



Villanova University Presents

THE VILLANOVA VOICES & SINGERS
AND
THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY CHORALE

Christmas Choral Concert

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2024 | 2 PM

The Topper Theatre
The John and Joan Mullen
Center for the Performing Arts





THE PROGRAM

The Villanova Voices

CHRISTINE NASS, CONDUCTOR

Puer Nobis Nascitur

Andrea Ramsey (b. 1987)

Text by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

with traditional sacred Latin text,
and additional text by the composer

Refrain: Puer nobis nascitur,
Rector angelorum
In hoc mundo pascitur
Dominus Dominorum.

A child is born to us
Ruler of the Angels
In this world, He is nourished
Lord of Lords

Soloists: Emily Jo & Kayla MacKinnon

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Michael Prætorius (1572-1621)

Arranged by David Shand

English text by Theodore Baker (1851-1934)

We're Goin' Up to Bethlehem!

Ruth Morris Gray (b. 1961)

Soloist: Priscilla Zhang

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Sing We Now of Christmas

Traditional French (15th century)

I Saw Three Ships

Traditional English (17th century)

Arranged by David Willcocks

Soloists: Katie Harrington, Caitlyn Ng, Bailey Proctor-Madden

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Arranged by Hawley Ades

Words by Mitchell Parish (1900-1993)

Percussion: Sofia Broughman, Nora Tiffen, & Kayla MacKinnon

BRENNAN MEIER, REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST, PERCUSSION

CECILIA BEATTY, PERFORMANCE PIANIST

The Villanova Singers

DR. TED LATHAM, CONDUCTOR

Brothers, Sing On!

Edvard Grieg
Arr. Howard D. McKinney

Gloucestershire Wassail

Old English Carol
Arr. David Düsing

The Christmas Waltz

Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne
Arr. Mark Hayes

You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch

Albert Hague
Arr. Logan Widmor

A Selection from the Spires

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovich
Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Silver Bells

Jay Livingston and Ray Evans
Arr. Mark Hayes

Hot Chocolate

Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri
Arr. Saunder Choi

CECILIA BEATTY, PIANIST

The Villanova University Chorale

CHRISTINE NASS, CONDUCTOR

The Many Moods of Christmas, Suite 2

Traditional Carols
Arranged by Robert Shaw (1916-1999) and
Robert Russell Bennett (1894-1981)

O Sanctissima	Italy, date unknown, first published 1792
Joy to the World	England, 1719
Away in a Manger	United States, 1882
Fum Fum Fum	Catalonia, 16 th or 17 th Century
March of the Kings	France, 1872; composed by Georges Bizet

Translations

O sanctissima, O piissima,
Dulcis Virgo Maria.
Mater amata, intemerata,
Ora, Ora pronobis.

O most holy, O most pious,
Sweet Virgin Mary
Beloved mother, unblemished,
Pray, pray for us.

Ce matin j'ai rencontré
le train de trois grands rois
qui allaient en voyage.

This morning I met
the procession of three great kings
who were going on a journey.

Ce matin j'ai rencontré
le train de trois grands rois
dessus le grand chemin

This morning I met
the procession of three great kings
along the great road.

Tout chargés d'or
Les suivaient d'abord
De grands guerriers,
Et les gardes du trésor

All loaded with gold
In procession following them were
Great warriors,
And the guards of the treasury.

Tout chargés d'or
Les suivaient d'abord
De grands guerriers,
Avec leurs boucliers.

All loaded with gold
In procession following them were
Great warriors,
With their shields.

