



VOCALESSENCE  
**SING AND  
CELEBRATE**

season  
**49**  
2017 - 2018



## FALL CONCERTS

Finlandia Forever  
Bach & Bluegrass Jamboree  
Welcome Christmas  
Star of Wonder

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**2017-2018**  
**49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON**



**SPECIAL THANKS FOR  
THE SUPPORT OF  
THIS CONCERT**

*Lowell and Cay Shea Hellervik  
Alfred P. & Ann M. Moore*

# WELCOME CHRISTMAS

**Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 7:30 PM**  
**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley**

**Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:30 PM**  
**Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville**

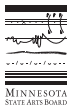
**Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 4 PM**  
**Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis**

**Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 4 PM**  
**Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis**

**VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers**  
**Mary Jo Gothmann, *pianist***  
**Philip Brunelle, *conductor***  
**G. Phillip Shoultz, III, *conductor***

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## 2017-2018 SEASON SPONSORS



*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.*



## WELCOME

We always look forward to our **Welcome Christmas** concerts for the joy and warmth that this music brings to everyone. This year we want to celebrate some of the many, many composers living in our Twin Cities: what an abundance of marvelous talent we have here!

Some of the music will be familiar settings of old hymns and carols while others will be new to you—and that is one of the joys of programming a **Welcome Christmas** program! We know you will be delighted with the colorful variety of music our composers offer.

It is also a delight to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Welcome Christmas Carol Contest with two new composers and their charming music for a cappella chorus. Best wishes to each of you; may this Advent and Christmas season bring you joy and happiness.

—Philip Brunelle,  
*Artistic Director and Founder*  
and  
G. Phillip Shoultz III,  
*Associate Conductor and*  
*Education Program Director*

## THE PROGRAM

### VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Processional from *The Masque of Angels* Dominick Argento (1963)

Wishes and Candles Stephen Paulus (1998)

Christ was Born on Christmas Day arr. Randall Davidson (1992)

In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst, arr. Abbie Betinis (2006)  
JoAnna Johnson, *soprano*; Anna Mooy, *alto*

### VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Carol of the Night David Evan Thomas (2016)  
2017 Welcome Christmas Carol Contest Winner

Jingle Bells arr. J. David Moore (2006)

A Carol Cary John Franklin (2003)  
Mari Scott, *soprano*

### VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers

Star in the East from *An Appalachian Epiphany* arr. Barbara J. Rogers (2005)

## INTERMISSION



**LET'S FILL THE HALL!**

Looking for a holiday gift?  
Just \$25 sponsors a student's  
seat at Orchestra Hall!

Seats can be sponsored at the VocalEssence table  
in the lobby tonight or online at [vocalessence.org/donate](http://vocalessence.org/donate)

**VocalEssence Ensemble Singers**

Ringeltänze: Christmas Carol-Dances

Libby Larsen  
(1983)

- I. O Hark the Bell's Glad Song
- II. Beautiful Star  
Anika Kildegaard, *soprano*; Erin Peters, *alto*;  
Bill Pederson, *tenor*; Ryan LaBoy, *baritone*
- III. Le Petit Nouveau Né
- IV. At Christmas Be Merry
- V. The Shepherds All Are Waking

**VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Daniel Kallman  
(1991)

**VocalEssence Chorus**

Fill the Sky

2017 Welcome Christmas Carol Contest Winner  
Nancy Gifford  
(2017)

Winter Walk from *The Longest Nights*

Timothy C. Takach  
(2015)

**VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers**

Child of Light\*

Daniel Kantor  
(1990, 2017)

**VocalEssence Ensemble Singers**

The Nine Gifts

Steve Heitzeg  
(1998)  
Samantha Noonan, *soprano*; Robin Helgen, *alto*;  
JW Keckley, *tenor*; Nathan Petersen-Kindem, *bass*

**VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers**

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

G. Phillip Shoultz, III  
(2017)

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz  
(1953)

\*Audience Sing



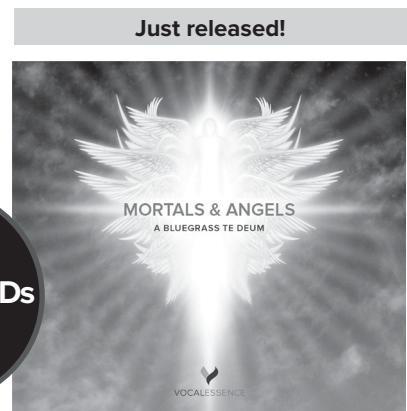
*In gratitude for the inspiration that David and Ann Buran provided to VocalEssence for so many years, we are pleased to dedicate the first Welcome Christmas concert at Plymouth Congregational Church each season in their honor. We look forward to celebrating their contributions at these performances for years to come.*

**ADD SPARKLE TO YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON WITH A JUST-RELEASED CD BY VOCALESSENCE!**

Hot off the press, be the first to take home the VocalEssence new release *Mortals & Angels: A Bluegrass Te Deum*.

