


2025 HOLIDAY CONCERT

Winter Fanfare!

Songs of Joy and Hope



 NEWBURYPORT
Choral Society
— EST. 1934 —

Also Featuring:

NCS Chamber Singers

NCS Brass Ensemble

Immaculate Conception Youth Choir

Audience Singalong

DR. MINJI KIM, MUSIC DIRECTOR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 , 7:30PM

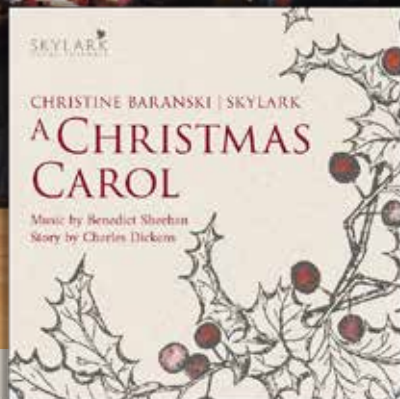
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Immaculate Conception Church

Newburyport, MA



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Saturday, March 7 2026

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2025 WINTER CONCERT

Dr. Minji Kim, *Music Director*

Dr. Kirsten Helgeland, *Collaborative Pianist*

Dominic Hendrix, *Conducting Fellow*

Winter Fanfare!

Songs of Joy and Hope

Friday, December 12, 7:30 PM

Sunday, December 14, 3:00 PM

Immaculate Conception Church



INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

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This program is supported in part by grants from the Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation and from the Merrimac, Newbury, and Newburyport Cultural Councils, local agencies that are funded by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

A Note From the Music Director:

The year 2025 has been a time of profound turbulence across the world and within our own nation. We have witnessed ongoing wars in Ukraine, Africa, and the Middle East, deep divisions widening among people in this country, and a growing sense of uncertainty about the future. The noise of conflict and the weight of suffering have often felt overwhelming—yet amid all of this, music continues to remind us of our shared humanity. As we prepare to close the yearbook of 2025 and open a new chapter on 2026, this concert offers us a moment to pause, breathe, and remember what binds us together rather than what tears us apart.

For me personally, 2025 has been a painful year marked by the loss of my father after he bravely fought leukemia and underwent rigorous chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant. After his passing, there were nights when I wished the morning light would never come, overwhelmed by grief and darkness. Yet through that tunnel of sorrow, I have learned that the darkness does not last forever and that even after the longest night, hope and light await us on the other side.

It is my tremendous joy and honor to share the stage with the Immaculate Conception Youth Choir. Music is an art of time; it exists in the moment, shaped by breath, sound, and heart. To make music in such a beautiful and sacred space as Immaculate Conception Church has been a true blessing for us. And it is especially meaningful to collaborate with the IC Youth Choir under the direction of Ms. Paula Quann.

Whatever tunnel you may be walking through, or may have walked through in the past, I invite you to join us in remembering the winters we have shared with our loved ones and in finding beauty, healing, and hope through music and community.

– Dr. Minji Kim, Music Director

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EST. 1934

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The Newburyport Choral Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Program

Prelude

Christmas Fanfare

Daniel Thrower (b.1989)

NCS Festival Ensemble & Organ

I. Into the Season

African Noel

André J. Thomas (b.1952)

A Winter's Night

Cecilia McDowall (b.1951)

1. In Dulci Jubilo

2. O little one sweet

3. Noël Nouvelet

4. Still, still, still

5. Sussex Carol

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

16th-century French Melody

Audience Sing-along (see page 40 for lyrics)

II. Songs of Stillness

To Shorten Winter's Sadness

Thomas Weelkes (1576 - 1623)

Ave Maria

Josquin des Prez (1450 - 1521)

NCS Chamber Singers

O Come All Ye Faithful

arr. David Willcocks (1919 - 2015)

Audience Sing-along (see page 40 for lyrics)

Intermission

III. Sing, Children, Sing!

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst (1874 - 1934)

Audience Sing-along (see page 41 for lyrics)

