



# Western Reserve Chorale

## 31st Season

David Gilson, Artistic Director



# Western Reserve Chorale

David Gilson, Artistic Director  
31st Annual Holiday Concert

*Carols  
&  
Lullabies  
&  
More*

Sunday, December 4, 2022

3:30 p.m.

Church of the Gesu  
2470 Miramar Blvd.  
University Heights

*Attend in person  
or by livestream*

*Featuring Carols & Lullabies:  
Christmas in the Southwest  
by Conrad Susa*

WesternReserveChorale.org  
216-282-4022

Free and Open to the Public  
Donations Gratefully Accepted

Western Reserve Chorale, based in Northeast Ohio, uses the power of a diverse range of choral music, often with orchestral accompaniment, to enrich the lives of its audience with free public performances. WRC also provides an engaging opportunity for members to experience the camaraderie and joy of high quality ensemble singing.

Stacy Newman – Executive Director

David Gilson – Artistic Director

Sara Smith – Accompanist



***WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE David Gilson, Artistic Director.***

Founded in 1992, Western Reserve Chorale has been following its mission to enhance the quality of life for residents of Cleveland and its suburbs by providing free, high quality performances of choral music. With a membership of around 100 singers of varying musical backgrounds, the Chorale sings music from many periods and styles (Palestrina to Forrester and Schubert to Shearing), including newly commissioned works. WRC's repertoire focuses on primarily on traditional choral standards and works for chorus and orchestra which include in our most recent years works by Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, Dan Forrester, Karl Jenkins, Ola Gielio, John Rutter and more.

After a few strange years of singing in the pandemic, the singers of WRC are delighted to be back together in a shared space. The group learned new skills and has embraced the technology that enables it to stay connected and reach a larger audience through streaming video. WRC is celebrating its return to a more normal season with an ambitious schedule of three concerts, including a major performance in March 2023.

New singers are welcome to join rehearsals in January. Please [visit our website](#) for details.

*We hope you enjoy our Annual Holiday Concert, whether in person or streaming, and we thank you for including WRC's music in your holiday celebrations.*



## **DAVID GILSON**

David Gilson has served as Artistic Director for the Western Reserve Chorale since 2012. He also serves as Director of Music for Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights. Additionally, David serves on the faculty of Case Western Reserve University and holds degrees in music from Allegheny College and the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) with major studies in the fields of vocal performance, choral conducting and Dalcroze eurhythmics. David recently stepped down from the Cleveland Institute of Music following a 30-year career of administration and teaching (choral conducting and eurhythmics).

David has served as a choral coach and clinician to numerous school choirs across the country. David has also conducted North-East Ohio ensembles including Choral Arts Cleveland, the Singers' Club of Cleveland, the University Circle Chorale and Chamber Choirs, and the CIM Singers. David appeared as the guest conductor/clinician for the Fireland's District Music Festival. Additionally, he has also served as choral director for Chagrin Falls UMC, Park Synagogue, Pathfinder Music Camp, Bethany Covenant Church, and the Allegheny College Chapel Choir.

As a vocalist, David has appeared numerous times as a recitalist in Northeast Ohio, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania and as soloist with various choral ensembles. He has appeared in musicals and operas including productions with the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, CIM Opera and Lyric Opera Cleveland.

## STACY NEWMAN

Stacy is honored to serve as the Executive Director of Western Reserve Chorale. She has been a member since 2000 and has served on the Board of Directors and was the Soprano section leader.



With the completion of the Chorus Management Institute, Stacy feels confident in helping to grow the Chorale in Access, Diversity, and Equity; engage and grow the Board and general membership, and plan for the future with a strong Mission and Vision.

Stacy has her BA in Linguistics from Miami University, and is currently a professional healer offering private sessions and group workshops in the greater Cleveland area as well as remote work and mentoring worldwide.

