



A MASTER SINGERS CHRISTMAS

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
13TH AND N STREETS

DECEMBER 10, 2017 @ 3 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
21ST AND J STREETS

DECEMBER 16, 2017 @ 7 PM
DECEMBER 17, 2017 @ 3 PM
DECEMBER 19, 2017 @ 7 PM

HARRIS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
FOLSOM LAKE COLLEGE

DECEMBER 21, 2017 @ 7 PM

DR. RALPH HUGHES
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

EMILY CARBREY
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

HEIDI VAN REGENMORTER
ACCOMPANIST



SACRAMENTO REGION
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS



Jerusalem Luminosa

LYRICS BY THOMAS Á KEMPIS

MUSIC BY ABBIE BETINIS

Noël Nouvelet

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

ARR. BY SOFIA SÖDERBERG

O Magnum Mysterium

MUSIC BY RENÉ CLAUSEN

Soloist: Rikki Pratt

And Lo, the Angel of the Lord

MUSIC BY SIR JAMES MACMILLAN

Soloist: Stephen Hill

Shepherds, Rejoice!

TEXT BY ISAAC WATTS

MELODY BY L. P. BREEDLOVE

ARR. BY CAROL BARNETT

Still, Still, Still

TEXT BY MARILYN KEITH & ALAN BERGMAN

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O Nata Lux

MUSIC BY MORTEN LAURIDSEN

Away in a Manger

MELODY BY W.J. KIRKPATRICK

ARR. BY PHIL MATTSON

Soloists: Nancy Balenzano, Rikki Pratt

Christmas Medley

ARR. BY LINDA DAWSON

Huron Carol

ARR. BY SARAH QUARTEL

Noel

TRADITIONAL KITUBA TEXT

MUSIC BY TODD SMITH

ARR. BY BRAD HOLMES

Duet: Chris Goff, William Zinn

Antiphonal duet: Kurtis Kroon, David Temme

INTERMISSION

Ave Generosa

TEXT BY HILDEGARD VON BINGEN

MUSIC BY OLA GJEILO

Soloist: Tina Harris

The Midnight of Your Birth

TEXT BY CHARLES BENNETT

MUSIC BY BOB CHILCOTT

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind

TEXT BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

MUSIC BY JOHN RUTTER

Silent Night

TEXT BY JOSEPH MOHR

TRANSLATION BY JOHN F. YOUNG

MUSIC BY FRANZ GRÜBER

ARR. BY PAUL JOHNSON

Ave Maria

FRANZ BIEBL

Soloists: Thomas Voigt, Kurtis Kroon,

David Kasperik

Sextet: John Masters, Thomas Voigt;

Byron Jackson, David Temme;

David Kasperik, Anthony Tavianini

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer

MUSIC BY JOHNNY MARKS

ARR. BY A. HAWLEY BARRY

Good Ale

15TH CENTURY TEXT

MUSIC BY JOHN RUTTER

White Winter Hymnal

BY ROBIN PECKNOLD

ARR. BY ALAN BILLINGSLEY

Rise Up, Shepherd

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

ARR. BY STACEY V. GIBBS

Soloists: Ryan De Boer, Stephen Hill;

Ian Tillman, Anthony Tavianini

The Sacramento Master Singers

conductor

Dr. Ralph Hughes

assistant conductor

Emily Carbrey

accompanist

Heidi Van
Regenmorter

percussion

Thomas Voigt
Elli Johnston

soprano

Angela Boardman
Emily Carbrey*
Michelle Dunnaway
Caroline Firman
Jennifer Enright
Tina Harris
Debbie Hill
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Elli Johnston
Michelle Miller
Ivy Williams

tenor

Stephen Hill
Byron Jackson
David Kasperik
Kurtis Kroon
Matt Metcalf
Paul Miller
Dave Segura
Anthony Tavianini
David Temme*
Chris Webster*

alto

Nancy Balenzano
Celia Buckley
Lucy Bunch
Barbara Celli
Katharine Hall
Laurie Hanschu
Carol Horner
Debra Kahan
Laura Lofgren
Carol McCormick*
Gretchen Morgan
Mary Patt
Rikki Pratt
Haruko Sakakibara

bass

Keith Atwater
Chris Dainard
Ryan De Boer
Chris Goff
John Masters
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Andrew Smith
Ian Tillman
Damon Tribble
Lowell Valiant
Thomas Voigt
William Zinn*

** Section Leader*



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The Sacramento Master Singers

The Sacramento Master Singers (SMS) is a group of more than forty-five singers from the greater Sacramento area who are dedicated to the advancement of choral music. Established in 1982, the group is known for its commitment to delight, challenge, and inspire audiences with seasons programmed to include premieres, classics, and a wide variety of musical periods and styles.