Available at the CD table and via [vocalessence.org](http://vocalessence.org).

**At this concert  
Buy any 3 CDs  
get one FREE!**



## TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

### WISHES AND CANDLES

*Stephen Paulus*

We have a wish for each candle we light,  
Making the holidays shiny and bright.  
A wish for the children, the young and the old,  
To never go hungry, to never be cold.

Wishes and candles and love and laughter,  
Memories we'll treasure forever after.  
Families are gathered with presents to share.  
The best gift of all is that everyone's there.

A wish for the people who walk all alone,  
A roof overhead and a bed of their own.  
A candle for those in the need of a friend,  
A hand and a smile by the holiday's end.

Wishes and candles – they warm the season,  
Hope for a world filled with peace and reason.  
Think of the love that is waiting for you,  
When all of our holiday wishes come true.

—*Marilyn and Alan Bergman*

### CHRIST WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY

*arr. Randall Davidson*

Christ was born on Christmas Day,  
Wreath the holly, twine the bay.  
*Christus natus hodie: (Christ is born today)*  
The Babe, the Son, the Holy One of Mary.

He is born to set us free,  
He is born our Lord to be,  
*Ex Maria virgine: (from the Virgin Mary)*  
The God, the Lord, by all adored forever.

*Refrain:*

He came among us at Christmastide in Bethlehem;  
Let us bring Him from far and wide love's diadem.  
*Eya, Eya,*  
Lo, He comes and loves, and saves, and frees us.

Let the bright red berries glow  
Everywhere in goodly show;  
*Christus natus hodie: (Christ is born today)*  
The Babe, the Son, the Holy One of Mary.

Christians all rejoice and sing;  
'Tis the birthday of the King,  
*Ex Maria virgine: (from the Virgin Mary)*  
The God, the Lord, by all adored forever. *Refrain.*  
—*Medieval German Carol*

### IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

*Gustav Holst, arr. Abbie Betinis*

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Christ a homeless stranger, so the gospels say,  
Cradled in a manger and a bed of hay;  
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed,  
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have thronged the air,  
Shepherds, beasts and wise men, may have gathered there,  
But only his mother in her tender bliss  
Blessed this new redeemer with a kiss.

What can I give you, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give you: give my heart.

—*Poem by Christina Rossetti, John Andrew Storey*  
(modified by Abbie Betinis)

### CAROL OF THE NIGHT

*David Evan Thomas*

#### Program Note:

"Carol of the Night" treats an image common to all religious traditions: the kindling of light in the darkness. The Spirit unfolds the mystery, but it is for humanity to "blow on the embers of the heart." In the music, searching harmonies set a melancholy tone, but a four-note, ascending "light"-motive soon spreads throughout the texture, as if from candle to candle.

Minneapolis poet Jean Greenwood is a Presbyterian minister and a recipient of a Bush Leadership Grant. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota with a BS in English Education, and received a Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary.

"Carol of the Night" was composed during the holiday season in 2016. As a former member of the Plymouth Music Series Chorus (now VocalEssence), I'm particularly pleased and honored to hear the work introduced by the Ensemble.

—*David Evan Thomas*

In this holy darkness,  
this quiet hour,  
the beating heart is heard,  
a gentle drumbeat of longing.  
This night,  
something so primal shakes the earth—  
the Spirit comes to us  
and rests among us.  
Unfold for us, O Spirit,  
the mystery and power of Love,  
cradled in human form,  
not as king but peasant child.  
Blow on the embers of the heart,

that Love may be born in us anew  
this night,  
and we might see the beauty of holiness  
in humble places,  
and bow down  
with grateful heart.  
Now, the night beckons,  
for here we find the Light,  
a beacon on this uncertain road.  
Here is the Light.

—Jean Greenwood

#### A CAROL

Cary John Franklin

The warmth of cows  
That chewed on hay  
And cherubim  
Protected Him  
As small He lay.

Chickens and sheep  
Knew He was there  
Because all night  
A holy light  
Suffused the air.  
Darkness was long

And the sun brief  
When the Child arose  
A man of sorrows  
And friend to grief.  
—Donald Hall

#### STAR IN THE EAST FROM AN APPALACHIAN EPIPHANY

arr. Barbara J. Rogers

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator,  
Down from the regions of glory descend!  
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger,  
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

*Refrain:*

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning!  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star in the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining;  
Low lies his bed, with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him, in slumber reclining,  
Wise men and shepherds before him do fall. *Refrain:*

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
Odors of Eden and offerings divine,  
Gems from the mountains and pearls from the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine? *Refrain:*

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gold we his favor secure,  
Richer by far is the hearts adoration.  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor. *Refrain:*

#### RINGELTÄNZE: CHRISTMAS CAROL-DANCES

Libby Larsen

##### I. O HARK THE BELL'S GLAD SONG

O hark the bell's glad song as it floateth so clear,  
Far and near!  
A Virgin hath conceived and brought forth a son  
Here in Bethlehem.

