



masterworks

MASTERWORKS CHORALE • TOLEDO, OHIO • NOVEMBER 2023

Light in the Darkness

Noel, arr. Holmes (b. 1956)[◇]



Lux beata Trinitas,

Gjeilo (b. 1978)*

O magnum mysterium,

Victoria (1548-1611)



Lully, Lulla, Lullay,

Stopford (b. 1977)

O Radiant Dawn,

MacMillan (b. 1959)

The Great Clear Twilight,

Schend (b. 1991)



O nata lux, Forbes (b. 1957)

I Will Light Candles This

Christmas, Arnesen (b. 1980)*

Bring a Torch, Jeanette,

Isabella, arr. Burrows (b. 1971)



Sing We Now of Christmas,

arr. Pederson (b. 1991)*

On This Silent Night,

Quartel (b. 1982)



Sleep, Whitacre (b. 1970)

O Little Town of Bethlehem,

arr. Forrest (b. 1978)*



All My Heart This Night

Rejoices, Stroope (b. 1953)

A Hope Carol, Dickau (b. 1953)

Sussex Carol,

arr. Hagenberg (b. 1979)*^



In the Bleak Midwinter,

Holst (1874-1934)

* includes oboe ^ includes flute

◇ includes percussion

*christmas concerts to explore
season theme of night and day*

light in the darkness

*“bring a torch,
jeanette, isabella”*

*from the 17th century
French carol,*

*“cloaked in slumber with
firelight dancing...”*

*from “On this Silent Night,”
by Sarah Quartel*

*“one star is lighted in the west,
two in the zenith glow...
i think of the mother who bore me
and thank her that I was born”*

*adapted from “The Great Clear Twilight,”
poetry by Sara Teasdale, set for choir by Austin Schend*

*“in thy dark streets
shineth the
ever-lasting light”*

*from “O Little Town of Bethlehem,”
arr. Dan Forrest*

*“candles of love to
inspire all my living”*

*from “I Will Light Candles
This Christmas,”
by Kim André Arnesen*

Jeanette! Isabella! Hurry! Bring your torch! Come! See the little baby!

At the manger, are the girls surprised to find the stable filled with light? Do they understand, as we learn from “O Nata Lux” (O Born Light), by Guy Forbes, that the baby is the light, born of the light?

Mystic Victorian poet Christina Rossetti may not have had Christmas in mind when she wrote “A Hope Carol,” but it fits. The Chorale will sing this poem in a rich setting by David Dickau. The poet lingers somewhere “between a day and night,” and, somehow, becomes aware of a soft sound, the “whir of wing on wing,” but she “could not see the sight.” She expresses her longing to “see the birds that sing.” She longs for the day when all things will become clear. Or as Kyle Pederson says in his introduction to “Sing We Now of Christmas,” our hearts yearn for the day when “peace, hope, and love are born among us.”

Artistic Director Tim Cloeter’s overarching theme for the Chorale’s 51st season is *Night and Day*. Entitled *Light in the Darkness*, this beautiful and meaningful concert offers poetry and music that foster contemplation of the darkness and celebration of the light. It should be a wonderful way for you to usher in the Christmas season. Join us! Saturday, December 2 at 8 p.m. or Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m., Epworth United Methodist Church.

— Tom Sheehan, Tenor





"The songs we offer to you are like candles in the darkness."

Tim
Tim Cloeter,
Artistic Director

from the artistic director
not all christmas songs are cheerful and bright

Not all Christmas songs are cheerful and bright. Normally I would skirt the darker songs in my concert planning, but this fall the daily news of violence and war weighs heavily on me, and it feels more honest to acknowledge the darkness even as we seek to banish it. Perhaps the darkest of Christmas songs is the Coventry Carol, the text of which appears on our program in Philip Stopford's "Lully, Lulla, Lullay." This centuries-old carol tells the story of King Herod, who, heeding the prophesies of the Magi, murders all boys in Bethlehem age two or younger in an attempt to eradicate any future threat to his power. It immediately strikes me that this mournful lullaby could be sung by countless mothers and fathers in war-torn countries this fall. So, too, can I easily imagine the sentiment in Sara Teasdale's poem "Winter Dusk," which on our program is set by Austin Schend in "The Great Clear Twilight." Published in 1920, when the memory of World War I was still fresh, the poem relates how the natural beauty of a winter scene helps her forget for a moment "wars and women who mourn." And the liturgical text "O Oriens," which appears on our program in James MacMillan's "O Radiant Dawn," is a desperate cry for relief from darkness that entirely resonates for me: "O Radiant Dawn, Splendor of Eternal Light, Sun of Justice, come, shine on those who dwell in dark-

ness and the shadow of death." I also deeply hope that this portion of the text comes to pass: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