Come, Messiah Come

Lynn S. Bailey (b.1955)

& Becki Slagle Mayo (b.1956)

Mary, Mary

arr. Michael Burkhardt (b.1957)

Immaculate Conception Youth Choir

IV. Hope That is Forthcoming

Bashana Haba'ah

Nurit Hirsh (b.1942)
arr. John Leavitt (b.1956)

*Christian Yaechan Kim, clarinet**

The Dream Isaiah Saw

Glenn Rudolph (b.1951)

Where the Light Begins

Susan LaBarr (b.1981)

V. Glorious Thee

Gloria

Randol Alan Bass (b.1953)

Christmastime

arr. Lloyd Larson (b.1954)

IC Youth Choir and Newburyport Choral Society

I Will Sing

Michael Engelhardt (b.1974)

* Member of NCS

THE **ACTORS STUDIO**
of Newburyport

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Our sustainability campaign is off to a robust start! Response to our campaign reflects the vibrancy of our community on both sides of the footlights!

As we enter our 35th year, our goal of \$50,000 may seem ambitious. It is! We expect to replenish our resources and support the long running programs we offer in addition to our mainstage programming. They include Writers & Actors, INK and North Shore Readers Theater Collaborative, nurturing new play development, Women's History, and Full Moon Story Slams, and the opportunity to present guest artists. We are committed to keeping all these programs affordable. This is why we need your support. You can give at the link below. Thank you for your generosity and to all who have already given.

In 2019, The Actors Studio reached a zenith of programming and production goals that made it clear we needed a larger venue. Despite Covid and a four- year series of challenges, the theatre never went dark! Thanks to the countless hours and efforts of volunteers, we created a new theater space and continue to be a valuable resource in the community. We have a sustainable vision for our future, but we need your help to get it going!

How can you help? You already do...every time you come to a show, take a class, tell a friend to come. Your financial gift can be just as personal, and it means more than ever! Make a one-time gift or a monthly pledge (which gives TASN a more predictable income source). Giving begets gratitude which can lift us all. Thank you so much for whatever you can give today!

Gratefully,

Marc Clopton, Executive Director

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Lyrics & Translations

SET I. INTO THE SEASON

African Noel

by André J. Thomas

Sing Noel. Sing we all Noel.
Oh, come, ye people, gather here,
To hear the news of good cheer.
The King of kings, the Lamb of God,
Is born today in Bethlehem.
Oh, sing Noel, Noel!

A Winter's Night

Christmas Cantata

by Cecilia McDowall

1. In Dulci Jubilo *14th century German melody*

1. *In dulci jubilo* (in sweet rejoicing)

Now sing with hearts aglow,
Our delight and pleasure
Lies *in praesepio* (in the manger)
Like sunshine is our treasure
Matris in gremio,
(in his mother's lap)
Alpha es et O!
(He is the beginning and the end)

2. *O Jesu parvule* (O little Jesus)

For thee I long always,
Comfort my heart's blindness,
O Puer optime (O excellent Boy)
With all thy loving kindness,
O Princeps gloriae!
(O Prince of Glory)
Trahe me post te.
(Draw me after you)

3. *O Patris caritas*,

(O benevolent Father)
O Nati lenitas! (O gentle birth)
Deeply were we strained
Per nostra crimina; (by our sins)
But thou for us hast gained
Coelorum gaudia.
(the joys of Heaven)
O that we were there.

4. *Ubi sunt gaudia*, (where are the joys)

In any place but there?
There are angels singing
Nova cantica, (new songs)
And there the bells are ringing,
In Regis curia. (in the King's court)
O that we were there.

2. O Little One Sweet *17th century German melody*

1. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
Thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken,
Equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

2. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
with joy thou hast the whole world filled;
thou camest here from heav'n's domain,
to bring men comfort in our pain,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

3. O little one sweet, O little one mild.
in thee Love's beauties are all distilled;
then light in us thy love's bright flame,
that we may give thee back the same,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

3. Noël Nouvelet *French Traditional, 15th century*

French language

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici,
Dévotes gens, rendons à Dieu merci!
Chantons Noël pour le Roi nouvelet!
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici!

