



*Join us for our future performances.*



Come see Hagerstown Choral Arts as we perform with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra in their Home for the Holidays concerts at 7 pm December 16 and 3 pm on December 17 in the beautiful Maryland Theatre. Tickets are available through the Maryland Symphony box office.

***It's All About Love***

*Sunday, February 18, 4:00 p.m.*

*Hagerstown Church of the Brethren*

*Love will be in the air as we sing some of our favorite selections. Come join us in this program of love and thanks.*



***We Will Listen***

*Featuring music by Dan Forrest, Ola Gjeilo, and others, this concert will focus on the art of listening: how we listen to music and how we listen to others.*

*Saturday, April 27, 4:00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
in Hagerstown*



*presents*



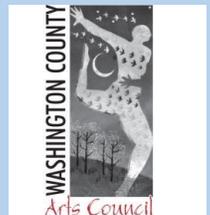
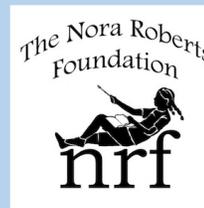
**Saturday, December 9, 2023 ~ 4:00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Hagerstown**

***Gregory P. Shook***  
**Artistic & Musical Director**

***Mary Remsburg***  
**Accompanist & Rehearsal Assistant**

*John Sabine, guest organist  
and a brass ensemble including players  
from the military bands in Washington, DC.*

*Hagerstown Choral Arts is sponsored in part by:*



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~ ~ ~ Program ~ ~ ~

*Wake, Awake* Dale Wood  
Arr. Gregory Shook

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* Paul Manz

*See Amid the Winter's Snow* John Goss, 1871  
Arr. Dan Forrest

*What Child is This* Traditional English Melody  
Arr. Howard Helvey

*Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree* Elizabeth Poston

*My Lord Has Come* Will Todd

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* 15th Century German Text  
Arr. Roger Emerson  
Men's Ensemble

*Ave, Ave, the Angel Sang* Robert C. Lau

*Silent Night* Arr. Dan Forrest

~ ~ ~ Intermission ~ ~ ~

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* Trad. English Carol  
Arr. Howard Helvey

Janet Palmer & Mary Remsburg, piano

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**NAME (as you would like it to appear in the program)**

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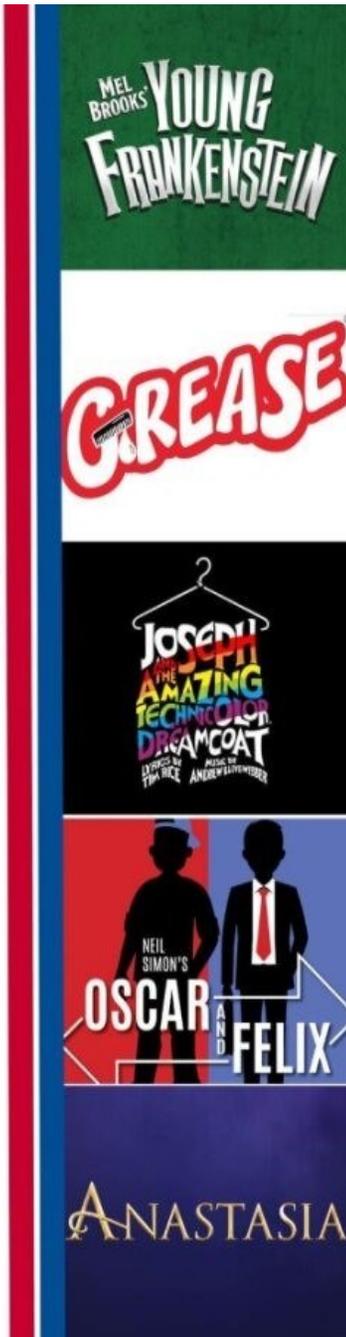
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Gloria

John Rutter

I. Allegro vivace - Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. (Gloria in excelsis Deo).

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men of good will. We praise you. Thank you. We adore you. We glorify you. We thank you for your great glory. (Glory to God in the highest).

II. Andante

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. Lord, only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You who take away the sins of the world, accept our supplication. You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Soloists: *Elyssa Doub, Soprano I*  
*Sallie Sterling, Soprano I*  
*Heather Hughes, Soprano II*  
*Susan Thomas, Alto*

III. Vivace e ritmico

Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. (Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.)

