

CHORUS POLARIS &
BELLS OF THE LAKES PRESENT

MERRY & BRIGHT

Sounds of the Season

Saturday, Dec. 9, 3:00 PM
First Lutheran Church
Columbia Heights, MN

Sunday, Dec. 10, 4:00 PM
Lutheran Church of the
Good Shepherd
Edina, MN

Merry & Bright: Sounds of the Season

~ a holiday concert ~

Coming Together in Anticipation

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel chant, arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
Away in a Manger arr. Betty B. Garee
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy Soloist: Keith Liuzzi arr. James Fankhauser

Coming Together in Joy

Joy to the World G. F. Handel
And the Glory of the Lord G. F. Handel
Still, still, still arr. Norman Luboff

Coming Together from Many Traditions

Riu Riu Chiu Soloists: Janine Emerick, Steven Hodulik, Ryan Nattrass anonymous
The Three Kings Soloist: Laura Coale Ivor Atkins
Carol of the Wise Men arr. Fred Gramann

Coming Together in Love

Winter Solstice Carol William Beckstrand
Blow, blow, thou winter wind Soloist: Christine Sanderson John Rutter

Coming Together in Excitement

Jingle Bells arr. Mathis
Troika Sergei Prokoviev, arr. McChesney
Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer Gene Autrey
Pat-a-pan arr. Sandra Peter
Danza Festivo Arnold Sherman

Coming Together in Hope

Dona Nobis Pacem anonymous
Ukrainian Carol of the Bells arr. Nick Hanson
Hope for Resolution Paul Caldwell and Shawn Ivory
The Christmas Song Tormé and Wells, arr. Audrey Snyder

#

Reid Kennedy, percussionist

Listening Notes

Each piece of music we include today was particularly chosen to bring us all to places of merry and bright, peace and joy, which is the real goal of the season, isn't it? December is always busy, and sometimes stressful, but with the national and international sense of strife all around us, it's all the more important for us to spend some time with beauty and togetherness. Three times during the concert you are encouraged to join us in singing some old favorites.

Here are just a few words about the music you'll hear. Several of the texts are also given below.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel is a melody from the monasteries of the 9th Century, but the text we know is much more recent: The Latin poem is from the 12th Century and the English translation is from 1851.

Our setting of ***Away in a Manger*** includes both of the melodies in common use in our day, one by James Spilman, the other by William Kirkpatrick.

The Caribbean carol you hear next, ***The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy***, is familiar to some, and is lots of fun to sing.

What would the Christmas season be without something from Handel's famous ***The Messiah***?

Next come three carols from other lands: ***Still, Still, Still*** is Austrian, ***Riu Riu Chiu*** comes from 16th Century Spain, and ***The Three Kings*** combines a Renaissance German hymn with a 20th Century song about the Magi.

Carol of the Wise Men is a handbell setting of another carol from the Caribbean, this one from Puerto Rico, *De Tierra Lejana Venimos*, roughly translated: We come from a distant land.

Alternating between an English poem about the darkness of midwinter moving to the hope of new light, and an ancient Latin poem (*Hodie Christus natus est* – Today Christ is born), ***Winter Solstice Carol*** is the very epitome of the hope we have in this season.

Shakespeare's play *As You Like It* includes a song about lost love and reconciliation to a new life; the first words are ***Blow, blow, thou winter wind***. John Rutter provides a new melody to replace the lost one from 1599.

Following the traditional ***Jingle Bells***, we'll hear a Russian version of a winter sleigh ride: Sergei Prokoviev composed his *Lt. Kije Suite* for a film in 1934, being careful that it would pass the patriotic tests of the Soviet era. A ***Troika*** is a traditional Russian sleigh being pulled by three horses.

Now we have a set of three carols: ***Pat-a-Pan*** is a French carol about people being called to rejoice in the Christmas birth; ***Danza Festivo*** is a setting of a Canadian First Nations carol; and the title of ***Ukrainian Carol of the Bells*** speaks for itself.

Hope for Resolution springs from a team of composers' desire to make a musical contribution to a popular movement. As Apartheid was defeated in South Africa about 30 years ago, people of European and African cultures had to learn to live together. This song combines a Medieval chant about the birth of Christ from the monasteries of Europe and a Zulu song about freedom. They are heard separately, then together, symbolizing the joining of people and cultures. The dedication on the choral score says "A Song for Mandela and de Klerk."

We end with a traditional Christmas song, one we hear at least 10 times every December – ***The Christmas Song***.

#

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her King. Let
 Joy to the world, the Sa-vior reigns! Let all their songs em-ploy, while
 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the na-tions prove the

eve-ry heart pre-pare Him room, and heaven and na-ture sing, and
 fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-
 glo-ries of His right-eous-ness and won-ders of His love, and

heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven, and heaven, and na-ture sing.
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat, re-peat, the sound-ing joy.
 won-ders of His love, and won-ders, won-ders, of His love.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Musical score for 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music with lyrics underneath. The melody is simple and catchy, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: 'Ru-dolph the red - nosed Rein-deer had a ve-ry shin - y nose, and if you ev - er saw it you would e - ven say it glows. All of the o - ther rein-deer used to laugh and call him names; they nev - er let poor Ru-dolph join in an - y rein - deer games. Then one fog - gy Christ-mas Eve, San - ta came to say, "Ru-dolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh to-night?" Then all the rein - deer loved him, and they shout-ed out with glee, "Ru-dolph the red - nosed rein-deer you'll go down in his - to - ry!"'

Ru-dolph the red - nosed Rein-deer had a ve-ry shin - y nose,
and if you ev - er saw it you would e - ven say it glows.
All of the o - ther rein-deer used to laugh and call him names;
they nev - er let poor Ru-dolph join in an - y rein - deer games.
Then one fog - gy Christ-mas Eve, San - ta came to say,
"Ru-dolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh to-night?"
Then all the rein - deer loved him, and they shout-ed out with glee,
"Ru-dolph the red - nosed rein-deer you'll go down in his - to - ry!"

Dona Nobis Pacem

Musical score for 'Dona Nobis Pacem' in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music, each with a circled number (1, 2, 3) above the first measure. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: 'Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa-cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.'

① Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa-cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.
② Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.
③ Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Texts

Riu Riu Chiu

Riu, riu, chiu, the river bank protects it. God kept our lamb (Our Lady) from the wolf (the Devil).

The rabid wolf wanted to bite her, but Almighty God knew how to defend her. He decided to make her impervious to sin; even original sin this Virgin did not have.

This One who is born is the Grand Monarch, the Patriarch Christ dressed in human flesh. He has redeemed us by making Himself small; although He is infinite, He made Himself finite.

I saw thousands of angels singing, flying around, making much music, telling the shepherds: Glory in the Heavens and Peace on earth, for Jesus is born.

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind

Blow, blow, thou winter wind.

Thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude.

Thy tooth is not so keen, because thou art not seen,

Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:

Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:

Then, heigh-ho, the holly!

This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky, that dost not bite so nigh

As benefits forgot:

Though thou the waters warp, thy sting is not so sharp

As friend remembered not.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly . . .

Hope for Resolution (translation)

Be still nation, don't cry. Your Jehovah will conquer for you!

Freedom, freedom! Your Jehovah will conquer for you!

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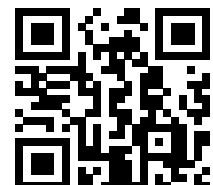
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