## SARA SMITH

With Bachelor & Masters degrees from The Eastman School of Music, Sara works as an educator, arranger, coach and accompanist in the Cleveland area. Regional venues have included Great Lakes Theatre, Cleveland PlayHouse, PlayHouse Square Foundation, Shaker Ensemble Theatre, Opera Per Tutti, Cleveland Opera on Tour, Blossom Festival Opera, Access to the Arts, and assorted other theatre, dance and choral organizations.

Currently a staff accompanist at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, she was previously collaborative staff for 10 years at The Cleveland Institute of Music. She also served as Head of the Accompanying Dept at the Cleveland Music School Settlement, where she was on the piano, accompanying and theory faculties for 18 years.

Sara is a proud member of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 4.



**WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE** gratefully recognizes these donors who have made the 2022-23 season possible

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# *Carols & Lullabies & More*

## *31st Annual Holiday Concert*

We celebrate the season with songs from diverse traditions featuring Conrad Susa's *Carols & Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*, in which the chorale will be accompanied by harp, guitar, marimba and vibraphone. These settings of Christmas songs from Hispanic traditions challenge the choir to sing not only in Spanish, but utilizing various dialects including Catalan.

In addition to the Susa setting, will be new compositions from the Jewish traditions of Yom Kippur (*Ki Hineih Kachomer*) and Hanukkah (*Eight Days of Lights* and *Hanukkah Scherzo*) as well as a wonderful new setting of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century English carol *The First Noel*.

Finally, the chorale will offer *Ukrainian Alleluia*, a setting borne out of the knowledge of the history of foreign invasion, occupation and oppression which the people of Ukraine have endured throughout the years. We sing this piece in recognition that Ukrainians are currently suffering as the time of Christmas approaches.

*Since a portion of the choir is singing with masks, the lyrics are available in the following pages to enhance your enjoyment.*

1. **Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest**  
by Conrad Susa  
Ina McCormick, Harp - Thomas Ray, Guitar  
Evan Mitchell, Vibraphone/Marimba  
Soloists: Elizabeth Gockel, Kara Singleton, Bryan McGucken  
Small Ensemble: SOPRANO: Rose Gaier, Karen Ling, Paula Pronio  
ALTO: Kara Singleton, Karen Smith  
TENOR: Karl Kaups, Ban Twaddell  
BASS: Dave Bell, Ed Solem
2. **Ki Hineih Kachomer** by Judith Clurman, arr. Ryan Nowlin  
Eliza Poxon, Cello - Sara Smith, Piano
3. **Eight Sacred Lights** by Judith Clurman & David Chase  
Sara Smith, Piano
4. **Hanukkah Scherzo** by Dean Rishel
5. **The First Noel** by David Chase  
Eliza Poxon, Cello - Sara Smith, Piano
6. **Ukrainian Alleluia** by Craig Courtney  
Eliza Poxon, Cello

# *Singers of the Western Reserve Chorale*

## SOPRANO

Alice Bewie  
 Bonnie Cook  
 Nell Davidson  
 Rosalyn Gaier  
 Veronica Gallo  
 Katie Harbage  
 Beth Hercheck  
 Mary Holmes  
 Leona Jackson  
 Nancy Jamieson  
 Mary Kolar-DeNunzio  
 Karen Ling  
 Katharine Lobas#  
 Ginie Mast  
 Katherine McCarty

Joan McVeen  
**Samantha Miller#**  
**Stacy Newman**  
**Lydia Oppmann**  
**Laura Otis\***  
**Paula Pronio**  
**Linda Rahal**  
**Jane Richmond**  
**Ginna Taft**  
 Margo Vinney  
 Wendy Wagner  
 Beth Wardrum  
**Sally Wilson#**  
 Melodie Yates  
 Becky Zeigler

