

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society
Directed by Curtis Nolley
-Presents-

Sing We Now of Christmas

Featuring
Dale Warland's

Nativity Suite

with

Songs and Carols for Christmas

December 15, 7:30 pm

December 17, 3:00 pm

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren

2023-2024 Season
Celebrating our 53rd Season





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FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To Our Audience

Welcome to the first concert of our 53rd season! We are so happy that you could join us. Your presence and continued support allows us to bring you this beautiful Christmas music each year, thank you.

The first half of our concert includes four lovely carols and a harp solo, followed by composer Dale Warland's Nativity Suite. Our second half features six popular carols and our eagerly awaited piano four-hands presentation by our talented accompanists, Amy Robertson and Debbie McGuire. We are delighted to welcome Kristin Szandzik on harp, and Lydia Carroll and Andrea Nolley on flute. Larry Taylor will also assist us at the organ again this concert, always a wonderful musical experience.

We hope you will join us again at our future concerts! You can follow us at singshenandoah.org or on Facebook. Thank you again for sharing our musical celebration of this wonderful season as we present, "Sing We Now of Christmas." Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

Donna Tinsley, President

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Board of Directors 2023-2024

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The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society gratefully acknowledges the wonderful, cooperative spirit of the Park View Mennonite Church for the use of its facilities for rehearsals and board meetings.

*Program cover photography courtesy of Cara Zimmerman Walton
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Curtis Nolley, Artistic Director In his 23rd season as director of the Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, Curtis Nolley leads the distinguished ensemble in its 53rd season. In addition to his responsibilities with the SVCS, Curtis serves as church musician and free-lance choral conductor. For 43 years he served as music educator serving students as choral director and music specialist in the public schools of Augusta County, Rockingham County,

and Harrisonburg City. Additionally, Curtis has directed choirs and taught music education and choral conducting at Mary Baldwin University and as Visiting Director of Choral Music at Bridgewater College from 2018-2020. Curtis continues to serve as choir director at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. He has received recognition for his work in choral music education as the recipient of the Virginia Choral Director Association's Sydney Swiggett Award for outstanding service and contribution to choral music education in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the James Madison University Professional Service Award recognizing outstanding service to the music education profession and James Madison University, and as Augusta County Public School's Teacher of the Year. Under Curtis' direction, the SVCS was presented the 2020 Circle of Excellence in the Arts Award by the Arts Council of the Valley, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts at JMU. A native of the Shenandoah Valley, Curtis holds a BA in Music Education from Bridgewater College and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Curtis is active as an adjudicator and guest conductor for scholastic festival choirs across the state of Virginia. An active leader in music education, Curtis is a past president of the Virginia Music Educators Association. He continues to serve on VMEA's executive board.



Amy Robertson, accompanist, has been piano accompanist for the SVCS since 1996. She is also a freelance and staff accompanist at James Madison University and teaches privately. She lives with her family in Port Republic, Virginia. Amy holds a BA in Piano Performance with an emphasis in accompanying and coaching, and a Masters in Piano Performance from James Madison University. She has been a featured soloist

and a finalist in the Hilton Head Island International Competition. In 1997, Amy premiered a piece for cello and piano at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter annual meeting of the College Music Society. In 2000, she auditioned for and attended the American Institute of Music Studies program in Graz, Austria. While there, Amy focused her studies on German Lied and accompanied vocalists in local concerts.



Debbie McGuire, accompanist, serves as assistant accompanist and sings with her fellow altos in the SVCS. She is a professional freelance accompanist who has worked with church, school, and collegiate performance ensembles throughout Virginia. She has taught at Mary Baldwin College and served as piano instructor at Stuart Hall School in Staunton, Virginia. In addition to her service with the SVCS, she has served as guest accompanist for scholastic festival choral ensembles throughout the region. Ms. McGuire is a graduate of the University of Richmond and received her Master's Degree in Church Music from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Her private studio and residence is in Rockingham County, Virginia.

Dr. Larry Taylor, organ, is professor of music at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Virginia where he teaches courses in music theory and history and gives lessons in organ and piano. Dr. Taylor holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ from the University of Cincinnati (where he won the Strader Organ Competition), Master of Music degrees from Emory University and Notre Dame, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. In addition to performances of classical repertoire on piano and organ, Dr. Taylor has arranged and performed organ accompaniments to more than twenty classic silent films with a focus on the comedies of Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd.



As a composer, Dr. Taylor has collaborated frequently with poet Tom Noe to produce anthems, cantatas, the one-woman opera Marie Curie and the two-act opera Eros and Psyche. They are currently collaborating on a new opera, The Dickinsons of Amherst, which tells the story of a scandal in Emily Dickinson's family that had an impact on her legacy. He has also composed arrangements for symphonic band and chorus as well as solo organ works. His art songs have been featured as part of the Bridgewater International Poetry Festival. In 2015 he won the Faculty Scholarship Award at Bridgewater College.

