcia Goodrich  
Shannon Lang  
Caroline Lewis  
Susan MacKenzie  
Elizabeth Phillipson  
Brenda Plummer  
Symphony Walkley  
Jennifer Wedde

## Alto II

Margaret McKee  
Therese Ramey  
Daria Riegler  
Allison Todd

## Tenor

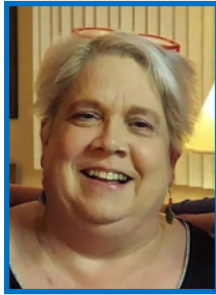
Hugh Breslin  
Jed Hall  
Rich Owens  
John Sabine  
Daniel Spies  
Caleb Wescott

## Baritone/Bass

Torben Aarsand  
Richard Dobson, Jr.  
Tim Doyle  
Matthew Hinz  
Mark Holmes  
Dennis Holovach  
Brian McClinton  
Buddy Mentzer  
Daniel Ritchey  
Terry Tierney



## Our Leaders and Instrumentalists



**Janet Palmer, Interim Artistic Director** After graduating from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, with a degree in Choral Music Education, Janet taught K-12 choir and vocal and general music in public schools in Illinois, Wyoming, and Wisconsin for 38 years, retiring in 2019. While in Wyoming, she was named Teacher of the Year in Big Horn County School District 1, and co-founded the Big Horn County Elementary Music Festival. Janet worked for nearly 40 years as a choir director and church musician in multiple denominations, and as director, music director, accompanist, choreographer, or costumer in well over 100 school and community theatre productions. Janet sings Soprano II or whatever part is needed and is a board member with HCA. She is also involved with Potomac Playmakers and Authentic Community Theatre in Hagerstown. Janet and her husband, Larry, relocated to Maryland in April of 2023, and are enjoying getting to know and become involved in the area and spending more time with granddaughter Coraline.



**Caleb Wescott, Interim Associate Artistic Director**, a native of Boonsboro, Maryland, currently teaches music in Washington County Public Schools. Graduating with his bachelor's degree in 2022, he studied music education and classical saxophone at the University of Tennessee with a focus on instrumental music. Caleb directs his musical passions toward voice, singing with various ensembles and performing as a church musician. Caleb sings Tenor as a member of HCA and is on the HCA Board of Directors. Self-taught, he plays the piano by ear and enjoys performing periodically for smaller venues. In his free time, Caleb enjoys working outdoors and tinkering with automobiles.





**Mary Remsburg, Accompanist and Rehearsal Assistant**, was raised in the small town of Franklin, West Virginia, and graduated from Shepherd University in 2016 with a Music Education degree.

As a child, she was part of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir for nine years, which gave her the opportunity to be selected to perform at numerous venues, including Carnegie Hall and The White House.

While at Shepherd University, Mary played in the Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble, earning the honor of performing with award winning composer Maria Schneider. Mary also performed at several Honors Recitals at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, as a classical soloist and in the Jazz Combo. She accompanied for Women's Camerata, for performance forums and senior recitals.

Currently, Mary teaches private studio lessons at Shepherd University, teaches at Saint James School, and is the accompanist for Hagerstown Choral Arts. Mary also frequently plays for musical productions, recitals, recordings, private events, and concerts.

Mary recently released her first folk album *Sounds Like Home*, under the stage name Mister Mae, and her music has been featured on multiple radio programs both in the United States and the United Kingdom. She is married to Chase Remsburg, a fellow graduate of Shepherd University.



**Dr. Katelyn McClinton, Violinist**, has always held an interest in music from a young age. Her parents, both musicians themselves, introduced her to classical music as she grew up. At the age of nine, she began taking violin classes through her school. A year later, she began lessons with Karen Lauffer and studied with her for four years.

Dr. McClinton then studied with Dr. Courtney Orlando, who was her primary teacher until high school graduation. Toward the end of her high school career, she decided that she would continue her music education through college. In the fall of 2011, Ms. McClinton attended The Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College, studying with Dr. Yeon-Su Kim. Throughout her four years at Gettysburg, Katelyn performed in groups like the Gettysburg College Symphony Orchestra, Metta Ensemble, and Sunderman Strings, which included a performance in New York City.

**Dr. Katelyn Mc Clinton, Continued**

Thanks to the years spent at college, Dr. McClinton developed a major interest in chamber music and hopes to continue performing chamber music in her career. She has attended music festivals throughout numerous summers, including the International Music Institute and Festival in Maryland and the InterHarmony Music Festival in Tuscany, Italy. Ms. McClinton has a Bachelor's in Music Performance from the Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College and a Master's of Music Performance from Towson University. She has also studied with the late John Eaken, Grammy-nominated violinist and former concertmaster of the York Symphony.

Dr. McClinton is a violin instructor at the prestigious Robinson Music School in Columbia, MD. She provides private teaching in the Maryland and Pennsylvania areas, giving violin lessons to beginning, intermediate and advanced students. She has been teaching for over six years and works with each student to find their own unique path in music. Dr. McClinton has also performed with the West Shore Symphony Orchestra in the Central PA area and is currently a member of the Hanover Symphony Orchestra. In 2018, Dr. McClinton joined the Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra. She is the founder of *Stravaganza Piano Trio*. In 2024, Dr. McClinton received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Shenandoah University and Conservatory. She plans to continue studying and performing works of black composers, as well as learning other methods of teaching and playing contemporary music.

