

WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE

David Gilson, Artistic Director

Harpy Holidays: Music of the Season for Harp & Chorus

featuring

Camille Saint-Saëns' *Oratorio de Noël*, Op. 12

and music by Berkey, Wood, Fogelman, Chilcott and others

Sunday, December 7, 2025 3:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44118

WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE

For over 30 years, the Western Reserve Chorale WRC has carried out its mission to enhance the quality of life for Greater Cleveland residents by providing free, high quality choral music performances.

With over 100 singers from across Northeast Ohio, comprising various musical backgrounds, the WRC focuses on traditional choral standards and works for chorus and orchestra. The WRC's repertoire encompasses many periods and styles, from classical to modern, and includes newly commissioned compositions. Some highlights from WRC's recent performances are works by Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, Dan Forrest, Karl Jenkins, Ola Gjielo, John Rutter, & John Willcocks.

New members are welcome. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings, September through May, in Shaker Heights. Please visit our website for more information.

www.WesternReserveChorale.org (216) 282-4022

WELCOME

I and the 100+ voices of the Western Reserve Chorale welcome you to a celebration of choral music for the holiday season. “Harpy Holidays” features the artistry of guest harpist Kaitlyn Croft in this concert of wonderful works for chorus and harp. The featured work will be Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Oratorio de Noël (The Christmas Oratorio)*, an intimate and tender setting of the nativity. It is a gorgeous work that strips Christmastide of its secular thrill and draws the listener’s heart to awe and wonder. The chorus is also joined by a stellar group of local professionals to serve as the five vocal soloists who sing in various combinations throughout the work, as well as string quartet and organ which completes the scoring for the work.

The concert’s second half will be a potpourri of selections including four arrangements of traditional carols by Jackson Berkey, one of the primary arrangers for Mannheim Steamroller. *Hanukkah Madrigal* and *The Everlasting Flame* provide two delightful approaches to the Jewish celebration; in *Hanukkah Madrigal*, composer Herbert Fromm chose *Mi Y’mallel?*, one of the best-known non-liturgical Hanukkah songs. Its lyrics are ascribed to Menashe Ravina [Rabinovich], who actually assembled them from biblical and Talmudic sources and set the text to an adaptation of a famous folk melody. *Everlasting Flame* is an atmospheric and modal setting of the serene Shabbat and Hanukkah candle-lighting blessing. The remaining pieces provide opportunity to experience the wintry weather in *Carol from an Irish Cabin*, to explore new compositional stylings of familiar holiday classics including *Here We Come a-Caroling*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, and to let you all know *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* and “Harpy” (Happy) Holidays!

David Gilson, Artistic Director

Harpy Holidays: Music of the Season for Harp & Chorus

Oratorio de Noël, Op. 12 (*The Christmas Oratorio*)

by Camille Saint-Saëns

Lauren Vanden Broeck,
soprano
Kira McGirr, mezzo soprano
Joanne Uniatowski, alto
Steven Weems, tenor
Brian Keith Johnson, baritone

Katelyn Croft, harp
Amy Cave, violin
McKenna Glorioso, violin
Erica Zappia, viola
Zoë Moskalew, cello
Maggie Johns, organ

PART TWO: CAROLS & SONGS OF THE SEASON

ACCOMPANIED BY:

Katelyn Croft, harp • **Evan Mitchell,** percussion • **Sara Smith,** piano

Here we come a-caroling
Hanukkah Madrigal, Mi Y'mallel
Michelle L. Raymond, soprano

Arr. by Brant Adams
Herbert Fromm

Selections from *Anniversary Carols*
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Still, Still Night
Elizabeth Spencer, soprano

Arr. by Jackson Berkey

Il est né le divine infant
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

The Everlasting Flame
Carol from an Irish Cabin

Yoni Fogelman
Brant Adams

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Alison Gross, soprano • Michael Pammit, baritone

Arr. by Jay Althouse

We Wish you a Merry Christmas

Arr. by Bob Chilcott

Information about this concert, the Chorale, and more can be found on our
website www.WesternReserveChorale.org

We invite you to enjoy our past concert recordings on our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/WesternReserveChorale

WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE MEMBERS 2025-26

SOPRANO

Claudia Cabrera#
Barbara Cavender
Wendy Deuring
Debra Drew
Anne Marie Faltisco
Kim Freborg
Rosalyn Gaier
Veronica Gallo
Rosemary Gornik
Alison Gross
Suzanne Harrington
Judy Harrison
Mary Holmes
Julie Howe
Leona Jackson
Nancy Jamieson
Bridget Krus
Virginia Mast
Katherine McCarty
Samantha Miller#
Lydia Oppmann
Laura Otis*
Carol Porter
Paula Pronio
Linda Rahal
Michelle L. Raymond
Jane Richmond#
Prudence Riva
Julie Sabroff
Allison Schreiber
Andrea Smith
Elizabeth Spencer
Katie Swanson-Harbage
Mary Lou Sykora
Ginna Taft
Margo Vinney
Sally Wilson
Angela Yaniv
Pamela Young

ALTO

Cynthia Ahern#
Tricia Armstrong
Deena Barrett
Jo Bennett
Andrea Ber#
Brenda Bey
Kim Bihler
Karen Bower
Melinda Burt
Marilyn Christian
Lana Cowell
Joan Delahay
Linda Frank
Elizabeth Gockel
Linda Haligowski
Mary Ann Hile
Rhona Jacobson*
Janice Katz
Patricia Klaas
Judi Koffman
Carole Moran Krus
Anne Kugler
Christie Leece
Hilary Lowbridge
Maxine Myers
Stacy Newman
Patti Pinkerton
Marianne Prebet
Ellen Reisman
Margaret Robinson
Virginia Rubinski
Rory Sanders
Ruth Shoskes
Julie Siegel
Doris Simpson
Wanda Solaru
Carol Steiner
Sue Stewart-Palmisano
Diana Vargo
Lisa Wadsworth
Summer Watterson
Blossom Williams
Rosemary Woodruff

TENOR

Eric Bower
Debbie Boyd-Tressler
Eric Brandt
William Diehm
Rick Drake#
Susan Evans
Deborah Hoffman
Alex Jamieson
Karl Kaups
Bryan McGucken#
James Pintner
Frank Ragone
Bob Rittenhouse
John Sherck**
Hamilton
Throckmorton
Mark Wakefield#
Mark Wallach

BASS

Aaron Ballonoff
David Bell
Brook Benedict
Bill Benish
Chris Brandt
Don Chilcote
Robert Gaier
Steven Hines
Tom Holmes
Donald Hylton
Dan Ivancic
Dennis Jakse
Allen Littman
Dean Myers
Michael Pammit
Dave Rainey*
Frank Repasi
Don Robbins
John Rydquist
Gunter Schwegler
Greg Scruggs#
Ed Solem
Tom Wadsworth

Members singing in this concert in bold print

Board of Directors

* Section Leaders

Western Reserve Chorale would like to thank those whose contributions are making this season possible.

See the list of our generous contributors from last season on our website.

Benefactors (\$500+)

**Cynthia Ahern • Anonymous • David & Christine Bell
John & Susan Blackwell • Christopher Brandt & Beth Sersig
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Your freewill donation is greatly appreciated and can be given to an usher at the door. Envelopes are available for you to mail in your donation, or visit WesternReserveChorale.org to use a credit card.

Thank You

WRC is raising funds to purchase a high-quality piano that will serve us well for decades to come.

Contributors

**Cynthia Ahern • David & Christine Bell • Andrea Ber
Mary Lou Core • Gilbert & Barbara Harrington
Joanne Poderis • Gunter Schwegler**

David Gilson, Artistic Director

David Gilson has served as Artistic Director for the Western Reserve Chorale since 2012. He also 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 has served as the director of music for Church of the Saviour (Cleveland Heights), Chagrin Falls UMC, and Bethany Covenant Church (Lyndhurst). He 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.

Having stepped down from the Cleveland Institute of Music following a 30-year career of administration and teaching on the faculty (choral conducting and eurhythmics), he currently works for the Cleveland Heights/University Heights school district.

David appeared as the guest conductor/clinician for the Fireland's District Music Festival. Additionally, he has also served as choral director for 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.

