



*Connecticut  
Master  
Chorale*

*2023 Holiday  
Prelude Concert*

Tina Johns Heidrich  
Music Director & Conductor

November 19, 2023

*Our 23rd Season!*

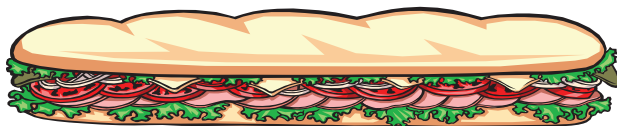
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# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

Connecticut Master Chorale Orchestra

## **Our Next Concert**

Works by **Dan Forrest**

### ***LUX: The Dawn from on High***

The third major work from this master composer is filled with exquisite harmonies, profound texts, and uplifting vocals – an evocation of shimmering light, unconditional love, and heavenly bliss.

### ***The Music of Living***

This powerful and inspirational work is an exuberant setting of a text teeming with the joy and optimism of life.

### ***i thank You God for most this amazing day***

Brimming with the gladness of a new day surrounded by life and beauty, this song uniquely captures the magic of e.e. cummings beloved poem.

### ***Light Beyond Shadow***

Forrest's setting, written during 2020, of Paul Wigmore's text, invokes light, glory, love, peace, and hope.

### ***Hallelu Yah***

Three settings of "Hallelujah Psalms" that range from invigorating to deeply touching to dancing for joy!

**Sunday, March 10, 2024 - 3:00 pm**

First Congregational Church of Danbury

\$20 in advance – \$25 at the door.

203-740-9533 **[www.cmchorale.org](http://www.cmchorale.org)**

## *About the Connecticut Master Chorale*

The Connecticut Master Chorale, founded and directed by Tina Johns Heidrich in 1999, is a premiere ensemble of professional caliber vocalists in Western Connecticut. As we continue into our third decade, we are especially grateful for the enthusiastic audiences who have contributed to our success, and we look forward to continuing our tradition of bringing dynamic and exciting music to the area.

As we look back at our achievements, we have had many special experiences in addition to our regularly scheduled concerts each year.

One of our most exciting honors was being invited to perform at the **White House** in December 2002. We were selected through a recorded audition and sang in the Grand Foyer for thousands of White House guests, including workers for Air-Force One and Marine-One, the Marine Corps, the Secret Service, and their families. We are extremely proud to have been granted this distinction!

We were invited to sing in the U.S. premiere of Karl Jenkins' ***Stabat Mater*** at **Lincoln Center** in New York City in January 2009. Meeting the composer, hearing his comments, and singing the piece in his presence added insight and inspiration to our performance in March 2009 in Connecticut.

On Easter Sunday 2002, we performed by invitation at **Carnegie Hall**, singing John Rutter's ***Magnificat*** under his direction. We returned to Carnegie Hall in January 2003 to sing Mozart's ***Coronation Mass***, and again in November 2005, when Rutter conducted us in a performance of his ***Mass of the Children***.

Another accomplishment was winning the annual McDonald's Gospelfest Competition for three consecutive years. In June 2004, we performed as a Regional Representative in Gospelfest 2004 at **Madison Square Garden**. Our 2001 Gospelfest performance was televised on ABC in July 2001.

We have also sung as invited guests at West Point Military Academy, and with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra. Our concert recordings have been featured on WMNR Fine Arts Radio, and WJMJ in Hartford.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our performance, and we thank you for your support. We are especially grateful to the First Congregational Church of Danbury, our advertisers, our contributing members, our audience, and to the many individuals who help support us. For more information about the Chorale, please call 203-775-2602 or visit [www.cmchorale.org](http://www.cmchorale.org).

# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

## *Memorable Moments*

- Founded in 1999
- White House Christmas performance
- Guests of West Point Military Academy
- Carnegie Hall with John Rutter  
1<sup>st</sup> time: 2002 Rutter's "Magnificat"
- Carnegie Hall with Terre Johnson  
2<sup>nd</sup> time: 2003 Mozart's "Coronation Mass"
- Carnegie Hall with John Rutter  
3<sup>rd</sup> time: 2005 Rutter's "Mass of the Children"
- Lincoln Center – U.S. Premiere of Karl Jenkins' "Stabat Mater"
- Madison Square Garden performance
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner  
1<sup>st</sup> time: 2001
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner  
2<sup>nd</sup> time: 2002
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner  
3<sup>rd</sup> time: 2003
- ABC7 TV appearance
- Guests of Nutmeg Opera Company  
Puccini's "La Traviata"
- Guests of Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra  
"Viva Verdi" concert

## About Our Director



**Tina Johns Heidrich** is the Founder and Music Director of the Connecticut Master Chorale. A dynamic leader with her own distinct vision and style, she consistently produces memorable performances filled with sensitivity, emotion and passion, engaging both singers and audience. Her unique approach of “work hard but have fun” and her immense energy ensure an exciting and educational experience for her singers, while eliciting their very highest performance quality.

