



Classic Center Atrium  
December 15, 2019, 4:00 pm



JOSEPH NAPOLI, CONDUCTOR

**ATHENS MASTER CHORALE**

SHARING GREAT MUSIC SINCE 1989

OLD & WORDS  
new tunes

CHRISTMAS 2019

# PROGRAM

- Sing We Now of Christmas Michael Larkin (b. 1951)
- It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Neil Harmon  
(b. 1969)
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Neil Harmon
- Glory to God in the Highest Randall Thompson  
(1899 - 1984)
- The Hands That First Held Mary's Child Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
- O Holy Child Michael Cox (b. 1948)
- The Rose *from Winter Songs* Ola Gjelo (b. 1978)
- Pastoral Symphony *from The Messiah* George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)
- In Dulci Jubilo R. L. Pearsall (1795-1856)
- Letters to Santa Claus Gordon Johnson
- I Will Light Candles This Christmas Kim Andre Arnesen (b. 1980)
- Silent Night Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
- The Holly and the Ivy Virgil Thomson (b. 1896-1989)

# LYRICS

## Sing We Now of Christmas

Michael Larkin (b. 1951)

Sing we now of Christmas  
Noël, sing we here!  
Hear our grateful praises  
To the babe so dear  
Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noë!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noël!

Angels called to shepherds  
“Leave your flocks at rest  
Journey forth to Bethlehem  
Find the child so blest.”  
Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noë!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noël!

In Bethlehem they found him  
Joseph and Mary mild  
Seated by the manger  
Watching the holy child  
Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noë!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noël!

From the eastern country  
Came the kings so far  
Bearing gifts to Bethlehem  
Guided by a star.  
Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noë!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noël!

Come, let us surround him  
On this wondrous night.  
Here around him, Babe of light.  
Sing we Noël, the King is born, Noë!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noël!

## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Neil Harmon (b. 1969)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats over all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world send back the song which now the angels sing.



# Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Neil Harmon

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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 man no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing! "Glory to the newborn King!"

# Glory to God in the Highest

Randall Thompson (1899 - 1984)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

# The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood,  
from boards they sawed and planed and filed, and splinters they withstood;  
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,  
but cradled from the head to heel, our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,  
and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,  
the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,  
and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,  
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."  
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,  
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift  
and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.  
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,  
but charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.

# O Holy Child

Michael Cox (b. 1948)

Sing alleluia.  
O Holy Child, the Blessed One.  
Child of our God, a little Son.  
The Seed of Hope 'til now unborn,  
As tiny blossom greets the morn.  
Sing alleluia.

Who knows the fate of such a flower  
To be cut down in fullest hour?  
Rejoice to day this blessed morn,  
For fragrant bud of hope just born.  
Sing alleluia.

# In Dulci Jubilo

R. L. Pearsall (1795-1856)

In dulci jubilo (In quiet joy)  
Let us our homages show  
Our heart's joy reclineth  
In praesepio (in a manger)  
And like a bright star shineth  
Matris in gremio (in the mother's lap)  
Alpha es et Omega (Thou art Alpha & Omega)

O Jesu parvule (O tiny Jesus)  
I yearn for thee always!  
Hear me, I beseech thee,  
O Puer optime! (O best of boys)  
My prayer let it reach thee,  
O Princeps gloriae! (Prince of glory)  
Trahe me post te. (draw me unto thee)

# The Rose

*from Winter Songs*

Ola Gjielo (b. 1978)

The lily has a smooth stalk,  
Will never hurt your hand;  
But the rose upon her brier  
Is lady of the land.

When with moss and honey  
She tips her bending brier,  
And half unfolds her glowing heart.

There's sweetness in an apple tree,  
And profit in the corn;  
But lady of all beauty  
Is a rose upon a thorn.

When with moss and honey  
She tips her bending brier,  
And half unfolds her glowing heart,  
She sets the world on fire.

O Patris caritas, (O father's caring)  
O Nati lenitas! (O newborn's mildness)  
Deeply were we stained  
Per nostra crimina (by our crimes)  
But thou hast for us gained  
Coelorum gaudia (heavenly joy)  
O that we were there.