Kristin Szandzik, Harp

Mrs. Kristin Szandzik has been playing the harp for 20 years. After obtaining her B.M. in Artist Development from Liberty University, she completed her M.M. in Harp Performance from the University of Michigan, studying under Anastasia Jellison and Joan Holland.

In 2018, Mrs. Szandzik was selected as a Harp Fellow for the Texas Music Festival where she studied with Paula Page. Over the years she has participated in master classes with notable harpists such as Nancy Allen, Pat Terry-Ross, Marie Pierre-Langlamet, and Alice Giles. In addition to performing, Mrs. Szandzik enjoys collaborating with composers writing new music for the harp, and has participated in multiple premieres, including a one-act opera and several chamber pieces.

Believing in the unique sound qualities of the harp and the healing power of music, Mrs. Szandzik is certified as a therapeutic musician through the Music for Healing and Transition Program to provide live therapeutic music for patients in all healthcare situations. Mrs. Szandzik teaches as an adjunct professor at Liberty University's School of Music, and serves as principal harpist for the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra, as well as the director of the local harp ensemble, The Blue Ridge Harpway. Kristin Szandzik is a member of the American Harp Society (AHS).





Lydia Carroll, Flute

Lydia Carroll serves on the music faculty at Eastern Mennonite University and Bridgewater College, where she teaches courses in applied flute, woodwinds, and music appreciation. In addition to running a vibrant private music studio, Lydia teaches private piano and flute students in the Shenandoah Valley Preparatory Music Program and teaches flute and music theory at the Cseh Summer School of Music. An avid performer and collaborator, she has toured with en-

sembles at Carnegie Hall as well as Barcelona, Spain, where she performed as concerto soloist at the Costa Brava International Music Festival. Lydia has also performed with the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra (GA), and served as principal flutist of the Columbus Ballet Orchestra (GA). Recently, Lydia has performed as soloist with the Eastern Mennonite University Wind Ensemble and performed at the National Flute Association Convention in Salt Lake City and the Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention in Reston, VA.

Lydia holds degrees in flute performance from Bob Jones University (BM), Columbus State University (MM and AD), and James Madison University (DMA).

Program Notes

Nativity Suite

Dale Warland (1932)

Nativity Suite comprises settings of three well-known traditional texts for the Christmas season.

Welcome All Wonders, a setting of Richard Cranshaw's 17th century text, is meant to capture the excitement that the shepherds must have felt as they witnessed the birth of the "little one". Cranshaw's own subtitle calls out for exactly that: "A Hymn sung as by the shepherds". The dualities that permeate the poetry are made manifest in two sharply contrasting musical ideas: the fanfare-like melodies in the flute and harp, and the thoughtful, legato phrases of the choir.

The opening sounds of the instruments and voices of *O Magnum Mysterium (o great mystery)*, one of the most widely known of the Latin texts appropriate for Christmas, are meant to conjure an air of mystery. The initial tone clusters, approached by layering the voice parts, enhance the intimacy and the veiled quality suited to this traditional liturgical text for Matins on Christmas day.

A Boy Was Born is a setting of the traditional translation of a 16th century German poem. This piece has the instruments animating the choir's words throughout. In several instances, the voices serve as accompaniment to the instruments, particularly the flute, with joy often expressed by its very high tessitura and its captivating agility. The repeated "alleluias" at the close of each verse are resounding exclamations of joy, with harmonies made up of as many as eleven voice parts.

Program

Joyful, All Ye Nations, Rise

Arr. Mary McDonald

(At the conductor's signal, the audience is invited to join in singing)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,"

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

arr. Howard Helvey

A Babe is Born

William Mathias

Text: 15th century, anon.

A babe is born all of a may (maiden), to bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni Creator Spiritus (Come Creator Spirit)
At Bethlehem, that blessed place, the child of bliss now born he was;
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas (O blessed light, the Trinity)
There came three kings out of the East, to worship the King that is so free,
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortus cardine (From lands that see the sun rise).
The angels came down with one cry, a fair song that night sung.
They in worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine (Glory to Thee, Lord)

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

Traditional Carol Medley

Arr. Ray Pool

Kristin Szandzik, Harp

Nativity Suite

Dale Warland (1932)

1. Welcome All Wonders

Text: Richard Cranshaw (1613-1649)

Welcome, all wonders in one sight.
Eternity shut in a span;
Summer in winter, day in night;
Heaven in earth and God in man.
Great little one whose all embracing birth,
Lifts earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

2. O Magnum Mysterium

O magnum mysterium,	O Great mystery
Et admirabile sacramentum,	And wondrous sacrament
Ut animalia viderunt Dominum natum,	That animals should see the new-born Lord
Jacentem in praesepio.	Lying in a manger.
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt	O blessed virgin, whose womb was deemed worthy
Portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia.	To carry the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia

3. A Boy Was Born

Text: 16th Century German

A Boy was born in Bethlehem:
Rejoice for that, Jerusalem.
Alleluia.

