



Into Light

Saturday, May 2, 2026

3 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church

101 S. Prospect St., Hagerstown, MD

Free concert admission with goodwill offering





Alto

Sharon Ahrens

Deb Danner

Sandy Dunkle

Marcia Goodrich

Mayme Kugler

Shannon Lang

Caroline Lewis

Gerrie Mangum

Marty Massey

Margaret McKee

Cathy Moats

Elizabeth Phillipson

Brenda Plummer

Therese Ramey

Daria Riegler

Rebecca Stan

Sue Thomas

Allison Todd

Jennifer Wedde

Baritone

Torben Aarsand

Tom Darr

Bob Dunkle

Matthew Hinz

Mark Holmes

David Post

Daniel Ritchey

Terry Tierney

Bass

Carsten Ahrens

Tim Doyle

Matthew Hinz

Dennis Holovach

Daniel McQuaid

Tenor

Nickolas Cummings

Christopher Goddard

Brian McClinton

Daniel Speis

Soprano

Brittney Arbogast

Linda Barnhart

Zoey Block

Candice Craig

Esme Diez

Elizabeth Farmer

Heather Hughes

Beverly

Kotchenreuther

Mary Licht

Kimberly McMurtrie

Carolyn Mentzer

Marianne Mooney

Kathy Robinson

Sallie Sterling

Robin Merchant

Spickler

Kimberley Stockslager

Connie Stottlemeyer

Kierston Sutch



Director—Janet Palmer

Alto—Caroline Lewis, Gerrie Mangum, Marty Massey, Susan Kleit, Margaret McKee, Brenda Plummer, Sue Thomas

Soprano—Elaine Snyder, Marianne Mooney, Linda Barnhart, Kathy Robinson, Beverly Kotchenreuther

Soprano 2—Robin Merchant Spickler, Carolyn Mentzer

Founded as an outreach arm of HCA in February, 2025, by Janet Palmer, Grace Notes is a treble ensemble dedicated to bringing choral music to area populations who otherwise may not have access to choral music.

Hagerstown Choral Arts, Inc. presents

“Into Light”

Janet Palmer, Artistic Director

Caleb Wescott, Associate Director

Mary Remsburg, Accompanist

Katelyn McClinton, Violin

Full Ensemble

Light Dawns On A Weary World Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Simple Gifts Aaron Copland (1900 -1990)

Zion's Walls Aaron Copland

Shenandoah Arr. Cathy Derousse (b. 1954)

The Quest Unending Joseph M. Martin (b. 1959)

*****Intermission*****

Grace Notes

He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother Bobby Scott (1937-1990) and
Bob Russell (1914-1970)

Dream A Little Dream Of Me Fabian Andre (1910-1960) and
Wilbur Schwandt (1904-1998)

Fences Andre J. Thomas (b. 1952)

River in Judea Arr. John Leavitt (b. 1956)

Hagerstown Choral Arts

Men's Ensemble

Be Thou My Vision Arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Women's Ensemble

Where The Light Begins - Susan LaBarr (b. 1981)

Full Ensemble

Distant Land John Rutter (b. 1945)

Sure On This Shining Night Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Crowded Table Arr. Andrea Ramsey (b. 1977)

Witness Jack Halloran (1916-1997)

The Awakening Joseph M. Martin

Please no flash photography or recording of any kind.

Our Leaders and Instrumentalists



Janet Palmer, 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. 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, Associate Director, a native of Boonsboro, Maryland, currently teaches music in Washington County Public Schools. Graduating with his master's degree in 2025 and 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. 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.

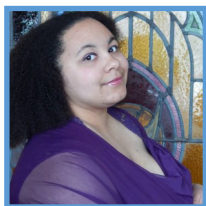


Mary Remsburg, Accompanist and Rehearsal Assistant, a native of West Virginia, Mary earned a Music Education degree from Shepherd University.

As a child, she was part of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir performing 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 and as a classical soloist and accompanied for Women's Camerata, performance forums and senior recitals.