Please join us for our upcoming concerts:

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Mozart: Celebration and Solemnity: Mozart's *Mass in G-Major*; *The Coronation Mass* and *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, *The Solemn Vespers*

Sunday, June 7, 2026

Love in $\frac{3}{4}$ Time, featuring selections from Brahms' *Liebeslieder Wälztes* and other works about many forms of love

Featured Artists

Katelyn Croft, Harpist

Katelyn Croft is a harpist based in Pittsburgh, PA, who recently completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Harp Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music. A frequent collaborator with regional orchestras and ensembles, she also specializes in pedagogy, Chinese traditional music, and was a 2021 Fulbright Scholar in Musicology to Taiwan. Prior to her studies in Cleveland, Ms. Croft received a Master's Degree in Harp Performance from Carnegie Mellon University and two Bachelor's Degrees, one from the Eastman School of Music in Harp Performance, and another from the University of Rochester in Chinese Studies. She holds a third degree blackbelt in Taekwondo and enjoys hiking in her free time with her puppy, Leo.

Lauren Vanden Broeck, Soprano

Soprano Lauren Vanden Broeck holds an MM from Peabody Conservatory, where she was awarded the George Woodhead Prize in vocal performance. Recent roles include the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (Peabody Institute), and Adina in Gaetano Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* (Peabody Institute), Baby Doe in Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe* (Wooster Symphony Orchestra), and Amore, Poppea cover in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Hawaii Performing Arts Festival). Other featured performances include cover soloist for the 2016 Heroes and Villains concert series at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, a 2016 artists' residency with the Astronaut Symphony in Washington D.C., and an honorable mention at the 2024 Concours du Maîtres du Chant in Paris, France. She has been a featured soloist in sacred works such as Vivaldi's *Magnificat RV 610*, Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Cantata 51*, and Dan Forrest's *Jubilate Deo*. Lauren's career in music has taken her as far as Haiti, where she did a brief stage conducting *Les Petits Chanteurs*, a choir out of the Holy Trinity Music School in Port-au-Prince. Currently, Lauren teaches privately and serves on the voice faculty at The College of Wooster and performs as a soloist throughout Ohio.

Kira McGirr, Mezzo-Soprano

Noted for the richness of her voice, beautiful phrasing, and clear, focused sound, mezzo-soprano Kira McGirr is a dynamic and versatile vocalist, equally at home as a soloist and collaborator. Specializing in 19th century vocal/orchestral works, and in works for contralto, her repertoire spans from the Baroque to contemporary cutting-edge compositions, from oratorio to art song and chamber works.

Ms. McGirr has been featured as soloist in Elgar's *Sea Pictures*; Handel's *Messiah*; Mozart's *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*; Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and *Mass in C Major, Op. 86*; JS Bach's *BWV 166*; Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and *Rejoice in the Lamb*; and Corigliano's *Fern Hill* among many other works. Highlights for the 2025/26 season include solo debuts with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony (*Strout Letters of Correspondence*), Lexington Bach Festival (*Bach Magnificat*), Heights Chamber Orchestra (*Larsen Raspberry Island Dreaming*), The Cleveland Women's Orchestra (*Elgar Sea Pictures*), the Musical Theater Project (*Nettie in Carousel*), and Western Reserve Chorale (*Saint-Saëns Oratorio de Noël*), performances of Alma Mahler *Fünf Lieder* and Clara Schumann *Sechs Lieder, Op. 13*, and return solo engagements with Cleveland Repertory Orchestra (*Tilson Thomas From the Diary of Anne Frank*), Choral Arts Cleveland (*Haydn Lord Nelson Mass*), and Perrysburg

Symphony Orchestra (Patriotic Pops). She is a frequent collaborator with Local4Music in their series featuring the work of living female and female-identifying composers.

Ms. McGirr also sings with Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Choir, Trinity Cathedral Choir, and Schola Cantorum Lorain. Ms. McGirr is the Executive Director of the Cleveland Chamber Choir. kiramcgirrmezzo.com