SMS offers profound thanks to the numerous guest directors who have conducted the choir. These include Joseph Jennings, Perla Warren, Moses Hogan, Maria Guinand, Oscar Escalada, Brian Stratton, Alice Parker, and Vance George. We are also grateful to the

numerous individuals and ensembles with whom we have had the opportunity to collaborate. These include the Boston Pops, Sacramento Philharmonic, Sacramento Youth Symphony, Lynn Stevens and the Sacramento Children's Chorus, James Wheatley and Celebration Arts, Linda Goodrich and the Sacramento Black Art of Dance, Sacramento Opera, Gershwin expert and pianist Richard Glazier, the Folsom Symphony, and Celtic music duo Men of Worth.

SMS has performed many area premieres such as the Robert D. Levin completion of the Mozart *Requiem* and the Alfred Schnittke *Requiem*. We have commissioned and performed new works

such as *Elements* by David O, *If Music Be the Food of Love* by Clifford Shockney, and the Sacramento-centric *Where The Rivers Meet* by Ken Medema and *Finale* by Larry Shackley — both of which also featured local poets. We often contract with instrumentalists to provide additional accompaniment, including the Sacramento State University Percussion Group and Grammy award winning Native American flutist Mary Youngblood.

SMS plays a leadership role in bringing high-quality choral music to area youth through outreach programs, collaboration with college choirs, scholarships for young singers, and children's holiday concerts. The Sacramento Master Singers was one of three North American choirs selected to perform at the international choral festival *America Cantat* in Venezuela. We have toured the Carolinas and participated as the headliner choir in the Maui Choral Festival. SMS sang as the only community choir invited to perform at the American Choral Directors Association in Reno. We remain committed to advancing the art and lifting the soul.



Dr. Ralph Hughes

Dr. Ralph Edward Hughes

has served as conductor of the Sacramento Master Singers since 1986. His leadership has generated increased recognition for the group's high performance standards, innovative programming, and interest in serving the community. This is evidenced by the global invitations extended to these singers to perform and by the tremendous increase in audience attendance. Dr. Hughes' direction helps fulfill the community's need for a professional-caliber chamber choir.

Dr. Hughes received his Bachelor's Degree and teaching credential from California State University, Sacramento in 1983. He taught music and drama for seven years at Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks and, since 1990, he teaches choir, voice, and piano at American River College. He was awarded his Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from California State University, Sacramento in December

1992 and his Doctoral Degree in Conducting in 2002 from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Hughes is a member of the California Music Educators Association, the American Choral Director's Association, and the International Federation for Choral Music. In 1995, he was recognized as "Outstanding Music Educator of the Year" by the California Music Educators Association Capitol Section.

Dr. Hughes focuses on extending the Master Singers' impact on the community through an emphasis on multicultural music and programming designed to stimulate interest among the area's young people. Regular participation in the World Symposium on Choral Music introduces him to the world's leading choral directors and composers of choral music, and he responds by programming many exciting new works.

Program Notes

Jerusalem Luminosa

LYRICS BY THOMAS Á KEMPIS; MUSIC BY ABBIE BETINIS

Betinis' Jerusalem Luminosa is an exploration of peace, of true peace through compromise. Listen as the women's voices 'play tag,' as each part constantly tries to catch up with the other, coming together occasionally. Even the 15th century text is altered or compromised as Jerusalem Luminosa becomes Luminosalem and Alleluia is added in to make Luminos'Alleluia.

Alleluia.
Jerusalem luminosa,
Verae pacis visio.
Alleluia.
Totum sanctum, totum mundum,
In te quidquid cernitur.

*Alleluia.
Jerusalem, city of light,
Vision of true peace.
Alleluia.
All holy, all elegant,
Is that which shows itself in thee.*

Noël Nouvelet

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL; ARR. BY SOFIA SÖDERBERG

Exciting counter-rhythms and dynamic contrasts penned by the Swedish arranger Sofia Söderberg make this traditional French carol come alive. Söderberg contrasts homophony and polyphony, and she bounces the melody among the voices in this fresh new setting.