## ALTO

**Cynthia Ahern**  
 Deena Barrett  
**Andrea Ber#**  
**Kim Bihler#**  
 Karen Bower  
**Susan Brooks**  
**Sharon Core**  
**Lana Cowell**  
**Jessica Crist**  
**Joan Delahay**  
**Heather DiAlfredi**  
 Gwen Dyer  
**Linda Frank**  
**Elizabeth Gockel**  
 Fern Grunberger  
**Linda Haligowski**  
**Rhona Jacobson\***  
 Janice Katz  
 Judi Koffman  
 Christie Leece  
 Leslie Leventhal

**Pat Lewis**  
**Carole Moran Krus**  
**Maxine Myers**  
 Mary Ober  
**Barbara Opie**  
**Patti Pinkerton**  
**Marianne Prebet**  
**Theresa Remick**  
**Margaret Robinson**  
 Sara Schiller  
**Ruth Shoskes**  
**Julie Siegel**  
 Doris Simpson  
**Kara Singleton**  
**Karen Smith**  
**Carol Steiner**  
**Kelsey Tarase#**  
**Jane Timmons-Mitchell**  
 Diana Vargo  
**Blossom Williams**  
 Margarita Yakutovich

## TENOR

**Debbie Boyd-Tressler**  
**Eric Brandt**  
 Bill Davis  
**Rick Drake#**  
 Dan Ivancic  
**Alex Jamieson**  
**Karl Kaups**  
**Cliff Lewis**  
**Bryan McGucken**  
 Jim Pintner  
**Bob Rittenhouse**  
**John Sherck**  
**Ban Twaddell\***  
**Mark Wakefield#**  
**Mark Wallach**

## BASS

**Aaron Ballonoff**  
 David Barnes  
**David Bell#**  
**John Blackwell**  
**Chris Brandt**  
**Don Chilcote**  
 Bill Fuller  
**Bob Gaier**  
**Donald Hylton**  
**Dennis Jakse**  
**Jeff Lobas**  
 Mac McVeen  
**Dean Myers**  
**Dave Rainey\***  
**John Rydquist**  
**Ed Solem**

*# Board Members*

*\* Section Leaders*

**Singers in bold are participating  
 in this concert**

# Western Reserve Chorale

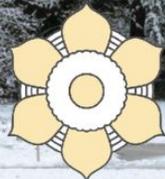
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&  
More*

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# ***CAROLS & LULLABIES: CHRISTMAS IN THE SOUTHWEST***

## **By Conrad Susa**

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**Lyrics are in seven different dialects of Spanish. Translations are below.**

### **I. ¡Oh, mi Belén! (Biscayan)**

Oh, my Bethlehem!  
Your hour has come, beloved,  
oh, my Bethlehem!  
The light that shines without ceasing, is like a beacon that guides us  
on our way, night and day.

### **II. El Desembre Congelat (Catalonian)**

The frozen December retreats.  
The whole world admires April, crowned by flowers.  
When in a garden of love,  
a divine flower is born  
from a beautiful rose,  
fruitful and fragrant.  
Our first Father brought on the night which shrouded the world in darkness.  
But at midnight,  
the risen sun shines  
announcing a beautiful dawn, delighting the sky.  
The month of May has blossomed, not yet in full flower,  
a white and polished lily,  
of such rare fragrance,  
that from East to West,  
all the world can breathe in  
its sweetness and scent with blessedness.

### **Instrumentalists:**

**Ina McCormick, harp**

**Thomas Ray, guitar**

**Evan Mitchell, vibraphone/marimba**

### **III. Alegría (Puerto Rican)**

Towards Bethlehem they walk,  
Mary with her lovely husband, traveling in the company of an almighty God.  
Joy and pleasure!  
For the virgin passes by, with her husband, towards Bethlehem.  
When they arrived in Bethlehem, they searched for an inn,  
but no one would accommodate them, because they were so poor.  
The birds of the forest,  
seeing Mary and Joseph,  
sang songs with their harmonious trills.

### **IV. A la Nanita Nana (Spanish)**

( a cooing sound from mother to baby, with no translatable meaning)  
My Jesus is sleepy,  
blessed be He.  
Fountain that runs clear and sonorous, Nightingale in the forest,  
singing sadly  
Hush, while the cradle rocks.

