




1 December 2022  
6:30 PM



# PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Quiet your heart & mind for the season



The Cathedral  
of the Immaculate Conception  
Kansas City, Missouri



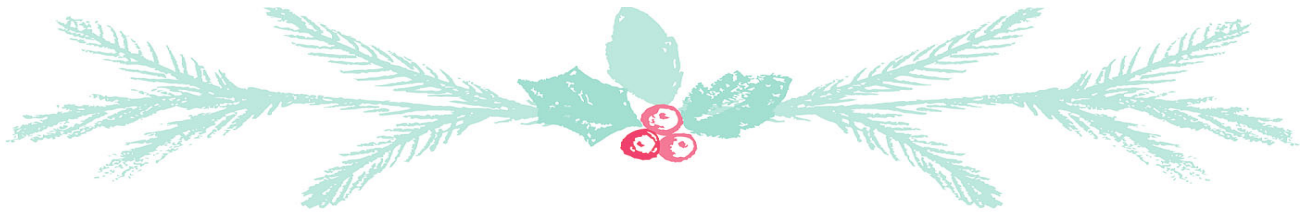
The Schola Choir

Harp,  
Strings

Harpsichord



KCGOLDDOME.ORG



## PRELUDE *Seasonal Music for Harp*

# Program

## WELCOME

### Concerto No. 4 in F minor, Op. 8, RV 297, "Winter" (L'inverno) | Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

I. Allegro non molto (in F minor)

The Four Seasons (*Italian: Le quattro stagioni*) is a group of four violin concertos by Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi, each of which gives musical expression to a season of the year. These were composed around 1718–1720, when Vivaldi was the court chapel master in Mantua. They were published in 1725 in Amsterdam. Though it is not known who wrote the accompanying sonnets, the theory that Vivaldi wrote them is supported by the fact that each sonnet is broken into three sections, each neatly corresponding to a movement in the concerto.

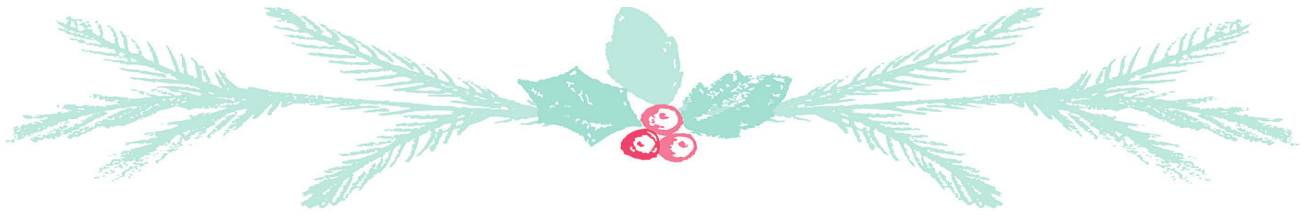
*To tremble from cold in the icy snow,  
In the harsh breath of a horrid wind;  
To run, stamping one's feet every moment,  
Our teeth chattering in the extreme cold.*

### Alma Redemptoris | Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525 – 1594)

Palestrina was an Italian Renaissance composer of sacred music and the best-known 16th-century representative of the Roman School of musical composition. He had a long-lasting influence on the development of church and secular music in Europe, especially on the development of counterpoint, and his work is considered the culmination of Renaissance polyphony.

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes,  
et stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo:  
Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem:  
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave,  
peccatorum miserere.*

Loving Mother of the Redeemer,  
who remains the gate by which we mortals enter heaven,  
and star of the sea, help your fallen people who strive to rise:  
You who gave birth, amazing nature, to your sacred Creator:  
Virgin prior and following, taking from the mouth of Gabriel  
that Hail! have mercy on our sins.



**Veni, Veni Emmanuel (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)** (*Premiere*) | **arr. Mario Pearson (b. 1963)**  
(*Orchestrations, Jon Davis*)

Veni, Veni Emmanuel is a synthesis of the great "O Antiphons" that are used for Vespers during the octave before Christmas (Dec. 17-23). These antiphons are of ancient origin, dating back to at least the ninth century. The hymn itself, though, is much more recent. Its first appeared in the 18th century in the *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum* (Cologne 1710).