The hosts of bright angels proclaim these tidings so new  
All are true.  
Give praise to God on High, peace on earth and goodwill to all  
Here in Bethlehem.

Then hastened the shepherds so gladly to see the great sight,  
At midnight.  
We seek a King, said they, as they straight made their way  
Unto Bethlehem.

The star in the East now leads them with heavenly light,  
Wondrous bright!  
It resteth o'er the manger where lies in his state  
Christ of Bethlehem.

Their gifts great kings are bringing to lay at his feet –  
Offering meet!  
O each, give thou thine heart unto Christ, heaven's King,  
Born at Bethlehem.  
—11th century carol

##### II. BEAUTIFUL STAR

Beautiful Star whom I love,  
Wondrous Sun shining on me.  
Beautiful Star I ask only to love,  
None but Thee.

*Refrain:*

Beautiful Star, morning star  
Of this holy day,  
Gentle Star, light my nights,  
Light of my life.

From the skies you came down, bright star  
To save my soul.  
Gracious starbeam, you soothe my heart  
And make me whole. *Refrain:*

Constant Star, I want never to be  
Far from your sight.  
When the world darkens about me bright star,  
I dwell in your light. *Refrain:*  
—17th Century Carol

### III. LE PETIT NOUVEAU NÉ

Shepherds, tell me where you're going gaily all together?  
We are going to see the child, born this day in a manger.  
Where is he, le petit Nouveau Né?  
O where, the baby Savior?  
—18th Century Carol

### IV. AT CHRISTMAS BE MERRY

At Christmas be merry and thank God for all,  
And feast thy poor neighbors, the great and the small.  
All the year long have an eye to the poor,  
And God shall send luck to keep open your door.

Let's sing and let's dance and let's make of good cheer.  
For Christmas comes but once a year.  
All the year long have an eye to the poor,  
And God shall send luck to keep open your door.  
—16th Century Carol

### V. THE SHEPHERDS ALL ARE WAKING

The shepherds all are waking to greet this joyful day.  
Their toils and cares forsaking, the rites of love to pay.  
Let everyone be gay,  
And raise a voice to Mary,  
Who laid in manger down,  
A Holy Child so blest,  
When all the skies were starry.

The angels all are singing alleluia, alleluia,  
Glad tidings they are bringing, alleluia, alleluia,  
To herald the news  
These tidings true declaring,  
That Jesus on this morn was born,  
To save us all from sin,  
And teach us love and caring.

Ye shepherds here abiding, seek early and be wise,  
In faith and love confiding a place in Paradise.  
Let thankful carols rise,  
As homeward ye are wending.  
The star that shone with light, so bright  
Will guide you evermore,  
Till time shall have an ending.  
—16th Century Carol

### INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

*Daniel Kallman*

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
—Traditional Polish Carol

### FILL THE SKY

*Nancy Gifford*

#### Program Note:

Singing angels, frightened shepherds, and the birth of the Holy Child are familiar images, often represented as a tableau in a Christmas card. The intent of this carol is to bring these images to life. My imagination tells me that angels danced across the sky as they sang the good news of Christ's birth. How could they not?

*Fill the Sky* follows a traditional format of verse and refrain. The refrain is celebratory, using Latin and English to connect past to present. Based on Luke 2:8-15, each verse reveals part of the story. Dancing dotted rhythms, syncopations, tone painting, alternating major and minor modes, and vocal imitation were inspired by 16th century madrigals.

Imitation opens the final section, when all parts sing in overlapping succession, "Still they sing on Christmas Day." The carol's message is that angels return each Christmas season, dancing across the sky, and joining us as we sing.  
—Nancy Gifford

Dancing angels of the night  
Fill the sky with wings of gold.  
Never was there such a sight,  
Never such a story told.

*Gaudeamus! Rise and sing  
Praises to the newborn King.  
Gaudeamus hodie,  
Christ our Savior, born this day.*

Chanting angels of the night,  
Shepherds fallen to the ground;  
Nearly blinded by their light.  
Nearly deafened by their sound. *Refrain:*

Shining angel of the night  
Leads the shepherds from their fear,  
Telling them that all is right,  
Telling them that God is near. *Refrain:*

Guiding angels of the light  
Share the message of good will:  
"For to you is born this night  
Christ the Lord, Emmanuel." *Refrain:*

Dancing angels of the night  
Leave the shepherds on their way.  
Still they make the heavens bright,  
Still they sing on Christmas Day!  
—Nancy Gifford

## WINTER WALK FROM *THE LONGEST NIGHTS*

*Timothy C. Takach*

The longest night  
The brightest moon  
The sharpest sting of cold  
The barest branch  
The hardest earth  
My breath the only cloud

And I am out walking to ask the winter moon:  
Who will I be when the spring rains come?