D'un oisillon après le chant j'ouï,
Qui aux pasteurs disait: "Partez d'ici
En Bethléem trouverent l'agnelet."
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

En Bethléem, Marie et Joseph vy,
L'âne et le boeuf, l'Enfant couché au lit,
La crèche était au lieu d'un bercelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Bientôt les rois, par l'étoile éclaircis
De l'orient dont ils étaient sortis
A Bethléem vinrent un matin.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

L'un portait l'or, et l'autre myrrhe aussi
Et l'autr'encens, que faisait bon senti,
Le paradis semblait le jardin,
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

English translation

Sing Noël, let us sing Noël here!
Pious people, let us cry to God for mer-
cy! Let us sing Noel for the new little
King! Sing Noël, let us sing Noël now!

I heard the song of a little bird who
was saying to the shepherds: "Go from
here." In Bethlehem they found the little
lamb. Sing Noël, let us sing Noël now!

In Bethlehem I saw Mary and Joseph,
The ox and the ass, the child laid on its
bed, The manger was in place of a little
crib. Sing Noël, let us sing Noël now!

The Star I saw, which lit up the sky, that
from the Orient, whence it had come,
was leading the three kings to Bethle-
hem. Sing Noël, let us sing Noël now!

One carried gold, and the other myrrh,
And the other incense, that smelled so
good; Of paradise it seemed the little
garden. Sing Noël, let us sing Noël now!

4. Still, still, still *Austrian carol (1819)*

German language

Still, still, still, weils Kindlein schlafen will.
Maria tut es niedersingen, und ihr treues
Herz dar bringen.
Still, still, still, weils Kindlein schlafen will.

Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf, mein liebes Kindlein,
schlaf! Die Englein tun schön musizieren,
vor dem Kindlein jubilieren. Schlaf, schlaf,
schlaf, mein liebes Kindlein, schlaf!

Groß, groß, groß, die Lieb' ist übergroß.
Gott hat den Himmsthron verlassen und
muss reisen auf den Straßen. Groß, groß,
groß, die Lieb' ist übergroß.

Wir, wir, wir, wir rufen all' zu dir:
Tu uns des Himmels Reich aufschließen,
wenn wir einmal sterben müssen.
Wir, wir, wir, wir rufen all' zu dir.

English translation

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night
so chill. The Virgin's tender arms
enfolding, warm and safe the Child
are holding. Still, still, still,
He sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber
deep. While angel hosts from heav'n
come winging, Sweetest songs of joy
are singing. Sleep, sleep, sleep,
He lies in slumber deep.

Great, great, great, love is
exceedingly great. God has left the
throne of heaven and must travel
the roads. Great, great, great,
love is exceedingly great.

We, we, we, we all call to you:
Open the kingdom of heaven for us,
when we must die.

5. Sussex Carol *Traditional English, 17th century*

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

2. Then why should men on earth be so
sad, since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin He set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

3. When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

4. All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forevermore. Amen."

SET II. SONGS OF STILLNESS

To Shorten Winter's Sadness

by Thomas Weelkes

To shorten winter's sadness
See where the nymphs with gladness
Though masks encloud their beauty
Yet give the eye her duty
Disguisèd all are coming
Right wantonly a-mumming
When Heaven is dark it shineth
And unto love inclineth

Ave Maria

by Josquin des Prez

Latin

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum, Virgo serena.
Ave, cuius conceptio,
Solemni plena gaudio,
Caelestia, terrestria,
Nova replet laetitia.
Ave, cuius nativitas
Nostra fuit solemnitas,
Ut lucifer lux oriens
Verum solem praeveniens.
O Mater Dei,
Memento mei. Amen

English translation

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee, serene Virgin.
Hail, thou whose conception,
Full of great joy,
Fills heaven and earth
With new gladness.
Hail, thou whose nativity
Became our great celebration,
As the light-bearing Morning Star
anticipates the true Sun.
O Mother of God,
Remember me. Amen.