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
Dévotes gens, criens à Dieu merci!
Chantons Noël, pour le roi nouvelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

*Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!
Glory to God! Now leet your praises swell!
Sing we Noel for Christ, the newborn King,
Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!*

L'ange disait: "Pasteurs, partez d'ici,
L'ame en repos et le Coeur réjouit:
En Bethléem trouverez l'agnelet."
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

*Angels did say, "Shepherds leave this place,
With peaceful souls and joyful hearts:
In Bethlehem you will find the little lamb."
Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!*

En Bethléhem, étant tous réunis,
Trouvent l'Enfant, Joseph, Marie aussi!
La crèche était au lieu d'un bercelet,
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

*When they had arrived in Bethlehem,
they found the child with Joseph and Mary.
A manger, instead of a cradle.
Christmas comes anew, O let us sing Noel!*



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O Magnum Mysterium

TRADITIONAL LATIN; MUSIC BY RENÉ CLAUSEN

This lush, modern setting of traditional Latin lyrics features the choir initially unified on a single note. Gradually, singers split into eight parts, without accompaniment, beginning very quietly and reaching their loudest on the word 'Magnum' (great) and gradually become quiet for 'Mysterium' (mystery).

O magnum mysterium,
Et admirabile sacramentum,
Ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
Jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
Meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.
Alleluia!

O great mystery,
And wonderful sacrament,
That animals should see the new-born Lord,
Lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
Was worthy to bear
Our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

And Lo, the Angel of the Lord

LUKE 2:9-14; MUSIC SIR JAMES MACMILLAN

With careful observation, the listener can identify seventeen parts divided among three choirs. They split, at times, to represent the Narrator, the Angel, and the Heavenly Host or Angels as they appear to shepherds in the hills with their flocks.

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.
And the angel said to 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 Savior,
Which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you;
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
Swaddling clothes,
Lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the Angel
A multitude of the Heavenly Host
Praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
Goodwill toward all men!"

Shepherds, Rejoice!

TEXT BY ISAAC WATTS; MELODY BY L. P. BREEDLOVE; ARR. BY CAROL BARNETT

*With this sturdy folk carol from **The Sacred Harp** collection, we celebrate the joyful aspect of the Christmas season. The unusual, rather plain vocal quality is a feature of The Sacred Harp, a unique American tradition with roots back to 1770 and which brings communities together to sing four-part hymns and anthems. Of her arrangement, Barnett states, "I have kept the straightforward feeling of the original setting and added a bit of harmonic variation with the use of canonic textures and the Lydian mode or scale. The changing time signatures help to emphasize important words and syllables, while the refrain 'rejoice' gives us time to absorb the message of each verse."*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!

Shepherds, rejoice!
Lift up your eyes,
And send your fears away;
News from the regions of the skies:
Salvation's born today!

Jesus, the God whom angels fear,
Comes down to dwell with you;
Today he makes his entrance here,
But not as monarchs do.

No gold nor purple swaddling bands,
Nor royal shining things;
A manger for his cradle stands,
And holds the King of kings.

Go, shepherds, where the Infant lies,
And see his humble throne;
With tears of joy in all your eyes,
Go, shepherds, kiss the Son.

Thus Gabriel sang, and straight around
The heav'nly armies throng;
They tune their harps to lofty sound
And thus conclude their song;

Glory to God that reigns above,
Let peace surround the earth;
Mortals shall know their maker's love
At their Redeemer's birth.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!

Still, Still, Still

TEXT BY MARILYN KEITH AND ALAN BERGMAN; AUSTRIAN CAROL; ARR. BY NORMAN LUBOFF

*Luboff was a prominent American composer, arranger and choral conductor. He wrote the scores for many television programs and more than eighty movies before founding the Norman Luboff Choir. His beautiful setting of the Austrian carol Still, Still, Still was featured on Mannheim Steamroller's 1990 Christmas album **A Fresh Aire Christmas**. The melody is a folk tune of unknown authorship which first appeared in a collection of folk songs in 1865.*

Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping.
Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.

Dream, dream, dream,
Dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

O Nata Lux

SACRED LATIN TEXT; MUSIC BY MORTEN LAURIDSEN

*Los Angeles composer Lauridsen wrote this piece as one from a larger work, **Lux Aeterna (Eternal Light)**; all seven of them refer to light in sacred Latin texts.*

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes preces que sumere.

*O Light born of light
Jesus, Redeemer of the world,
Mercifully deem us worthy
To offer prayers and praise.*

Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus est pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici,
Tui beati corporis.

*You who once digned to become flesh
For the sake of your lost ones
Grant that we become members
Of your holy Body.*

Away in a Manger

19TH CENTURY AMERICAN TEXT; MELODY BY W.J. KIRKPATRICK; ARR. BY PHIL MATTSON

The melody for this Christmas classic is also known as the Cradle Song and has been given a fresh, updated arrangement by internationally admired composer and arranger of vocal jazz, Phil Mattson.

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay.

I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh.

The cattle are lowing,
The baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus
No crying he makes.

Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever,
And love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven,
To live with Thee there.