When not performing music, Dr. McClinton enjoys diving into other creative outlets by writing stories and doing makeup.



**John Sabine, MSM, Organist**, is a career church musician who has served churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Maryland. Mr. Sabine has been continuously employed in some form of church music leadership since the age of eleven. He serves as Minister of Music at St. John's Episcopal Church, Hagerstown, MD, where he oversees a very busy music ministry program with four choirs and a concert series. He sings Tenor as a member of HCA. Prior to coming to St. John's, Mr. Sabine served as organist and choirmaster at Christ Our Hope Lutheran Church in Riverdale, GA, from February 2010 to February 2023.

Mr. Sabine earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Church Music from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, and the Master of Sacred Music Degree from Emory University. He is also a licensed Kindermusik Educator, a piano and voice instructor at Music & Arts Center on Garland Groh Boulevard, and a very enthusiastic Uber driver.

## Program Notes

**Noel We Sing** (Louis-Claude Daquin, Arr. Robert DeCormier) - The early 18th century French composer Louis-Claude Daquin was a dazzling virtuoso performer and composer on both organ and harpsichord. This arrangement by Robert DeCormier is a charming treatment of Daquin's Noel X, also known as "Grand Jeu et Duo," or The "Echo Noel." The late organist E. Power Biggs contributed to this arrangement, which adds chorus and an original English text by writer Louise Dobbs. Chorus and organ answer and echo throughout, until all join in the glorious final verse.

**A Manger Carol** (Douglas Mears)— Composed in 1985 for the choirs of Bethesda United Methodist Church in Bethesda, Maryland, Michael Cockett's stirring text presents the theme of darkness and light, two images beautifully contrasted by the birth of Christ. In a unique way, this piece presents the Good News of Christmas: "In him was life, and that life was the light of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it."

**O Magnum Mysterium** (Morten Lauridsen)

O magnum mysterium	O great mystery,
Et admirabile sacramentum	And wondrous sacrament
Ut animalia viderent Dominum	That animals should see the new-
Natum jacetum in praeseptio!	Born Lord, lying in their manger!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera	Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
Meruerunt portare	Was worthy to bear the
Dominum Christum. Alleluia!	Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

The text is a Christmas chant that tells the story of the birth of Jesus. About his setting, Lauridsen writes: "For centuries, composers have been inspired by the beautiful O Magnum Mysterium text with its depiction of the birth of the newborn king amongst lowly animals and shepherds. This affirmation of God's grace to the meek and the adoration of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated in my setting through a quiet song of profound inner joy."

**Carol Of The Bells** (Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky) - This popular Christmas carol, based on the Ukrainian New Year's song Shchedryk, comes from the song written by the Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych in 1914. The English-language lyrics were written in 1936 by Peter Wilhousky.

**Once In Royal David's City** (Arr. Howard Helvey) - A beloved Christmas carol, originally a poem by Cecil Frances Alexander, tells the story of Jesus' humble birth in Bethlehem, contrasting his royal lineage as the "King of Kings" with the simple circumstances of his arrival in a manger. The melody, often associated with the hymn tune "Irby," is known for its gentle, reflective quality. Since 1919, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at the King's College Chapel Cambridge has begun its Christmas Eve service with Once in Royal David's City as the Processional hymn.



## Program Notes, Continued

***Christmas Day*** (Gustav Holst) - Gustav Holst composed Christmas Day in 1910, five years before he wrote his great orchestral work, The Planets. It features familiar carols, including Good Christian Men, Rejoice, Come Ye Lofty, Come Ye Lowly, and The First Nowell. The piece is dedicated "To the music students of Morley College," and it was premiered at Morley College on January 28, 1911. Holst originally wrote the work for chorus and orchestra, but he stated that it could be performed with any combination of instruments, or simply with piano accompaniment.

***Morning Star*** (Arr. John S.C. Kemp) - Morning Star, composed by Francis Hagen in 1836, is a Moravian hymn. The Moravian Church dates back to the early Protestant Reformation in Eastern Europe but was established in America during the early 18th century. Their rich Christmas traditions include Love feast with sugar cakes, a Vespers service lit with beeswax candles, and a trombone choir.

***O Little Town Of Bethlehem*** (Arr. Dan Forrest) - Dan Forrest's arrangement of one of our most beloved Christmas Carols is a unique musical portrayal of the holy night in Bethlehem. The original hymn was written by Phillips Brooks for the Sunday school children at his Philadelphia parish, Holy Trinity Church, following a pilgrimage to Bethlehem in 1865, according to British hymnologist J. R. Watson.

***I Will Light Candles This Christmas*** (Kim André Arnesen) - Christmas is a time of excitement and celebration. However, it is difficult not to see the darkness of the world. And it is in the darkness that we need light - a reminder that we are much more than what is darkest in our lives. Let the message of this carol guide us to become carriers of a light that brings joy, hope, courage, peace, grace, and love.