For you alone are holy. You alone are Lord. You alone are the highest, Jesus Christ. With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. (Glory to God in the highest. Amen.)

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## HAGERSTOWN CHORAL ARTS

Gregory Paul Shook, Artistic & Musical Director  
Mary Remsburg, Accompanist & Rehearsal Assistant

### Soprano I

Karen Sue Johnston  
Tabitha Johnston  
Beverly Kotchenreuther  
Sarah Looney  
Kathy Robinson  
Sallie Sterling  
Erin Stuller

### Soprano II

Jean DiMercurio  
Elyssa Doub  
Elizabeth Farmer  
Heather Hughes  
Kimberly McMurttrie  
Carolyn Mentzer  
Robin Spickler  
Janet Palmer  
Kim Stockslager  
Sue Thomas

### Alto I

Elizabeth Cuthbert  
Marcia Goodrich  
Shannon Lang  
Susan Thomas

### Alto II

Leslie LeBlanc  
Therese Ramey  
Daria Riegler

### Tenor

Hugh Breslin  
Michael Buhrman  
Jed Hall  
Brian McClinton  
Rich Owens  
John Sabine

### Baritone/Bass

Torben Aarsand  
Tim Doyle  
Matthew Hinz  
Mark Holmes  
Dennis Holvach  
Jay Perry  
Daniel Ritchey  
David Thompson  
Caleb Wescott

## BRASS & PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

### Trumpet

Christian Hinkle  
Jeffrey Northman  
David Boltz  
Elizabeth Zumbrun

### Trombone

Fred Gleason  
Nate Lease  
Darryl Buning

### Tuba

Willie Clark

### Percussion

Jonathan Sotelo



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Marguerite Juka

**GRANTS RECEIVED 2022-2023**

Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant  
 Nora Roberts Foundation  
 Washington County Arts Council  
 Washington County Gaming Commission

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Hagerstown Choral Arts, Inc. would like to thank the following group members and friends for their special contributions to our success:*

Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
for serving as “home base” for the chorus and our library.

Dan Ritchey for generously providing his IT support and helping us modernize our business processes leveraging his expertise in our launch of Microsoft 365.

Greg Shook, Elizabeth Cuthbert and Carolyn Mentzer for designing and proofing our concert program.

Coty Overcash for years of faithful support with concert set up, trailer maintenance and riser logistics.

Robin Spicker for tirelessly keeping our music library and folders in order.

Shannon Lang for the wonderful job as secretary of the board.

Chris Stockslager for keeping us financially straight.

The Washington County Arts Council, The Maryland State Arts Council, The Nora Roberts Foundation and the Washington County Gaming Commission for being sponsors of our programming.

Microsoft Corporation for their grant of Microsoft365 providing technology to modernize and integrate the functions and files of the business of HCA.

Trinity Lutheran Church for the use of their beautiful space for our concerts.

Elizabeth Cuthbert for her dedicated and tireless work in publicizing our organization.

The many singers, their families, other volunteers and audience members who have been a part of Hagerstown Choral Arts over the years.

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### Thank you, to our Board of Directors!

Carolyn Ritchey Mentzer – President

Meg Ritchey – Vice President

Shannon Lang—Secretary

Christopher Stockslager – Treasurer

Daniel Ritchey – Information Technology Administrator

Elizabeth Cuthbert – Publicity Lead

Daria Reigler – Publicity Co-Lead

Robin Spickler – Librarian

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## OUR LEADERS

**Gregory Paul Shook, Artistic and Musical Director**, is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, where he received his early musical training. In 1993, he and Ned Wetherald co-founded Hagerstown Choral Arts, now in its 31<sup>st</sup> season. Greg is Minister of Music Emeritus from Trinity Lutheran Church in Hagerstown and serves as adjunct faculty at Shepherd University, Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, and Hagerstown Community College.

In his previous life as a free-lance oboist, Greg performed with the Harrisburg Symphony, York Symphony, Washington National Symphony, and six seasons with the Washington Bach Consort. He is often called upon as clinician and adjudicator for choral and instrumental programs in the Tri-State area.

