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Conductor's Note

There's something contradictory about the Christmas season. The world (or at least the northern half) is getting colder, the days are getting shorter, and the plants and animals begin their long winter's nap. And yet, we are filled with cheer, joy, brother and sisterhood, and good will towards all people. We call out season's greetings to friends as well as strangers on the street, at the bank, at the store, or wherever we find ourselves.

It is not a big secret about why we do this. It's Christmastime! Now is the time of year that we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Spirit and His love that infuses this time of year with the desire to do good, sing carols, and come together as friends and family.

It is this notion that inspired the program tonight. Almost two thousand and twenty years ago, the world was suddenly changed. "The people who walked in darkness [saw] a great light" (Isaiah 9:2). The new star in the sky – a sun – shone down on the Star of Bethlehem – the Son of God. It is no wonder that the angels of heaven burst forth into song, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

I believe that songs like "Sleigh Ride" and "Deck the Halls" and any of the other secular carols have just as much place in the Christmas canon as the rest. It's because of the Light of Christ that we want to celebrate, laugh, and love. All good things come from God. Any song that makes us feel goodness in our hearts will lead us on a path towards our Savior.

Whether tonight is your first time at a choral and/or symphony concert, or if this is your 50th concert to attend just this year, I hope that you will feel the Spirit of Christ that will carry you through the Christmas season. O, come, all ye faithful! Sing with us and be merry!



Steve Danielson Ensign Symphony & Chorus Conductor

A MUSICOLOGICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Oraig Courtney

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me A partridge near a monastery in sixth century Rome.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me Two turtle doves from a royal court in fifteenth century France.

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me Three French hens from a cathedral in sixteenth century Italy.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me Four calling birds from a boarding school in seventeenth century Italy.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me Five gold rings from a guild hall in eighteenth century Germany.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me Six geese a-laying at Esterhazy in eighteenth century Austria.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me Seven swans a-swimming on a palace pond in nineteenth century France.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me Eight maids a-milking in the shadows of Bayreuth, Germany.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me Nine ladies dancing at a Viennese ball.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me Ten lords a-leaping in an Italian theater.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me Eleven pipers piping from imperial Russia.

On the twelth day of Christmas my true love gave to me Twelve drummers drumming in a time and place familiar to us all.

PROGRAM

WELCOME & INVOCATION

A MUSICOLOGICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS	CRAIG COURTNEY
STAR OF BETHLEHEM	JOHN WILLIAMS Grr. TOM FET TKE
BABY BORN IN BETHLEHEM	VICTOR C. JOHNSON
HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS	HUGH MART'IN & RALPH BLANE Con: DARMON MEADER
BELL CAROL OF THE KINGS	
SLEIGH RIDE	LEROY ANDERSON Chr. MARK BRYMER
BETELEHEMU	NIGERIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL Soloists: Jared Loveless & Joellie Smart
SING THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS	GARY FRY

- INTERMISSION -

SYMPHONY NO. 1, MVT 1. "WINTER DAYDREAMS" PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY
SELECTIONS FROM MESSIAH GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL
FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN
PASTORAL SYMPHONY
RECIT - THERE WERE SHEPHERDS
RECIT - AND LO! THE ANGEL
RECIT - AND THE ANGEL SAID
RECIT - AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS
GLORY TO GOD
REJOICE GREATLY
SURELY HE HATH BORNE OUR GRIEFS
I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH
HALLELUJAH

Tickets for this season's final three Ensign Symphony & Chorus concerts are on sale. Check out the "Gift of Music" promotion on page 9. Our next concert, on March 7th, is "Oh,What a Beautiful Morning". Please see the back cover for concert details.