This short arrangement of the well-known Advent carol begins with a hopeful, ethereal, and calm statement before introducing the melody. The second part increases rhythm and tempo as if to imply a greater urgency for the Savior to come. The final measures return to a more reflective pace ending with a solo voice singing the text "Shall come to thee, O Israel"

**And He shall purify | George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)**

Sung by the chorus, this is the 7th movement of the first part of Handel's famous Oratorio, "The Messiah".

*And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an  
Offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3: 3)*

**POEM**

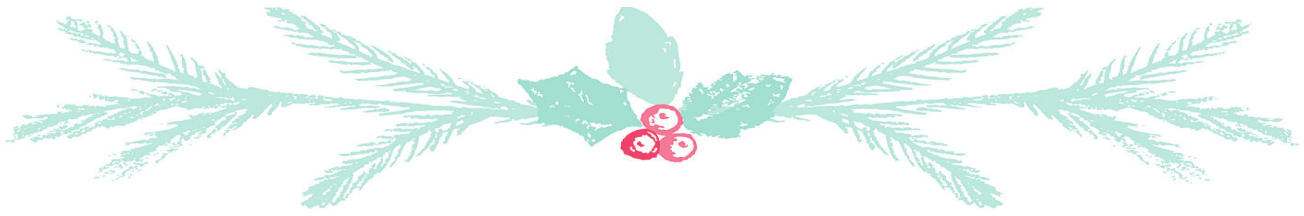
**Concerto No. 4 in F minor, Op. 8, RV 297, "Winter" (L'inverno) | Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)**  
II. Largo (in Eb major)

*Before the fire to pass peaceful,  
Contented days while the rain outside pours down.*

**The Word Was God | Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)**

The Word Was God (1996), composed by Rosephanye Powell, is a lively composition with the texts taken from John 1:1-3. Rosephanye Powell, pronounced ro-SEH-fuh-nee, is an American choral composer, singer, professor, and researcher. Rosephanye Dunn Powell has been hailed as one of America's premier composers of choral music. She has a diverse and impressive catalog of works published by some of the nation's leading publishers. Her compositions include sacred and secular works for mixed chorus, women's chorus, men's chorus, and children's voices. Her style of composition has been characterized by beautiful melodies, strong rhythmic emphasis, rich harmonies often derived from African-American popular styles, and varied vocal textures including counterpoint.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God.  
All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*



### **There Shall a Star from Jacob Come | Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809 - 1847)**

Felix Mendelssohn was a German composer, pianist, organist, and conductor of the early Romantic period. Mendelssohn's compositions include symphonies, concertos, piano music, organ music, and chamber music.

Mendelssohn was born into a wealthy family that had its share of overachievers. His Grandfather was a well-known philosopher, his father started a banking firm. Money also came from his mother's side of the family. Family values promoted freethinking and making the most of your abilities no matter what. His parents converted from Judaism to Christianity prior to the birth of their children. Mendelssohn was inspired to great heights by his sister Fanny. Her death may have helped lead to his early death. It was during the last year of his life that he was working on the sketches that have become "Christus."

There shall a Star from Jacob come forth is from his unfinished oratorio "Christus" which was published posthumously as Opus No. 92.

*There shall a Star from Jacob come forth,  
And a Sceptre from Israel rise up,  
And dash in pieces princes and nations.*

*As bright the star of morning gleams,  
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
Of light and consolation!  
Thy Word, O LORD, radiance darting,  
Truth imparting, gives salvation;  
Thine be praise and adoration!*

### **POEM**

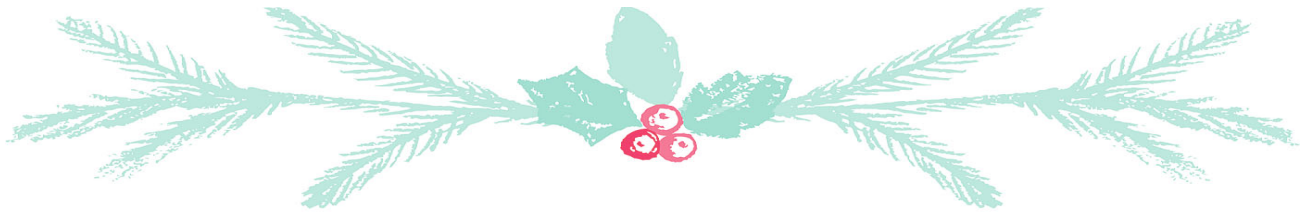
#### **A New Magnificat | Carolyn Jennings (b. 1936)**

Carolyn Jennings is a Professor Emerita of Music at St. Olaf College where she taught for many years and also served in administrative roles, including being Chair of the Music Department and Associate Dean for the Fine Arts. She also recently retired as Music Coordinator and Director of the Senior Choir at St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, Minnesota, where she served as a church musician for over thirty years. Her compositions and arrangements include works for voices, orchestra, and piano

A New Magnificat is a lyric dialog between Hannah and Mary is an excellent Advent season music selection. The audience is invited to sing the refrain.







