

# masterworks

# Matters

MASTERWORKS CHORALE • TOLEDO, OHIO • NOVEMBER 2019

*christmas concerts explore 48th season's theme of life's big moments*

## New Life



*The Nativity, Federico Barrocci, Prado museum, Madrid*

*Love in that stable was born  
Into our hearts to flow;  
Innocent dreaming babe,  
Make me thy love to know.*

— John Rutter, "Nativity Carol"

## *a musical celebration of mother & child*

Is there any bigger moment in anyone's life than the birth of a child? What better way for the Chorale to start exploring this season's theme of *Life's Big Moments* than with a Christmas program entitled *New Life*?

Let's take our celebration across centuries and continents and moods. In a traditional Basque carol, hear the angel Gabriel as he announces to Mary that she is to bear the Savior. Hear the thoughts of Christ himself as he anticipates his own birth in John Gardner's joyful 1966 setting of "Tomorrow shall be My Dancing Day." Take to the road with a shepherd boy piping merrily on the way to Bethlehem in one of several seasonal gems by British master John Rutter. Move on with us to 16th century Spain as children go door to door seeking rewards in exchange for the good news they bring in "Dadme albricias." In a more reverent mood, contemplate the young Mother as we sing renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria's setting of "Ave Maria" and Philip WJ Stopford's glorious new setting of "There is No Rose." Luxuriate in love and warmth with Malcolm Archer's "O Nata Lux" ("O light born of light"). Rejoice with us as we sing our signature "Noel" in Swahili, and the traditional American Gospel counting song "Go Where I Send Thee."

Join us on this wonderful voyage through song and poetry. *New Life*, Epworth United Methodist Church, Central at Valleyview, Saturday, December 7 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 at 4 p.m.



*this season  
it was more like  
the theme chose me*

*Jim*

*from the director  
the choosing of themes is itself a creative expression for me*

Surely you've noticed during my tenure with Masterworks Chorale that each season and concert has a theme. I specify themes because I think that those themes guide our perception of the repertoire and help establish connections between compositions. In the last few seasons, however, it has also become clear to me that the choosing of themes is itself a creative expression for me. I choose themes that are meaningful to me, and I choose compositions that express something I feel or believe, and I present them in an order that I believe amplifies that expression. It turns out that my "artistic" work isn't just what I coach my singers to do in rehearsal, or what I inspire from them in performance, but also includes how I design the season and concerts.

Usually the choice of a theme feels like a conscious act. Last season, for instance, I knew practically from the outset that I wanted a theme that had to do with nature (because I had some pieces in mind that I especially wanted to perform), and one thing easily led to another until I had no doubts about the themes that I had chosen. This season, however, it was more like the theme chose *me*. I began by noticing that our Classics Concert would occur on J. S. Bach's birthday, which gave me the idea to celebrate his music, and as I searched through cantatas of his, a birthday

cantata and a wedding cantata stood out. The idea of *Celebrate!* as the season theme began to emerge—it would be easy to bill the Christmas Concert as a celebration, and the Connections Concert could be a party, right? And yet as I lived with this idea for a while, it didn't feel authentic for me. It felt only two-dimensional.

Fortuitous words in passing from colleagues on our board and, to be completely honest, a classic Dr. Seuss book prompted something in my subconscious to adjust my perspective on the Classics Concert from celebrations to transitions, and to re-conceive the Connections Concert in terms of renewal. Both of these shifts reinforced a theme in the back of my mind that I had somewhat dismissed: *Life's Big Moments*. It turns out that what was truly on my heart to express found its way to the season brochure: I can relate to the wonder and joy of *New Life* because I especially cherish my own daughter; in the past few years I've faced significant setbacks and transitions; and I need to remind myself that life is full of transitions, and renewal is always possible. I look forward to contemplating and communicating these ideas this season, and to connecting with you at our concerts!

*chorale members celebrate holidays in so many ways*

This is the time of the year for celebrations, and as the Chorale prepares to perform a holiday feast of music, here are some ways Chorale members enjoy the holidays.