SET III. SING, CHILDREN, SING!



Immaculate Conception Youth Choir

Paula Quann, Music Director

Come, Messiah Come

by Lynn S. Bailey & Becki Slagle Mayo

O Promised one
O Prince of Peace
Emmanuel, Messiah Come.
Lord, reveal your mercy
Guide us Lord, we pray.
May we see your Light and
walk your way.
Alleluia.

Mary, Mary

Arranged by Michael Burkhardt

Mary, Mary, what you gonna name that baby?
What you gonna call that holy baby?
Slaves are we and looking for a master;
Why don't you call him Lord?
We, like our sheep, need someone to guide us;
Why don't you call him Shepherd?
Come, we implore thee, we seek someone to save us;
Why don't you call him Savior?
Kings of the world, we seek someone to rule us;
Why don't you call him King?

SET IV. HOPE THAT IS FORTHCOMING

Bashana Haba'ah

Words by Ehud Manor

Music by Nurit Hirsh

Arranged by John Leavitt

Hebrew language

הַאֲבָהּ הַנֶּשֶׁב

לֵעַ בִּשְׁנֵי הַאֲבָהּ הַנֶּשֶׁב

תִּסְפְּרֵמָה

תּוֹדֹדוֹן מִירוֹפֵצַ רוֹפְסָנוּ

וְיִתְשֵׁי הַשְּׂפּוֹתָב מִיַּדְלֵי

תִּסְפֵּ

תּוֹדֶשָׁה וַיִּבֵּל תִּיבָה וַיֵּב

הָאֶרֶת דּוֹעַ, הָאֶרֶת דּוֹעַ

הִיְהִי בּוֹט הַמֶּנֶּב

הַאֲבָהּ הַנֶּשֶׁב, הַנֶּשֶׁב

English transliteration

Bashana haba'ah

Neishev al hamirpeset

V'nispor tziporim

nod'dot

Y'ladim b'chufsha

Y'shachaku tofeset

Bein habayit l'vein

hasadot

Od tir'eh od tir'eh

Kama tov yihiyeh

Bashana bashana

haba'ah

English translation

Next year

we will sit on the porch
and count the migrat-
ing birds.

Children on vacation
will play outdoors
between the house and
the fields.

You will yet see,
you will yet see,
how good it will be
next year.

The Dream Isaiah Saw

Words by Thomas H. Troeger

Music by Glenn L. Rudolph

Lions and oxen will feed in the hay,
leopards will join with the lambs as
they play, wolves will be pastured
with cows in the glade, and blood
will not darken the earth that God
made.

Little child whose bed is straw,
take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest
and field: God will transfigure the
violence concealed deep in the heart
and in systems of gain, ripe for the
judgment the Lord will ordain.

Little child whose bed is straw, take
new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's
intent, nations obeying the call to
repent,
all of creation completely restored,
filled with the knowledge and love of
the Lord.

Little child whose bed is straw, take
new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw:
knowledge, wisdom, worship, awe.

Where the Light Begins

by Susan LaBarr

Perhaps it does not begin.

Perhaps it is always.

Perhaps it takes
a lifetime to open our eyes, to learn
to see what has forever shimmered
in front of us—the luminous line
of the map in the dark, the vigil
flame in the house of the heart,
the love so searing we cannot keep
from singing, from crying out
in testimony and praise.

Perhaps this day will be the moun-
tain over which the dawn breaks.

Perhaps we will turn our face
toward it, toward what has been
always.

Perhaps our eyes will finally open
in ancient recognition, willingly
dazzled, illuminated at last.

Perhaps this day the light begins
in us.

SET V. GLORIOUS THEE

Gloria

by Randol Alan Bass

Latin

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias
agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam
tuam, Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Pa-
tris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miser-
ere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miser-
ere nobis Jesu. Quoniam tu solus
Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus
Altissimus, Iesu Christe, cum Sancto
Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris.

Amen.