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

Mary released a 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, Dr. McClinton began her musical adventure at a young age. Her parents were the first to introduce her to classical music. She began violin classes through her school at the age of nine and went on to having lessons with Karen Lauffer for four years. She then studied with Dr. Courtney Orlando, who was her primary teacher until high school graduation. Dr. McClinton completed her undergraduate work at

the Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College, studying with Dr. Yeon-Su Kim. Throughout her time at Gettysburg, she performed with the college orchestra, Metta Ensemble, and Sunderman Strings which included a performance in New York City at the DiMenna Center. Dr. McClinton continued in pursuit of her Master's degree at Towson University, studying with Dr. Jeffrey Howard. After completing her Master's, she founded the Stravaganza Piano Trio in York, PA. In 2021, Dr. McClinton began her doctoral studies at Shenandoah Conservatory, studying with Dr. Akemi Takayama completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in the spring of 2024. Since then, she has been teaching privately at Roberson School of Music in Columbia, MD, which features Honors Recitals for students and faculty at Carnegie Hall. Additionally, she is the Director of Traditional Music Ministry at Zion Lutheran Church in Middletown, MD. Dr. McClinton often freelances with many local musical groups, such as Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra, Mercersburg Area Community Chorus, Hagerstown Choral Arts, and Main Street Chamber Orchestra. She also performs with the Frederick Symphony Orchestra. When time allows, Dr. McClinton enjoys spending time with her family and cat, writing stories, and attempting to be good at makeup.

PROGRAM NOTES

The theme of today's concert, "Into Light" invites many interpretations. While our winter concert, "Out of Darkness," reflected on the stillness of the season and the warmth of the holidays, today's program explores light in its many forms—sunrise and moonlight, as well as the deeper illumination that comes through understanding, connection, and new experiences.

We open with *Light Dawns on a Weary World*, a vision of renewal and hope, using images of growth to reflect humanity's role in restoring both the natural world and one another. Two works by Aaron Copland—Choral Variations on "*Simple Gifts*" and *Zion's Walls*—follow, blending American folk traditions with themes of faith, community, and resilience. A piece especially dear to this area, *Shenandoah* evokes the motion of the "rolling river," while *The Quest Unending*, featuring text from Tennyson's Ulysses, speaks to perseverance and the enduring human spirit.

Grace Notes continues the program with songs of compassion and connection. *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother* reflects shared burdens and love, while *Dream a Little Dream of Me* and *Fences* explore relationships and the idea of boundaries. They conclude with *River in Judea*, a gospel-inspired celebration of renewal and peace.

The tenors and basses present *Be Thou My Vision*, a hymn affirming divine guidance, followed by the treble voices in *Where the Light Begins*, a reminder that compassion and acceptance allow us to bring light into the world.

The full choir returns with Lauridsen's *Sure on This Shining Night*, a work of quiet beauty and reflection, and *Distant Land*, a powerful plea for freedom and unity inspired by historic moments of change. *Crowded Table* calls for inclusion and belonging, while *Witness* celebrates the sharing of faith and story. Our program concludes with *The Awakening*, a moving tribute to the power of music to inspire hope, renewal, and joy: "Let music never die in me. Forever let my spirit sing. Let all our voices join as one to praise the Giver of the song!"

Join us for our upcoming events



Monday, May 25, 2026 @ 11 am
"Memorial Day Commemoration"
Antietam National Cemetery · Sharpsburg, MD

Sunday, July 5, 2026 @ 7pm

HCA joins the Hagerstown Municipal Band to celebrate America's 250th birthday!

Location: North Hagerstown High School Auditorium

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www.hca-md.org



Mission: To bring the best choral music to Hagerstown and the tri-state area through volunteer, auditioned community membership and free concerts. We provide a welcoming and musically satisfying experience for local singers.

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Acknowledgements

- ◆ St. John's Episcopal Church for hosting our concert
- ◆ Washington County Gaming Commission for the grant to purchase our Roland electronic piano system
- ◆ The many singers, their families, other volunteers and audience members

Nondiscrimination Policy: Hagerstown Choral Arts, Inc. does not advocate, support or practice discrimination based upon race, sex, age, physical ability, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, marital or family status, national or ethnic origin. HCA is a safe space free from harassment and bullying. This applies to all HCA programs and activities.

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