

ANDREW THOMSON, PERCUSSIONIST · JOHN DANKOSKY, NARRATOR · DR. EZEQUIEL MENÉNDEZ, ORGANIST GABRIEL LÖFVALL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DECEMBER 16TH 4:00 PM TORRINGTON DECEMBER 17TH · 4:00 PM · WEST HARTFORD DECEMBER 22ND · 7:00 PM · AVON DECEMBER 23ND · 4:00 PM · NORFOLK





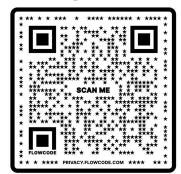
open doors

BAKEHOUSE



Learn about the organ being used at each Christmas Angelicus performance this year! All the information is taken directly from each church's website, except for West Hartford. Thank you for the music!

Organ Info



2023 Christmas Angelicus

NATIONAL # ARTS

arts.gov



Gabriel Löfvall, Artistic Director

PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS ANGELICUS

Saturday, December 16, at 4:00 p.m.
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Torrington, Connecticut

Friday, December 22, at 7:00 p.m. AVON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Avon, Connecticut Sunday, December 17, at 4:00 p.m. FIRST CHURCH West Hartford, Connecticut

Saturday, December 23, at 4:00 p.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
Norfolk, Connecticut

Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus

Dr. Gabriel Löfvall, Artistic Director Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez, Organist John Dankosky, Narrator Andrew Thomson, Percussionist

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Words, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895) Music, Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876) Descant, Nicholas White (b. 1967); World Premiere

The audience is invited to rise and join in singing verses 4 through 6



THE UNEXPECTED EARLY HOUR

Words, Rebecca Gayle Howell (b. 1975) Music, Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

Praise be! praise be!
The dim, the dun, the dark withdraws
Our recluse morning's found.
The river's alive The clearing provides

Lie down, night sky, lie down.
I feel the cold wind leaving, gone,
I feel the frost's relief.
My tracks in the snow can still be erased
In us, the sun believes.

Winter is, Winter ends,
So the true bird calls.
The rocks cry out My bones cry out
All the trees applaud.
Ev'ry hard thing lauds.

Lie down, night sky, lie down.
I know the seeding season comes,
I know the ground will spring.
My fate is not night
I don't need to try
Behold! The dawn, within.

Horizon lights across my thoughts, Horizon lines redraw. Inside of my throat a rise of the gold Inside my chest I thaw.

> Winter is, Winter ends, Nothing stays the same. The moon strikes high, The sun strikes high and Now I hear your name: Earth's Untired Change.

Praise be! praise be!
The unexpected early hour
grows the good light long.
Our darkness ends,
O mercy sun,
Trust can warm us all.

Begin again, again, again, Begin again, again: Begin again, again, again, O may our day begin!

READINGS

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

Words & Music, English traditional Arr., Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

The holly and the ivy; (the rising of the sun,) when they are both full grown Of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown Refrain: O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer The playing of the merry organ sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. R/.

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. *R*/.

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. *R*/.

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. R/.

The holly and the ivy now both are full well grown, Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. *R/*.

O RADIANT DAWN

Words, Advent Antiphon Music, James McMillan (b. 1959)

O Radiant Dawn,
Splendor of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied:
"The people who walked in darkness
have seen the great light
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone." Amen.

A CAROL FOR ALL

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Words & Music, John Francis Wade (c. 1710–1786) Arr., Michelle Horsley (b. 1990); World Premiere

The audience is invited to rise and join in singing verses 1, 3, & 4



NATIVITY CAROL

Words & Music, John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare, Born so long ago, Born 'neath light of star, He who loved us so.

Refrain: Far away, silent he lay: Born today, your homage pay. For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, Tender her lullaby. Over her son so dear, Angel hosts fill the sky. R/.

Wise men from distant far land, Shepherds from starry hills, Worship this babe so rare, Hearts with his warmth he fills. R/.

Love in that stable was born Into our hearts to flow. Innocent dreaming babe Make me thy love to know. R/.

Joys Seven

Words & Music, English traditional; arr., Stephen Cleobury (1948–2019)

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one;
To see the blessed Jesus Christ when he was first her son:
When he was first her son, good man:
(Refrain) And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go: To make the lame to go, good man: R/.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see: To make the blind to see, good man: R/. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to read the bible o'er: To read the bible o'er, good man: R/.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive: To bring the dead alive, good man: R/.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, upon the crucifix: Upon the crucifix, good man: R/.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of sev'n; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of heav'n: To wear the crown of heav'n, good man: R/.