English translation

Glory to God in the highest. And on
earth peace to all those of good will.

We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We
worship Thee. We glorify Thee. We
give thanks to Thee according to
Thy great glory. Lord God, Heavenly
King, God the Father almighty.

Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten
Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Jesus,
Son of the Father. Who takest away
the sins of the world, have mercy
upon us. Who takest away the sins of
the world, receive our prayer.

Who sittest at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy upon us, Jesus.
For Thou alone art holy. Thou alone
art the Lord. Thou alone art the most
high, Jesus Christ. With the Holy
Spirit: In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Christmastime

Words and music by Michael W. Smith & Joanna Carlson

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Ring Christmas bells, ring them loud
with the message bringing peace on
the earth, tidings of good cheer!

Come carolers, come and join with
the angels singing “Joy to the world!”
Christmastime is here!

Children, gather around and listen
You’ll hear the sound of angels filling
the sky telling everyone, “Christmas-
time is here!”

Loved ones close to our hearts and
strangers in lands a far, together
share in the joy: Emmanuel!

Go tell the world! He has come to
dwell! The time is here!

With one voice, let the world rejoice!

I Will Sing

by Michael Engelhardt

We’ve all been given our little
corner of space and time, with the
permission to do with it as we see fit
for a while. So begs the question,
what will I do with the portion given
to me? This one possession so pure
and precious. Darkness and fear
abound, but this song keeps calling
out from deep within me.

With all of my soul, I will sing.
My heart ever steadfast, this melody
will bring. It may or may not
resonate, but here’s the thing: Even
so, with all of my soul, I will sing.

It’s not that easy. Great are the doubts
from within and without. They won’t
defeat me, not if I’m completely
standing on higher ground,
confident in the sound that lives
within me.

I will sing forevermore!
I will sing with all my heart and my
soul! I have decided that with this
one life, I will sing!

We will sing with all our souls, we
will sing with all our hearts! We will
sing forevermore, so we’re just gettin’
started!



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Program Notes

December 2025 Concert: Winter Fanfare!

The Winter Solstice has been significant across all cultures from the beginning of humankind. The first carols celebrated the Winter Solstice, when the earth is farthest away from the sun, creating the shortest amount of sunlight in a day. We often think of this equinox as lasting an entire day, but actually the solstice lasts only a moment since the earth is always rotating. For us that moment will be December 21, at 10:03 am. As we recognize this astronomical date of winter where we live, the Southern Hemisphere is celebrating summer's longest day.

Today's expansive concert program acknowledges the month of December from multiple points of view: different cultures, seasons and historical periods of time, as well as differing emotions, moods and anticipations. Sadly, for some the darkest month is a reminder of loss, and the occasion of a profound sense of loneliness. But as the days begin to lengthen, more light uplifts us. We hope that this concert touches everyone in a personal way while bringing community to all who are here.

I. Into the Season

The composer of "African Noel," Dr. André Thomas (b. 1952) is an acclaimed American composer and teacher, receiving accolades including the Robert Shaw Award from the American Choral Directors Association. Thomas recognizes the challenges of being a Black classical composer; he guides students through their doctoral studies and works with adolescent voices using a rehearsal technique he calls "body, mind, spirit, voice." The composer also publishes books and papers about how to perform spirituals and gospel music with integrity, as well as arranging for diverse choral groups around the world.

A Winter's Night is a collection of traditional Christmas carols with reconceived harmonies. Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951) writes of this collection, commissioned for mixed chorus, brass quintet, percussion and organ: "Selecting carols is half the fun and I have chosen a mixture of English, German and French carols, some of my very favorite. As the commission came from a Sussex town (in Southern England) it seemed appropriate to include a carol from this part of the world, the "Sussex Carol." [Overall], the structure of this cantata is like an arc, jubilant carols at the opening and close of the work with a spirited carol at its heart and in between, carols of a more gentle, contemplative nature. [This collection] unfolds without a break. An instrumental interlude opens *A Winter's Night* with medieval intimations which underlie the three fast-moving carols. The instrumental material from the start of the work returns to introduce the final carol, the "Sussex Carol," this time at a faster pace. The descant of "In Dulci Jubilo" makes a final appearance in the last verse, bringing the beginning and the end of the cantata together in joyful exultation."