***Mid-Winter*** (Bob Chilcott)- Chilcott's original setting uses the well-loved poem "In The Bleak Midwinter," by Christina Rossetti. The carol's movement is simple, recording a series of arrivals, with each verse expressing a preparation for the arrival and a welcoming of the birth of the Christ Child.

***Follow That Star*** (Brad Nix) - Composer Brad Nix's music has been heard in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church in central London, as well as countless churches all over the world. A joyful spirit permeates this good-natured gospel style anthem from start to finish.

***Jesus Child*** (John Rutter)- This upbeat piece was written in the 1974 for performance by the choir of St Albans School in Hertfordshire, England, at the request of its director of music at the time, Simon Lindley. Jesus Child tells the story of Jesus' birth with a touch of Caribbean color .

### Hagerstown Choral Arts, Inc.

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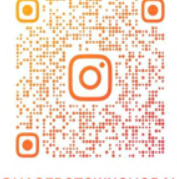
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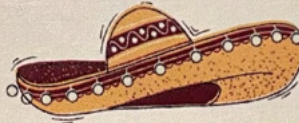
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Caliban: Autumn Carver	Boatswain: Kris Cooper	
Alonso: Lyndsay Morris	Gonzalo: Andrew Murray	
<p>Fae and Water Sprites: Gabrielle Meiron, Robert Engle, Marisa Marquez, Kris Cooper, Rich Dobson, Jr.</p>		




Supported in part by grants from the Maryland State Arts Council and Washington County Arts Council.



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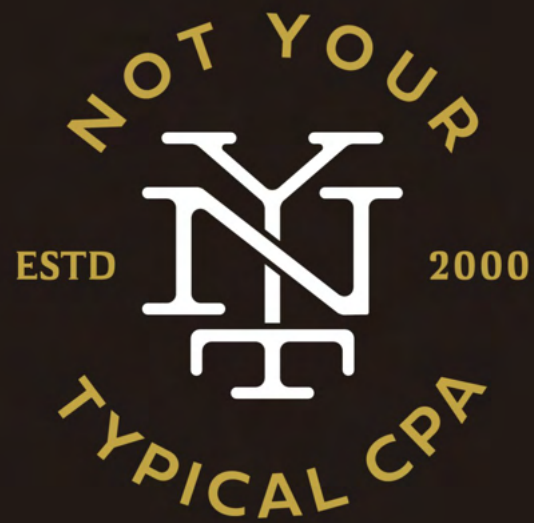
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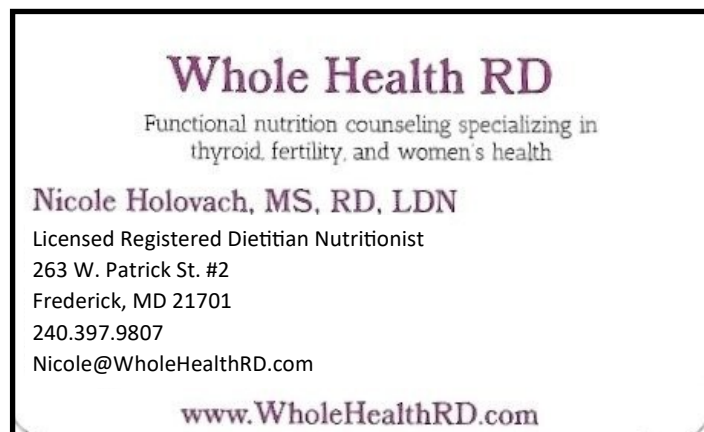


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Special thanks to

- Hagerstown Church of the Brethren and staff for serving as home base for the chorus and our music library.
- Microsoft Corporation for their grant of MS365, providing tech to modernize the functions and communications of our business.
- St. Ann Roman Catholic Church for the use of their beautiful space for our concert.
- The many singers, their families, other volunteers, and audience members who have been a part of Hagerstown Choral Arts over the years.
- Leslie LeBlanc for overseeing and writing our grants.
- Meg Ritchey for expertly editing our program.

# **Calling all singers**

## **HAGERSTOWN CHORAL ARTS AUDITIONS**

**Thursday, Dec. 17, 2024 7 pm**  
Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
15 S. Mulberry St.  
All voices welcome, males especially!  
No music preparation required.  
More info: [www.hca-md.org](http://www.hca-md.org)





**St. Ann**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024 @4 pm**

Trinity Lutheran Church, 15 Randolph Ave.

HCA sings during the  
Hagerstown Historic Houses of Worship tour



**Sunday, March 2, 2025 @3pm**

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren

15 S. Mulberry St. "The Road Home"

**Saturday May 3, 2025 @ 3 pm**

St. John's Episcopal Church

101 S. Prospect St.

"Soaring Sing"



**Sunday, May 4, 2025 @ 3 pm**

Pen Mar Park Cascade, MD.

"Soaring Sing"

**Monday, May 26, 2025 @ 11 am**

Antietam National Cemetery

Sharpsburg, MD

"Memorial Day Commemoration"