## Ave Maria | Franz Biebl (1906 - 2001)

Franz Xaver Biebl was a German composer of classical music. Most of his compositions were for choral ensembles. Biebl was born in Pursruck, now part of Freudenberg, Bavaria, in 1906. He studied composition at the Musikhochschule in Munich. Biebl served as choir director at the Catholic church of St Maria in München-Thalkirchen from 1932 until 1939, and as an assistant professor of choral music at the Mozarteum, an academy of music in Salzburg, Austria, beginning in 1939, where he taught voice and music theory. Biebl's best-known work is his Ave Maria, which sets portions of the Angelus as well as the Ave Maria. The piece was composed sometime before 1 May 1959. The piece was brought to the United States by the Cornell University Glee Club in 1970. The ensemble met Biebl while on tour in Germany, during a recording session at a radio network where Biebl was music director.

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae  
et concepit de Spiritu sancto.  
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus, Jesus.  
Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini.  
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.  
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus, Jesus.  
Et Verbum caro factum est  
et habitavit in nobis.  
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

The angel of God visited Maria  
and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
Hail Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus, Jesus.  
Maria said: See the servant of the Lord.  
May it happen to me according to your word.  
Hail Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus, Jesus.  
And the Word became flesh  
and lived among us.  
Hail Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
Holy Mary, pray for us now and in the hour of our death.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.

## Sicut Locutus es | Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

In 1723, after taking up his post as Thomaskantor in Leipzig, Bach set the text of the Magnificat in a twelve-movement composition in the key of E-flat major. For a performance at Christmas, he inserted four hymns (laudes) related to that feast. Likely for the feast of Visitation of 1733, or another feast in or around that year, Bach produced a new version of his Latin Magnificat, without the Christmas hymns: instrumentation of some movements was altered or expanded, and the key changed from E-flat major to D major, for performance reasons of the trumpet parts. Bach's Sicut locutus est, BWV 243 texts are taken from Luke 1:46–1:55.

*Sicut locutus est ad Patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.*

According to the promise He made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to His descendants forever.



## POEM

### Concerto No. 4 in F minor, Op. 8, RV 297, "Winter" (L'inverno) | Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

III. Allegro (in F minor)

*We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously, for fear of tripping and falling.  
Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and,  
rising, hasten on across the ice lest it cracks up.  
We feel the chill north winds course through the home despite the locked and bolted doors...  
this is winter, which nonetheless brings its own delights.*

### Water weary under snow | Harri Wessman (b. 1949)

"Water weary under snow" ("Vesi väsyä lumen alle"), is one of the biggest hits of all the music Finnish composer Wessman wrote for the Tapiola Choir. Wessman (a former Tapiola chorister) used an old familiar melody from Kalevala, Finland. Every Finn would recognize it from his or her schoolbooks as "the Kalevala tune."

*Water under snow is weary...under ice it stretches sleeping.  
Winds are blowing, no rest for them.  
Thousand-footed flakes are dancing...and the blizzard boy is whirling.  
Winds are blowing no rest for them...*

### What Sweeter Music | John Rutter (b.1945)

"What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing the birth of Christ, our heavenly King." This tender setting of the traditional carol text by Robert Herrick has become one of English composer, John Rutter's most cherished Christmas anthems. As we look toward another celebration of the birth of Christ, may we reflect on the message this music inspires to create in our own lives and in our way to make a better world for everyone.