The air so still  
Smoke rising straight  
The snowbanks sleep so deep  
The quiet star  
The silent night  
A lone bird wakes and sings

And I am out walking to hear my heart,  
And I am out walking to hear my heart.

—*Brian Newhouse*

## CHILD OF LIGHT

*Daniel Kantor*

Why only this darkened stable embraced the dawn of new life?  
Lowly manger to welcome our savior,  
This child of night, needs our light.  
Could it be that Creator, Builder, has no home in creation?  
In His house will he find no home?  
Child of night needs your light.

Sleep, sleep as the morning daybreak in song and sun shall arise.  
Eyes of wonder look upward from under  
The star of night, Child of light.  
In this winter of aging darkness rays of youth will awaken.  
Warming hearts of unspoken love,  
Star of night needs your light. Child of light.  
—*Daniel Kantor*

## Audience:

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.  
—*William Chatterton Dix*

## THE NINE GIFTS

*Steve Heitzeg*

I bring you my body, darling dear:  
My ripening song, my jubilant ear.  
That's what Mary sang. *Alleluia!*

And I bring surprise – this sweetest fragrance  
Made with love and hope in patience.  
That's what Elizabeth said. *Wonder!*

I come with a trill and a blue light  
And followers stumbling through the night.  
That's what the star sang. *Rrrrr!*

Well, my lamb, I've got you this fleece  
So your old mother can get some peace.  
That's what the shepherd said. *Yan! Tan!*

I bring you the broken tooth of a giant,  
No compromise, the word that is silent.  
That's what the stone seemed to say.

I bring you guffaws and loops of mist  
And a band of hair for your right wrist.  
That's what the donkey said. *Eeyore!*

I bring you my crown and an uneasy dream  
Of duty and honor, gossip and scheme.  
That's what the king said. *Heigh-ho!*

Open your hand for this fitting glove:  
The name of the song in my throat is love.  
That's what the ring-dove sang. *Coo-oo!*

But what can I bring you? I bring me.  
Whatever I am and all I will be.  
That's what the child sang. *Little Jesus!*  
—*Kevin Crossley-Holland*

## RISE UP, SHEPHERD, AND FOLLOW

*G. Phillip Shoultz, III*

Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

## Refrain:

Follow, follow;  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words,  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

—*African American Spiritual*



## BIOGRAPHIES

### E'EN SO, LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME

*Paul Manz*

Peace be to you and grace from Him  
Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed His blood  
That we might savéd be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord,  
The Lord, Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come;  
Sing Holy, Holy Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
And night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,  
For Christ will be their All!

—Text arranged from Revelation 22  
by Ruth and Paul Manz



AMERICAN  
COMPOSERS  
FORUM

The **American Composers Forum** is committed to supporting composers and developing new markets for their music. Through granting, commissioning, and performance programs, the Forum provides composers at all stages of their careers with valuable resources for professional and artistic development. By linking communities with composers and performers, the Forum fosters a demand for new music, enriches communities, and helps develop the next generation of composers, musicians, and music patrons. [composersforum.org](http://composersforum.org)



**Dominick Argento**, America's pre-eminent composer of lyric opera, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Peabody Conservatory and a Ph.D. from the Eastman School of

Music. He has received the Pulitzer Prize for Music, a Grammy Award, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1979. Dominick has composed many works for Minnesota organizations including VocalEssence, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, the Dale Warland Singers, the Guthrie Theater, and Plymouth Congregational Church.



Composer **Abbie Betinis** writes music called "inventive, richly melodic" (The New York Times) and "superb... whirling, soaring" (Tacoma News Tribune). A 2015

McKnight Artist Fellow, and listed in NPR Music's "100 Composers Under Forty," she has written over 70 commissioned pieces and has been composer-in-residence with The Schubert Club, The Rose Ensemble, and The Singers—Minnesota Choral Artists. She lives in St. Paul, where she is adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University. [abbiebetinis.com](http://abbiebetinis.com)



Music of humor and passion are the hallmarks of **Randall Davidson's** catalogue. His works have enjoyed hundreds of performances throughout the U.S. and Europe and have attracted the attention of critics, performers, and audiences alike for their dramatic and accessible musical language. Randall's catalogue encompasses nearly every genre: choral, opera, ballet, oratorio, chamber orchestra, television commercials, incidental music for theater and puppets, and a major sound installation to inaugurate the Minnesota Children's Museum. [boysartmusic.com](http://boysartmusic.com)



**Cary John Franklin** is a nationally recognized composer with commissions and performances from many of the leading performing ensembles in the United States.