Ms. Heidrich has led the Chorale to artistic acclaim and recognition - including the great honor of being invited to sing at the White House in December 2002. The Chorale sang by invitation in January 2009 at Lincoln Center in the U.S. premiere of Karl Jenkins’ “Stabat Mater”. The Chorale has also performed at Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall (three times), West Point Military Academy, and with the Ridgefield Symphony as their guest chorus – all by invitation. They won the annual McDonald’s Gospelfest Competition for three consecutive years and appeared on ABC TV.

Born and raised in Danbury, Ms. Heidrich earned her Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Vocal Music Education from Western Connecticut State University.

With an extensive background and over 45 years of experience in choral and orchestral conducting, she has directed numerous school, church, and community choirs and orchestras, as well as musical theatre. She has directed choruses on tour in Eastern Europe, Canada, and Washington, DC, and on ABC’s “Good Morning America”, and has served as Guest Conductor for several groups, including the Danbury Music Centre’s annual “Messiah” performance, and Guest Clinician for the Western Connecticut State University Chamber Choir Festival.

From 1990 to October 2017, Ms. Heidrich was the Director of Music of the First Congregational Church of Bethel, where she served as organist and directed the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs.

“As the Chorale continues into our third decade, I remain as excited as I was when the group began. We have performed over 500 unique pieces by over 400 composers in many venues, and worked with today’s leading composers. And what pleases me most both personally and professionally, is the music we create, the outstanding sound of the group, the satisfaction after each performance, and the enthusiasm and loyalty of our audiences.”

*Connecticut Master Chorale*  
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**www.cmchorale.org**



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## *About Our Accompanist*

**Joseph J. Jacovino, Jr.** graduated from the Hartt College of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance and from the Manhattan School of Music with a Master's Degree in Music Education. He retired in 2014 as the Music Director at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, where he directed the concert band, jazz band, guitar ensemble, handbell choir, piano keyboard class, and taught music theory for 35 years.



Since 2000, Mr. Jacovino has been the organist/cantor/choir director at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown, where he has conducted numerous concerts involving the St. Rose Festival Chorus and Orchestra. In 2005 the choir traveled to Italy performing concerts in Rome, Florence, and at the Vatican.

In addition to his twenty-three seasons as the Connecticut Master Chorale's extraordinarily talented accompanist, he is currently the accompanist for the choirs at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School, and the staff pianist for the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. This is also his 16th season as the Music Director of the Waterbury Chorale. He also directs the Heritage Singers, at Heritage Village in Southbury.

As a composer, Mr. Jacovino has written several sacred choral pieces and masses, including "Christmas at the Palace" (a tribute to the Waterbury Palace Theater), "Enshrined in the Grace of God", dedicated to Waterbury's Shrine of St. Anne, and "Something Beautiful for God", based upon a prayer by Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Mr. Jacovino has been an active piano soloist, having appeared with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, Naugatuck Valley Community College Orchestra, the Connecticut Master Chorale and Orchestra, and the St. Rose Festival Chorus and Orchestra. He has appeared in recital on numerous occasions as a classical organist and pianist. Joe currently lives in Middlebury with his wife Roberta, and son Jay. His daughter Sara is a professional trombonist/pianist/composer/arranger, living in New York City.



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on another fine season!***

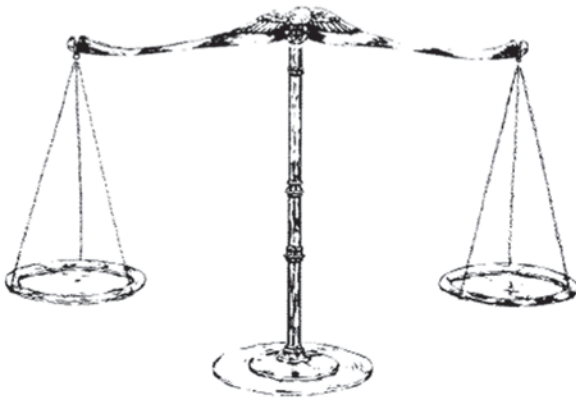


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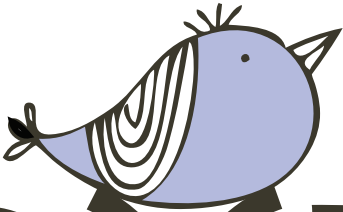
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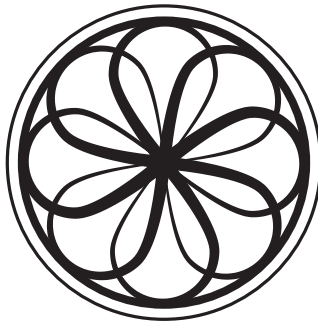
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# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

## *2023 Holiday Prelude Concert*

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

Connecticut Master Chorale Holiday Brass and Steel

- Break Forth with Joy arr. Larry Shackley
- Christmas Jubilate words by Roger Thornhill; arr. John Purifoy
- Ring Out, Ye Bells! Marques L.A. Garrett, Samuel Carlton,  
and Dan Forrest; words by Paul Laurence Dunbar  
Gale Barna and Julie Pope, handbells
- In the Bleak Midwinter Gustav Holst; words by Christina Rosetti  
arr. Dan Forrest
- What Child Is This? Laura Farnell
- Maringa Krismes arr. Kitty Fadul-Deen
- Hanukkah Hayom! arr. with English words by Michael Larkin
- Fantasy on Five Christmas Carols arr. Mark Hayes

### *15-minute intermission*

- The Holiday Season Kay Thompson; arr. Mark Hayes

### A CALYPSO CHRISTMAS

- A Calypso Puer Natus Tina Johns Heidrich
- Calypso Carol Michael Perry; arr. Allen Pote
- Santo (from *A Caribbean Mass*) Glenn McClure
- Walking in the Air Howard Blake; arr. John Leavitt
- Artist of a Winter Night Vicki Tucker Courtney  
words by Herb Frombach
- I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm Irving Berlin; arr. Greg Jasperse
- My Christmas Tree Alan Menken; words by Jack Feldman  
May Steinberg, flute arr. Mark Hayes
- Talkin' 'Bout Jesus Rebecca Peck; arr. Tom Fettke, Roberta Peck  
and Thomas Grassi

# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

## **SOPRANO**

Karrie Beaulieu  
Debbie Benham  
Ginnie Carey  
Sheila Corr  
Carina Decremer  
Emily Flower  
Lisa Golymbieski  
Rebecca Lewis  
Michele McDonald  
Christine Michel  
Diane Peterson  
Sara Puccio  
Kristen Schretzenmayer  
Peg Sheehan  
May Steinberg  
Michael Taylor  
Carol Wheeler  
Sarah Zamudio

## **TENOR**

Robert Boncoddio  
Robert Bria  
Roy Deoss  
Steve Gardner  
David Jurman  
David Nicholson  
Tim Smith  
Daria Verelley  
Tom Wolff

## **ALTO**

Gale Barna  
Sandy Chadwick  
Anita Corbeil  
Teresa DeCarlo  
Heidi Flower  
Suzanne Giffen  
Bobbi Lyon  
Jocelyn Miller  
Cathy Nickse  
Nancy Northrop  
Kate Peterson  
Julie Pope  
Nancy Raymond  
Jenna Richards  
Leona Schwartz  
Kirstan Summers  
Jana Tvedt  
Kate Vengrove

## **BASS**

James P. Alworth III  
Chris Blake  
Mike Carbonneau  
Rich Drygas  
Eric Hudson  
David Morey  
Brad Peterson  
Steve Peterson  
Gary Sander  
Rev. Gregory Wismar

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Chorale thanks you  
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*We wish you a very  
Happy Thanksgiving  
and a joyous  
Holiday Season!*

# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

## *Holiday Brass & Steel*

### **Trumpets**

Frank Tamburro

Hannah Batsford

### **Trombones**

Marshall Brown

Jackie Harris-Stone

### **Tuba**

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### **Fender Bass**

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### **Percussion**

Robert Nolte

### **Steel Drums**

James Walker

### **Piano/Organ**

Joseph Jacovino, Jr.