*What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!*

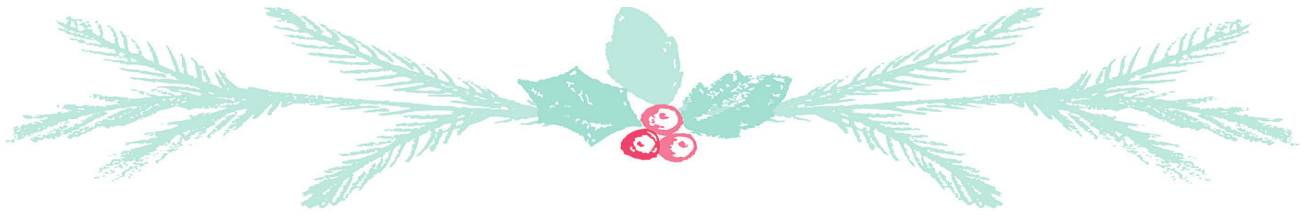
*Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honor to this day,  
That sees December turned to May.*

*Why does the chilling winter's morn  
Smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly-born,  
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth  
Gives life and luster, public mirth,  
To heaven, and the under-earth.*

*We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.  
The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him. The nobler part  
Of all the house here, is the heart.*

*Which we will give him; and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath,  
To do him honour, who's our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.*

*What sweeter music can we bring,  
Than a carol for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?*



## POEM

### Lux Aurumque | Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Eric Whitacre is an American composer, conductor, and speaker is best known for his choral music. Lux Aurumque ("Light and Gold", sometimes "Light of God") is a choral composition that was originally written for wind ensemble. The piece was composed in 2000 on a commission from the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. The poem is attributed to Edward Esch which translates as "Light, warm and heavy as pure gold, and the angels sing softly to the newborn babe." Whitacre writes in the printed score: "... if the tight harmonies are carefully tuned and balanced they will shimmer and glow". The piece became known through Whitacre's project Virtual Choir in 2009.

*Lux,  
calida gravisque pura velut aurum  
et canunt angeli molliter  
modo natum.*

Light,  
warm and heavy as pure gold  
and the angels sing softly  
to the newborn baby.

### Moonlight Sonata | Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827)

The Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, marked Quasi una fantasia, Op. 27, No. 2, is a piano sonata by Beethoven is performed tonight by the string quartet. It was completed in 1801 and dedicated in 1802 to his pupil Countess Giulietta Guicciardi. The popular name Moonlight Sonata goes back to a critic's remark after Beethoven's death. During these winters and colder days, the moonlight captures the beauty of nature and life itself.



## CONCLUDING REMARKS

The audience will please rise and join singing with the choir

### Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

John Cennick, 1752; alt. by Charles Wesley, 1758

English melody, 18th cent.

*Choir only*

1. Lo! He comes, with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him,  
3. The dear to - kens of his pas - sion  
4. Yea, A - men! Let all a - dore thee,

once for fa - vored sin - ners slain; thou - sand,  
robed in dread - ful maj - es - ty; those who  
still his daz - zling bod - y bears; cause of  
high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,

thou - sand saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph  
set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him  
end - less ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed  
take the pow'r and glo - ry, claim the king - dom

of his train. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!  
to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
for thine own. O come quick - ly, O come quick - ly,

Hal - le - lu - jah! God ap - pears on earth to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
O come quick - ly! Hal - le - lu - jah! Come, Lord, come!





Dr. Mario Pearson, *Conductor*  
*Celebrating his 16th year as director of liturgy, music and principal organist at the Cathedral*

## **The Cathedral Schola**



**Amanda Brobst**



**Lyra Pherigo**



**Cara Ellman**



**Beth Monahan**



**Kimberly Wilkinson**



**Kathy Davis**



**Amy Jeffers**



**Patricia Mina**



**Dakota Hayton**



**Harry Hamblin**



**Christopher Fuelling**



**Robert Dothage**



**Paul Davidson**



**David Hess**



**John Ross**



YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US

## *Cathedral Christmas Schedule*

Christmas Eve: 2:30 pm, 5:00 pm,  
Midnight (prelude music begins at 11 pm)  
Christmas Day: 10 am



### **CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE**

#### **Weekdays**

MONDAY - FRIDAY 12:15 pm

#### **Weekend**

SATURDAY 2:30 pm

SUNDAY 9 am | 11 am | 8 pm



# Special thanks

*Bill and Joanne Mullin*

*Opus 76 String Quartet*

*Erin Wood, Harpist*

*Fr. Paul Turner, Harpsichord*

*Lyra Pherigo, Flute*

*Justin Hurst, Lighting technician*

*Jim McGuire, Kate Locar, Livestreaming*

*Cathedral Volunteers*

Text translations: [www.cpdll.org](http://www.cpdll.org)

Composer biographies: <https://en.wikipedia.org/>

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