It's the Holiday Season (Medley) Arranged by Roger Emerson (b. 1950)

Happy Holiday Words and Music by Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

The Holiday Season Words and Music by Kay Thompson (1909-1998)

Let It Snow! Words by Sammy Cahn (1913-1993);
Music by Jule Styne (1905-1994)

CECILIA BEATTY, PIANIST

The Combined Choirs

CHRISTINE NASS, CONDUCTOR

A Merry Christmas

English West Country Traditional Song
Arranged by Arthur Warrell (1883-1939)

The Villanova Voices

THE VILLANOVA VOICES is the longest existing women's organization at Villanova University. Formerly known as the Women's Glee Club, the group was founded by twenty ambitious students from the University's College of Nursing in 1960, shortly after Villanova became coeducational. Voices has since evolved into the talented and diverse group with members hailing from all four colleges and a variety of majors joining together purely for the love of music and the strong community that develops as a result. Our repertoire spans a wide range, from sacred hymns and traditional SATB pieces to contemporary hits and Broadway favorites. Throughout the year, the Voices showcase their musical talent at various on-campus events, including sporting events, Homecoming, Family Weekend, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, and our end-of-semester concerts alongside the Villanova Singers. In recent years, the Villanova Voices have embarked on many domestic and international tours, captivating audiences in Italy, Brazil, Costa Rica, Austria, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Montréal. A notable recent highlight was the combined choirs' privilege of singing mass at the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona during the spring of 2023.

Christine Nass

CHRISTINE NASS is a professional singer based in Philadelphia, serving as the conductor of the Villanova Voices since 2007. Under her direction, the Voices have embarked on successful international tours to Spain, Brazil, Italy, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, and Austria. In 2011, she had the distinct honor of conducting the Villanova Choirs for Mass at the Vatican. Her extensive career includes solo performances with prestigious organizations such as The Philadelphia Orchestra, Des Moines Metro Opera, Brevard Music Center, Opera Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Singers, and the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia. Ms. Nass is a member of the professional roster of Opera Philadelphia and has appeared in over 50 productions at Philadelphia's historic Academy of Music. Favorite productions with Opera Philadelphia include *Margaret Garner* with stage director Kenny Leon, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Macbeth*, *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein*, *Ainadamar*, and *Don Giovanni* with designer Rafal Olbinski.

Ms. Nass's international engagements and those across the United States include ensemble membership at the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy, Bard Summerscape, and Opera Festival New Jersey. As a chorister,

she has performed extensively with the Philadelphia Orchestra as a member of both the Philadelphia Orchestra Symphonic Chorus and The Philadelphia Singers, working with esteemed conductors such as Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Riccardo Muti, and Wolfgang Sawallisch, as well as favorite guest conductors Jane Glover, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, and Stéphane Denève.

Her versatility is evident in crossover concerts, including appearances with Rod Stewart, Zucchero, Andrea Bocelli on his 2017, 2021, 2023, & 2024 tours, and the Sarah Brightman "Hymn" Tour. Ms. Nass can be heard on recordings of Menotti's *The Saint of Bleeker Street* and Menotti's Four Concerti recorded with Richard Hickox under the supervision of Maestro Menotti, and the world premiere recording of Randall Thompson's Requiem with The Philadelphia Singers.

Brennan Meier

Brennan Meier is a sought-after singer, multi-instrumentalist and music educator in the greater Philadelphia area. Originally from Oakland, CA, he earned a B.M. in Vocal Music from Chapman University, and an M.M. from the Boston University Opera Institute. He has been featured as a soloist with the Los Angeles Verdi Chorus, Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Pacific Chorale. In addition, he has appeared as a resident artist and collaborator at Taos Opera Institute, the Seagle Festival, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Los Angeles SongFest, N.E.O. Voice Festival, and the Festival de Musique Sacree at Opera Nice. Also a seasoned conductor and chorusmaster, Brennan has served as the Music Director for a wide range of ensembles, including C3LA, Pacific Boy Choir Academy, the Antonio Charles Big Band, and at Union Congregational Church in Walpole, MA. He can still be seen performing regularly as both a chorister and a dueling pianist, and holds a residency at The Music Box in Atlantic City, NJ. Brennan has worked with the Villanova Chorale and Villanova Voices since January 2024.