Ubi sunt gaudia, (where be joys)  
If that they be not there?  
There are angels singing,  
Nova cantina, (new songs)  
There the bells are ringing  
In Regis curia: (at the king's court)  
O that we were there.



# Letters to Santa Claus

Gordon Johnson

## I. BIG BOY

If you don't leave me anything for Christmas, I won't cry.  
I love you, I love you. I am a big boy, I am a big boy.  
If you don't leave me anything for Christmas, I won't cry.  
But I will be very sad.

JOHN TSAO, TENOR

## II. LITTLE GIRL

My grandmother says to my brother and me that the best Christmas present is good health.  
I have good health already, so I would like a doll instead.

## III. TOO BAD

I think it is too bad that you only work at Christmas time.  
I hope soon you will get a full time job like other people, dear Santa.

## IV. MY NAME IS ROBERT

Dear Santa, dear Santa Claus,  
My name is Robert. I am six years old.  
Dear Santa, dear Santa Claus,  
I want a slingshot, a lasso, a BB gun, BB's,  
a slimy snake, bowling ball and fire crackers.  
I am planning a surprise for my little brother.

ROB YONGUE, BARITONE

## V. A LOT OF SANTAS

I went to a lot of stores and I saw a lot of Santas.  
I think there are a lot of fake Santas around using your name.

# I Will Light Candles This Christmas

Kim Andre Arnesen (b. 1980)

I will light Candles this Christmas;  
Candles of joy despite all sadness;  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all year long.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with  
their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.





# Silent Night

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child; Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant, beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King, "Christ the Savior is born."

# The Holly and the Ivy

Virgil Thomson (b. 1896-1989)

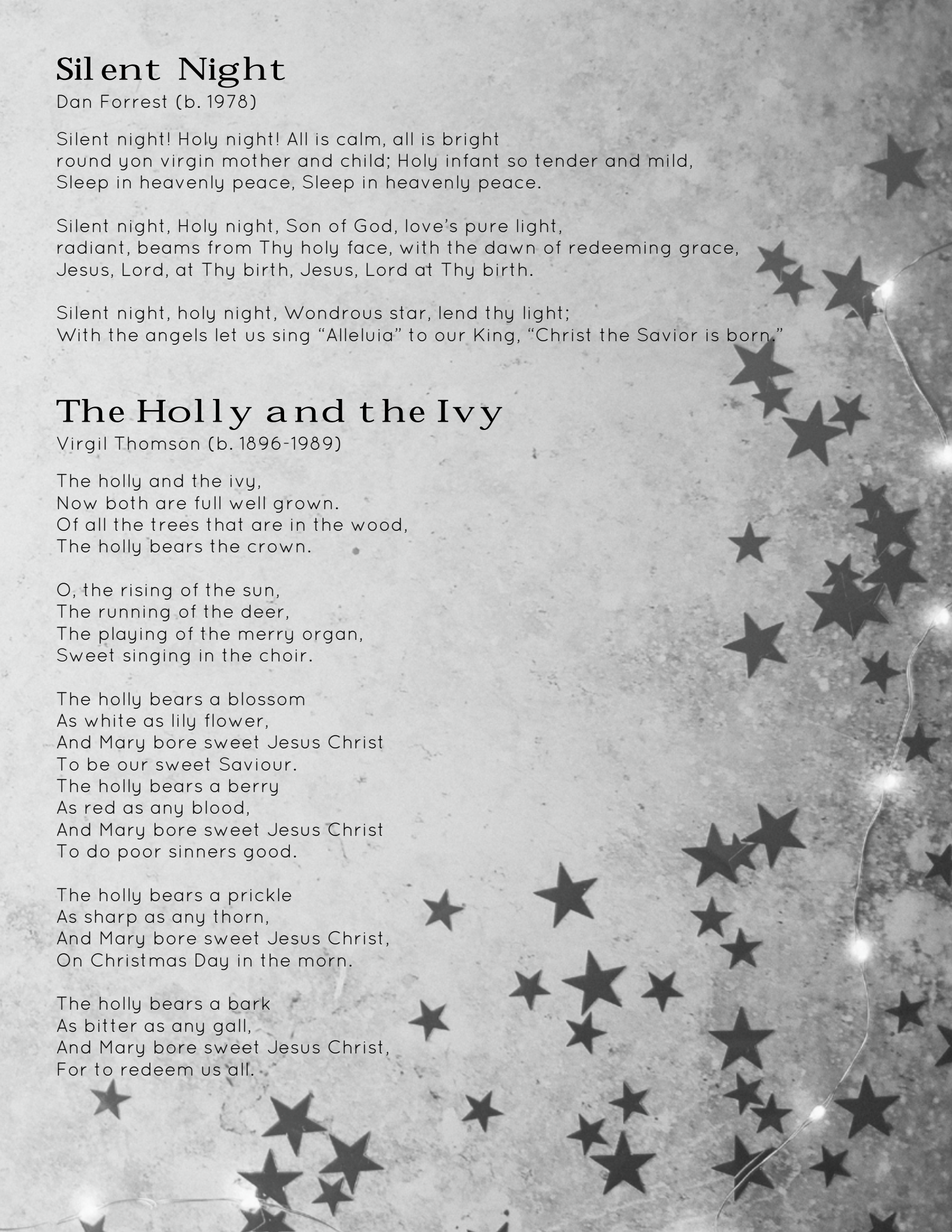
The holly and the ivy,  
Now both are full well grown.  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.