### **Personnel Manager**

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## *Program Notes by Ginnie Carey*

**Break Forth with Joy** – arr. Larry Shackley (b. 1956). A prolific composer, professor, musician, editor and arranger, Larry Shackley has deftly woven three beloved carols into a festive tapestry of celebration for our dynamic concert opener. *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* is one of almost 700 hymns written by German pastor Johann Rist (1607-1667). The music was composed by Johann Schop (1595-1665) in 1641, the same year as the text. The English translation is by John Troutbeck (1832-1899). *He Is Born* is a traditional French carol, with a text that was first published in a collection of ancient carols in 1875. The melody was published in 1862 in an earlier Christmas songbook. *Once In Royal David's City* was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), who began writing poetry as a schoolgirl in Ireland and wrote more than 400 hymn texts, mostly intended for children. This poem was published in her *Hymns for Little Children*, in 1848, and was set to music the very next year by the English organist Henry Gauntlett (1805-1876).

**Christmas Jubilate** – words by Roger Thornhill; arr. John Purifoy (b. 1952). This joyous anthem is set to the hymn tune VESPER HYMN, written in 1818 by John A. Stevenson (1761-1833). The organist at Christ Church and St. Patrick's in Dublin, Ireland, he was better known for his operas and a collection of Irish songs than for his religious compositions. Composer, lyricist and arranger John Purifoy has created a majestic hymn of Christmas rejoicing.

**Ring Out, Ye Bells!** – Marques L. A. Garrett (b. 1984); Samuel Carlton (b. 1993); and Dan Forrest (b.1978), words by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906). The son of formerly enslaved parents from Kentucky, Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in Ohio. Publishing his first poems at the age of sixteen, he was the first African-American poet to earn national acceptance. *The New York Times* referred to him as “a true singer of the people – white or black”. A talented trio of composers adapted his poem, *Christmas Carol*, to create this exhilarating work dedicated to Dr. André Thomas. Our regular concertgoers may remember Dr. Thomas as the composer and arranger of spirituals from our *I’m Gonna Sing!* program in March 2023.

**In the Bleak Midwinter** – Gustav Holst (1874-1934); words by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894); arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978). Christina Rossetti, one of the finest poets of the Victorian age, was the youngest child in an extraordinarily gifted family and the author of numerous books of poetry. Although she was English, *In the Bleak Midwinter* was first published in the January 1872 issue of *Scribner’s Monthly*, an American illustrated monthly magazine, with the title *A Christmas Carol*. It was later included in her book, *Goblin Market* in 1875. The composer Gustav Holst, of *The Planets* fame, composed this setting of her poem in 1906, and named the hymn tune CRANHAM, after Cranham, Gloucestershire. Dr. Forrest’s ethereal, tender and deeply moving arrangement is evolved from his vision of Christina Rossetti writing her Christmas poem in London. The bells give a subtle hint of Big Ben in the distance. For many years, he has been one of the Chorale’s favorite composers and his works will be featured in our next concert in March 2024.

**What Child Is This?** – Laura Farnell (b. 1975). Choral composer Laura Farnell’s wonderful medley featuring her original settings for *What Child Is This?* by W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) and *Gloria In Excelsis Deo*, blended with the beloved traditional version of *Silent Night*, by Franz Gruber (1787-1863) and Father Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), is filled with the peace and reverence of that holy night in Bethlehem.

**Maringa Krismes** – arr. Kitty Fadlu-Deen (b. 1943). Dr. Kitty Fadlu-Deen is a music educator, originally from Singapore, with degrees from University College Dublin and The University of York. Married to a medical doctor from Sierra Leone, she has taught music there from

nursery school to college level, and has a deep interest in the indigenous music of her adopted homeland. This Christmas song reflects her desire to promote and protect that music. Krio is the most widely spoken language in the country, which was founded as a colony for returning enslaved Africans after the abolition of slavery in England. The Maringa is strongly related to the music of the West Indies and was introduced to Sierra Leone in the 1950s by Ebenezer Calendar, one of the foremost musicians of the era, the son of a West Indian immigrant. The melody of *Maringa Krismes* is from a song composed by Calendar, and the text is a combination of words by Dr. Fadlu-Deen and a traditional song sung at Christmas.

*Let us all join together to sing Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
Let us sing, Merry Christmas. Let us clap, Merry Christmas  
Let us dance, Merry Christmas. Let us shake, Merry Christmas  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

*Merry Christmas, I've not perished. I thank God I've not perished.  
Christmas has come. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

**Hanukkah Hayom!** – arr. Michael Larkin (b. 1951). A prolific composer and arranger of both sacred and secular music, Dr. Larkin has arranged this traditional Hanukkah song with words in English. It celebrates enchanting candles glowing like stars in the night and the joy of all who see them because Hannukah is today!