## **V. Las Posadas (Spanish)**

Shall I lift you, my darling, out of the manger?  
Shall I bring the shepherds to adore you?  
A la rurre, little child;  
the child is already almost lulled to sleep.  
My dear Father, my God and Lord,  
you gladly suffered our sorrow.

## **VI. Campana sobre Campana (Andalucian)**

Bell after bell,  
one bell after another!  
Come to the window,  
and see the child in the cradle. Bethlehem, bells of Bethlehem,  
that the angels play,  
what news do you bring to me?  
You rounded up your flock:  
Little shepherd, where are you going? I'm going to bring to the stable  
cheese, butter and wine.  
If the stars still shine,  
Shepherd, where do you want to go? I'm going to the stable to see if  
the child will let me sleep beside him.

## **VII. En Belén Tocan A Fuego (Castilian)**

In Bethlehem a fire begins,  
from the manger come the flames;  
for they say he was born,  
the Redeemer of souls.  
Fish in the river jump and dance,  
they jump and dance to see God's birth. Fish in the water jump and dance, they  
jump and dance to see the dawn's birth.  
In Bethlehem's stable,  
a carnation was born, the incarnate, that by redeeming the world,  
has turned into a purple lily.  
The Virgin washes clothes,  
and hangs them on the rosemary bush. The birds sang,  
and the water flowed rejoicing.

## **VIII. El Noi de la Mare (Catalonian)**

What shall we give to the Child of the Mother?  
What shall we give that the babe will enjoy?  
We shall give him a tray full of raisins, then we shall give him figs in a basket.  
What shall we give to the Child of the Mother?  
What shall we give to her beautiful Child?  
Raisins and dried figs and olives, raisins and figs and honey and cheese. What  
shall we do if the figs are green?  
What shall we do if the figs will not ripen?  
If they are not ripe for Easter,  
they will ripen on Palm Sunday.

## IX. Chiquirriquitín (Andalucian)

Oh, in a manger Lying in the straw, Oh, in the manger,  
darling boy, little darling of our soul. Below the arch of the stable,  
we find Mary, Joseph, and the Child.  
Between an ox and a donkey,  
God was born,  
and in a poor manger  
they received him.

## X. El Rorro (Mexican)

A la ruru, little child,  
go to sleep now, my tiny Jesus.  
From the elephant to the mosquito, keep quiet, do not make noise.  
Divine night, night of joy,  
Blessed be sweet, divine Mary.  
Celestial choirs with your sweet voices,  
sing the blessing of this birth.

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*Best Wishes*

**Western Reserve  
Chorale**

*In Your 31st Season*

Dr. Andrzej Groch, Ph.D.  
& Cynthia M. Maleski Groch, Esq.

**KI HINEIH KACHOMER**

By Judith Clurman, arr. Ryan Nowlin  
Anonymous Hebrew *piyut*, 12th century  
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Behold as the clay in the hand of the potter,  
who expands or contracts it at will,  
so are we in Your hand, O God of love;  
look to the covenant, overlook our sin.

Behold as the stone in the hand of the mason,  
who hews or fragments it at will,  
so are we in Your hand, O God of life;  
look to the covenant, overlook our sin.

Behold as the iron in the hand of the blacksmith,  
who forges or rejects it at will,  
so are we in Your hand, O God Who sustains the poor;  
look to the covenant, overlook our sin.

Behold as the glass in the hand of the glazier,  
who shapes or melts it at will,  
so are we in Your hand, O gracious God;  
look to the covenant, overlook our sin.

Behold as the cloth in the hand of the weaver,  
who drapes or twists it at will,  
so are we in Your hand, O gracious God;  
look to the covenant and overlook our sin.

Behold as the silver in the hand of the silversmith,  
who alloys or refines it at will,  
so are we in Your hand, O healing God;  
look to the covenant, overlook our sin.