**lake erie walks** "My wife Peggy and I have a tradition of taking a Christmas Eve walk on the beach of Lake Erie with Peggy's family in Pennsylvania." — Tom Sheehan, Tenor

**love & laughter** "The best celebrations are in my childhood memory traveling over the high-level bridge to my Italian grandparents' house which was full to the brim with love and laughter ... and great food! We still have Italian Wedding Soup as a tradition on New Year's Day." — Lisa Young, Alto

**baking, baking, baking** "December entails a lot of baking for me, as I uphold the traditions from my home country, the Netherlands. Starting with Sinterklaas (Saint Nicholas) on December 5, it's time to make a round marzipan sausage, chocolate flavored on the inside, white almond flavored on the outside, all tied up with a red bow. I also bake a few "banketstaven," in

essence a long, thin log of a creamy almond paste enveloped in buttery puff pastry. For Christmas, it's a Dutch version of the German "Stolle" (a yeasty raisin bread, dusted in powdered sugar, in the shape of a baby Jesus in swaddling cloth). As we say in the Netherlands: "Eet smakelijk!" (= bon appetit). — Ellie Routt, Alto

**alternative thanksgiving** "My husband and I have a blended family of young adults. Rather than have them feel obligated to attend multiple turkey dinners during Thanksgiving weekend, we have them all come over on Saturday night for our alternative Thanksgiving celebration: one year it was make-your-own-pizza and beer, another was soup, bread, salad & wine. It has been a hit!" — Marti Clayton, Soprano

**family, family, family** "Ideally, on the Saturday between Christmas and New Year's, as many of the 51 members of Jim's and my family and step-family as can make it, gather at one home to reconnect, reminisce, and eat. Jim and I hosted for over 25 years." — Anne Morris, Alto

**reading out loud** "Our Christmas tradition is book-centric. On Christmas Eve, before we go to bed, we sit in the living room and read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas,' and on Christmas morning, before we go down to the tree, we read a picture book (that we've had for years) about the nativity, with all the kids piled in and around our bed. Did I mention that my oldest child is 33 and youngest is 27?" — Kathy Kress, Soprano

**picture puzzles** "Our family enjoys putting together a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle which has a humorous theme." — Karen Clark, Alto

**special ornaments** "For Christmas every year, when we decorate our Christmas tree, each member of my family receives a new ornament, representing an event or achievement from the past year. Each year, when completing the rest of the decorating, we are able to look back and reminisce about all the memories we've had across the years through the various ornaments we place on the tree." — Adam Steider, Tenor

— compiled by Tim Langhorst, Bass

## chorale soprano: meghan schmidbauer an old soul who is young at heart

Meghan Schmidbauer, Soprano, has been told by many that she is an old soul because of her independence and because, even at a young age, she was drawn to the big band era and classical music. But she is also young at heart with a passion for contemporary music and helping others.

Meghan has traveled throughout Ohio during her life, but wherever she has been, there has been music. Originally from the Youngstown area, Meghan grew up in a musical family. Her mother is an accomplished pianist, and she and her sister both played multiple instruments growing up. Meghan had a particular affinity for piano and began taking lessons when she was four years old. In addition to playing multiple instruments, Meghan sang in a number of choirs throughout high school.

"I was fortunate to have great family support," says Meghan. "They drove me everywhere to participate in piano competitions."

Meghan played mostly classical compositions in her competitions, and she adores Chopin. She is also an enthusiastic fan of musical theater.

"When I was about four years old my grandmother took me to see *Annie* at Kent State University summer stock, and I sang so loud from the audience we had to move to the back row and even then, the performers could hear me sing every word," says Meghan.

She moved to Toledo to attend college and met her husband-to-be, Chris. After college, she moved to Columbus with Chris. While there, she longed for a musical connection and found an amazing church choir. When she left to return to Toledo, the choir presented her with the gift of music.

"There was a tradition with the choir that whenever anyone left or moved away we would 'sing them out' to Lutkin's, 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You,'" says Meghan. "While I always found the arrangement to be beautiful, the night I was 'sung out' remains one my most cherished memories."

Meghan and Chris moved back to Toledo 11 years ago, where she is

currently Assistant Dean of Admissions and K-12 Partnerships at Owens Community College.

"My job allows me to work with organizations, schools, students, and families," she says. "I'm very passionate about career-technical education and the opportunity it offers to every student."

After being back in Toledo for several years, she began to get the urge to find others who loved singing. Fortunately, Meghan found Masterworks Chorale. In addition to singing with the Chorale, Meghan serves as the Chorale's treasurer.

Masterworks Chorale has provided Meghan a way to forge friendships through a passion and devotion to music.

"There are so many moments in rehearsals where I am in awe of the talent around me and feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to create music with this group," she says. "Being a member of the board has given me the chance to share my experiences and ideas on how we can grow our image in the community and our audiences."