READINGS

Invitation to Love

A World Premiere

Words, Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872–1906) Music, Thomas LaVoy (b. 1990)

Come when the nights are bright with stars
Or come when the moon is mellow;
Come when the sun his golden bars
Drops on the hay-field yellow.
Come in the twilight soft and gray,
Come in the night or come in the day,
Come, O love, whene'er you may,
And you are welcome, welcome.

You are sweet, O Love, dear Love, You are soft as the nesting dove. Come to my heart and bring it to rest As the bird flies home to its welcome nest. Come when my heart is full of grief
Or when my heart is merry;
Come with the falling of the leaf
Or with the redd'ning cherry.
Come when the year's first blossom blows,
Come when the summer gleams and glows,
Come with the winter's drifting snows,
And you are welcome, welcome.

A CAROL FOR ALL

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Words, Edmund H. Sears (1810–1876) Music, CAROL, CMD; Richard S. Willis (1819–1900) Descant, Alan Murchie

The audience is invited to rise and join in singing verses 1, 2, & 4



Agnus Dei

A World Premiere

Words, from the Ordinary of the Mass, roman Missal Music, Andrew Thomson (b. 1988)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

TLEYCANTIMO CHOQUILIYA

Words, anon. Mexican renaissance villancico [carol] Music, Gaspar Fernándes (c.1565–1629)

(Refrain) Tleycantimo choquiliya, mis prasedes, mi apisión. Aleloya!

> Dejal to el llando crecida, Miral to el mulo y el buey. Ximoyollali, mi rey. Tlein mitztolinía, mi vida?

No se por qué deneis pena Tan lindo cara de rosa, Nocpiholotzin, niño hermosa, Nochalchiuh, naxoquena.

Jesós de mi goraçón, no lloreis, mi pantasía. *R/*.

(Refrain) We sing to you little flower, My pleasures, my passion. Alleluia!

Leave thou the growing cry,
Behold the mule and the ox.
Take comfort, my king.
What bothers you, my beloved?

I know not what pains you, Such beautiful rosy face, Noble Lord, handsome child, My gem, my white-plumed bird.

Jesus of my heart, Do not cry, my fantasy. **R**/.

Mika Coderre, treble Alex Hunt, baritone & trumpet Emma Ross, flute

AN ORGAN INTERLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella

Music, French traditional, Keith Chapman (1945-1989)

OF A ROSE

Words, anonymous, 14th c. Music, Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Lestenyt, lordynges, bothe elde and yonge, How this rose began to sprynge; Swych a rose to myn lykynge In al this word ne knowe I non. Aleluya!

The aungil cam fro hevene tour, To grete Marye with gret honour, And seyde sche xuld bere the flour, That xulde breke the fyndes bond. Aleluya!

The flour sprong in heye Bedlem,
That is bothe bryht and schen;
The rose is Mary hevene qwyn,
Out of here bosum the blosme sprong. Aleluya!

The ferste braunche is ful of myht, That sprong on Cyrstemesse nyht; The sterre schon over Bedlem bryht, That is bothe brod and long. Aleluya!

The secunde braunche sprong to helle,
The fendys power doun to felle;
Therin myht non sowle dwelle;
Blyssid be the tyme the rose sprong. Aleluya!

The thredde branche is good and swote, It sprang to hevene crop and rote, Therin to dwellyn and ben our bote; Every day it schewit in prystes hond. Aleluya! Listen, nobles, old and young, How this rose at outset sprung; In all this world I know of none I so desire as that fair rose. Alleluia!

The angel came from heaven's Tower To honour Mary in her bower, And said that she should bear the flower To break the Devil's chain of woe. Alleluia!

In Bethlehem that flower was seen,
A lovely blossom bright of sheen;
The rose is Mary, heaven's Queen;
Out of her womb that blossom rose. Alleluia!

The first branch is full of might,
That sprouted on the Christmas night
When star of Bethlehem shone bright,
For far and wide its lustre shows. Alleluia!

The second branch sprang forth to hell, The Devil's fearful pow'r to quell; And there henceforth no soul could dwell; Blessed the coming of that rose! Alleluia!