The Villanova Voices

Soprano I

Liz Champagne
Ollie Currier
Katie Harrington
Lily Holzinger*
Emily Jo
Brianna Kirkpatrick
Maria MacDonald
Kayla MacKinnon*
Olivia Millin
Issie Russo*
Emily St. Pierre
Belle Wronko*

Soprano II

Sofia Broughman
Bella DiFrancesca

Sophia Gunderson*

Katie Koslow
Ava LaSasso*
MaryAnn Leshinskie
Bailey Proctor-Madden*
Clare Vogt
Priscilla Zhang

Alto I

Mariana Diana
Claire Donnelly
Emerson Hinson
Leena Krayyem
Andrea Lutai
Margaux Maxwell
Caitlyn Ng
Nora Tiffen

Alto II

Max Cabral*
Khabria Fisher-Dunbar*
Ali'i Gibbs
Morgan Herringshaw
Jane Huston*
Madeline Okenquist
Jenna Parker
Camryn Schultz*
Ava Studivant*
Sophie Stevens*
Kasey Wood

* Denotes Senior

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The Villanova Singers

THE VILLANOVA SINGERS are a highly acclaimed and versatile men's chorus that dates back to 1953 when Harold Gill Reuschlein, Dean of Villanova's prestigious Law School, established the group to sing various types of music and to enrich the cultural life of the University. Dean Reuschlein began a tradition of "brotherhood in song" that has made the Singers one of the strongest and most active organizations on campus. Dean Reuschlein was known to say he was "as proud of the Villanova Singers as I am of what the Law School has become." Since 1963, the Singers have logged almost 200,000 miles, leaving behind a long and distinguished trail of accomplishments stretching as far west as California, as far north as Canada, as far south as the Bahamas, and as far east as Poland. The Singers have an eclectic repertoire, ranging from sacred to patriotic, gospel to contemporary. They enjoy sharing their music with the Villanova Voices, with whom they sing together in concert in both the winter and the spring. "Brothers, Sing On" is the anthem and motto of the group. The past 70 years have helped strengthen our brotherhood to the point where, now, the members of the group are brothers in the truest sense of the word. Music has always come first, but the friendships and the brotherhood will be forever lasting.

Dr. Edward (Ted) Latham

A graduate of Yale University (B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.), Dr. Latham is currently Director of Music at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, St. Katharine of Siena Parish, and Daylesford Abbey. Chair of Music Studies and Coordinator of the DMA in Music Performance at Temple University's Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance in Philadelphia, Dr. Latham was the recipient of the Lindback Award and the Teaching Academy Award for excellence in teaching. His book, *Tonality as Drama: Closure and Interruption in Four Twentieth-Century American Operas*, is available from the University of North Texas Press. He is both the Music Director of the 90-voice Main Line Singers and the Executive Director of the Women's Sacred Music Project, housed at Rosemont College. He was a Research Associate in the Department of Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies at Bryn Mawr College, where he directed the 20-voice Bryn Mawr Renaissance Choir for five years. As a professional singer, he has performed with the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir (the resident choir of the Philadelphia Orchestra), the

Philadelphia Heritage Chorale (with Aretha Franklin, Andrea Bocelli, and Juanes, for Pope Francis), the Philadelphia Singers, the Philadelphia Chamber Choir, the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, and the Minnesota Chorale, and has appeared locally in concerts and productions at the Kimmel Center, the Arden Theater, The Boyer College of Music and Dance, and the Philly Fringe Festival. He is a Yale Whiffenpoof and sings locally with the all-male groups The Tonics and the Orpheus Club of Philadelphia. He has been the Director of the Villanova Singers since 2019.

Cecilia Beatty

Cecilia Beatty is Director of Music and Liturgy at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in West Grove, PA, where she serves as the organist and choir director. Ms. Beatty also teaches at Archbishop Carroll High School, where she is Director of Choirs. Cecilia has performed numerous times at Carnegie Hall, the Kimmel Center and the Academy of Music in benefits for Multiple Sclerosis research and has also accompanied the Main Line Singers at concerts in the Greater Philadelphia area. This is Ms. Beatty's fourth year as the collaborative pianist for the Villanova Singers and she is thrilled to be working both with them and occasionally with the Voices this season!