His work ranges from chamber music to orchestral music, from choral music to opera. Cary John has received commissions from everyone from VocalEssence to the Washington National Opera. Educated in Minnesota at Macalester College and the University of Minnesota, Cary John studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Dominick Argento. [caryjohnfranklin.com](http://caryjohnfranklin.com)



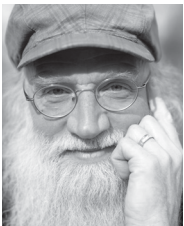
**Nancy Gifford** is a composer and choral musician from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, who has directed church and school choirs in southeastern Pennsylvania for 30

years. She received a BA in Music from Rutgers University (Piano major) and Master of Music in Composition from Westminster Choir College. Nancy has had several commissions, often writing her own texts. Her music is listed in the catalogs of ECSchirmer, MorningStar Music, Hinshaw Music, Santa Barbara Music, and Choristers Guild. [nancygiffordmusic.com](http://nancygiffordmusic.com)



Emmy Award-winning composer **Steve Heitzeg** is known for evocative and lyrical scores frequently including naturally-found instruments, such as stones,

driftwood, Joshua Tree branches, manatee and Beluga whale bones, and sea glass. Steve has written more than 150 works for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensemble, ballet, and PBS films. His body of compositions address social and environmental issues with vision and compassion, and his music has been commissioned and performed by world-renowned performers including VocalEssence. [steveheitzeg.com](http://steveheitzeg.com)



**Daniel Kallman's** compositions for orchestra, winds, and choir are widely published and have been performed across North America, Europe, and East Asia. He has

composed for the National Symphony Orchestra, the Air Force Academy Band, the Hong Kong Children's Choir, the Minnesota Orchestra, and *A Prairie Home Companion*. Daniel received his musical training at Luther College and at the University of Minnesota where he studied composition under Dominick Argento and Paul Fetler. [kallmancreates.com](http://kallmancreates.com)



**Daniel Kantor** is known for his Christmas choral work, "Night of Silence." Since it was first published by GIA in 1984, "Night of Silence" has gone on to become the publisher's

biggest selling Christmas octavo. Daniel received a B.A. in music/piano from the College of St. Thomas, and has completed graduate studies at Hamline University. Daniel is also the founder and Creative Director of KantorGroup, an award-winning brand strategy and design consultancy. [danielkantor.com](http://danielkantor.com) or [kantorgroup.com](http://kantorgroup.com)



**Libby Larsen** is one of America's most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 400 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over twelve operas. Grammy Award winning and widely recorded, she is constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles, and orchestras around the world, and has established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertory. [libbylarsen.com](http://libbylarsen.com)

**Paul Manz**, church organist, recitalist, and composer, was Cantor Emeritus of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His musical compositions are internationally known, including his motet, "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come." As a recitalist, he performed at Lincoln Center in New York City and with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Twice named one of the "Ten Most Influential Lutherans," he was the recipient of many honorary awards.



**J. David Moore** is a composer, arranger, conductor, teacher, and Southerner who has lived in the Upper Midwest for most of his life. His music has been called "endlessly

inventive," "glorious...haunting... breath-taking," and "joyous...wild and elemental." He publishes through his company Fresh Ayre Music. David lives in Minneapolis with his wife Anna, where he bakes bread, drinks tea, and is distracted by shiny objects. [j davidmoore.net](http://j davidmoore.net)



**Stephen Paulus** was a prolific composer of classical music. He wrote over 600 works for chorus, opera, orchestra, chamber ensemble, solo voice, concert band, piano,

and organ, receiving premieres and performances throughout the world as well as a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Classical Composition. His musical style has been described by The

New York Times as "lush and extravagant," and his music has been commissioned, recorded, and performed by performers around the world. [stephenpaulus.com](http://stephenpaulus.com)



**Barbara J. Rogers**, whose carols have twice been featured in Schubert Club Courtroom Concerts of music by Minnesotans, has written commissioned works ranging from a 40-second benediction to a 3-act grand opera. She served for fourteen years on the piano faculty of the University of Northwestern in St. Paul. Relocated to Lexington, KY, she performs collaboratively at two universities, maintains a private piano studio in her home, and is at work on her second opera.

**G. Phillip Shoultz, III** (See page 35)



The music of **Timothy C. Takach** has risen fast in the concert world and has been performed on *A Prairie Home Companion*, The Boston Pops tour, All-State and festival

programs, and at venues including the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. He is a co-creator of *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914*. Tim is a co-founder of Cantus, Graphite Publishing, and a member of the band Nation. [timothyctakach.com](http://timothyctakach.com)



Born in Rochester, New York, **David Evan Thomas** studied at Northwestern University, the Eastman School, and with Dominick Argento at the University of Minnesota. His

work has been commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra, honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and published by ECS, Augsburg Fortress, and MorningStar. David has been a member of the Plymouth Congregational Church Choir and Plymouth Music Series chorus. He writes about music for The Schubert Club. [davidevanthomas.com](http://davidevanthomas.com)

## SEASON CELEBRATIONS: WELCOME CHRISTMAS CAROL CONTEST AT 20



Twenty years ago we began the Welcome Christmas Carol Contest. Why? To many people carols at Christmas are something created in the distant past... hundreds of years ago (think of “Deck the Hall” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”). And, what is the difference between a Christmas carol and a Christmas hymn?