**Fantasy on Five Christmas Carols** – arr. Mark Hayes (b.1953). Internationally known composer, conductor and concert pianist Mark Hayes believes that his mission in life is “to create beautiful music for the world”, and this fantasy brings us five very different carols joined together by his insight and desire to create that beautiful music. *Personent Hodie* is from the 1582 songbook *Piae Cantiones*, a volume of Medieval songs in Latin, using an English translation from *The Oxford Book of Carols*. *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* is a traditional English Carol first published in 1833 by William B. Sandys in his *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern*, but is believed to be much older, probably from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. *I Saw Three Ships* was first published in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but also was found in Mr. Sandys’ Christmas Carol book with the lyrics that are used by Mr. Hayes. Some believe that the three ships are “ships of the desert” and represent the three Magi on their camels, since there is no water in Bethlehem for ships to sail in. *Still, Still, Still* is an Austrian carol

from Salzburg. It first appeared in a folksong collection in 1865, and the English translation is from the Oxford Book of Carols. *Sussex Carol* was collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams who heard it sung by Harriet Verrall, from Monk's Gate, near Sussex. He published it in 1919 as the *Sussex Carol*.

**The Holiday Season** – Kay Thompson (1909-1998); arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953). Kay Thompson was an American author, singer, vocal arranger composer, musician, dancer, actress and choreographer. Beginning her career as a singer and choral director for radio, she went to work in Hollywood as a vocal coach and eventually morphed into an actress. Her best-known acting role was the fashion editor in the 1958 movie *Funny Face*. She created the nightclub act “Kay Thompson and the Williams Brothers”, which made its debut in Las Vegas and quickly became the highest paid nightclub act in the world. Living at the Plaza Hotel in New York City, she made herself another career as the author of the *Eloise* series of books about a little girl who lives at the Plaza. *The Holiday Season* was first written and performed by Kay Thompson in 1945.

## A CALYPSO CHRISTMAS

**A Calypso Puer Natus** – Tina Johns Heidrich (b. 1954). *Puer Natus in Bethlehem* was published in 1582 in *Paie Cantiones*, but in reality, it must be much older. The Latin text was discovered in a Benedictine book from the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and became popular in Germany after it was translated into German in 1439. Since that time, it has been translated into many languages and given different musical settings by composers such as Praetorius, Bach and many others. Our gifted conductor has chosen to breathe new life into it with an exciting setting in the Caribbean style of calypso music.

*A Boy is born in Bethlehem. Therefore Rejoice! Jerusalem.*

*He lies here in the manger, who reigns without end.*

*In joy at this birth, let us bless the Lord.*

*May the Holy Trinity be praised. Let us give thanks to the Lord.*

**Calypso Carol** – Michael Perry (1942-1996); arr. Allen Pote (b. 1945). Although Calypso Carol is often described as a traditional folk carol from the West Indies, it was actually composed in 1964 by Michael Perry, a student at Oak Hill Theological Seminary in England, for a

college carol concert. It was played on a local radio program, then published in the 1969 songbook *Youth Praise*, and soon became popular in the Caribbean and around the world. In 1983, the Caribbean Island of Nevis featured the chorus of *Calypso Carol* on a sheet of Christmas stamps. Mr. Perry became one of the leading contemporary hymn writers in the UK, but *Calypso Carol* remained his most popular work. Arranger Allen Pote is nationally known as a composer of sacred music and has created a choral arrangement filled with the spirit of calypso.

**Santo** – Glenn McClure (b. 1965). Composer and scholar Glenn McClure has dedicated himself to building artistic and academic collaborations between students, scientists and classical and indigenous musicians. He believes that, just as St. Francis said his cathedral was the whole world, the Saint's simple wisdom should not be limited to one language or musical tradition. *Santo* is one movement from his *A Caribbean Mass: St. Francis in the Americas*, an extraordinary work setting the writings of St. Francis of Assisi into the languages and musical styles of the New World. The Chorale performed the entire Mass in 2007 and is delighted to sing *Santo* again as a part of our Calypso program.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord our God; holy, holy, holy – bless the Lord.*

*Let us praise the Lord, the sum of all goodness, the highest good.*

*Most High Lord. Glory, honor, and blessing, holy Lord!*

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power  
and divinity, glory, honor, and blessing.*

*Bless the Lord, all you works of God, all you his servants, great and small!*

*Let us praise Him; let us exalt Him now and forever. Almighty God!*

**Walking in the Air** – Howard Blake (b. 1938); arr. John Leavitt (b. 1956). Raymond Briggs' wordless 1978 picture book about a snowman who comes to life was made into an animated film for British television in 1982. The celebrated film is also wordless, except for *Walking in the Air*, and the story is told entirely through visuals and music scored by English composer, conductor and pianist Howard Blake. American composer and conductor John Leavitt has created an enchanting choral arrangement that evokes the magic of the film.