Ensign's Conductors



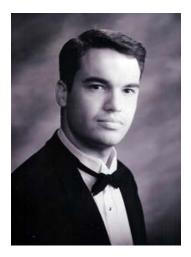
STEVE DANIELSON

Ensign Symphony & Chorus Conductor

Dr. Steve Danielson recently completed a Doctorate in Choral Conducting at the University of Washington under the mentorship of Dr. Geoffrey Boers and Dr. Giselle Wyers. His research areas include Slovak choral music, improvisation in the choral classroom, and choral folk music. His dissertation is entitled A Heritage of Songs: The Folk Songs Collection of Carrie Grover. He earned his M.M. in Choral Conducting from the University of Memphis in 2005 and a B.A. in Voice from Brigham Young University in 2002. He spent 11 years directing choirs and musical theater at Germantown High School in Germantown, Tennessee.

In addition to directing choirs, Steve also works as a musical director for high school, community, and children's theaters and has been nominated for Outstanding Musical Direction, which he won in 2010. In 2014, he wrote, directed, and starred in the original musical "Here to Stay: The Joseph Stay Story." He is an active vocalist, conductor, and composer and holds membership in ASCAP and ACDA. His compositions have been performed by church, high school, middle school, and college choirs around the country and abroad. For more information about his conducting pursuits as well as his compositions, visit his websites at SDCompose.weebly.com or ScriptureSongs.weebly.com.

He tries not to take himself too seriously. Steve and his wife, Angi, have seven children and currently reside in Lacey.



KENNETH OWEN

Ensign Symphony & Chorus Associate Conductor

Dr. Kenneth Owen received the Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Utah, where he studied with Frank Wienstock and Dr. Barlow Bradford. He went on to study conducting with Dr. Ronald Staheli and to work with the renowned choirs at Brigham Young University. There he received the Master of Music degree in Choral conducting and also studied orchestral conducting. At Arizona State University Ken received his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting and again studied orchestral conducting with Dr. Timothy Russell. Ken has studied and worked with such conductors as Paul Salomonovich, Dale Warland, Craig Jessop, Simon Carrington, and Jerry McCoy.

Conductor, pianist and educator Ken is the chair of the music, art and philosophy departments at Pierce College Puyallup and is on the Music Faculty. Ken directs the Concert Choir and Chamber Choir at Pierce College as well as a children's choir through the community education department. Ken also serves as a member of the state board for the American Choral Directors Association as the Two-year College Choir representative.

In addition to his work at Pierce College, he has directed many notable academic ensembles including the Arizona State University Concert Choir, ASU Women's Chorus, Brigham Young University Concert Choir, the 180-voice BYU Women's Chorus and others. Ken has also conducted the BYU University and String Orchestras. He has been working with church choirs and community choirs since 1995 and has performed with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square for their radio and television broadcasts.



CHASE CHANG

Ensign Symphony Conductor

Chase Chang received his conducting masters at Brigham Young University, Provo. He received his B.A. and B.M. in Music education at the University of Washington. He studied with Western Washington University Violin Professor and former Seattle Symphony Associate Concert Master, Walter Schwede. Mr. Chang studied oboe with former Chicago Symphony and current Calgary Symphony principal oboist, Alex Klein. Maestro Chang studied conducting with Kory Katseanes. Mr. Chang worked with nationally known composer, Richard Meyer to premier "A Keltic Feast". Mr. Chang was an assistant conductor at Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia (SOGO). He conducted orchestras and taught music theory at the St. Martin's University Summer Music camp. Mr. Chang held principal oboe position in the Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra. He held positions as the artistic director and principal conductor of the Issaquah Philharmonic Orchestra. As a long-time member of the Washington Music Educator's Association, he served as manager in five WMEA All-State/ All-Northwest symphony groups since 2011. He currently serves as the elected Orchestra Curriculum Officer of the Washington Music Educators Association. Mr. Chang is the cofounder of the Summer String Academy, a summer orchestra camp where middle school students connect and learn from professional musicians. He currently resides in Renton, with his wife, Christi Chang, and three children.