II. Songs of Stillness

These two Renaissance motets, “To Shorten Winter’s Sadness” by Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623) and “Ave Maria” by Josquin des Prez (approx.1450-1521) are being sung by a chamber music choir, a select group of NCS singers who rehearse together to perform music specifically for small chamber groups of singers. Both of these motets belong to the genre of English Madrigal, which were written for only 3 to 6 voices, a cappella, that is without accompaniment. Thomas Weelkes wrote in the madrigal style, more evensong for sixteenth-century Anglican services than any other composer of his time. Significantly, one of his choral anthems was performed at the coronation of Charles III and Camilla in 2023.

The French composer Josquin des Prez developed a complex style of expressive movement between voices that established the use of polyphony, which is not the unison singing of monophony nor the melodic voice over chords of homophony. Polyphony is two or more simultaneous lines of independent melody, each part written imitating the others. Such music is difficult to perform. Josquin is one of the earliest Western composers that has been consistently recognized and performed throughout time. His graffiti signature was discovered on the wall of the Sistine Chapel’s choir gallery during renovations in 1998.

III. Sing, Children, Sing!

What are the winter holidays if they don’t involve children? We are delighted that the Immaculate Conception Youth Choir is part of this concert program and now joins NCS in the singing of Gustav Holst’s Christmas carol, “In the Bleak Midwinter.” Then, under the direction of Paula Quinn, the IC Youth Choir brings pieces specifically composed for younger and developing voices to this concert. Both Lynn Shaw Bailey’s (b. 1955) “Come Messiah Come” and Michael Burkhardt’s (b. 1970) “Mary, Mary” combine elements of music and worship.

IV. Hope that is Forthcoming

“Bashana Haba’ah” by Nurit Hirsh (b. 1942) is an Israeli song that initially came to be in response to political violence between Israel and Palestine in 1968. The title Bashana Haba’ah translates to “next year” with the first verse continuing “We will sit on the porch and count migrating birds. Children on vacation will play catch between the house and the fields.” Hirsh rewrote the lyrics several times, gradually moving away from a pessimistic view to a more hopeful one. The final verse of the piece, not sung in today’s concert, ends with “A white heron will spread its wings in the light, and the sun will rise within them. You will yet see, how good it will be next year.” This song has become extraordinarily popular not only in Israel but around the world, including in Iran, Turkey and Germany. The haunting clarinet solo in this piece is played by NCS chorus member Christian Yaechan Kim.

Glenn Rudolph (b. 1951) was working on “The Dream Isaiah Saw” when the terrorist attacks against the United States took place on September 11, 2001. Rudolph then completed this commission for the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh, PA, in just 19 days and placed a dedication in memory to “all who perished” at the top of all of our scores.

“The Dream Isaiah Saw” begins with the lower voices of the choir describing the animals from the Book of Isaiah 11:6-9 in the form of a gentle lullaby. The lions and oxen asleep with the leopards and lambs calls to mind the nineteenth-century painting by Edward Hicks, *The Peaceable Kingdom*, and the medieval carol “The Friendly Beasts,” in which the lyrics also refer to a gathering of animals, large and small. This significant passage in both the Old Testament and the New Testaments symbolizes a harmonious future where predators and prey lie down together. An achingly beautiful melody begins this hymn, and like an invocation, increases in intensity to the end with a call for peace.

Continuing this section’s plea for harmony and hope, “Where the Light Begins” by Susan LaBarr (b. 1981), advocates for love with a reminder that the love we seek is always within our hearts. LaBarr sets the poetry of minister Jan Richardson, who is known for her exploration of the themes of faith, loss and healing. Just like the days following the Winter Solstice, “Where the Light Begins” celebrates the sun’s renewal and new beginnings.