To heaven sprang the third shoot, Sweet and fair, both stem and root, To dwell therein and bring us good; In priestly hands it daily shows. Alleluia!

READINGS

Fum, Fum, Fum!

Words & Music: Catalan traditional, arr. Anne Heider (b.1942)

Veinticinco de diciembre, fum, fum! Veinticinco de diciembre fum, fum, fum! Un niñito muy bonito ha nacido en un portal. Con su carita de rosa parece una flor Hermosa. Fum, fum!

Venid, venid pastorcillos, fum, fum, fum!
Venid, venid pastorcillos, fum, fum, fum!
Venid con la pandereta y cascabeles al portal
A adorar al rey del cielo que ha aparecido en el suelo.
Fum, fum, fum!

On December five and twenty, fum, fum, fum!
On December five and twenty, fum, fum fum!
A pretty little child was born in a stable,
With a rosy little face, like a beautiful flower.
Fum, fum, fum!

Come, come, little shepherds, fum, fum, fum!
Come, come, little shepherds, fum, fum, fum!
Come with your tambourine and jingling bells to the stable,
To adore the king of heaven, who has appeared on earth,
Fum, fum, fum!

Desde el cielo está mirando, fum, fum, fum!
Desde el cielo está mirando, fum, fum, fum!
A la tierra rutilante que relumbra con su luz
Y al amor del firmament celebrando el nacimiento.
Fum, fum, fum!

Veinticinco de diciembre, fum, fum, fum! Veinticinco de diciembre fum, fum, fum! Un niñito muy bonito ha nacido en un portal. Con su carita de rosa parece una flor Hermosa. Fum, fum, fum!

Veinticinco de diciembre, fum, fum, fum! Veinticinco de diciembre fum, fum, fum! Ha nacido un querubín, muy chiquitín, muy chiquitín, En una noche muy fría, hijo de José y María. Fum, fum, fum! From heaven you are watching, fum, fum, fum!
From heaven you are watching, fum, fum, fum!
The shining earth that glows with radiant light,
And to firmament's glorious love, celebrating the birth.
Fum, fum!

On December five and twenty, fum, fum, fum!
On December five and twenty, fum, fum fum!
A pretty little child was born in a stable,
With a rosy little face, like a beautiful flower.
Fum, fum!

On December five and twenty, fum, fum, fum!
On December five and twenty, fum, fum fum!
A tiny cherub was born, so very small, so very small,
On a very cold night, son of Joseph and Mary.
Fum, fum, fum!

READINGS

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Words & Music, English traditional collected and arr. Frederic W. Austin (1872–1952) Arr., John Rutter (b. 1945)

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me:

(Day 1) A Partridge in a Pear Tree.

(Day 2) Two Turtle Doves.

(Day 3) Three French Hens.

(Day 4) Four Calling Birds.

(Day 5) Five Gold Rings.

(Day 6) Six Geese a-Laying.

(Day 7) Seven Swans a-Swimming.

(Day 8) Eight Maids a-Milking.

(Day 9) Nine Ladies Dancing.

(Day 10) Ten Lords a-Leaping.

(Day 11) Eleven Pipers Piping.

(Day 12) Twelve Drummers Drumming.

READINGS



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Words, Charles Wesley (1707–1788) Music, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809–1847) Descant, Nicholas White (b. 1967); World Premiere

The audience is invited to rise and sing



FINIS



CHORUS ANGELICUS & GAUDEAMUS

CHORUS ANGELICUS SENIOR CHOIR

Mika Coderre, Senior Vocal Assistant Rachel Glander, Junior Vocal Assistant

River Lee, *Head Chorister* — Philip Larson, *Choral Scholar*

Gabrielle Carpentier, Evan Flint, Naomi King, Norah McCarthy Riley McIntyre, Samina Refai, Caroline Sienkiewicz, Abbey Young

GAUDEAMUS

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Andrew Skinner, Junior Choir Director
Karen Sovak, Angels in Training Program Director

ELIZABETH T. ALLYN, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST FOR SENIOR CHOIR SANDRA KLEISNER, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST FOR JUNIOR CHOIR

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ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