NATHAN RØDHAL

Ensign Symphony Associate Conductor

Nathan Rødahl is a rising star in orchestral pedagogy and education. He is presently director of orchestras at Port Angeles High School with one of the largest and most prestigious programs in the state, and serves as president of the North Olympic Music Educators. Rødahl's conducting credits include, among others, the Olympia Chamber Orchestra, the Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia, and the Plateau Community Orchestra (a position he earned at the age of 17). Nathan has several competitive titles, most notably through the University of Oregon International Conducting Competition where he was selected for extended study and performance under the tutelage of Neil Varon (of the Eastman School of Music). Nathan earned degrees in orchestral and choral pedagogy at Pacific Lutheran University and counts among his primary mentors: Dr.s Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, Edwin Powell, Richard Nance, Nikolas Caoile, David Jacobs, and Neil Varon. He has been Concert Master for Ensign Symphony & Chorus for the past three years. Nathan lives in Port Angeles with his wife Samantha, and maintains an active performing career as a violinist, in addition to his numerous educational and conducting obligations.

Youth & Children's Conductor



SHARLA DANCE

Ensign Youth & Children's Choirs Conductor

Sharla Dance holds a B.M. in Music Education from Brigham Young University with an emphasis in choral conducting. Her post graduate studies include how the child's brain learns music, advanced choral conducting, and piano improvisation. She has Kodaly and Orff certifications as well as advanced vocal training for teaching the teen voice. Sharla has written a book called "To Teach a Child a Song" and teaches workshops all over the United States to Primary music leaders about good principles for teaching children to sing. For the last 30 years Sharla has conducted youth choirs, ranging in number from 70 to 180 youth, depending on the year. Sharla has a private music studio teaching piano, music literacy, and voice called Dance, Sing, and Play. She loves conducting choirs and teaching music to children.



ELAINE TSANG

Ensign Singers Conductor

Elaine Tsang has been an active musician her entire life. She played viola in elementary through high school. She learned piano in her teens, and played the alto horn in her high school marching band. She began serious choral singing in college at the University of Cincinnati. There she earned a BA in English Literature from the University of Cincinnati and later an MBA in Human Resources from Brigham Young University.

Since then, Elaine has sung in auditioned choirs for over twenty-five years, has over six years of experience directing adult choral ensembles, and over twenty years experience leading church congregational music. On occasion, she has written choral and instrumental arrangements as well.

Her favorite genres include classical, jazz, broadway and sacred music. Elaine has sung alto with the Ensign Symphony & Chorus for all seven seasons. She has been a featured soloist in a number of classical productions: Mass in C Major by Ludwig von Beethoven, Te Deum by Joseph Haydn, Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi, Christmas Mass by Marc-Antoine Charpentier, and Magnificat by William Walton. She has performed over eighteen classical major works with choir and orchestra.

Elaine is a full-time Human Resources Manager at T-Mobile and in her spare time shares her love for singing and photography with her baritone husband, Trevor.



seattleensign.org/join youth.seattleensign.org





available on our websites.

Cleet our Guest Soloist



THIS CHRISTMAS

ERIN GUINUP

Erin Guinup is the founding Executive and Artistic Director of the Tacoma Refugee Choir. Erin has been a passionate advocate of community singing, focusing on the power of music to heal and unite communities. She has spoken at TEDxSeattle, been featured on PBS with the Refugee Choir, led community singing events and spoken at national conferences for Chorus America, NATS, and ACDA. A master teacher in both classical and contemporary vocal technique, Erin's voice students have found success on Broadway, regional theatre, operatic stages, and television. She is also an author, speaker, and soughtafter soprano soloist performing with groups including Symphony Tacoma, Northwest Repertory Singers, and Tacoma Concert Band. Her internationally performed one-woman show has been praised as "an amazing tour-de-force." Other career highlights include performing as Mary Poppins; conducting Rob Gardner's Lamb of God and Handel's Messiah; teaching voice workshops at Amazon; and singing with Israeli-Palestinian choir Common Ground Voices in Jerusalem and Europe. Most recently, Erin was named one of five Women to Watch by South Sound Magazine.

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Please pick up a "gift note" after tonight's concert for your Christmas gift in case your tickets purchased online don't arrive in time for Christmas.