Christmas Medley

ARR. LINDA DAWSON

Please join us in this beautiful medley arranged by one of our former accompanists.

Hark! the herald angels sing-
Glory to the newborn king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled.

Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th' angelic host proclaim'
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing-
Glory to the newborn king.

Dashing through the snow,
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way.
Bells on bobtail ring,
Making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing,
A sleighing song tonight.

(refrain)

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way,
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse
open sleigh.

(Master Singers sing the next verse...
audience join on refrain)

(Men)
God rest you merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay.

(Women)
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day.

(all)
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray,
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

(Master Singers sing the next verse...
audience join on refrain)

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Huron Carol

ARR. BY SARAH QUARTEL

*One of SMS's favorite arrangements of this carol is that of John Rutter and can be found on our CD **How Still He Rests**. "I'm glad I found this new arrangement of that haunting tune by Sarah Quartel. Quartel is known for her simple, yet exciting arrangements – this time she includes a shimmering accompaniment that helps us envision the frozen Canadian landscape in which the story takes place." — Ralph Hughes*

Tw'as in the moon of wintertime
when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitche Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair,
As was the ring of glory
on the helpless Infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
is born today for you;
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy,
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

Noel

TRADITIONAL KITUBA TEXT; MUSIC BY TODD SMITH; ARR. BY BRAD HOLMES

Composer Smith grew up in the African Congo. Recalling music he heard as a child, Smith begins the piece with one voice proclaiming "Noel." Another answers the call and, ultimately, the choir and percussion joyfully celebrate the good news.

Noel! Noel! Jesu me kwisa ku zinga ti beto.
Kana nge zola ku zaba mwana,
Nge fwiti kwisa ku fukama.

*Noel! Noel! Jesus has come to live with us.
If you want to know the Child,
You have to come kneel.*

Ave Generosa

TEXT BY HILDEGARD VON BINGEN; MUSIC BY OLA GJEILO

This setting of Hildegard von Bingen's 12th Century Ave Generosa text uses a hauntingly joyful tonality, paying homage to the mysterious story of Mary. A beautiful middle section is surrounded by contrasting beginning and ending sections. The contrast of longer held notes and faster moving lines holds true to the composer's style, while the harmonic, chordal structure and melodies offer something very fresh.

Ave, generosa,
Gloriosa et intacta puella,
Tu pupilla castitatis,
Tu materia sanctitatis,
Que Deo placuit.

*Hail, girl of a noble house,
Shimmering and unpolluted,
You pupil in the eye of chastity,
You essence of sanctity,
Which was pleasing to God.*

The Midnight of Your Birth

TEXT BY CHARLES BENNETT; MUSIC BY BOB CHILCOTT

This carol, one of five in the set, weaves imagery of the natural world with the Christmas narrative. Chilcott's music is the perfect match for Bennett's poetry, combining characteristically singable melodies with pleasing harmonic colors, buoyant jazzy syncopation, and tender reflection.

The first is an acorn
underneath the snow.
Second is a berry which soon,
soon will grow.
Third is a robin who comes to sing.
The fourth is a blossom to welcome,
welcome spring.

The fifth is a fox cub
playing in the sun.
Six is a sunset when day,
when day is done.
Seven is the snow which cannot stay.
The eighth is a swan who flies,
who flies away.

Out in the fields
where the grass grows deep,
Under the stars we count our sheep,
Small white clouds that have
come to earth in the midnight,
The midnight of your birth.

Out in the fields
where the grass grows deep,
Under the stars we count our sheep,
Small white clouds that have
come to earth in the midnight,
The midnight of your birth.

The ninth is a tree,
a tree for you to climb.
Ten is a snail who takes,
who takes his time.
Eleven is a star in the evening sky
And twelve is the carol,
the carol of your cry.

Out in the fields
where the grass grows deep,
Under the stars we count our sheep,
Small white clouds that have
come to earth in the midnight,
The midnight of your birth.

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind

TEXT BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE; MUSIC BY JOHN RUTTER

Shakespeare's text from "As You Like It," tells how human insincerity and unfaithfulness are more bitter than even the bitterest elements of nature. Humans are to blame for the worst human sufferings. Perhaps the refrain, "This life is most jolly," should be considered as sarcasm.

Blow, blow thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind,
As man's ingratitude.

Freeze, freeze thou bitter sky,
That does not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:

Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remember'd not.

Heigh ho! Sing, heigh ho!
unto the green holly;
Most friendship is feigning,
most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Heigh ho! Sing, heigh ho!
unto the green holly;
Most friendship is feigning,
most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Silent Night

TEXT BY JOSEPH MOHR; TRANSLATION BY JOHN F. YOUNG;
MUSIC BY FRANZ GRÜBER; ARR. BY PAUL JOHNSON

This traditional Christmas carol — which has been translated into about 140 languages — has been given a smooth, yet jazzy treatment by arranger Johnson.