DR. GABRIEL LÖFVALL, artistic director, grew up listening to the sounds of the tango in his native Argentina, and is at ease conducting, playing the keyboards, or singing tenor. He sang with the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo Boys' Choir in the city of Mendoza, under Marcelo Coltro, where he also studied piano with Dora De Marinis. He went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree from the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo. Gabriel moved to the United States in 1997 and got his Master's of Music in Piano Performance with Luiz De Moura Castro, as well as a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. Later on, he obtained his Doctorate in Musical Arts from the same institution, a degree he earned under the tutelage of Dr. Edward Bolkovac. Gabriel has performed all around the world, including Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Hungary, and Canada. Gabriel directs the music ministry at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in downtown Hartford, a vibrant program that oversees four different vocal ensembles and hosts choral-orchestral masterpieces seasonally. He directed the Men's Choir of Connecticut Children's Chorus, and he has served as the assistant conductor for The Main Street Singers of New Britain, and co-director for the community chorus Vallis Musicæ, an ensemble that performed as part of international tours.

DR. EZEQUIEL MENÉNDEZ, organist, is the Director of Music for the Archdiocese of Hartford and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, in Hartford, Connecticut since 1998, Chapel Organist at the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, Connecticut since 1994, and Visiting Lecturer in Organ at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., since 2018. He also maintains a large private organ studio. During his tenure at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, the music program has grown to be one of the largest in Connecticut, encompassing multiple choirs, a resident orchestra (Soli Deo Gloria), and an active concert series. He co-founded Hartford Concerts for Charities, which has raised money to rebuild Sri Lanka and to benefit local charities. In addition, Dr. Menéndez initiated the Sacred Sounds Music Series. In recognition for his work with charities, the Rotary Club International awarded him with the Paul Harris Fellow. As an ardent advocate of the pipe organ, he has acted as an organ consultant throughout dozens of churches in Connecticut, and many now own new or relocated pipe organs due to his efforts. A native of Argentina, he graduated from the Conservatorio Gilardo Gilardi in Argentina as Professor Superior de Órgano. In 1992, he received his Master of Music degree from Yale University under the tutelage of Thomas Murray. Yale awarded him the highest prize given to an organist, the Charles Ives Scholarship, and the Julia Sherman Prize for Excellence in Organ Playing. Other awards include the E. Power Biggs Fellowship and the Vivian E. Smith Scholarship. In May of 2006, he received the Doctor of Musical Art degree from Boston University.

JOHN DANKOSKY, narrator, is a journalist, radio host and moderator of live events. This is his fifth Christmas Angelicus. John is the Director of News and Audio for the national radio program Science Friday, and founded the regional talk programs Where We Live, NEXT, and The Wheelhouse with Connecticut Public Radio. John is a regular moderator at The Connecticut Forum, and contributor to The Connecticut Mirror. John is a former classical and jazz DJ and frustrated rock and roll drummer, who lives in Litchfield County with his wife Jen, four loving cats, and thousands of bees.

ANDREW THOMSON, percussionist, was born in Norfolk, Connecticut and began his musical career with, among other organizations, Chorus Angelicus in 1996. After singing for eight years under its founder Paul Halley, Andrew continued his musical training as a percussionist through high school. In 2006, he auditioned and enlisted in the U.S. Marines and worked as the staff composer and arranger at the Armed Forces School of Music of Music in Norfolk, Virginia. Following his enlistment, Andrew earned a degree in composition and percussion from Ithaca College in 2013. In 2020, Andrew built and opened Pipeman Studios, a full service music production studio in Norfolk, Connecticut, where he currently lives.

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SABRINA S. ROPER

AGENT/ BROKER/ CONSULTANT SERVING CONNECTICUT AND NEW YORK

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You might say we're aging gracefully.

As our Connecticut-grown whiskeys have aged up, the accolades and gold medals keep stacking up. Allowing Father Time to work his magic on our casks has been well worth the wait. Born from Connecticut corn, rye and malted barley, our whiskey expressions are bold and smooth with a deep amber hue that's the result of resting several years in #4 charred barrels. Take our 4-year Straight Bourbon Whiskey, for example. It earned a double-gold medal at the 2022 NY International Spirits Competition and is full of luscious vanilla and butterscotch notes with hints of black pepper, chocolate and sugared coffee. So pour yourself a handsome reward for all your hard work and discover the rich, satisfying taste of Litchfield Distillery.



CONNECTICUT FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 2014.

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