

MESSIAH CHORAL SOCIETY'S

47th ANNUAL PERFORMANCE



HANDEL'S

MESSIAH

BOB CARR THEATER

JOHN V. SINCLAIR, CONDUCTOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019 • 3 PM



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George Frideric Handel's

MESSIAH

Presented by the

MESSIAH CHORAL SOCIETY

Sunday, December 1, 2019 – 3:00 PM

Bob Carr Theater

John V. Sinclair, Conductor

Program printing/design: Creative Printing and Publishing

Cover Design: Fr. Rick Chambers

About the Messiah Choral Society

The extraordinary vision of William Eugene "Bill" Jarvis, a prominent Orlando music director, formed the Messiah Choral Society with the philosophy that Handel's *Messiah* was worthy of a group dedicated solely to the performance of this masterpiece. We continue to be inspired to perform this classical oratorio annually as a gift to Orlando and the surrounding community.

The Messiah Choral Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit, 501(c)3, choral organization founded in 1973, for the purpose of bringing the wonderful music of Handel's *Messiah* to the Central Florida area. It is not affiliated with any governmental, educational, or religious entity. The Society provides a unique cultural opportunity for all members of the community to learn and perform a major classical work with professional orchestra and soloists, under the direction of a professional director.

The Society provides a very special community service by offering its performance free to the public each year during the holiday season. This allows the entire community the opportunity to enjoy this musical tradition. In addition, it provides a venue to showcase the talents of local professional musicians. The Society's efforts have been an important contribution to the promotion of arts appreciation in our community, helping to nourish local interest in the continual development of our cultural climate.

Membership, Associate Membership, and Sponsorship

The Messiah Choral Society consists of individuals from all walks of life throughout Central Florida. Singers interested in joining the *Messiah* Choral Society for 2020 are invited to contact us at the website or address below. Auditions are not required.

If you are interested in supporting this longtime Central Florida musical tradition by becoming an Associate Member (minimum \$23 donation), donor, or advertising sponsor for the 2020 season, please contact us at the website or address below. Associate Members and donors will receive advance notice of next year's performance.

Messiah Choral Society
P.O. Box 3496
Winter Park, Florida 32790-3496

www.messiahchoralsociety.org



OFFICERS

President – Maggie Winter
Immediate Past President –
Elaine Pancake
Vice-President – Elaine Pancake
Secretary – Wendy Landry
Treasurer – Frank Lieble

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Director – Heather Cowley
Director – Susan Vargo
Director – Becky Williams

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Soprano – Joy Twitty
Alto – Christiana Lacroix
Tenor – Bob Anderson
Bass – Rob Landry

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Sing-along – Becky Williams
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ARTISTIC PERSONNEL

Music Director – John V. Sinclair
Chorusmaster – Billy B. Williamson
Accompanist – Kristine Griffin



A Message from our President

Welcome to the 47th annual performance of Handel's greatest masterwork, *Messiah*. It is a pleasure for us to share this magnificent oratorio with you today. I am so proud of the Messiah Choral Society membership as well as the residents of this community. We all are united in the belief that arts, music, and cultural programming enhance our lives. In a complex world, we have come to understand that a vital arts scene helps us understand who we are and where we hope to be in the future. Because of the incredible support of Greater Orlando, we can now proudly state that our annual performance of *Messiah* is the longest running free cultural arts performance in Central Florida. You are our cherished audience, and we would not be here without you. The applause goes to you. Thank you from our innermost selves. The tradition of performing this work every year during the holiday season will continue for years to come because you will always make it happen.

When Handel composed *Messiah*, I wonder if he understood that it would bring hope to many in the chaotic world of the future. The message of 300 years ago continues to ring true today. A strong sense of peace comes over me whenever I am part of a performance this oratorio. The members of the Messiah Choral Society, led by the very talented and well-known Dr. John V. Sinclair, are pleased to continue the tradition of presenting this widely recognized masterpiece. We always welcome new members. If you are a singer, please consider joining us next year.

Reflecting on the past 47 years, the dream of our founder, Bill Jarvis, has come true. The professional quality continues even as the choir size expands. When we began 47 years ago, we couldn't have imagined the impact we now have on this community. Because of your overwhelming support, we continue to provide this free concert to Central Florida. Many years ago, the historically significant Bob Carr Theater became our home. We are delighted to perform here again today.

Many community supporters have made today's performance and future performances possible with their generous financial support and in-kind contributions to the Society. Our board of directors and 120 members are comprised of unpaid volunteers. Many significant expenses are incurred in the yearly effort of bringing this work to the stage. We would not be here today without the generous support of our past and present audiences, Rollins College, United Arts of Central Florida, the Music Performance Trust Fund, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, the Downtown Development Board of Orlando, Orlando at Play, the Dr. Phillips Center, our numerous program advertisers, and the gracious individuals who have contributed to our endowment fund, administrated through the Central Florida Foundation.