Greg is an alumni of Shepherd University and holds graduate degrees and certifications from the University of Maryland at College Park, United Theological Seminary, and a Master of Church Music from Shenandoah Conservatory.

**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.

She was part of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir for 9 years growing up, which gave her the opportunity to be selected to perform at numerous venues, including Carnegie Hall and The White House.

During her time at Shepherd University, Mary was part of the Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble, which gave her 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, both as a classical soloist and in the Jazz Combo. She accompanied for Women's Camerata for several years, as well as Performance Forums and senior recitals.

Mary currently teaches through her private studio 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.

Aside from the classical and jazz world, Mary recently released her very first folk album entitled, "Sounds Like Home," under the stage name "Mister Mae," and music has been featured on multiple radio programs both in the United States and the United Kingdom. She is married to Chase Remsburg, another graduate of Shepherd University."

## PROGRAM NOTES

Born in 1945, English composer John Rutter has become a regular on choral programs worldwide. While not a religious man, his compositions deeply reflect his inspiration by the spirituality of sacred verses and prayers. Influenced by early 20<sup>th</sup> century French and English choral traditions and steeped in the very best of English choral music, Rutter continues to inspire singers through his beautiful melodies, driving rhythms, and versatile writing style. The composition had its premiere in 1974 for Nebraska musician Mel Olson, under Rutter's direction. His *Gloria* offers a musical setting of the parts of the Latin Gloria, with the text structured in three movements and scored for choir, brass, percussion, and organ. While it is a liturgical text, it was conceived as a concert piece. Rutter credits Olson with the inspiration to compose it, saying, "Much of the credit must go to Mel Olson ... because, in telling me what he was looking for in a new choral work, he was telling me what thousands of other choral directors were looking for too."

The first movement is "Gloria in excelsis Deo" (Glory to God in the highest, the angel's proclamation to the shepherds as told in the Gospel of Luke. Opening with a fanfare, the brass and voices alternate with strong rhythms and triumphant shouts from the choir.

The second movement, "Domine Deus" (Lord God) is requesting mercy and prayers as Jesus is addressed as the Lamb of God. This movement begins with a haunting and spellbinding organ theme that leads to the choir offering prayers as the choir, organ, and brass build in intensity.

The third movement concludes the work with "Quoniam tu solus sanctus" (For you alone are Holy), ending with a doxology (short hymn of praise to God). This movement builds, bringing back the text and music from the first movement, and then ends with a fast, furious, and glorious *Amen*.

The remaining pieces on the program include seasonal favorites by composers all the way from the 15th century (Lo, How a Rose) to current day composers/arrangers such as Dan Forrest and Howard Helvey.

---

*Hagerstown Choral Arts wishes each and every one attending today a safe and joyous holiday season, and hopes and prayers for a new year that offers new and exciting horizons for all of us.*



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The Cumberland Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists wishes to congratulate the Hagerstown Choral Arts on your return!

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

To learn more about us, and to view upcoming events, go to [www.agohq.org/cumberlandvalley](http://www.agohq.org/cumberlandvalley).



***DO YOU LIKE TO SING?  
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Hagerstown Choral Arts  
will audition new members

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7pm  
at Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
15 S. Mulberry St. Hagerstown.

Follow Hagerstown Choral Arts on Facebook and Instagram.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hagerstown.Choral.Arts>

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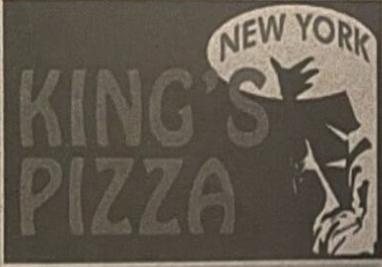
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## Mia Vassilev

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Thursday, March 14, 2024  
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Mia is a virtuosic piano player with worldwide acclaim for her artistry and charismatic stage presence. Her program "In the Spirit of Liberace" explores genres from Classical to Latin to Rock 'N Roll and features multi-media elements and more.

## Key of G Live!

**A TRIBUTE TO GARTH BROOKS**

Thursday, April 25, 2024  
7:30 pm @ The Maryland Theatre

"Key of G Live!" is a tribute to country superstar Garth Brooks. AJ Bisto and his 6-piece band play all Garth's chart-topping hits and capture the signature sounds that Garth Brooks fans know and love in classic country music style.

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