To bring a fresh look at this we created the Welcome Christmas Carol Contest—an opportunity for composers from anywhere in the USA to be original and think what a carol might sound like. Of course, carols were composed centuries ago but they can also be written today—and, who knows, someone might compose this century’s next “Deck the Hall”!

In collaboration with our good friends at the American Composers Forum (who send out the word of the contest to their thousands of members), each year we receive many, many entries. To keep the idea fresh, we include a different instrument each year (or none at all); we ask that the carol be 3-4 minutes long, and that they find a text that speaks to them—sacred or secular.

The results have been amazing—composers have been inspired to think outside of the box and we have had more than 2,000 entries in these 20 years! Some are heartwarming, some quirky, some dark, some elegant. It is a joy to see what each year will bring. I am grateful to Cary John Franklin who collects and previews the entries and to Phillip Shoultz, my associate conductor, who assists me in looking at each carol.

The list of 20 years of carols is marvelous! We look forward to more exciting entries in the years ahead. Oh—and the difference between a carol and a hymn: in the Middle Ages a carol (*carole*) was a song to be danced while singing...not the same for a hymn!

—Philip Brunelle, *Artistic Director and Founder*



## THE 20TH ANNUAL WELCOME CHRISTMAS CAROL CONTEST

Every December VocalEssence and the American Composers Forum celebrate the tradition of caroling by championing today's composers, exploring new works, and rediscovering lesser-known works of the past. Through the **Welcome Christmas Carol Contest**, VocalEssence and the Forum provide composers with the opportunity to compose a modern-day carol. This year marks the 20th annual carol contest. Each composer receives a \$1,000 prize and the performances will be recorded for national broadcast in 2018 via American Public Media.

### 2017: Carols for a cappella chorus

Nancy Gifford (Doylestown, PA) *Fill the Sky*  
David Evan Thomas (Minneapolis, MN) *Carol of the Night*

### 2016: Carols with vibraphone

Lee Blaske (Excelsior, MN) *A Cradle Song*  
Sean Sweeden (Kansas City, MO) *Adam Lay Ybounden*

### 2015: Carols with trumpet

Josh Bauder (Crystal, MN) *Sleep Softly, Lullaby*  
Laura Caviani (Minneapolis, MN) *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

### 2014: Carols with folk fiddle

Justin Merritt (Northfield, MN) *Miles and Miles*  
Rachel DeVore Fogarty (Long Island City, NY) *The Song of a Shepherd*

### 2013: Carols with piano

William V. Malpede (West Hollywood, CA) *Sound Over All Waters*  
Dale Trumbore (Los Angeles, CA) *Ring Out, Ye Bells!*

### 2012: Carols with concert C flute

David Biedenbender (Ann Arbor, MI) *This Night*  
Sheena Phillips (Trenton, NJ) *The Christmas Bird*

### 2011: Carols for men's voices (TTBB) with English horn

James Kallembach (Chicago, IL) *That Yongë Child*  
Robert Sieving (Minnetonka, MN) *O Stella de Bethlehem*

### 2010: Carols with handbells

J. David Moore (St. Paul, MN) *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*  
Mark Shepperd (Woodbury, MN) *Come Join Their Song*

### 2009: Carols with viola

Michael J. Glasgow (Raleigh, NC) *Welcome the King*  
Robert Sieving (Minnetonka, MN) *See Amid the Winter's Snow*

### 2008: Carols with French horn

Scott Ethier (Astoria, NY) *A Mother's Carol*  
Peter Hilliard (Roslyn, PA) *Christ's Nativity*

### 2007: Carols with celeste

Matthew Brown (Los Angeles, CA) *Sweet was the Song*  
Stephen Main (San Francisco, CA) *The Darkest Midnight in December*

### 2006: Carols with solo acoustic guitar

Diego Luzuriaga (Ardmore, PA) *Un Nacimiento (A Nativity Scene)*  
John Rommereim (Grinnell, IA) *Calm on the Listening Ear of Night*

### 2005: Carols with cello

Paul Gibson (Downey, CA) *It Fell Upon the High Midnight*  
Jocelyn Hagen (Minneapolis, MN) *See Amid the Winter Snow*

### 2004: Carols with recorder

Keith Bradshaw (Lexington, VA) *Soft, the Light*  
James Sclater (Clinton, MS) *Piping Carol*