Joanne Uniatowski, alto

Joanne Uniatowski, Professor at Baldwin Wallace University, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Cleveland Institute of Music where she studied with George Vassos. She received a Master of Music degree from the University of Alabama and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Akron. She also holds a language diploma from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Dr. Uniatowski has performed operatic roles with Lyric Opera Cleveland, Cleveland Concert Opera and Opera Circle. Equally at home as a soloist, Dr. Uniatowski has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra Educational Programs, Mansfield Symphony, PAND (Cleveland), Suburban Symphony, MasterSingers, Inc, Summit Choral Society, The Singer's Club of Cleveland, Choral Arts Society, Heights Chamber Orchestra, Western Reserve Choral and various local choral organizations including Chagrin Valley Choral Union, Western Reserve Chorale and Medina County Chorus. She is the principal cantor for the Diocese of Cleveland at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Dr. Uniatowski also taught at Ashland University and The Cleveland Institute of Music. She was the Executive Director of the Art Song Festival (Cleveland Institute of Music/Baldwin Wallace University) for 15 years. Dr. Uniatowski has become a sought after clinician for master classes in "Cantoring for Roman Catholic Liturgies". Her voice students have been heard on Broadway, network television, national tours, and in major graduate programs. In addition to teaching voice, Dr. Uniatowski has also taught Phonetics (for all voice primaries), English Diction and Literature (for vocal performance majors), Italian Diction and Literature (for vocal performance majors) and Vocal Pedagogy.

Steven Weems, Tenor

Steven Weems' musical journey began at the age of 4 while singing in his church adult choir. Throughout his early childhood, Steven was seen in local plays and tv commercials and at the age of 9, he co-starred in *The Walk*; a full feature movie directed and filmed in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. He attended Central State University (CSU) and also studied in Salzburg, Austria with the University of Miami Frost School of Music where he gained priceless skills, knowledge, and experiences that further developed his timbre, interpretation, as well as his musicianship.

In addition to being a tenor soloist, Steven sat under the tutelage of Dr. William Henry Caldwell and served as administrative assistant, tour manager, and eventually interim conductor to the Grammy nominated CSU Chorus, participated in several Master Classes with award winning artists; including acclaimed Metropolitan Opera tenors, George Shirley and Richard Fracker; Roderick Dixon from Three Mo' Tenors and also represented CSU in the inaugural performance of The 105 Voices of History National HBCU Choir at the Kennedy Center.

Steven has traveled singing throughout the United States, Austria, France, Germany, China, and has received numerous awards including a winner from the Ohio Advanced Men's Division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and has taught music at Cuyahoga Community College Creative Arts Academy. In February, 2024, Steven was featured as guest soloist and conductor at the Lake County Choir Festival with a combined 400 student choir.

Mr. Weems has been a featured soloist with Karamu House in the Broadway Musical of Black Nativity, The Dayton Opera, all three of The Cleveland Orchestra's adult Choruses and was the Chorus Master for the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's In the Spirit of production. Recently, Steven was featured in a solo concert as part of the inaugural season of The Cleveland Orchestra's Mandel Opera and Humanities Festival. He currently sings with Linking Legacies, established his own vocal ensemble, Quintessence, and serves as the Choral and Media Director at The Philippi Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

Brian Keith Johnson, Baritone

Brian Keith Johnson has performed many roles in opera from Figaro in *il barbiere di Siviglia* to Ford in *Falstaff*. As a member of Actors' Equity Association, he has also performed a variety of musical theatre roles ranging from Jim in *Big River* to Father/God in *Children of Eden*. His concert repertoire includes most of the major baritone works such as *Carmina Burana*, *Elijah*, *The Verdi Requiem*, *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony*, *The Brahms Requiem* and *The Faure' Requiem*. He has performed operatic and musical theatre roles across the United States including performances with The Cleveland Orchestra, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Blossom Festival Orchestra, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Opera Western Reserve, Carolina Master Chorale, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and Porthouse Theatre.

Mr. Johnson received his BM Degree from The University of Akron and has also studied abroad at The New Opera Academy of Rome in Rome, Italy and The American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria.

His favorite past engagements include *Sweeney Todd* and *Ragtime* (Coalhouse Walker Jr) at Weathervane Playhouse, *Dvorak's Te Deum*, Concerts with The Cleveland Composer's Guild, *Michael Haydn's Requiem in C Minor*, *Willcocks' From Darkness To Light: A Requiem of Hope*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Brahms Requiem*, *Old Thomas in Glory Denied*, *Bob in William Grant Still's Highway 21*, *The Messiah*, *The White Rabbit in Alice and Her adventures in Wonderland* with *Nightingale Opera*, *Tate's Clans and Mozart's C Minor Mass* with The Akron Symphony Orchestra, and *The Coffee Cantata* with *Apollo's Fire*. Upcoming performances include *The Boy Wonders* with *Apollo's Fire*, *Blind Injustice* with *Chagrin Arts*, *Falstaff* with *Geneva Light Opera*, *Faust* with *Opera Western Reserve*, *Carmina Burana* with The Akron Symphony, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with The Canton Symphony, *Schicchi (Cover)* with The Cleveland Institute of Music, and *The Innkeeper and Cervantes (cover)* in *The Man of La Mancha* with The Ohio Shakespeare Festival. Brian and his wife Susan retired this year from The Akron Public School System with a combined 68 years of teaching between them. Brian is also an avid motorcyclist.