Last but not least, our Society members work diligently throughout the year in seeking program advertisers, acknowledging donors, writing grants, recruiting new singers, designing graphics, maintaining our website, collaborating with other non-profits, sharing their talents, and selling peanuts in order to assure the financial viability of our Society. It is with a joyous and grateful heart that we present this performance today.



PERFORMANCE DEDICATION

The Messiah Choral Society dedicates the 2019 performance
of Handel's *Messiah* to Priscilla M. Black



Priscilla Margretha Black was born in Passaic, New Jersey and was the youngest of three children. Priscilla had a lifetime love of all music. During her high school years, she was featured as a soprano soloist in her chorus recitals. After graduating from high school, she attended Mountclair State College. During those years, she volunteered as an usher at the legendary Rock and Roll theater Fillmore East in New York City.

She moved to Central Florida in the summer of 1979 with her future husband William Black, Jr. During the 1980's, she continued furthering her education at UCF receiving both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Business in Business Administration. She followed by studying Tax Law and being licensed as a Certified Public Accountant. Widowed too soon, she continued to work in her field and was much admired by her clients for her skills as a CPA.

Priscilla was a lifelong student, who was constantly researching new areas and was able to converse intelligently on almost any topic with wit and insight as well as kindness towards those in need. Loving and studying classical music, she joined the Messiah Choral Society in 1996 and sang for over 15 years. She was a skilled and remarkable Treasurer for the Society in the early 2000's. Along with her love of all music, Priscilla loved reading, knowledge of all subjects and all the arts.

She worked as a CPA in public accounting and retired from the firm of Janvrin & Regan, CPA, P.A. in February of 2016. Priscilla Black passed away on July 20, 2017. She will always be remembered for her loyalty yet distinguished modesty in character. It is only fitting that we dedicate our performance to such a fine person and loving spirit.

We honor the memory of members who passed away this year.

*Betty Barger - Tenor - 43 years
Kenneth J. Boyle - Bass - 10 years
Delores Freudenburg - Soprano - 26 years
Mary C. Kuckuck - Alto - 32 years
James A. Swaim - Tenor - 18 years*

Their presence and dedication to the Society will never be forgotten.



Mary Catherine Kuckuck
June 2, 1927 - October 5, 2019

In Memoriam

Music played an integral role in Mary's life from an early age. Her father was a talented, one-handed pianist who played in her hometown of Philadelphia. In her twenties, she sang soprano in a choir sponsored by the bank where she and worked and met her husband, Ernest Owen Kuckuck (d. 1973), who also loved to sing and play the cornet. Together they instilled their love of music in their four children: Amy, Bill, Mary Alice, and Jim, who survive her and carry on her musical legacy.

Mary was a 32-year veteran of the Messiah Choral Society - a pillar of the alto section. She faithfully served MCS in numerous ways; she made rehearsal tapes (before CDs) to help singers learn their parts, sold ads to help fund the performance, recruited new members (mostly from her other choirs) and was chosen to sing with the soloists on the chorus, "Lift Up Your Heads." In 2017 when Orlando Arts Magazine wrote an article on the MCS's 45th anniversary, Mary was recognized as the oldest current choir member at the age of 90.

Mary was never happier than when she was singing. Since moving to Orlando in 1977, she sang in hundreds of concerts and performed a variety of music from Disney to masterworks with groups like Florida Hospital Choir, Seminole Community Choir, Valencia Singers, Voices of Valencia, The Juliettes, Epcot's Candlelight Choir, Blessed Trinity Choir, and St. James Cathedral Choir. She spread the joy of music to audiences in Central Florida and abroad. She went on several choir tours and sang in some of the great cathedrals of Europe. She had the honor of singing at the Vatican for the Pope.

Music rehearsals and performances filled most of Mary's evenings. When she wasn't singing, she loved supporting her fellow performers by attending concerts at many of the wonderful venues in Central Florida. She also enjoyed serving as an usher for the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park. No doubt music was key to her long life.

Mary leaves four children, a daughter-in-law, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren (including two due in 2020), a brother-in-law, two sisters-in-law, and four nephews. She will be remembered and missed by her family, friends, and fellow choir members who may yet hear her joining them in song from heaven.



You can be a part of a musical legacy!

The Messiah Choral Society is accepting contributions for its 48th annual performance. Consider making a gift or joining the choir. It's a great way to enrich your life and the lives of those around you.

Friends of the Messiah Choral Society

Our performance today is offered free of charge thanks to the generosity of our donors and advertisers.

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IN HONOR OF
Messiah Choral Society
Dr. John Sinclair
Mary Ellen Strohaker
Gene Tate
Babette Weitz

IN MEMORY OF

Catherine & Michael Connelly	Tom Kramlinger
Rose & Vernon Caroon	Joe Papa (Joseph Lobmiller)
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Adam Gratz	Milton G. Winter
Tom B. Hardy, Sr.	



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S. Keith Turner
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How does the Messiah Choral Society endowment work? It starts with you and uses your gift to ensure that the annual gift of Handel's Messiah will continue for years to come. We partnered with the Central Florida Foundation to host our endowment. Your gift is invested and Messiah Choral Society receives income annually to support our annual performance of Messiah. The foundation's administrative expertise, planned giving knowledge, and understanding of the Central Florida community provide you with the confidence that your gift will be managed wisely. For more information on our endowment and how you can become a cornerstone contributor, please visit www.cffound.org and view the community profile for the Messiah Choral Society. Thank you!

Artistic Collaborations

Concert intermission entertainment is being provided by Marie M. Loeffler. We are grateful for the many years that Marie has enhanced this event with her magnificent handbell presentation.

Cultural Collaborations



The Messiah Choral Society is among the many Central Florida cultural and arts organizations that increase awareness of all the cultural offerings in our community through creative collaboration. Such efforts allow more exposure for the individual organizations while providing the community with more enriching cultural experiences.

Since 2008, the Messiah Choral Society has collaborated with a variety of organizations ranging from historical societies and art museums to cultural groups that represent countries around the world. To see a complete listing of the organizations that have featured cultural displays at our annual performance, please visit the Collaboration and Outreach section on our website at www.messiahchoralsociety.org.



This season, the Messiah Choral Society is pleased to partner with Orlando Repertory Theatre. The REP is Florida's only professional theatre for young audiences. Our mission to "enlighten, enrich, and entertain" inspires everything we do. Located in beautiful Loch Haven Park, Orlando REP offers year-round programming, performances, camps, classes and workshops for children, families, and educators. We hope you and your family will join us for our current holiday production, which brings a cherished Christmas movie to life!

"Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings!" The beloved film "It's a Wonderful Life" is now the musical *MIRACLE IN BEDFORD FALLS*. George Bailey has spent his entire life giving of himself to the people of Bedford Falls, watching his dreams of travel and adventure pass him by. Life has not been kind and with a scandal looming, George finds himself in a desperate place on Christmas Eve. Enter Clarence, a guardian angel who shows George what the world would have been like if he had never been born. Friends and family surround George with the spirit of generosity and love, while the magic of Christmas transforms their community. Performances are 1:30pm & 6pm, Saturdays & Sundays through December 29 at Orlando Repertory Theatre. For tickets, call 407.896.7365 or visit www.orlandorep.com.



ADDITIONAL COLLABORATIONS

- Festival of Trees *presented by Orlando Museum of Art*
- Lutheran Towers Christmas Concert
- Orlando International Airport Concert

Community Connections

In addition to providing the longest-running free concert to the Central Florida community, the Messiah Choral Society has teamed up with various community service providers throughout the years. Currently, the Society is teamed up with two outstanding nonprofit organizations: Second Harvest Food Bank and Ten Thousand Villages.



The Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida is a private nonprofit organization that collects, stores and distributes donated food to more than 550 feeding partners in six Central Florida counties: Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia. Its mission is "to create hope and nourish lives through a powerful hunger relief network, while multiplying the generosity of a caring community."

Thanks to the generous donations of our audience and our members, the Messiah Choral Society donated 1,630 pounds of food to the Second Harvest Food Bank in 2018 — our best Food Drive so far! A grand total of 7,046 pounds has been donated since 2012. Our seventh annual collection is taking place at our performance today.

We thank you for your continued support.

- 2018 - 1,630 lbs.
- 2017 - 1,537 lbs.
- 2016 - 1,049 lbs.
- 2015 - 776 lbs.
- 2014 - 870 lbs.
- 2013 - 938 lbs.
- 2012 - 246 lbs.

Enjoy



and support the Messiah Choral Society at the same time!

Please visit our website for ordering information:
www.messiahchoralsociety.org

Save
the
Date

Saturday, December 14, 2019
10 AM - 8 PM

Holiday Shopping at Ten Thousand Villages

329 N. Park Avenue, Suite 102
Winter Park, FL 32789



Ten Thousand Villages will donate 10% of its sales to the Messiah Choral Society on this day. The store has a variety of beautiful handcrafted gifts from which to choose for the holiday season and beyond! Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit Fair Trade organization that creates long-term relationships with its artisan partners in developing countries and sells their items in the U.S. at a fair price, providing them access to education and healthcare for their families, healthy food, safe drinking water as well as dignity and self-sufficiency.

The Messiah Choral Society Choir

SOPRANO

Karen Elizabeth
Anne Garner Adams
Connie Anderson-Wycoff
Sandra Johnson Baldwin *
Barby S. Barbara **
Agnese Bartlett ✕
Judy Bell *
Jan Bordon **
Lee C. Breedlove *
Kathleen C. Burton
Linda L. Crim *
Karen Dunscomb
Millisent Francis **
Christine Fullerton **
Phyllis S. Gray ✕*
Andrea L. Jones **
Libby Knox -- **CS** *
Mary A. Kuckuck ✕**
Marie DeLise Lund ✕
Elsie Medina
Carlene Nugent*
BJ Price *
Myra S. Rodemann ✕✕
Constance R. Ruth ***
Carole Sandvos
Amber Schoenwald
Mattie E. Sullivan
Joy Twitty ***
Julie Um
Susan Mann Vargo *
Maggie Winter ***
Maggie Woods *

ALTO

Grace Abraibesh
Joan Bailey-Forbes
Jacqueline Buttice
Pamela R. Callwood *
Bobby-Jo Cameron-Barhart *
Thelma Williams Campbell
Egla Carvajal *

Susan Chapman
Evelyn Chiland ✕
Margie C. Christino
Sharon Coons ✕✕
Cathy Casselberry Cox
Audra Croup
Laureen M. Crowley **
Damaris M. Cruz **
Carmen Cecilia Dager ***
Deborah A. Davis-Jules
Reina V. Ferrell *
Amy G Greenwald
Sandra B. Jordan *
Cindy Krulick
Christiana Lacroix ***
Wendy Landry
Teresa R. Lucchese
Carol D. Martin ✕
Ariel Sara McLeggon
Janice Meyer **
Alice Miller
Lisa Minton
Morgan Mylod
Anne Packham
Elaine Pancake ✕***
Rita Perez
Sue Perry-Kun **
Seree Peterson *
Laura Pruyn *
Mercedes Reyes Matos ✕*
Kathy Waguespack
Katherine Welty **
Becky Williams **
Pauline Yi *

TENOR

Bob Anderson *
Mabel A. Burrige ***
Roberto Cajigas ✕***
Michele Casey-Driscoll
Ann Elizabeth Cortes **
Heather Cowley **

The Messiah Choral Society Choir

Andres O. Jara **
David Knox *
David L. Mackey Sr.
Vera McClatchie
Sue Newman **
Mike Osborne
Alan Ott
C. Stephen Perry ***
Larry Peterson *
Ryan Peterson *
Pam Stewart
David A. Tyndall
Melissa Weisman ✕
Billy B. Williamson

BASS

Will Barbara **
Patricia Barker Boyle ***
Mark Bloom ✕
Fr. Richard G. M. Chambers **

Sean Croup
David DiQuattro
Seth A. Greenwald
Joshua D. Jules -- CS
Rob Landry
Frank Lieble ***
Bill Malone ✕
Glen E. Martin *
Charles R. McGrew ***
Stuart Nichols *
Rick Rudy
Gene Tate Esq. ✕✕* -- Charter
Eric E. Timothy ***

CS – Choral Scholars

* - 5 years

☀ – 20 years

CHARTER - charter member

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jenna Barta
Michael Burrige

Hollie Phillips
Brennan Williams

Choral Scholars

Messiah Choral Society recognizes there is a talented pool of high school and college students who are actively involved in a variety of choral music programs throughout Central Florida. Many talented young singers would enjoy and benefit from participation in the annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Participation is a rewarding artistic and educational experience that further develops an adult sense of responsibility, service and commitment.

In 2007, the Choral Scholars program was created in order to reach out to these young adults. To date, twelve college scholarships have been awarded to such participants. MCS believes the Choral Scholars program builds self-confidence, fosters cultural awareness, improves communication skills, and develops a variety of social skills essential to making positive life choices.

George Frideric Handel

Born on February 23, 1685, George Frideric Handel demonstrated extraordinary musical talent at an early age. He wrote his first composition at age twelve and was so proficient at the organ that he substituted for his own teacher. At seventeen, he was appointed organist of the Calvinist Cathedral. At nineteen, he composed his first opera, *Almira*, which was soon followed by a second one named *Nero*. Handel turned from opera to oratorio, writing twenty-six in his lifetime.

Changing monarchs, English competition, and fickle audiences took its toll on Handel. By 1741, he was deeply in debt and his health failed. However, a wealthy friend, Charles Jennens, commissioned Handel to create a libretto based on the life of Christ. He began composing on August 22nd and when finished, he had written 260 pages of manuscript in only twenty-four days; titled simply *Messiah*. *Messiah* premiered in Dublin on April 23, 1742. The following year, Handel staged it in London with the King of England in attendance. As the first notes of the Hallelujah Chorus rang out, for some unknown but fortuitous reason the king stood to his feet. Following royal protocol, the audience stood as well, initiating a tradition that has lasted for more than two centuries. Handel personally conducted over thirty performances of *Messiah*; many were benefits for the Foundling Hospital. As a result; *Messiah* raised thousands of pounds for charity and is recognized as: "Messiah has fed the hungry, clothed the naked, fostered the orphan....more than any other single musical production in this or any country." On April 14, 1759, George Frideric Handel died and was buried in Westminster Abbey. A statue erected there in his honor shows him holding the manuscript reading – I know that my Redeemer liveth.



Hallelujah!



You're invited

to our

Annual *Messiah* Sing-Along

Sunday, April 19th, 2020 at 2 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Winter Park

225 S. Interlachen Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32789



DR. JOHN V. SINCLAIR ~ CONDUCTOR

Dr. Sinclair has served as Artistic Director/Conductor of the Messiah Choral Society for the past 32 years. He also serves as Music Director and Conductor of the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park. Dr. Sinclair serves Rollins College as the Department Chair and the John M. Tiedtke Endowed Chair of Music. He earned his undergraduate degree from William Jewell College and his master's and doctoral degrees from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Musically, he is known for creative interpretations, an expressive conducting style, and innovative programming. Dr. Sinclair has to his credit more than 900 appearances as conductor, clinician, or lecturer in many states and

foreign countries, including Mass at the Vatican. In addition, he conducts performances of the Candlelight Processional at EPCOT, directs the Moravian Music Festivals, and participates in recording projects for Warner Brothers and the Walt Disney Company. A master teacher, Dr. Sinclair has received many awards, including Rollins College's: the Hugh F. McKean Teaching Award, Barton Teaching Award, Distinguished Service Award, the Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rollins College Student Government Association. Last year his Alma Mater, William Jewell College, honored him with their prestigious "Citation for Achievement." For two consecutive years, he was named the "Outstanding Music Educator of the Year" by United Arts of Central Florida and he was listed as a Florida International Magazine Power Player in the Arts. Dr. Sinclair founded the Bach Festival Society's Arts-in-Education program, which brings programs to thousands of area students, and founded the Rollins College Community School of Music.

The Messiah Choral Society Orchestra

1ST VIOLINS

Routa Kroumovitch-Gomez*
Alvaro Gomez
Shelley Mathews
Mary Bos
Olga Ferroni

2ND VIOLINS

Joni Roos
Rhonda Burnham
Victor Ferroni
Fang Brill

VIOLAS

Susan McCoy
Dan Flick
Jesus Alfonso

CELLOS

Brenda Higgins
Shona McFadyen
Amie Tishkoff

STRING BASS

Lee Eubank

OBOES

Christina Gavin
Kristin Naigus

BASSOON

Ashley Heintzen

TRUMPETS

Teresa Linn
William Picher

TIMPANI

Brian Slawson

HARPSICHORD

Kristine Griffin

* Concertmaster

Featured Artists



ANNA ESCHBACH ~ SOPRANO

Soprano, Anna Eschbach, is an active performer and private voice instructor in the Central Florida area. She earned her bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Appalachian State University and a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Tennessee. Born and raised in Orlando, Ms. Eschbach has performed with numerous ensembles and orchestras throughout Florida, including Opera Orlando, the Brevard Symphony Orchestra, the Orlando Philharmonic, the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park, and the Villages Philharmonic.

Known for her performance in oratorio, her guest solo appearances include Saint-Saens' *Oratorio de Noel*, Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Rutter's *Gloria* and *Magnificat*, Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*, as well as Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Her operatic roles include Adina in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Miss Wordsworth in Britten's *Albert Herring*, Mary Warren in Robert Ward's *The Crucible*, and Rose in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*. Ms. Eschbach has toured throughout Europe singing recitals in Switzerland, the UK, and Kenya.

Since moving back to Orlando in 2013, Ms. Eschbach has maintained a thriving private voice studio in the Orlando area and serves on the voice faculty at Rollins College. She performs full time with the Basilica Choir of Mary, Queen of the Universe, as well as with her all-female a capella group, *Helena*, and the Festival Singers of Florida.

This year's performances included the role of Anne Boleyn in an original show about the wives of Henry VIII for the 2019 Orlando Fringe Festival in conjunction with Opera Orlando. Her performance was hailed by the Orlando Sentinel as "soul-shattering." She is currently serving as studio artist for Opera Orlando where she recently appeared as Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*.



SARAH PURSER ~ MEZZO-SOPRANO

Sarah Purser, mezzo soprano, is a Central Florida based singer and music teacher. She earned her master of arts in music and bachelor of music education degrees from the University of Central Florida. Ms. Purser is the choral director and music theory instructor at Bishop Moore High School. Sarah sang with the Orlando Opera Company from 2001-2009, and currently enjoys singing roles with Opera Orlando. She also serves as the coordinator for Opera Orlando's Studio Artist program.

Sarah has been a featured soloist with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and Space Coast Symphony and frequently performs recitals and concerts throughout Central Florida. Her most recent performances include Marcelina in Opera Orlando's production of *Marriage of Figaro*; other recent performances include Jane Seymore in Opera Orlando's original production of *6/VIII*; *The Six Wives of Henry the VIII*, Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Dominatrix in *Safe Word*, and Tisbe in *Cenerentola*.

She has also performed several roles with UCF opera, the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Orlando Light Opera, and Musiktheater

Bavaria including Olga in the *Merry Widow*, Meg Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Terentia in *Captain Lovelock*, Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, and Stefano in *Romeo et Juliette*.

Ms. Purser is a founding member of the professional women's vocal ensemble, The Helena Collective, she sings in the Basilica Choir at the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

Featured Artists



JOHN GRAU ~ TENOR

Tenor John Grau has performed oratorio and opera from Renaissance to twentieth century music. He is an accomplished concert soloist, having recently performed as the tenor soloist in the major works of Bach, the Evangelistin Schütz's *Weihnachtshistorie*, the tenor soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*, the Monteverdi *Vespers of 1610*, and as the tenor soloist in numerous Handel oratorios.

John's engagements during the 2014-2015 season include debuts with the Boulder Bach Festival, and the Rochester Choral Arts Ensemble performing Bach's *Mass in B-minor*, a return performance with Oratory Bach in Minneapolis, a soloist appearance at the Boston Early Music Festival with the Duke University Vespers Ensemble, and an engagement with the Seicento Baroque Ensemble in Denver.

John received his BA in biology and music from St. Olaf College, his Masters in vocal performance from Northern Arizona University, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in vocal performance from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Grau previously

taught at the University of Colorado – Boulder, and at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. Dr. Grau's scholarly activities contribute to the vocal pedagogy field. He has presented his research on developing tenor voices using excerpts from Handel oratorio arias and at the Minnesota Music Educators Association, and at the national Association of Teachers of Singing convention in July 2014. Dr. Grau is a frequent clinician and maintains a thriving private voice studio around Orlando, Florida. He lives with his wife, two children, and a black Labrador outside of Orlando, and enjoys running marathons.



STEPHEN MUMBERT ~ BASS

Stephen Mumbert is quickly gaining attention on the concert and opera stage throughout the United States and England. Stephen was recently praised for being “vocally, the most promising singer” and for “possessing an assured and stylish technique” for his interpretation of the title role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Aldeburgh Festival in England. Stephen is a graduate of Stetson University where he holds a B.M. in voice performance, and he also holds an M.M. in opera from The Boston Conservatory. Recent performances have included Rodrigo in Bellini's *I Puritani* with Minnesota Concert Opera, Mozart's *Requiem* with the Dakota Valley Symphony (which was broadcast on Twin Cities Public Television), Handel's *Messiah* with the Oratorio Society of Minneapolis, the Village Philharmonic, and the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, Wilfred Shadbolt in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Yeomen of the Guard* with the G&S Very Light Opera Company, Il Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* with First Coast Opera, King Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with the Dakota Valley Symphony, and a new opera project performing the lead roles of Guildenstern in Herschel

Garfein's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* and Hopkins in Robert Aldridge's *Sister Carrie* staged with the respective Grammy award winning composers in residence. Upcoming performances include a return to the Space Coast Symphony for Handel's *Messiah* and the Stars Sing Broadway Concert, as well as caroling around central Florida with the Dicken's Carolers.

The Program

In order to maintain the spirit of the work, we ask that you please withhold applause until the Intermission and the conclusion of the program.

Part One

Overture Sinfonia

Recitative **Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,** saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
(Isaiah 40 : 1-3)

Air **Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,** and ev'ry mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.
(Isaiah 40 : 4)

Chorus **And the glory of the Lord** shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
(Isaiah 40 : 5)

Recitative **Thus saith the Lord** of hosts; Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heav'ns, and the earth, the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come:
(Haggai 2 : 6-7)
The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, ev'n the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.
(Malachi 3 : 1)

Air **But who may abide the day of His coming?** and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire.
(Malachi 3 : 2)

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

Recitative **Behold, a virgin shall conceive,** and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us.
(Isaiah 7 : 14; Matthew 1 : 23)

Air and Chorus **O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,** get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
(Isaiah 40 : 9; Isaiah 60 : 1)

Recitative **For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth,** and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
(Isaiah 60 : 2-3)

The Program

- Air** **The people that walked in darkness** have seen a great light: and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
(Isaiah 9 : 2)
- Chorus** **For unto us a Child is born**, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9 : 6)
- Pifa** **Pastoral Symphony**
- Recitative** **There were shepherds abiding in the field**, keeping watch over their flock by night.
(Luke 2 : 8)
- Recitative** **And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them**, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
(Luke 2 : 9)
- Recitative** **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.
(Luke 2 : 10-11)
- Recitative** **And suddenly there was with the angel** a multitude of the heav'nly host praising God, and saying,
(Luke 2 : 13)
- Chorus** **Glory to God** in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill toward men.
(Luke 2 : 14)
- Air** **Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion**; shout O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.
(Zechariah 9 : 9-10)
- Recitative** **Then shall the eyes of the blind** be open'd, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.
(Isaiah 35 : 5-6)
- Air (or Duet)** **He shall feed His flock like a shepherd**: and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
(Isaiah 40 : 11)
Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him, that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him; for He is meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
(Matthew 11 : 28-29)

- Intermission -

The Program

Part Two

- Chorus** **Behold the Lamb of God**, that taketh away the sin of the world.
(John 1 : 29)
- Air** **He was despised** and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:
(Isaiah 53 : 3)
He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: He hid not His face from shame and spitting.
(Isaiah 50 : 6)
- Chorus** **Surely He hath borne our griefs**, and carried our sorrows: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him;
(Isaiah 53 : 4-5)
- Chorus** **And with His stripes we are healed.**
(Isaiah 53 : 5)
- Chorus** **All we like sheep have gone astray**; we have turned ev'ry one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
(Isaiah 53 : 6)
- Recitative** **All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn**: they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,
(Psalm 22 : 7)
- Chorus** **He trusted in God** that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.
(Psalm 22 : 8)
- Recitative** **Thy rebuke hath broken His heart**: He is full of heaviness: He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man, neither found He any to comfort Him.
(Psalm 69 : 21)
- Air** **Behold, and see if there be any sorrow** like unto His sorrow.
(Lamentations 1 : 12)
- Recitative** **He was cut off out of the land of the living**: for the transgression of Thy people was He stricken.
(Isaiah 53 : 8)
- Air** **But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell**; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.
(Psalm 16 : 10)
- Recitative** **Unto which of the angels said He at any time**, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?
(Hebrews 1 : 5)
- Chorus** **The Lord gave the word**: great was the company of the preachers.
(Psalm 68 : 11)

The Program

- Chorus** **Their sound is gone out** into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.
(Romans 10 : 18)
- Recitative** **He that dwelleth in heaven** shall laugh them to scorn: the Lord shall have them in derision.
(Psalm 2 : 4)
- Air** **Thou shalt break them** with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
(Psalm 2 : 9)
- Chorus** **Hallelujah:** for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
(Revelation 19 : 6)
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.
(Revelation 11 : 15)
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
(Revelation 19 : 16)
Hallelujah!

Part Three

- Air** **I know that my Redeemer liveth**, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.
(Job 19 : 25-26)
For now is Christ risen from the dead, the firstfruits of them that sleep.
(I Corinthians 15 : 20)
- Chorus** **Since by man came death**, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
(I Corinthians 15 : 21-22)
- Recitative** **Behold, I tell you a mystery;** We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be chang'd, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet:
(I Corinthians 15 : 51-52)
- Air** **The trumpet shall sound**, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality.
(I Corinthians 15 : 52-53)
- Chorus** **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain**, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.
(Revelation 5 : 12-13)

Amen.

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HE RESTORETH MY SOUL:

HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS

OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.

YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE

VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL: FOR THOU ART WITH ME;

THY ROD AND THY STAFF THEY COMFORT ME.

THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN

THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES:

THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL;

MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL

FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE

LORD FOREVER.

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR OUR 2019 PERFORMANCE VOLUNTEERS

REIDUN CANON

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KATHY DOOLEY

ANGELA PERRY

DARYL FULLERTON

RANDY PERRY

BRENDA LANARIS

CHRISTOPHER WINTER

PHYLLIS MCGREW

GLEN WINTER

ISRAEL MAHONEY

KAREN MAE WINTER

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Sunday, December 15 at 5:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
4:30pm Carol Sing
5:00pm Holy Eucharist & Pageant
10:30pm Carol Sing
11:00pm Holy Choral Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:30am Holy Eucharist

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Sundays at 8 & 10:30am
Mondays at 6:30pm
Wednesday Healing Service at 12:00pm

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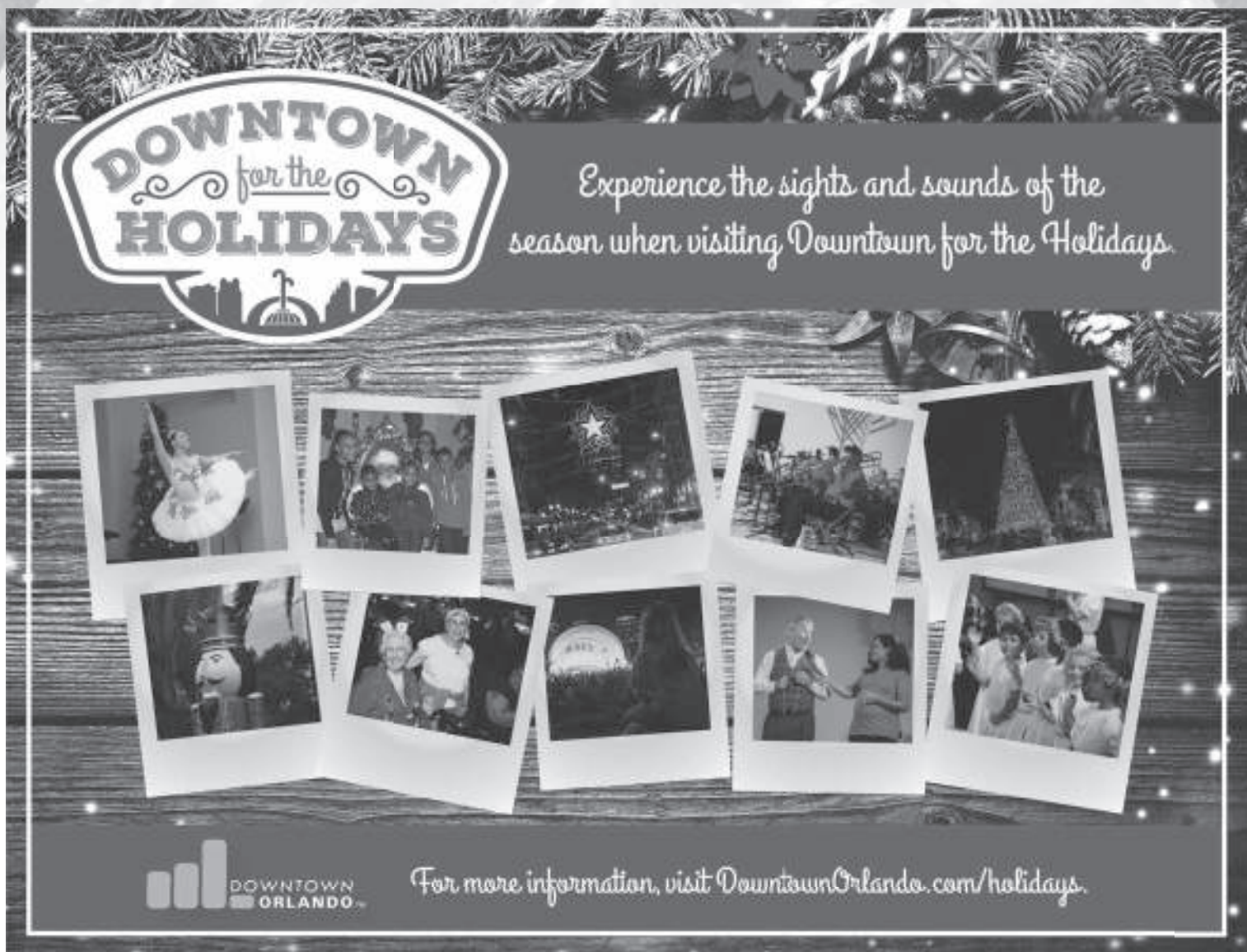


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For since by man
came death,
by man came also
the resurrection
of the dead.
For as in Adam
all die,
even so in Christ
shall all
be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22