### 2003: Carols with solo instrumental accompaniment

Thomas Fielding (Bloomington, IN) *Behold the Dark and Bitter Night*  
Alan Higbee (Beechwood, OH) *In the Bleak Midwinter*

### 2002: Carols with percussion

Mary Lynn Place Badarak (Cochiti Lake, NM) *Brightest and Best*  
Paul Lohman (Minneapolis, MN) *Angels Heard on High*

### 2001: Carols with string orchestra

Clive Muncaster (Princeton, NJ) *Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep*  
Sergey Khvoshchinsky (St. Paul, MN) *The Christmas Silence*

### 2000: Carols with harp

Brian Holmes (San Jose, CA) *The Shepherd and the King*  
Emily Maxson Porter (Fridley, MN) *I Sing the Birth*

### 1999: Carols with audience participation

Robert A.M. Ross (Philadelphia, PA) *What Child Is This?*  
Jonathan Santore (Plymouth, NH) *This Holy Christmas Night*

### 1998: Carols for a cappella chorus

Joan Griffith (Minneapolis, MN) *Sweet Noel*  
Richard Voorhaar (St. Paul, MN) *The Virgin's Cradle Hymn*

American Public Media and  
Classical Minnesota Public Radio present

## WELCOME CHRISTMAS

WITH HOST JOHN BIRGE

Tuesday, Dec. 5 7pm-8pm

and stream on-demand in the  
Holidays section at [YourClassical.org](http://YourClassical.org)

Classical Minnesota Public Radio

99.5 FM in the Twin Cities and online at [classicalmpr.org](http://classicalmpr.org)

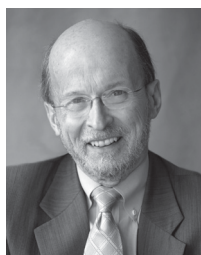
This year's VocalEssence Welcome Christmas broadcast features music from our 2016 concert, including Conrad Susa's *Carols & Lullabies*, and our carol contest winners:

"Adam Lay Ybounden" by Sean Sweeden and  
"A Cradle Song" by Lee Blaske.

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## ABOUT VOCALESSENCE

VocalEssence, called “one of the irreplaceable music ensembles of our time” by Dana Gioia, past chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts—and the choral ensemble that Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones says “sings magnificently”—impacts thousands of students, singers, and composers each year through its initiative programs, contests, and support for innovative art. VocalEssence was founded in 1969 and has debuted more than 250 commissions and world premieres. For more information, visit [vocalessence.org](http://vocalessence.org).



**Philip Brunelle**  
*Artistic Director and Founder*

**Philip Brunelle**, artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, is an internationally-renowned conductor, choral scholar, and visionary. Philip has conducted symphonies,

choral festivals, and operas on six continents. He recently completed 9 years as Vice President of IFCM (International Federation for Choral Music), holds five honorary degrees, and has been recognized for his commitment to choral music by the governments of Norway, Hungary, Sweden, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. His thoughts on music are at [RenaissanceManPodcast.com](http://RenaissanceManPodcast.com). [vocalessence.org/philipbrunelle](http://vocalessence.org/philipbrunelle)



**G. Phillip Shoultz, III**  
*Associate Conductor and Education Program Director*

Known for his innovative pedagogy and ability to inspire singers, **G. Phillip Shoultz, III**, serves as the Associate Conductor and Education Program Director of VocalEssence. Phillip completed doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota and also earned degrees from the University of Georgia and Georgia State University. His

work in the public schools garnered multiple honors. Phillip won the 2015 ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition and will represent ACDA in the 2017 International Conductors' Exchange program. [vocalessence.org/gps](http://vocalessence.org/gps)



**Mary Jo Gothmann**  
*Accompanist*

**Mary Jo Gothmann** joined VocalEssence as staff accompanist in 2015. She enjoys a varied career as a chamber musician, soloist, opera coach, and organist. Mary Jo performs frequently with the Minnesota Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Program, University of Minnesota, New England Conservatory, and St. Olaf College. Mary Jo is the founder and Artistic Director of the Joya Chamber Music Series at Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka.



**VOCALESSENCE**  
TOGETHER WE SING



## AUDITION FOR THE VOCALESSENCE CHORUS 49<sup>TH</sup> SEASON SPRING CONCERTS

Please visit [vocalessence.org/audition](http://vocalessence.org/audition)  
to schedule your audition online.