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Program Notes

SYMPHONY NO. 1, MVT 1. "WINTER DAYDREAMS" Composer: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Encouraged by his mentor Nikolai Rubenstein, Tchaikovsky began writing the first version of his first symphony in the spring of 1866. He revised it later that year, and it was performed one movement at a time over the next few years. After these performances and critiques from professors in St. Petersburg, he again revised the piece in 1874. This third version is the one we know as his Symphony No. 1 in G minor.

While later symphonies were given subtitles by critics, Tchaikovsky named his own first symphony the "Winter Daydreams" or "Winter Dreams Symphony" while giving atmospheric titles to its first two movements. The first movement is entitled "Dreams of a Winter Journey." It begins with an "enchanting melody" first played by the flute and bassoon and grows throughout the orchestra, later contrasted by a melody in the clarinet that leads to a brass fanfare. The melodies develop and evolve, becoming more turbulent until the music suddenly stops and quietly takes us back to memories of the opening theme.

Keep them close to your heart.









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Ensign Symphony & Chorus

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VIOLIN 1 Nathan Rodhal** Anna Johnson†

Sheila Bateman Dennis Haack Colin Hetherington Mark Jasinski

VIOLIN 2

Alison Richards* André Brasseur Claire Casperson Kellen Cribbs Katherine Pak Lily Richards

VIOLA

Kirk Price* Fiona Crumrine Justin Findlay Laura Haack Mary Jarvis

SOPRANO (Continued)

Maggie Reno Maer Robertson# Diana Schill Stephanie Shipley Joellie Smart Kate Smart Renée Smart Leah Huber Tidwell Rebecca Tuft Lynn Watkins

ALTO

Keiko Agate Ruth Bascom Wendy Bird# Kim Blackner Anne Christiansen Teri Dallon

CELLO Tania Halladay Morven Balmidiano Emma Brasseur Kumiko Chiba Juha Niemisto Michael Tavani Sharon Wong

BASS Anthony Wiley*

HARP Julie Hughes*

PIANO Stephen Weatherford ALTO (Continued) Sharla Dance Wendy Davis Nancy del Plain Mallory Douge LeAnne Draney Janelle Dudley Debi Fairbanks Jodi Fowles Christine Gifford Ashleigh Green Becky Johnson Sheila Madsen Sariah Murdock Bridgette Pierce Charlotte Reese* Annika Riddle Sue Smith Alisa Tilley

FLUTE Rose Johnson* Kimberly Bell Joanna Soh

PICCOLO Joanna Soh

OBOE Maria Tavani* Briana Hurst

ENGLISH HORN Maria Tavani

> **CLARINET** Ben Fowler Jeffrey Bruce Lori Shepherd

ALTO (Continued) Elaine Tsang Beverly Velasco Amy Weatherford Keppi Wood Shellee Zaugg

TENOR

Karen Barkley Angela Cox# Joe Johnson Duane Jones Michael King Jared Loveless Darrel Perry Mark Petty* Enoch Sinclair

BASSOON Shannon Nelson* Titan Rodick

HORN Sally Hadzimuhovic* Kerri Bridges Robin Miller Oleg Gouts

TRUMPET David Harkness* Peter Nelson-King Todd Gugler

TROMBONE Ryan Shepherd* John Ochsenreiter

BASS

Steve Bean Mark Calkins Dave Curtis Steve Dallon Kevin DeFord Lee Donnahoo Joseph Gee* Chris Hall Peter Henderson# Jeff Jones Rob R. Musselman Ken Owen Bryon Perry Robert (Bob) Plotts Steve Snow Nick Stetich Trevor Tsang Keola Velasco

BASS TROMBONE

LaMont Lee

Václav Novák

PERCUSSION

Nathan Davis Hannah Lee Mike Lewis Garrett Rolfson Quichen Wang

TIMPANI Adam Richards*

Ensign Youth & Children's Choir Ensign Singers

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ENSIGN SYMPHONY & CHORUS

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Miryam Christensen - Ticketing Coordinator

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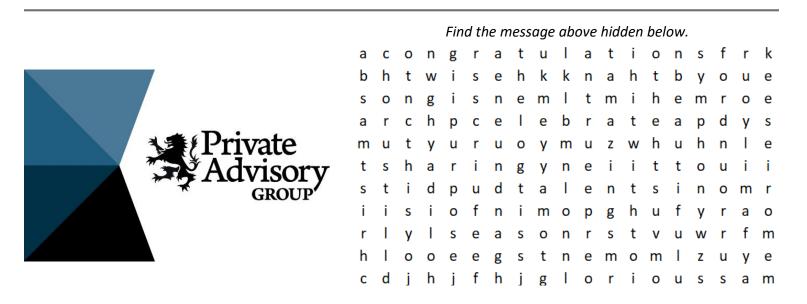
Wise men still seek Him

Matthew 2: 1 – 12



Congratulations to the Ensign Symphony & Chorus. Thank you for sharing your amazing talents to celebrate the true purpose of this glorious holiday season.

May beautiful moments and memories surround your family with joy this Christmas.



STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Words by Leslie Bricusse

Star of Bethlehem shining bright bathing the world in heav nly light. Let the glow of your distant glory fill us with hope this Christmas night.

Star of innocence, star of goodness, gazing out since time began tell us all the timeless story: God in love is born again.

Star of Bethlehem, star on high, miracle of the midnight sky, Let your luminous light from heaven enter our hearts and make us fly.

Star of happiness, star of wonder, you see ev'rything from afar, Fix our hearts upon the future, make us wiser than we are.

Star of beauty help us see; whisper your wisdom tenderly. Christ has come to set us free; light of all the world is He.

Star of gentleness help us see; whisper your wisdom tenderly. Christ has come to set us free; light of all the world, light of the world is He.

BETELEHEMU

Nigerian Christmas Carol

Awa yi o ri Baba gbojule (We are glad that we have a Father to trust.) Awa yi o ri Baba fehenti (We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon.)

> Nibo labi Jesu, (Where was Jesus born?) Nibo lagbe bi'i (Where was He born?)

Betelehemu ilu ara, (Bethlehem, the city of wonder.) Nibe labi Baba o daju. (That is where the Father was born for sure.)

Iyin, Iyin, Iyin nifuno. (Praise, Praise, Praise be to Him.)

Adupe fun o, adupe fun o, (We thank Thee, we thank Thee,) Adupe fun o, jo'oni, (We thank Thee, We thank Thee for this day,) Baba olo reo (Gracious Father.)

Iyin fun o Baba, iyin fun o Baba, (Praise be to Thee, praise be to Thee,) Iyin fun o Baba anu, Baba toda wasi. (Praise be to Thee, Merciful Father.)



Thanks to your generous contributions, Ensign Symphony & Chorus is able to fulfill its mission to bring uplifting music to the Puget Sound region. Your support allows us to provide outstanding performances by our own symphony and choir as well as bring in outstanding guest artists each season.

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Our heartfelt wish for you and yours this holiday season is for a very Merry Christmas and that the Savior's blessings will be with you throughout the new year! Thank you for your support and patronage.

Seattle Ensign PO Box 1307 Bellevue, WA 98009



Sing the Carols of Christmas

Arranged by Gary Fry

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem, Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie, Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by, Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light, The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels great 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.

Hark the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled, joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!



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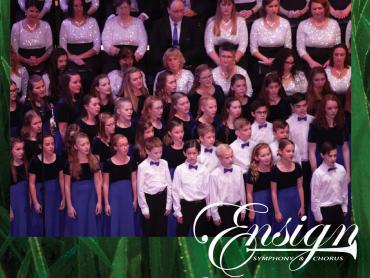
ENSIGN SYMPHONY & CHORUS PRESENTS

Oh, Mhat a Beautiful Morning

Featuring Ensign Youth & Children's Choirs

Saturday, March 7, 2020 2:00PM Benaroya Hall, Seattle

Tickets on sale now: seattleensign.org/tickets



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