Oratorio de Noël, Op. 12 (The Christmas Oratorio)

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

1. Prélude

2. Récit et chœur

(Tenor) Et pastores erant in regione eadem vigilantes et custodientes vigili- as noctis super gregem suum.

(Alto) Et ecce Angelus Domini stetit iuxta illos, et claritas Dei circumfulsit illos, et timuerunt timore magno. Et dixit illis Angelus:

(Soprano) Nolite timere! Ecce enim evangelizo vobis gaudium magnum, quod erit omnipopulo: quia natus est vobis hodie Christus Dominus in civitate David. Et hoc vobis signum: Invenientes infantem pannis involu- tum, et positum in praesepio.

(Baritone) Et subito facta est cum Angelo multitudo militiae coelestis laudantium Deum, et dicentium:

(Chorus) Gloria in altissimis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis! (Luke 2:8-14)

3. Air

Expectans expectavi Dominum. Et intendit mihi. (Psalm 40:1)

4. Air et chœur

Domine, ego credidi, quia tu es Chris- tus, Filius Dei vivi, qui in hunc mun- dum venisti. (John 11:27)

1. Prélude

2. Recitative and chorus

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them:

“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger”.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”. (Luke 2: 8-14)

3. Air

I waited patiently for the Lord and he inclined unto me. (Psalm 40:1)

4. Air and chorus

“Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world”. (John 11:27)

INTERMISSION

HAPPY HOLIDAYS PART 2

CAROLS AND SONGS OF THE SEASON

Here we come a-caroling

Traditional carol arr. by Brant Adams (b. 1955)

Here we come a-caroling
Among the leaves so green.
Here we come a-wandering
So fair to be seen.

Love and joy come to you, Noel,
And God bless you with a happy New Year!
God send a happy New Year!

We are not daily beggars
who go from door to door.
But we are friendly neighbors
Whom you have seen before!

Love and joy come to you, Noel,
And God bless you with a happy New Year!
God send a happy New Year!

God bless the master of this house,
Likewise the mistress too.
And all the little children
Who 'round the table go.
Love and joy come to you, Noel!

Hanukkah Madrigal (Mi Y'mallel)

Traditional, arranged by Herbert Fromm (1905-1995)

Mi y'mallel g'vurot yisrael,
otan mi yimneh?
Hen b'choldor yakum hagibor,
goel haam.
Sh'ma! Bayamim hahem bazman hazeh
Makabi moshia ufodeh
uv'yamenu kol am yisrael
yitached yakum l'higael.

Who can retell the deeds of Israel,
Who can count them?
Each generation gives a redeemer, one
great name.
Hark! At this season in those ancient days,
Maccabee won all his people's praise,
And today again, as once they dreamed,
Israel, united, rises up to be redeemed.

Selections from Anniversary Carols
Traditional carols arr. by Jackson Berkey (b. 1942)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin, 18th century

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

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye bright hosts of heaven above.
Glory to God, All glory in highest!
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yes, Lord, we greet Thee, born this joyous morning,
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
O word of the Father, now in flesh appearing,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Still, Still Night/Silent Night

Franz Gruber and Joseph Mohr

Silent Night. Holy Night, Son of God, Love's pure Light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Christ the Savior is born! Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Alleluia.

Silent Night! Holy Night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from Heaven afar. Heavenly choirs sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is Born!" Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

Silent Night, Holy Night. All is calm, All is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother, and Child. Holy Infant, tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly Peace, Sleep in heavenly Peace.
Son of God. Alleluia. Still, still night, Alleluia.