When we squarely face the darkness, the question arises, "What can our little community chorus do to diminish this very real darkness?" I think that the poetry of Howard Thurman (as set in our program by Kim Arnesen in his "I Will Light Candles This Christmas") points me in the right direction: "I will light Candles this Christmas; / Candles of joy despite all sadness, / Candles of hope where despair keeps watch, / Candles of courage for fears ever present, / Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days, / Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens, / Candles of love to inspire all my living, / Candles that will burn all year long."

The songs we offer to you in this year's Christmas Concerts are like candles in the darkness. Even one candle can light a room, and when we gather, the brightness and hope are magnified. Acknowledging the darkness rather than glossing over it moves us to nurture the light each of us can offer. I hope you'll join us in December to celebrate our light in the darkness.

outreach to youth -- present and long, long past!
two interns to sing christmas concert; 1998 intern now adult member!

The Chorale is thrilled to have two talented high school singers with us this fall. Returning for a second year with the Chorale is Soprano Evvie Van Vorhis, a freshman at Bowling Green High School. She is an accomplished soloist. At age eight, she became the youngest soloist to ever perform with the Toledo Symphony.



Interns Tenor Leo Roehl and Soprano Evvie Van Vorhis

At thirteen, she sang the national anthem for both the Cleveland Browns and the Cleveland Guardians. She has also sung the anthem at UT, OSU, and BGSU games and has been in over a dozen musicals. Evvie's Chorale mentor is Lindsay Andrews.

Tenor Leo Roehl is a senior at Southview High School in Sylvania, where his choir teacher has been Chorale Alto Samantha Olrich since his freshman year. Leo has been involved in plays since the age of twelve, and in January this year, he received a score of 1 for his performance in competition singing Pergolesi's aria "Nina." Next year, Leo may take a gap year, or he may enroll in a vocal performance major at a college to be determined. Roger Gill is Leo's mentor.

tenor chad ackerman: one of first group of interns in 1998

Tenor Chad Ackerman, one of the Chorale's first interns in 1998, has rejoined the group a quarter century later as an adult member. A Bowsher High graduate, Chad majored in musical theater at Baldwin Wallace College (now University). He has worked in musical theater, radio, and TV. You may have seen him in *The Blacklist*, *The Sinner*, or *Law & Order—Organized Crime*, to name a few. And more soon on FX and MAX. Chad works in real estate in New York and New Jersey and plans to be licensed in Ohio very soon. He and his wife, Eryn, decided to bring their sons Cole, eight, and Evan, ten, to live in Monclova last year, and we're glad they did! Welcome back, Chad!



Tenor Chad Ackerman

two former directors & twenty-one chorale alumni return anniversary celebration culminates in june's "connections concert"



Chorale Founding Conductor Benjamin Locke, former Artistic Director Donna Tozer Wipfli, and current Artistic Director Tim Cloeter hold the glass sculptures that were presented to them by the Chorale after the June 11 concert. — photo by Dan Schaefer

They came from as far away as San Francisco! Twenty-one Chorale alumni and two former directors reunited to celebrate the Chorale's Fiftieth Anniversary the weekend of June 9 to 11. It was a weekend of fellowship, food, and, of course, choral music! The celebration culminated in a concert entitled *Where the Heart Is: Community & Home*.

On Friday evening, participants shared a catered meal at Epiphany Lutheran Church. This was followed by a rehearsal of three pieces that current and former members would sing together: Ralph Vaughn Williams's arrangement of "The Lover's Ghost," conducted by Founding Director Benjamin Locke; Daniel E. Gawthrop's "Sing Me to Heaven," led by former Artistic Director Donna Tozer Wipfli; and Stephen Paulus's "The Road Home," directed by current Artistic Director Tim Cloeter.

Saturday evening, everyone rehearsed at Trinity Episcopal Church. On Sunday afternoon, at Trinity, an appreciative audience turned out for the concert. After a performance of ten songs by current members directed by Tim, the alumni came up front to sing the three songs they had rehearsed together. Following the concert, participants and their guests feasted together once again.