## VOCAL ESSENCE CHORUS



The **VocalEssence Chorus** is an exceptional group of talented, committed singers from many walks of life. A staple on the VocalEssence season, the Chorus also performs at community events including the VocalEssence WITNESS Young People’s Concerts at Orchestra Hall and the VocalEssence iCantaré! Concert at the Ordway. In the 49<sup>th</sup> season, VocalEssence is honored that the Chorus was selected to perform at the 2017 Fall Convention for the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. [vocalessence.org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-chorus](http://vocalessence.org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-chorus)

### SOPRANO

Amanda Allen  
AnnaLisa Anderson  
Libby Anderson  
Barbara Anderson  
Jessica Belt  
Whitney Al Bembenek  
Ali Biatek  
Julia Braaten  
Jennica Date  
Cathryn Davis  
Regan Debban  
Judy Drobeck  
Kristina M. Guiffre  
Jeanne Kenney  
Gillian Koch  
Kartra Kohl  
Sarah Kurtz  
Joy MacArthur  
Hannah Miller  
Lisa Moncur  
Sophia Pechaty  
Christina Pederson  
Shira Rabkin  
Leah Refuerzo  
Elizabeth Robbins  
Alexa Rosenbaum  
Cheryl Roberts Saunders  
Cassandra Schwartz  
Susan Scofield  
LeAnn Stein  
Katherine Tonn Eisinger  
Amanda Troolin  
Jennifer S Vickerman\*  
Laura Walklet  
Dannika Wright

### ALTO

Akosua Obuo Addo  
Jo M. Beld  
Becca Bellman

Alyse Carbonell  
Constance Chen  
Becky Gaunt  
Judy Gaunt  
Yvonne Grover\*  
Autumn Gurgel  
Beth Gusenius  
Marjorie Hakala  
Meghan Hanna  
Dee Hein  
Susan E. Hill  
Kristin Howlett  
Sally Jaffray  
Jenny Kisner  
Elise Larson  
Jeenee Lee  
Rebecca Modert  
Kristi Mueller  
Sarah Olson  
Samantha Phillippe  
Ana Lucia Piedrahita Fernández  
Marty Raymond  
Coral Sampson  
Erin Sandsmark  
Katie Sandsmark  
Marcelyn Smale  
Johanna Smith  
Sandra Swami  
Laura Tanner  
Brandee Tran  
Cassandra Warn  
Emma Wheeler

### TENOR

Steve Aggergaard\*\*  
Andrew Alness  
Larry Brandts  
Ben Demaree  
Blake Downing  
Samuel Fouts\*  
Flynn Franzen

Jason Kaiser  
Reagan Lee  
Jonathan Posthuma  
Spencer Rudolf  
Rabindra Tambyraja

### BASS

Robert Atendido  
Haskel Black  
James Bowen  
Phil Bratnober  
David Erickson  
Matt Ferguson  
Tim Graham  
Alex Halverson  
Steven T. Isaacson  
Ward Jacobson  
Joe Kastner  
Philip Lowry  
Walker MacSwain  
Nicholas Mroczek\*  
Ross Mumford  
Milo Oien-Rochat  
David Olson  
Jonathan Pinkerton  
Brian Ruhl  
Joseph Scheller  
Richard L. Shallbetter  
David Skodje  
William B Smale  
Connor Smith  
Trent Stenoien  
Matthew Terhaar  
David Toht  
Liam Vance  
Christopher John Wallace  
Stefan Weijola

\*Section leader

\*\*Board liaison

## VOCAL ESSENCE ENSEMBLE SINGERS



Minnesota is home to an international choral music gem—the **VocalEssence Ensemble Singers**. Declared by the Oxford Times (UK) as having “a blend that could—and should—be the envy of every choir in the business,” this 32-voice professional chorus is enjoyed by millions from Duluth, Minnesota to Shanghai, China. The VocalEssence Ensemble Singers are equally at ease premiering music by Pulitzer Prize winning composers as well as teen moms in our Lullaby Project. [vocalessence.org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-ensemble-singers](http://vocalessence.org/what-we-do/performing-ensembles/vocalessence-ensemble-singers)

### SOPRANO

Sophie Amelkin  
Jennifer Bevington  
Anna Christofaro  
JoAnna Johnson  
Anika Kildegaard  
Samantha Noonan  
Margaret Sabin  
Mari Scott

### ALTO

Robin Joy Helgen\*\*  
Marita J. Link  
Anna George Meek  
Judith McClain Melander  
Anna Mooy  
Sadie Nelson  
Erin Peters  
Kristina Rodel Sorum

### TENOR

Anders Eckman  
Michael Fairbairn  
Robert J. Graham  
JW Keckley  
Nicholas R. Mattsson  
William Pederson  
Kyle Schwartz  
Jacob Watson

### BASS

Joshua Conroy  
Joseph Ellickson  
Harrison Hintzsche  
Erik Krohg  
Ryan LaBoy  
A.J. Lund  
Nathan Petersen-Kindem  
Robert C. Smith



**Investing in our communities has always been, and continues to be a cornerstone of our company.** It's why since 1946 Target has invested 5 percent of our profit back into the communities where our guests and team members live, work and play. **Learn more at [Target.com/corporateresponsibility](https://www.target.com/c/corporate-responsibility).**