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## *EIGHT DAYS OF LIGHTS*

by Judith Clurman with David Chase

Liturgy, English adaptation by Judith Clurman

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Sh'monat y'mei Chanukah,  
Eight days of lights,  
Haneirot halalu kodesh,  
Eight sacred lights!

We give thanks to your name for your miracles,  
Eight days of lights,  
We give thanks to your name for your wonders,  
Eighth sacred lights!

Chanukah, O Chanukah,  
Eight sacred lights!



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## HANUKKAH SCHERZO

By Dean Rishel

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Spin, spin, dreidel dreidel spin,  
Spin little dreidel this Hanukkah night.

Light up, light up the candles, one the first night, two the second,  
Light up, light up the candles, ev'ry night we light one more.

Light up all the candles bright,  
Because it's time to remember, Sing of the miracle,  
Sing of the oil lamp that burned through the darkest night.

Come dance the Hora, dance in a circle spinning faster,  
Ever faster, round and round.

Light the menorah!  
Now is the time of Hanukkah, so light the menorah!  
Eight little candles shining bright.  
Light the Menorah!  
Now is the time of Hanukkah, so light the menorah!  
Eight candles shining in the night.

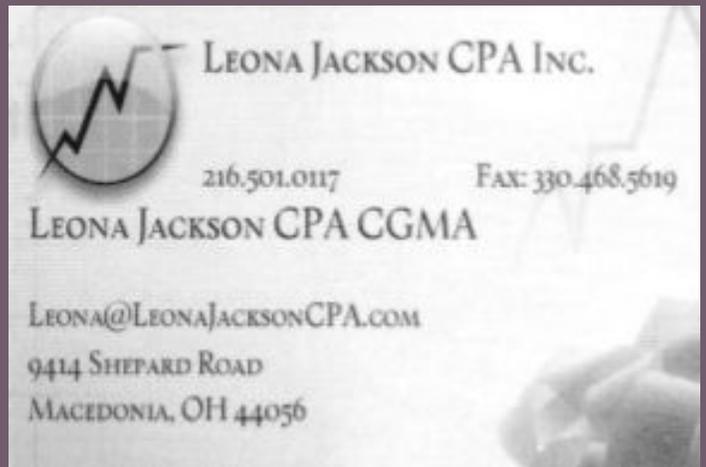
Light the menorah! This is the festival.  
Eight little candles will be burning through darkest night.



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## **THE FIRST NOEL**

**Arr. David Chase**

Music from W. Sandys' Christmas Carols

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The first Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the East beyond them far.  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

## **UKRAINIAN ALLELUIA**

**By Craig Courtney**

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In the Summer of 2007, I had the privilege of being part of a mission team serving in the Ukraine. Because of its geographical position and rich natural resources, the country has a history of foreign invasion, occupation, and oppression. It is estimated that more than 25 million Ukrainians were killed during the 20th century due to starvation, war, and the deadliest nuclear accident in history. Ukrainian Christians in particular suffered discrimination, arrest, torture, and even death for the sake of their beliefs. This anthem was borne out of the knowledge of these circumstances. It is a musical portrayal of a quiet voice of faith, praise, and hope in the midst of suffering and tragedy.

*Craig Courtney*

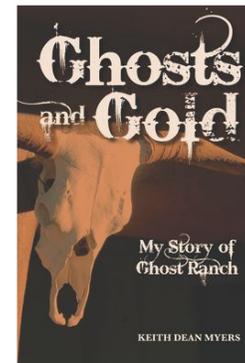


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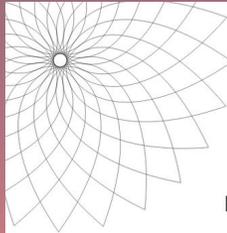
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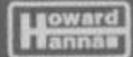
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**...and to YOU. Thank you for continuing to support choral music. We are excited to welcome back our audience in person and watching from home.**



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