The Villanova Singers

Tenor I

Marco Klisch
Jacob Long**
Garrett Schultz
Ben Johnson
Cole Joyce⁺

Tenor II

Zach Amos
Alex Edmonds
Nick Menendez
Connor Fieck⁺
Nick Leyesa⁺

Ben Schmidt

Zachary Buxton

Bass I

Joseph Corigliano
Derick Denecke
Brent Thompson
Carter Smith *
Stewart Tewksbury**
Aleko Zeppos⁺

Bass II

Quinn Burns**
Mark Faverzani*
Joey Klieman
Ben Langenbach
Justin Lescavage*
Carlos Schaver⁺
Jacob Scotto⁺
Eric Van Zele⁺
Lucas Scotto⁺

⁺ Denotes Spire

* Denotes Senior

The Villanova Singers Board

President: Jacob Scotto	Secretary: Carter Smith	Publicity Director: Ben Schmidt
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The Villanova University Chorale

The Villanova University Chorale is the University's mixed choir where students, faculty, and staff come together to celebrate the joy of singing and creating music as one. With a focus on Veritas (truth) in our music, Unitas (unity) in our collaboration, and Caritas (love) for our craft, we're thrilled to share our passion for singing with the community. We are delighted to have you as our guest this afternoon to kick off the Christmas Season. We hope you will join us for our Puccini Concert on February 23!

Soprano Laura Anastor-Walters Meg Averill Madison Battinelli Sam DiCarlo Lisa Franks Sophia Gunderson Kimberly Muldoon Ivenz Abigail Neiderer Kate Neilsen Kiva Nice-Webb Bailey Proctor-Madden Tina Sheing Betsy Springuel Christine Stackhouse Barbara Stephen	Alto Donna Burgmayer Alexis Coulter Abby Gibbons Ann Goody Elena Kazakova Leena Krayyem Ava Studivant Nora Tiffen	Tenor John Banionis David Burgmayer*
Bass Morgan Besson Mark Faverzani Peter Fay Peter Hilliard* Peter Palma Robert Phillips* Erik Potteiger*	Callan Towse Betty Wilson	Nick Madden Brennan Meier* Siddhartha Misra*

* Guest Artist



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VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

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love to hear about your
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Upcoming Fall Semester Performances

A Cappella Showcases in the Court Theatre

Supernovas, Measure Up & Minor Problem, 7:30pm

November 23

Haveners, Sirens & Villanova Melodics, 2:30pm

November 24

The Outsiders

November 23-24

The Villanova Student Theatre presents *The Outsiders*

Saturday at 8pm, Sunday at 1pm, The Performance Lab

Dance Company & Ensemble Fall Showcase

December 6

Join our talented Villanova Dancers in their semester end showcase featuring large numbers, small ensembles, and solo numbers. There's something for everyone! Friday, December 6th, Topper Theatre, 7:30pm.

Choral & A Cappella Spring Concerts

Puccini and Bruckner, The Human and The Divine

February 23

Join the Villanova University Chorale and Main Line Symphony for a wonderful evening featuring scenes from Puccini operas *Madame Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *La Bohème* paired with Symphony #6 by Anton Bruckner; Topper Theatre, 6pm

A Cappella Palooza

March Date TBA

Kick off the second half of spring semester with a great night of A Cappella in Jake Nevin Fieldhouse! Post-Spring-Break March date will be announced in December

Villanova Singers Legacy Society Weekend & Concert

March 28-30

Join the Villanova Singers for our bi-yearly Alumni event. All are welcome for the alumni concert on Saturday, March 29th. For more information, visit

<http://www.vusingerslegacy.org/legacy-weekend/>

Spring A Cappella Showcases

April 3-6

Our eight a cappella groups return to the Court Theater for a weekend of A Cappella Showcases! Thursday & Saturday at 7:00pm, Sunday at 3:00pm

Voices & Singers Spring Concert

April 4

The Singers and Voices Spring Concert will feature music performed on our Italy tour and individual sets that highlight our seniors! Court Theatre, 2pm