O, the rising of the sun,  
The running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom  
As white as lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To be our sweet Saviour.  
The holly bears a berry  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark  
As bitter as any gall,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
For to redeem us all.







JOSEPH NAPOLI, CONDUCTOR

# ATHENS MASTER CHORALE

SHARING GREAT MUSIC SINCE 1989

[AthensMasterChorale.org](http://AthensMasterChorale.org)

[facebook.com/AthensMasterChorale](https://facebook.com/AthensMasterChorale)

## SOPRANO

Meghan Armstrong  
Elizabeth Conway  
Stacie Court  
Rebecca Dethlefs  
Mary Beth Dixon  
Amie Dunford  
Jeanne Gonzales  
Hannah Guest  
Danielle Harrison  
Wren Howard  
Christina LaFontaine  
Katie Ostberg  
Jennie Pettigrew  
Ellen Ritchey  
Linda Rogers  
Terri Tillman  
Lisa Townsley  
Taylor Yates

## TENOR

Tom Broadnax  
David Burger  
Daniel Fowler  
Kevin Greene  
John Tsao  
Roger Vogel  
Jeffery Welch  
Tom Wilson

Jonathan Klein,  
accompanist

## ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN Alison Mueller, Annie Leeth  
VIOLA Elitsa Atanasova  
CELLO Eunice Kang  
OBOE Heidi Nibbelink  
PIANO Jonathan Klein

## ALTO

Annette Bates  
Jessica Fore  
Debra Shaw Hess  
Ruth Ann Hinton  
Seyoung Holte  
Florence King  
Devon Kitchens  
Robin Nailor  
Maggie Napoli  
Penny Overcash  
Norma Pettigrew  
Adelaide Probst  
Angie Romero  
Mara Shaw  
Joy Smith  
Lisa Yarn  
Judy Young

## BASS

Jim Anderson  
Ron Bates  
Troy Heidesch  
Russell Hicks  
Kevin James  
Rick Leffel  
David Matthews-Morgan  
Rick Pettigrew  
Michael Pierce  
Bill Pittenger  
Dennis Rowley  
Rob Yongue

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

Friday, 7:30 pm

2020 MAY 1

FRANZ JOSEF HAYDN  
The Creation

Hugh Hodgson  
Concert Hall  
ATHENS, GEORGIA

Thursday, Time TBA

2020 MAY 28

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL  
Utrecht Te Deum

Church of the Sacred  
Heart of Jesus  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Saturday, 8:00 pm

2020 MAY 30

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL  
Zadok the Priest  
The King Shall Rejoice

RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS  
Five Mystical Songs

Carnegie Hall  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK