THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON FIFTY-NINTH SEASON, 2023–24



O Night Divine!

Conducted by Marie Bucoy-Calavan

December 18 and 24, 2023 KENNEDY CENTER CONCERT HALL



O Night Divine!

MARIE BUCOY-CALAVAN, conductor CHORAL ARTS SYMPHONY CHORUS CHORAL ARTS ORCHESTRA

O Come, All Ye Faithful	arr. Mack Wilberg
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Sing-along	arr. David Willcocks
O Come, Emmanuel	Elaine Hagenberg
We Three Kings Alex Alburqueque and Tae Min Cha - soloists	arr. Craig Courtney
Pastores	Carlos Cordero
Fantasia on Greensleeves	Ralph Vaughan Williams
Away and in Danger	arr. Shawn Kirchner
A Home is Found at Christmas Commissioned by Choral Arts	Dominick DiOrio
The First Noel Sing-along	arr. David Willcocks
The Nutcracker 'March'	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Somewhere in my Memory	John Williams
Elf 'Suite'	John Tebney, arr. Victor Pesavento
Sleigh Ride	Leroy Anderson
White Christmas	arr. Randol Alan Bass
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas	arr. Molly Ijames
Silent Night	arr. Dan Forrest
O Holy Night	arr. Gary Fry

Performance made possible by generous gifts from Anne B. Keiser and Barbara and Charles Rossotti Commission made possible by a generous gift from Laura S. Pruitt

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From Conductor Marie Bucoy-Calavan

When we think about the holiday season, the first thoughts through our heads may be of candy canes, Christmas trees, spectacular light displays, and, of course, the release of seasonal coffee flavors. Our minds might even go to the stressful parts: buying gifts on time, the hustle and bustle of department stores, and traffic getting to and from family homes. Regardless, the idea of "home" is at the root of all the emotions the holiday season brings. What makes us feel like it's truly the holidays is the sentimental feeling of being with family and loved ones, harkening back to childhood Christmas traditions, and feeling warmth, love, and belonging. This evening's program invites us to explore what makes us feel at "home" during Christmas.

The first portion of the program calls you, our audience, to join us on a musical journey to find "home" as we open with Mack Wilberg's grand "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Suppose you have yet to feel the Christmas spirit this season. In that case, the key change in the middle of this work, ushered in by the French horn's epic and triumphant call of the melodic line, will bring you quickly into the spirit with a rush of emotion. Composer Elaine Hagenberg presents the familiar "O Come, Emmanuel" text but sets it to a hauntingly beautiful new melody, showing that what is considered "standard" can always be explored in a fresh and appealing way. In another fresh reimagining of a classic carol, arranger Craig Courtney took a carol initially composed in 1857 to be sung in a small circle of friends and family and turned it into something royal and majestic with stirring brass fanfares. From modern reimaginings to wholly original work, Carlos Cordero's "Pastores" is a gentle piece written in a voice nostalgic for the composer's Venezuelan home at Christmas time. Listen for the piano accompaniment, as it is written in the style of the Venezuelan guitar-like instrument, the cuatro. The orchestra then takes us from Venezuela to our friends "across the pond" in England. In his "Fantasia on Greensleeves," we celebrate our collaboration with the British Embassy Washington through his serene and pastoral setting of the "Greensleeves" folk tune, which has now become recognized during the holiday season as "What Child is This?"

Most poignant in our musical journey to find "home" is the piece "Away and in Danger." The piece is a thought-provoking transformation of the carol "Away in a Manger," shining a compassionate light on today's global refugee crisis. The powerful words in this expressive rendering ask us to pause and remember that as we search for the feeling of "home" during Christmas, many refugee children have no literal home to go to. We then end this "journey to find home" with a world premiere of a commissioned work by the inimitable composer, Dominick DiOrio. "A Home is Found at Christmas" encapsulates our journey, reminding us that the feeling of home is not a location but all the things that remind us of what is truly important in our lives underneath the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Christmas gives us time to pause and revel in the feeling of home.

From Conductor Marie Bucoy-Calavan

The second half of our concert explores all the stories, carols, and movies that evoke that special Christmas feeling, that feeling of being at home with our loved ones. "The First Noel," one of our two sing-alongs by widely known British arranger and composer David Willcocks, is the very first of these Christmas stories, the original tale of the holiday. A slightly more modern story, many people have made watching the ballet "The Nutcracker" by Piotr Tchaikovsky a part of their holiday traditions. The 'March' plays during a lively party scene, which includes dancing, games, and merriment, all sentiments of the holiday season. Even more than ballet, watching Christmas movies has become a household tradition in many people's homes. The melody of "Somewhere in My Memory," the title song from the classic holiday movie "Home Alone," immediately pulls at heartstrings and brings everyone to the Christmas spirit. And, entering its twentieth year since its release, most millennials have found the humor of the movie "Elf," a light-hearted way to get into the Christmas spirit. While the movie is mainly known for its hilarity, the score is an unsung hero for its ability to appeal to everyone's sentimental side. And, of course, you cannot walk into a department store during the holiday season without hearing the classic whip-crack of "Sleigh Ride." Finally, ending our voyage through Christmas stories and movies is the quintessential and timeless carol from the 1954 movie "White Christmas." The arrangement by Randol Alan Bass is beautifully lush in color as if Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney were to join in and sing.

The overall hope in this musical search for "home" is that you have felt at home with us on this divine evening here with the Choral Arts Family. Often, the beauty of the familiar helps us reach this feeling. We end this evening with stunning arrangements of three customarily "most loved" Christmas carols that will hopefully allow you to bask in the feeling of being home at Christmas. The Choral Arts Chorus is featured in Molly Ijames's a cappella arrangement of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," with warm and inviting harmonies. Dan Forrest's arrangement of "Silent Night" proves that a carol considered simple can take you through a complex emotional journey. Lastly, we end this divine night with the striking and stunning "O Holy Night," arranged by Gary Fry. The final dramatic statements of the carol's title will have you feeling a sense of triumph at our collective journey to find home.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Mack Wilber

- O come, all ye faithful Joyful and triumphant O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem Come and behold him Born the King of Angels O come let us adore him O come let us adore him O come let us adore him Christ the Lord Sing, choirs of angels Sing in exultations Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God Glory In the highest: O come let us adore him
- O come let us adore him O come let us adore him Christ the Lord Yea, Lord, we greet thee Born this happy morning Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing: O come let us adore him O come let us adore him Christ the Lord O come let us adore him Christ the Lord

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! (sing-along)

arr. David Willcocks

Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled" Joyful, all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies With angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem" Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!" Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings Ris'n with healing in His wings Mild He lays His glory by Born that man no more may die Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"

O Come, Emmanuel

Elaine Hagenberg

[Verse 1] O come, O come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear

[Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 2]

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height In ancient times didst give the law In cloud, and majesty and awe

[Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 3]

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny From depths of hell Thy people save And give them victory o'er the grave

[Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 4] O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight [Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 5]

O come, Thou Key of David, come And open wide our heavenly home Make safe the way that leads on high And close the path to misery

[Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

[Verse 6]

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high And order all things, far and nigh To us the path of knowledge show And cause us in her ways to go

[Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee. O Israel

[Verse 7]

O come, desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind Bid Thou our sad divisions cease And be Thyself our King of peace

[Refrain] Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

We Three Kings

arr. Craig Courtney Alex Alburqueque and Tae Min Cha - soloists

[Verse 1: All Kings] We three kings of orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar Field and fountain Moor and mountain Following yonder star

[Chorus]

O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light

[Verse 2: Melchior] Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again King for ever, ceasing never Over us all to reign

[Chorus]

O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light

[Verse 3: Casper] Frankincense to offer have I Incense owns a Deity nigh Prayer and praising, all men raising Worship Him, God most high

[Chorus]

O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light [Verse 4] Myrrh is mine Its bitter perfume breathes A life of gathering gloom Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying Sealed in the stone cold tomb

[Chorus]

O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light

[Verse 5]

Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and Sacrifice! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia Heaven to earth replies

[Chorus]

O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light

Pastores

Carlos Cordero

<u>Text:</u>

Pastores, cuiden al niño Como cuidan su rebaño. El es el Cordero de Dios, Nuestro salvador.

Pastores, cuídenlo bien El trae amor y salvación, Pero como lobos en la noche Daño le harán.

Pastores, pastores, pastores, El Niño es santo. Es el Cordero de Dios.

Cuídenlo, cuídenlo, Cuídenlo al rebaño.

Protege al hijo de Dios, El trae la salvación.

Pastores, cuiden al niño Como cuidan su rebaño.

Translation:

Shepherds, take care of the child Like you take care of your herd. He is the Lamb of God, Our savior.

Shepherds, take good care of him He brings love and salvation, But like wolves in the night They will harm you.

Shepherds, shepherds, shepherds, The Child is holy. He is the Lamb of God.

Take care of him, take care of him, Like you take care of your herd.

Protect the child of God, He brings salvation.

Shepherds, take care of the child Like you take care of your herd.

Fantasia on Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Instrumental

Away And In Danger

William J. Kirkpatrick Arr. Luc Kleiner (choir) and Shawn Kirchner (piano)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.	humanity's wreckage is thrown out to die,	
	the refugee children will never know why.	
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,	Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay	
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.	close by me forever, and love me, I pray.	
Away and in danger no hope of a bed,	Bless all the dear children in they tender care,	
the refugee children no tears left to shed,	and fit us for heaven to live with thee	
look up at the night sky for someone to know	there.	
that refugee children have no place to go.	Come close, little children, we hold out our hand	
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,	In rescue and welcome to shores of our land,	
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.		
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,	In aroha* touching your fear and your pain,	
	With dreams for your future when peace	
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.	comes again.	
The babies are crying their hunger awakes,	*Maori for "warm, embracing love."	
the boat is too loaded it shudders and breaks,		

A Home is Found at Christmas Dominick DiOrio, Commissioned by Choral Arts

Original Text by the Composer

A home is found at Christmas In places near and far. In home-cooked meals and ringing peals, A chock-full cookie jar. In stories told and memories old. A lightly struck guitar. A home is found this Christmas In all lit by the star. A home is found at Christmas For those cast far astray, In letters sent and evenings spent In waiting for the day. 'Til they return and cure the yearn That will not go away... A home is found this Christmas For loved ones soon to stay. A home is found at Christmas For those who wait and see, A promise cast, a longing fast, A faith in what will be. A vacant sky. an urgent cry. An oath, a prayer, a plea... A home is found this Christmas For all we wish would be.

And if you long at Christmas For a home to call your own, A chance to rest not as a guest But as a soul full-known, Recall the gift made for us swift By God made flesh and bone... A home is found this Christmas For all whom grace was shown. A home is found at Christmas In boundaries we destroy, In chains released, in heart'ning feast, In all that we enjoy, In windswept love and heaven's dove, In newborn girl and boy... A home is found this Christmas In bright, enduring joy.

The First Noel (sing-along) arr. David Willcocks

The first Nowell the angels did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

[Refrain] Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell Born is the King of Israel! Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord That hath made heaven and earth of naught. And with his blood mankind has bought.

[Refrain] Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell Born is the King of Israel!

The Nutcracker 'March'

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Instrumental

Somewhere in my Memory John Williams

Candles in the window Shadows painting the ceiling Gazing at the fire glow Feeling that gingerbread feeling Precious moments Special people Happy faces I can see Somewhere in my mem'ry Christmas joys all around me Living in my mem'ry All of the music All of the magic All of the fam'ly home here with me

Somewhere in my mem'ry All of the music All of the magic All of the fam'ly home here with me

Elf 'Suite'

John Tebney, arr. Victor Pesavento

Instrumental

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson

Instrumental

White Christmas

arr. Randol Alan Bass

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas Just like the ones I used to know. Where the treetops glisten And children listen To hear sleigh bells in the snow.

O, I'm dreaming of a white Christmas With every Christmas card I write. May your days be merry and bright And may all your Christmases be white.

The sun is shining, the grass is green,

The orange and palm trees sway;

There's never been such a day in Beverly Hills, LA.

But, it's December the twenty-fourth,

And I am longing to be up north.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas Just like the ones I used to know. Where the treetops glisten And children listen To hear sleigh bells in the snow.

O, I'm dreaming of a white Christmas With every Christmas card I write. May your days be merry and bright And may all your Christmases be white.

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

arr. Molly Ijames

[Verse 1]	[Refrain]
Have yourself a merry little Christmas	Here we are as in olden days
Let your heart be light	Happy golden days of yore.
From now on, our troubles will be out of	Faithful friends who are dear to us
sight.	Gather near to us once more.
[Verse 2] Have yourself a merry little Christmas (Merry little Christmas) Make the Yuletide gay (Make the Yuletide gay). From now on, our troubles will be miles away.	[Verse 3] 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.

Silent Night

arr. Dan Forrest

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace; Sleep in heavenly peace. Silent night! Holy night! Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light with the angels sing let us Alleluia to our king, Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

O Holy Night

D. S. Dwight; Music by Adolphe Adam; arr. Gary Fry

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Featured Artists

Marie Bucoy-Calavan Conductor

Described as "destroying stereotypes and breaking boundaries for the arts and choral music," Marie Bucoy-Calavan has conducted diverse ensembles, from primary and secondary level choirs to community, collegiate, and professional choruses and opera productions. Bucoy-Calavan has an affinity for conducting and preparing choralorchestral masterworks, having served as the Assistant Conductor to Robert Porco for the May Festival Chorus, the symphonic chorus for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.



She has prepared and performed with symphonic choruses under the batons of John Williams, Eric Whitacre, Keith Lockhart, James Conlon, Carl St. Clair, Bramwell Tovey, John Mauceri, Louis Langrée, John Nelson, and John Alexander in distinguished venues, including Walt Disney Concert Hall, Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, Severance Hall, Cincinnati Music Hall, and the Liszt Academy in Budapest, Hungary.

Bucoy-Calavan has been Director of Choral Studies at The University of Akron since 2014, where she conducts The University of Akron Chamber Choir and Concert Choir, and teaches undergraduate and graduate-level conducting and choral literature. The UA Chamber Choir was recently selected to perform at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in 2023. With all these groups, she has specialized in adventurous programming. She focuses on innovation by collaborating and combining with different art forms, which results in enterprising ventures and widened audiences for choral music.

Bucoy-Calavan finished her Bachelor of Arts in Music and Master of Music in Choral Conducting at California State University, Fullerton. She completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting and cognate in Music History at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music

Dominick DiOrio Composer

Dominick DiOrio is a conductor and composer who has won widespread acclaim for his contributions to American music. He has been recognized with The American Prizes in both Choral Composition (2014) and Choral Performance (2019, with NOTUS). In July 2020, he became the 14th Artistic Director & Conductor of the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia, where he has had the honor of preparing the singers for performances with The Philadelphia Orchestra. DiOrio has conducted ensembles around the world. from the Houston Chamber Choir and Choral Arts Initiative in the USA to Allmänna Sången and Ars Veritas abroad.



A strong advocate for new music, he has collaborated with Paquito D'Rivera, Melissa Dunphy, Tawnie Olson, Caroline Shaw, Moira Smiley, Christopher Theofanidis, and the late Swedish composer Sven-David Sandström. Committed to diversity, inclusion, and representation in artistic programming, DiOrio proudly programs works that reflect the diversity of our world.

As a composer, DiOrio has been hailed for a keenly intelligent, evocative style, which shows "a tour de force of inventive thinking and unique colour" (Gramophone). His over 50 published works have appeared at major venues around the world including the Sydney Opera House, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. He writes music for singers and players of all ages and experiences, and his recent commissioning partners include the Children's Chorus of Washington, the Worcester Youth Orchestras, The Choral Arts Society of Washington, and "The President's Own" United States Marine Band.

Since 2012, he has been a member of the faculty at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he serves as Professor of Music (Choral Conducting) and leads the select, new music chamber chorus NOTUS, one of only 24 choirs in the world selected by competitive audition to perform at the 12th World Symposium on Choral Music in Auckland, New Zealand, before it was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

DiOrio recently completed a term as president of the National Collegiate Choral Organization. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the Yale School of Music, as well as the MMA and MM in conducting from Yale and the BM in composition summa cum laude from Ithaca College.



The Choral Arts Society of Washington

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Founded in 1965 by Norman Scribner (1936-2015), Choral Arts has a rich history of bringing the power of the human voice to audiences large and small. We weave our shared passion, world-class repertoire, and radiant voices into a sound that changes people. We advance the story of choral music by partnering with musicians, composers, and ensembles from all walks of life.

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Choral Arts gratefully acknowledges **Her Excellency Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to the United States, and Sir Charles Roxburgh KCB**, for their honorary patronage of our 43rd Annual Holiday Concert and Gala that will place on December 18, 2023. Furthermore, Choral Arts deeply appreciates the outstanding efforts of our Gala Chairs Anne Hatfield Weir, Andrea Hatfield, and Heidi Hatfield along with the extraordinary work of the members of the Host and Silent Auction Committees. We graciously acknowledge the many contributors to this event as of December 6, 2023:

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