V. Glorious Thee

We end our holiday program with pieces by three living composers whose choral work is both celebratory and popular. While you may not have heard of these composers before, they all write about the joy of the season in crowd-pleasing contemporary, even Broadway, styles.

Randol Alan Bass’s (b. 1953) commissioned work has been presented in impressive symphony performances including our very own Boston Pops Orchestra. “Gloria” was also recorded under the baton of John Williams (of *Star Wars* fame). Even though it is written in Latin, there is no mistake that this piece was intended for wide audience appeal. Lloyd Larson (b. 1954) has over 2,000 published compositions to date. These, like “Christmas Time,” celebrate themes of worship and festivity. Michael Engelhardt (b. 1976) is a vocal music artist whose work blurs the boundary between classical and contemporary sounds. He is the founder of Beer Choir, a national social singing movement that combines community, craft beer and choral music for an inclusive and joyful experience. After listening to “I Will Sing,” Engelhardt asks us to consider that “If your life was a song, what would be the main themes in your lyrics?”

Thank you for being here today! From all of us on stage, we wish you a very Happy Holiday season—may it be filled with good food, hearty brews, music and love.

Program notes written by NCS alto section leader, Penny Lazarus.

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*Biographies***DR. MINJI KIM, MUSIC DIRECTOR**

An inspiring musician and teacher, Dr. Minji Kim has served as the Music Director for the Newburyport Choral Society since 2023, building on its legacy as one of the oldest and largest community choirs in New England. Besides her appointment with NCS, she serves as the Assistant Professor of Music and the conductor of the College Choir and Women's Choir at Gordon College, Wenham, MA.

Kim is an active adjudicator and a clinician, having presented and conducted at regional and national conferences and music festivals. Most recently,

she shared her research about Korean Contemporary Choral Composers and the Performance Practice Consideration at the National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference in Atlanta, the Regional American Choral Directors Association conference, and a number of Music Education Associations. She has also taught conducting masterclasses and presentations on different topics internationally.

Kim's expressive conducting has been highly acclaimed by multiple professional organizations. She was selected as a fellow and a conductor participant for the ACDA National Conference Graduate Conducting Masterclass, the National Collegiate Choral Organization conducting masterclass with María Guinand, a participating conductor at international conducting competitions, and the Yale School of Music's Norfolk Chamber Choir with Simon Carrington.

She believes in the human connection through choral singing. Community building, trust, and love are the most important foundations of her teaching philosophy, all of which are clearly in evidence during her joyous, energetic, yet highly focused rehearsals.

Kim earned her Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting at the University of Maryland, Master of Music degree at the Ohio State University, and Bachelor of Music in composition at Yeungnam University, South Korea.

DOMINIC HENDRIX, CONDUCTING FELLOW



Dominic is a dedicated Music Education major from rural Brookings, Oregon. A senior at Gordon College, Dominic has been an active community member, holding leadership positions across campus. With a vision to uplift and strengthen communities through music, Dominic aspires to harness the transformative power of art in his future career. Dominic's experiences reflect his belief in the importance of service, creativity, and connection as he

works toward building a brighter future through the gift of music. Since joining the Newburyport Choral Society in the Spring of 2025, he has committed himself to the art of conducting and choral directing. He feels honored to have the opportunity to serve with this chorus and is excited for what the future holds!

DR. KIRSTEN HELGELAND, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST



Kirsten Helgeland holds degrees in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music and the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati. She also holds a Ph.D. in musicology from the University of Cincinnati. During her seven-year tenure at Gordon College, she was an active faculty member, instructing a lecture course in music history, a course in music theory, teaching piano, coaching instrumentalists and vocalists,

and serving as accompanist for Gordon's Children's Choir and Symphonic Chorale. After leaving Gordon, she opened Studio K, a private teaching studio currently located in St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Beverly.

In 2014, she began teaching as part of the Master of Music Education program at Gordon College, and in 2015, she returned to serve as accompanist for the Gordon College Children's Choir. In 2018, she was voted a Top Music Teacher by M. Steinert & Sons, the Boston area's authorized Steinway dealers.