During a performance, Meghan particularly enjoys looking into the audience to notice the patrons who are lost in the music. "Most recently, when we performed 'The Lake Isle' by Ola Gjelto, that was truly transformative," she says. "There was a moment during the performance where I felt pure joy. Between the strings, the guitar, the vocals, and how the audience was so engaged, at that moment, I felt like I was part of something much bigger than myself." — Tim Langhorst, Bass



Soprano Meghan Schmidbauer

## outreach to youth intern sophie wilson to sing in chorale's christmas concerts

Sophie Wilson, our intern this fall, is living proof that Masterworks Chorale is achieving its mission of "connecting lives through choral music." Her choir teacher at Sylvania Arbor Hills Middle School was Chorale Alto Emily Georgeson and her current choir teacher at Sylvania Southview High is Chorale Soprano Lindsay Andrews. One day, Sophie herself may go on to connect more lives through choral music. A senior this year, she plans to major in Music Education at UT or BG and envisions a career as a middle school choir teacher.

In addition to the Sylvania Southview Symphonic Choir, Sophie now sings in a girls' barbershop group and a small select group of Southview singers. She also sings in her church choir and plays flute, piccolo, and clarinet in the Southview band.



Soprano Sophie Wilson

Celebrate the holiday season with this playlist of choral and contemporary music that celebrates new life. Curated by bass Tim Langhorst

[Click here to listen!](#)

Enjoy. Don't have a Spotify account? It's easy to sign up, and there's a free version. Just go to [www.spotify.com](http://www.spotify.com).

*one singer's  
spotify playlist  
inspired by the theme  
of our  
christmas concert  
new life*

MWC 2019  
New Life

Sophie has taken voice lessons for three years. All

that work has paid off. She was asked to sing the National Anthem at Sylvania's Fall Festival last month.

Two interests set Sophie apart. A bird lover, she has a pet conure, which, at 21, is considerably older than she is! And she loves Shakespeare.

The oldest of three, Sophie is the daughter of Amie Saggese and Ed Cline. Her Chorale mentor is soprano Regina Stevenson-Healy. We are delighted that Sophie is singing with us this fall! — Tom Sheehan, Tenor





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# Masterworks Chorale

connecting lives through choral music



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

A preview of our Christmas Concert *New Life* • A profile of Chorale soprano Meghan Schmidbauer • A profile of our newest intern  
• The latest Singer's Choice playlist on Spotify • A thoughtful piece by Artistic Director Tim Cloeter about choosing season and concert themes • A look at the interesting ways some Masterworks Chorale singers spend their holidays

## Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

### Heralding the Tree Lighting at the Toledo Zoo

Friday, November 22 around 6 p.m.

Our Christmas Concerts

### New Life

Saturday, December 7 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 8 at 4 p.m.

Epworth United Methodist Church

Valleyview at Central, Toledo

### Radio Broadcast of Christmas Concert

Christmas Day at 2 p.m. on WGTE-FM, 91.3

### TV Broadcast of 2017 Christmas Concert

Monday, December 16 at 10 p.m. & Tuesday,

December 17 at 4 a.m. on WGTE-TV

### Our Classics Concert

### Transitions

Saturday, March 21 at 8 p.m.

Epiphany Lutheran Church

Toledo

### Cabaret Night Fundraiser

Tuesday, April 21, 6 p.m.

Carranor Hunt & Polo Club

Perrysburg

### Our Connections Concert

### Renewal

Sunday, June 7 at 4 p.m.

Epworth United Methodist Church

Toledo

## Tickets and Other Details

### New system better for all!

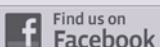
The Chorale has a new ticketing system! For tickets and season subscriptions, please click here and scroll down. "A" Level (closer up): \$25, "B" level (farther back): \$20 and Students: \$12. For group discounts and student tickets, call our office at (419) 742-2775. Want to save your seat? "A" Level Season Subscriptions: \$70! Have a group of eight or more? Get 20% off!

## 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.

**Giving Matters!** Did you know that each member of Masterworks Chorale pays \$75 dues each year? Join us in supporting choral art in Northwest Ohio! Send your generous donation to Masterworks Chorale, PO Box 114, Toledo OH 43697.



Masterworks Chorale of Toledo

[www.masterworkstoledo.com](http://www.masterworkstoledo.com)