**Artist of a Winter Night** – Vicki Tucker Courtney (b. 1954); words by Herb Frombach (b. 1940). Pianist and Composer Vicki Courtney had a successful life in the corporate world, but was lured back to her musical

roots and is now experiencing great success in this new career. Her charming setting enhances lyricist and composer Herb Frombach's original poem, envisioning winter frost as an artist who decorates the world while it sleeps and disappears with the sunrise.

**I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm** – Irving Berlin (1888-1989); arr. Greg Jasperse (b. 1968). The legendary composer Irving Berlin, originally Israel Baline, was born in the area of Imperial Russia that is now Belarus. The family immigrated to New York City in 1893, and his father, a Cantor, died when he was eight years old. With only two years of formal education, he found work as a street singer and then a singing waiter in the Lower East Side. In 1907, his first song was published and a printer's error gave him the name Irving Berlin. In 1911 he wrote *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, which became a major hit, and his popularity grew as he moved on to write Broadway musicals, scores for films and the patriotic *God Bless America*, becoming perhaps the greatest and most enduring of all American songwriters. Composer and arranger Greg Jasperse is Director of Vocal Jazz at Western Michigan University and has given an imaginative new jazz interpretation to Irving Berlin's romantic winter classic.

**My Christmas Tree** – Alan Menken (b. 1949); words by Jack Feldman (b. 1940); arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953). This moving and sensitive piece from the Twentieth Century Fox motion picture *Home Alone 2* expresses the true meaning of Christmas through its description of the Christmas tree and its importance as a symbol bringing everyone together. Their collaboration on the Broadway musical *Newsies* won a Tony Award. The tender and expressive choral arrangement is by Mark Hayes.

**'Talkin' 'Bout Jesus** – Rebecca J. Peck (b. 1970); arr. Tom Fettke (b. 1941) and Thomas Grassi (b. 1970). Rebecca Peck is one of the foremost writers of evangelical church music and has also written a number one and top forty hits in the popular music field. Her original text incorporates a portion of *Who Is This in Yonder Stall?* by Benjamin Russell Hanby (1833-1867), the composer of *Up on the House Top* and *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*. The rousing arrangement is by Rebecca Peck along with Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi, delivering the good news of the Christmas story and the baby Jesus with the high level of excitement and joy that is found only in great Southern Gospel music.

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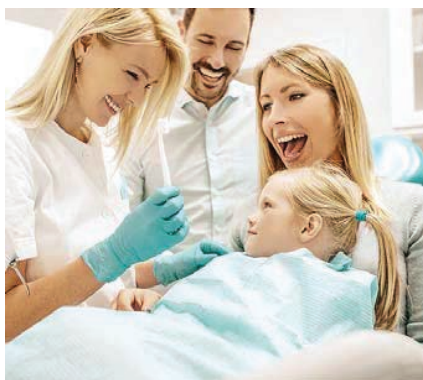
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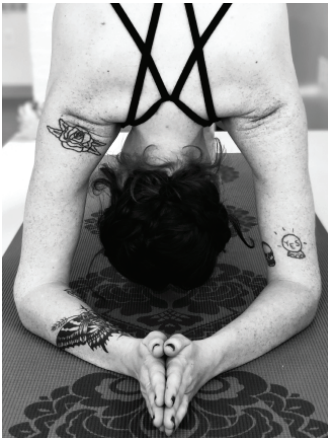
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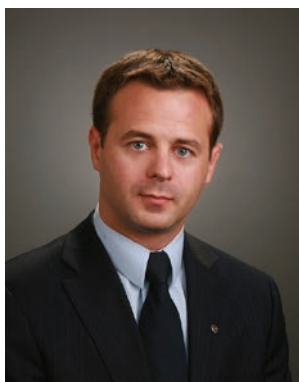
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