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.

Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!"

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiance beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, lord, at thy birth.
Christ the Saviour is born.

Ave Maria

FRANZ BIEBL

Biebl uses simple, solo melodies in the chant style of the Middle Ages in between verses featuring multiple choirs. This layering of voices and harmonies builds powerfully to a peaceful ending, making it one of the most beloved pieces by male choirs throughout the world.

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.

*The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini,
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

*Mary said, "Behold the servant of the Lord.
Let it be unto me according to Your Word."*

Et verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis.

*The word was made into flesh
and dwelt within us*

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesu.

*Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
ora pronobis peccatoribus.
Sancta Maria, ora pronobis
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*Holy Mary, mother of God,
pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, pray for us,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer

STORY BY ROBERT L. MAY; MUSIC BY JOHNNY MARKS; ARR. BY A. HAWLEY BARRY

The story about the most famous reindeer of all — Rudolph — was published in 1939. May, a copywriter at the Chicago-based Montgomery Ward store, wrote it as a promotional children's book to bring the holiday traffic into his store. Marks adapted the story of Rudolph into a song in 1949.

Rudolph! You'll go down in history!

Then how the reindeer loved him,
As they shouted out with glee,
"Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer,
You'll go down in history!"

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer,
Had a very shiny nose;
And if you ever saw it,
You would even say it glows;
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names;
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games.

You know Dasher and Dancer
and Prancer and Vixen,
Comet and Cupid and Donner
and Blitzen;

But, do you recall
The most famous reindeer of all?

Then one foggy Christmas eve,
Santa came to say;
"Rudolph, with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Rudolph! You'll go down in history!

Good Ale

15TH CENTURY TEXT; MUSIC BY JOHN RUTTER

This is a wassailing song which dates back to the 15th century. The word “wassail” comes from the Anglo-Saxon greeting Wæs pu hæl meaning “be thou hale” — i.e., be in good health. The correct response to the greeting is Drinc hæl, meaning “drink and be healthy.”

Bring us in good ale,
and bring us in good ale,
For our blessed Lady’s sake,
bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no brown bread,
for that is made of bran;
Nor bring us in no white bread,
for therein is no game,
But bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no beef,
for there is many bones,
But bring us in good ale,
for that go’th down at once,
And bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no bacon,
for that is passing fat,
But bring us in good ale,
and give us enough of that,
And bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no mutton,
for that is often lean,
Nor bring us in no tripes,
for they be seldom clean,
But bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no eggs,
for there are many shells,
But bring us in good ale,
and give us nothing else,
And bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no puddings,
for therein is all goat’s blood;
Nor bring us in no venison,
for that is not for our good:
But bring us in good ale.

Bring us in no capon’s flesh,
for that is often dear,
Nor bring us in no duck’s flesh,
for they slobber in the mere,
But bring us in good ale.

White Winter Hymnal

BY ROBIN PECKNOLD; ARR. BY ALAN BILLINGSLEY

Pecknold of Fleet Foxes, an indie folk band formed in Seattle, Washington, drew from personal experience in this song about a time when his friends excluded him in middle school. SMS performs the version made popular by singers of Pentatonix, who have added body percussion to their unaccompanied rendition.

I was following the pack,
All swallowed in their coats,
With scarves of red tied ‘round their throats,
To keep their little heads
From falling in the snow.

And I turned ‘round and there you go,
And Michael, you would fall
And turn the white snow red as
Strawberries in the summertime.

Rise Up, Shepherd

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL; ARR. BY STACEY V. GIBBS

This traditional spiritual is thought to have originated in Georgia or North Carolina and was first published in 1867. Songs from this region were usually sung as a call and response with plenty of handclapping and foot-tapping to hold down the rhythm.

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
It will lead to the place
 where the Christ was born
Hallelujah, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's word,
You'll forget your flocks,
 you'll forget your herds
Behold the star up yonder,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

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We would like to thank the staff and congregations of **First United Methodist Church** and **Westminster Presbyterian Church** for their support and the use of their facilities for this concert, especially Jennifer Banghart, John McKinney, Tracy Bieberly, and Rodney Smith from FUMC.

www.firstumcsac.org

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The Sacramento Master Singers also thanks the staff and congregation of **Arcade Church** for the kindness and generosity of their people and the use of their facilities during SMS rehearsals, especially Brian Clifton, Kelly Frazier, and Mario Fedrighi.

arcadechurchonline.com

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