He let himself a servant be,
That all mankind he might set free:
Alleluia.

Then praise the Word of God who came
to dwell within a human frame:
Alleluia.

INTERMISSION

- Sing We Now of Christmas arr. Mark Hayes
- In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Dan Forrest
- O Yule Full of Gladness arr. Carolyn Jennings
Lydia Carroll and Andrea Nolley, flute
- Away in A Manger arr. Joel Raney
- Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Jeffrey Blersch
Amy Robertson and Debbie McGuire, piano 4-hands
- Go, Tell It On the Mountain arr. Howard Helvey
- Love's Pure Light Elaine Hagenberg
- I Saw Three Ships arr. Mark Hays

SVCS Concert Schedule

Spring 2024

Songs of Comfort, Songs of Joy!
Featuring *Requiem for the Living* by Dan Forrest

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
April 12 & 14, 2023

Summer 2024

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Deborah Bandalos
Karen Barnes
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Judy Bomberger
Polly Brown
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Debra Bucklen
Beverly Carver
Miriam Clark
Susanne Cockley
Lorraine Crawford
Paula Cude
Linda Dove
Megan Geier
Doris Heatwole
Wanda Hodge
Joanna Hoover
Nancy Hopkins-Garriss
Svetlana Kabysh
Janet Long
Julia Longenecker
Nancy Metcalfe
Kristi Pascarella
Krista Powell
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Martha Showalter
Jeanette Shull
Dulcinea Sloan
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Donna Tinsley
Julia Verba
Alexandra Vilela
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Janet Welty
Ruth Williams

Alto

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Jean Andrews
Rebekah Barfield
Chris Carpenter
Stefanie Eye
Jan Flora
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Sandy Greene
Robin Hall
Rachel Hamburger
Susan Holsinger
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Betty Hoskins
Carol La Spina
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Hannah Martin
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Marta McGuire
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Hollis Showalter
Welby Showalter
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Help the Music Continue!
 The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society
 Announces the establishment of our
Legacy Fund

In partnership with the Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, the SVCS has established the Legacy Fund to sustain the mission of the SVCS into the future.

If you would like more information on how you can help the music continue through your gift or estate planning, please call Curtis Nolley at 540-433-3031 or email carnolley@hotmail.com for more information.



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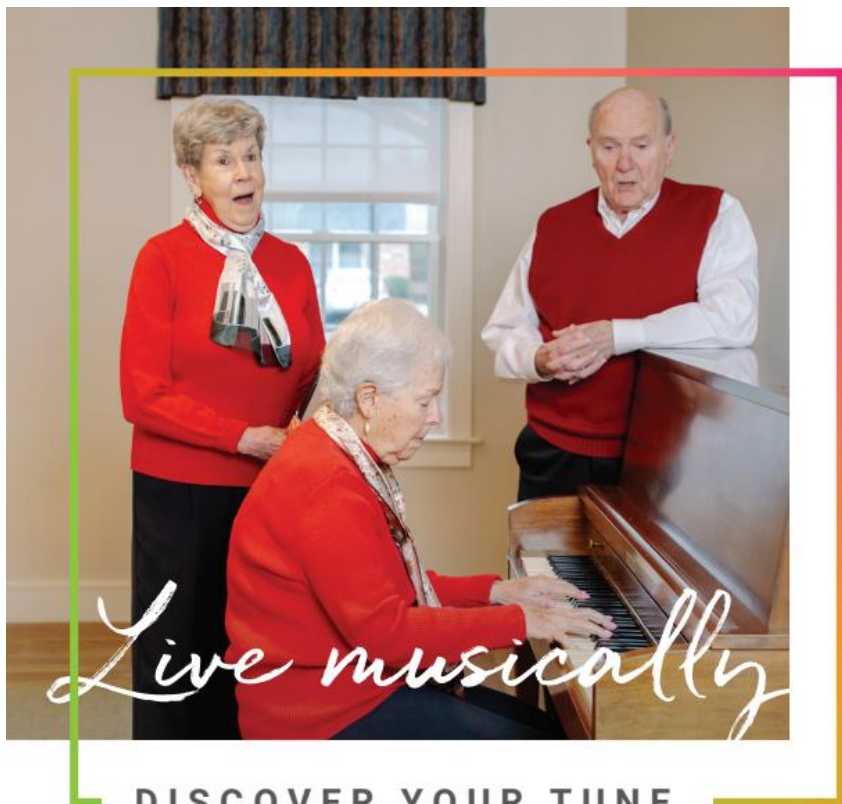
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