Selections from Anniversary Carols

Il est né le divine enfant

Traditional French Carol

He is born the Divine Child.
Play the musseta, play the joyous oboe,
He is born the Divine Child.
Sing we all and rejoice this day!
Now is born the Child Divine.

O, how lovely, and O, how mild.
See this perfectly charming child,
O, how lovely, O, how pure,
Il est né, rejoice this day!
Sing we all His Holy birth!

Through the ages and ever more,
So lovely and so pure.
Prophets and wise men foretold his coming
Twice two thousand years, or more,
Forever more.

Now the Age of Gold restore!
Il est né, Born this day!

Jesus, Lord of all the world.
Coming as a child among us,
Child of heaven, Gracious Gift, God to Man!
Gracious Gift of God to Man!

O, how lovely, and O, so pure,
See this charmingly perfect, Holy Child.
Through the ages and evermore,
Let all sing and rejoice this day!
Il est né, Born this day! Christmas Day!

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Tune sources:
Playford 1651, Dunstan 1929

God rest ye merry, gentlemen;
let nothing you dismay
for Jesus Christ, our Savior
was born upon this day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray,
O, tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O, tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father
the blessed angels came,
and unto certain shepherds brought
tidings of the same,
That there was born in Bethlehem
the Son of God by name,
and it's tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy!

"Go, fear not!" said God's angels,
let nothing you affright,
this day is born in Bethlehem
of a pure Virgin bright,
One able to advance you
and throw down Satan quite,
O, comfort and joy, comfort and joy!

God rest ye merry, gentlemen;
let nothing you dismay.
Remember: Christ, our Savior
was born on Christmas day
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.
O, tidings of comfort and joy,
O, tidings of joy!

The Everlasting Flame

Music: Yoni Fogelman (b. 2002)
Words: Blessings over the Chanukah candles

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech
ha'olam, asher kidihshanu bihmitzvohtav
vihtzivanu lihadlik neir Chanukah.

Chag Chanukah Sameach!

Baruch atah Adonai Elohaynu melech
ha'olam, she'asah nisim la'avotaynu
bayahmim hahaym bazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the
universe, who has sanctified us with His
commandments, and commanded us kindle
the Chanukah light.

Happy Chanukah!

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the
universe, who performed miracles for our
forefathers in those days, at this time.

Carol from an Irish Cabin

Music by Dale Wood (1934-2003)
Author unknown

The cold wind blows over the heather, The salt wind blows over the sea,
The harsh wind blows down from the mountains, And blows a white Christmas to me.

The clean snow falls softly, falls softly, The snow crystals cover the moor.
Let wanderers lost and grown weary Find welcome at my cabin door.

So let there be no fear of darkness, And let there be no fear of sea;
Let the star guide the lost and forsaken Safe over the moorland to me.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Words & Music by Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane
Arr. by Jay Althouse (b. 1951)

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be light.
From now on our troubles will be out of sight.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, make the Yuletide gay.
From now on our troubles will be miles away.

Here we are as in olden days, happy golden days of yore.
Faithful friends who are dear to us gather near to us once more.

Through the years we all will be together if the fates allow.
Hang a shining star upon the highest bough, and have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Traditional West Country carol
Arr. by Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin...

Now bring us some figgy pudding, and bring some right here...

For we all like figgy pudding, so bring some out here...

And we won't go until we get some, so bring some out here...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**AND BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR
FROM THE WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE!**

A Chorus of Thanks to the following:

**David Gilson and Sara Smith for making rehearsals
enjoyable and productive.**

**Rev. Kevin W. VanHook, II, George Coulter, & the rest of the staff
at First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland.**

Thank you for making us feel welcome in our new home!

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture for an Operating Grant for 2026

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Our wonderful Ushers and Volunteers

...and to YOU. Thank you for continuing to support choral music.

We hope you enjoyed this concert and come to future events.

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Audio Engineer: David Yost

Live Stream: David Sullivan

Pre-Concert Video Recording & Post-Production: Bob Sammon

WESTERN RESERVE CHORALE LEADERSHIP

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Sara Smith, Accompanist**

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Would you like to support WRC by serving on a committee or joining our Board of Directors? Non-singers are welcome!

Please send an email to WRC@WesternReserveChorale.org to discuss how you can get involved.

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We hope you enjoyed our 34th Annual Holiday Concert!

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