Since 2005, she has served as accompanist to the Newburyport Choral Society and as Music Director and Organist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Beverly, Massachusetts. Dr. Helgeland has performed recitals in Ohio, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Illinois, in addition to appearing as a guest artist on WGBH-Radio's Chamberworks. She has presented lecture-recitals to the American Musicological Society and the Society for American Music. Dr. Helgeland has also worked as Organist and Choirmaster in Cincinnati and as a public school music teacher in Massachusetts.

Biographies

PAULA QUANN, MUSIC DIRECTOR**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH CHOIR**

Paula Quann graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in Music Education. She continued her studies in choral development at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Paula has created and developed choral, musical theater, and general music programs in both the public school and private school setting. She has also developed choral programs and a String Ensemble within the Catholic Church. She

retired in 2018 and moved to Newburyport with her husband. In 2021 she joined the Immaculate Conception Adult Choir and subsequently became a Cantor and the IC Youth Choir Director. She has always loved teaching young people to sing and is so grateful that God has allowed her to continue to do what she loves; teach the wonderful students in the IC Youth Choir.

RAYMOND HAWKINS, ORGANIST

Since formally beginning his musical training at age ten, Raymond Hawkins has honed his skill at the organ through an active career in both solo performance and sacred music. As a performer, Raymond has given recitals at venues across the United States, including the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco and Adolphus Busch Hall at Harvard University. Raymond currently serves as Director of Music & Organist at Christ Church of Hamilton &

Wenham in northeastern Massachusetts, where he oversees choral and organ music for celebrations of the Holy Eucharist as well as a variety of other sacred occasions. Raymond earned his undergraduate degree in organ performance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he studied as a Kenan Organ Scholar under Dr. Timothy Olsen and had previously received his high school diploma. In 2021, Raymond released his first album, *Spicy Sauce*, which showcases works by the French composer Louis Vierne and can be procured online at www.raymondhawkinsmusic.com



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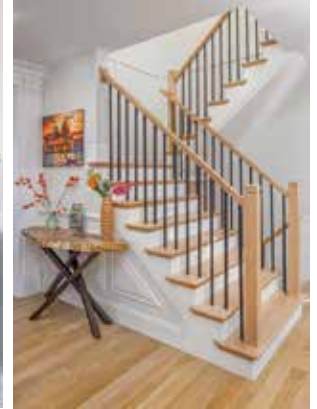
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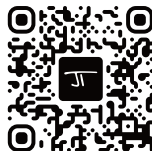
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— Audience Sing-Along Carols —

Ding Dong Merrily on High

1. Ding dong, merrily on high!
In heav'n the bells are ringing;
ding dong, verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

2. E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

3. Pray ye dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may ye beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

O Come All Ye Faithful

1. 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:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors
not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
[Refrain]

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:
[Refrain]

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
[Refrain]

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone:
snow had fallen,
snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

2. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air,
but only his mother,
in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the Beloved
with a kiss.

3. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.



Save the dates for our spring concert!

Friday, May 1 at 7:30pm & Sunday, May 3 at 4:00pm
Immaculate Conception Church



Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel



Felix Mendelssohn

The Mendelssohn Connection:
Elijah with choral works by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

PRESERVING A HISTORIC MEETINGHOUSE FOR MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Thank you for attending the Newburyport Choral Society Concert. NCS rehearses at Belleville Church and is looking forward to returning to the historic Meetinghouse when renovations are complete. We fully support Belleville's campaign to preserve this historic building, with its exceptional Stevens pipe organ, as a community venue for music and the performing arts.



For the Love of Music and Community

Please help the Belleville Meetinghouse and its one-of-a-kind Stevens organ continue for years to come as a premier venue for music and performing arts. Your tax deductible gift of any size will help us reach our goal.

Please make checks payable to "Belleville Campaign," Belleville Church, 300 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950. Learn more and donate online by visiting www.bellevillechurch.org/donate

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