For participants it was a weekend of warm connection through choral music. Former Chorale alto, president, and newsletter editor Betsy Kolaszky wrote later from her home in Portland, Oregon about "how much the alums appreciated both the spectacular weekend of music making and socializing, and the volunteer work that went into making it a success. The weekend was right up there with other peak MWC experiences, something I most certainly did not expect, but will always treasure."

chorale soprano & vp: regina stevenson-healy versatility in family, career, and community

Once upon a time, a girl was born in Columbus, Nebraska. Her name was Regina. After her parents divorced, Regina, her mom, and her sister moved to Kearney, Nebraska where her mom married a man named Francis, who happened to be the choir teacher at Kearney High School. "I don't know that music would have been on my radar had he not come into our lives," Regina says. She grew up going to concerts and sang in choirs in junior high and high school. After high school, she attended Kearney State College (now University of Nebraska), where she sang in choirs while completing her English major.

After graduation, Regina enrolled in the Masters in English program at the University of Toledo, but her teaching assistantship was not a good match for her, and she dropped out.

In 1990, Regina was recruited into Masterworks Chorale by Bass Sandy Craig. She had solos. I remember vividly Regina's beautiful performance, accompanied by harp alone, of "That yongë child" in Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. Her voice could easily be mistaken for that of a boy soprano.

*soloist, manager,
designer, officer
— she's done it all*

Marriage and kids came her way. Daughter Spring was born in 1995, and son John in 1997. Regina homeschooled her kids using an interest driven approach. She enjoyed facilitating her children's education and learning along with them. She collaborated with other homeschooling parents to involve Spring and John in group activities.

Regina was active behind the scenes in the Chorale in two ways: She was business manager for three years and assisted in the Masterworks office for several more years. She designed the inside pages of many concert programs as well.

Regina took a break from the Chorale in 2003 while she studied for her Masters Degree in Library and Information Science at Kent State University. Conveniently, she was able to attend most classes remotely in Toledo. At the same time, she also continued homeschooling the kids. In 2005, she graduated and started subbing as a part-time librarian in 2007.

In 2013 she became a full-time librarian in the Children's Library at Main Library, downtown Toledo. Regina loves her job. "I really like helping people," she says, "and seeing little kids, so full of wonder." She especially enjoys storytime, a time to read and sing, and "just to play and be silly." How lucky we of the Chorale are to have this multi-talented woman in our midst. —Tom Sheehan, Tenor



Chorale soprano and vice president Regina Stevenson-Healy stands in front of the "Big Book" in the Saloff Children's Library in the Toledo Lucas County Main Library where she has been a children's librarian for ten years this month. "Engaged couples and families pose in front of the 'Big Book,'" she says. "It allows them to be inside the story."

— photo by Tom Sheehan

MASTERWORKS CHORALE

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Go Ahead! Slit the Seal! Here's What's Inside!

A preview of our Christmas concerts. • A profile of one of our sopranos, Regina Stevenson-Healy • A look back at our 50th anniversary celebrations • Two young interns & a former intern returns • An inspiring message from our artistic director

Now in our 51st Season! Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

Heralding the Tree Lighting at the Toledo Zoo

Friday, November 17 at 6 p.m.

Our Christmas Concerts

Light in the Darkness

Saturday, December 2 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m.

Epworth United Methodist Church
4855 Central Avenue, Toledo

Radio Broadcast of Light in the Darkness

Christmas Day at 2 p.m.

WGTE FM, 91.3

TV Broadcast of 2017 Christmas Concert

Monday, December 18 at 10 p.m.

WGTE HD

Or stream this concert anytime at

www.tinyurl.com/MasterworksChristmas2017

Our Connections Concert

Moon and Stars

Saturday, March 16 at 8 p.m.

Epiphany Lutheran Church
915 Reynolds Road, Toledo

Cabaret Night Fundraiser

Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m.

Carranor Hunt & Polo Club
502 East Second Street,
Perrysburg

Our Classics Concert

Here Comes the Sun

Sunday, June 16 at 4 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church
316 Adams Street, Toledo

Tickets

Tickets for the Christmas Concerts are \$25 or \$15 for students. Order at

www.masterworkstoledo.com or call our box office at (419) 742-2775.



Accessibility

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please advise the Chorale's business office at (419) 742-2775 at least two weeks before the concert. For TYY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service 1 (800) 750-0750.

Contact the Chorale

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