



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS

*The Villanova
Singers & Voices*

Christmas
Concert

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2, 2023 | 2:00PM

TOPPER THEATRE

THE JOHN AND JOAN MULLEN CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS





THE PROGRAM

The Combined Choirs

CHRISTINE NASS, CONDUCTOR

Excerpts from *Christus, Op. 97*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

When Jesus was born

Matthew 2:1

Soloist: Kaya Robinson

Where is he born, the King of Judea?

Matthew 2:2

Featuring The Villanova Singers

There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth

Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2:9

CECILIA BEATTY, PIANIST

The Villanova Voices

CHRISTINE NASS, CONDUCTOR

Gaudete

16th Century Bohemia

Arr. Michael McGlynn

Refrain: Gaudete, gaudete Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine, gaudete!
Rejoice, rejoice Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, rejoice!

Tempus adest gratiae hoc quod
optabamus, carmina laetitiae
devotae reddamus!

The time is here, that time
for which we prayed, let us render songs
of pious joy!

Deus homo factus est natura
mirante, mundus renovatus est
a Christo regnante!

God becoming man holds all nature in
awe, the world is renewed
by Christ's reign!

Ezechelis porta clausa pertransitur,
unde lux est orta salus invenitur.

Ezekiel's door that was closed is crossed,
salvation is found in the sources of light.

Ergo nostro cantio psalatiam in
lustris, benedicat domino salus
regi nostro.

Therefore our song resounds in our
time, bless the Lord, salvation to
our king.

Soloists: Priscilla Zhang and Kayla MacKinnon

O Salutaris Hostia

Ēriks Ešenvalds (b.1977)

Text by St. Thomas Aquinas

O salutaris Hostia
Quae coeli pandis ostium.
Bella premunt hostilia:
Da robur, fer auxilium.

O saving sacrificed One
Open wide the gate of heaven.
Hostile armies press forth;
Give strength, bear aid.

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria;
Qui vitam sine termino,
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.

To the One and Triune Lord,
May there be everlasting glory;
Who live without end
Grants us in the homeland.
Amen.

Duet: Kayla MacKinnon and Emily Jo

The Holly and the Ivy

Old English Carol

Arr. Peter Stone

Breath of Heaven

Chris Eaton (b. 1958) and Amy Grant (b. 1960)

Arr. Craig Courney

Soloist: Emily Jo

African Noel

Victor C. Johnson (b. 1978)

Percussion:

Kaya Robinson, Caitlyn Ng, Kayla MacKinnon

Liz Champagne, Ava LaSasso

A Pentatonix Christmas:

Arr. Mark Brymer

Pentatonix arrangements by PTX and Ben Bram

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Soloist: Kayla MacKinnon

Coventry Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Featuring our Seniors:

Abby Gibbons, Rachel Jordan, Rachel Rhee,

Kaya Robinson, and Anna Schafhauser

EMILY BARTH, PIANIST

The Villanova Singers

DR. TED LATHAM, CONDUCTOR

Brothers, Sing On

Edvard Grieg
Arr. Howard D. McKinney

We Need a Little Christmas

Jerry Herman
Arr. Mark Hayes

I'll Be Home for Christmas

Kim Gannon and Walter Kent
Arr. Paul Langford

White Christmas

Irving Berlin
Arr. Roy Ringwald

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

The Christmas Waltz

Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne
Arr. Mark Hayes

Silver Bells

Jay Livingston and Ray Evans
Arr. Mark Hayes

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovich
Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Gloucestershire Wassail

Old English Carol
Arr. David Düsing

CECILIA BEATTY, PIANIST

The Combined Choirs

CHRISTINE NASS, CONDUCTOR

The Many Moods of Christmas, Suite 3

Robert Shaw (1916-1999) and
Robert Russell Bennett (1894-1981)

What Child is This?

Soloist: Katie Harrington

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

Angels We Have Heard on High

EMILY BARTH, PIANIST

The Villanova Voices

THE VILLANOVA VOICES is the longest-standing women's organization at Villanova University. The Women's Glee Club, founded by twenty ambitious students from the University's College of Nursing shortly after Villanova became coeducational in 1960, has evolved into the talented and diverse group now known as the 'Voices.' Members, hailing from all four colleges and a variety of majors, join together purely for the love of music and the strong community that develops over the course of each student's time here. Villanova doesn't offer music majors, highlighting the dedication of our members who sing simply for the joy of music and the sense of unity it fosters. 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, and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Additionally, we participate in end-of-semester concerts alongside the Villanova Singers. In recent years, the Villanova Voices have embarked on international tours, captivating audiences in Italy, Brazil, Costa Rica, Austria, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Montréal. A notable 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. Notable productions 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, Andrea Bocelli on his 2017, 2021, and 2023 tours, the Sarah Brightman "Hymn" Tour, and upcoming appearances with Zucchero this Christmas at Madison Square Garden. 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.

Emily Barth

EMILY BARTH is a sought-after accompanist and vocal coach in the Philadelphia area. She has performed at the Academy of Vocal Arts, Temple University, and West Chester University and has worked with Sister Cities Girlchoir, Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir, Opera on Tap, and the Russian Opera Workshop. She spent two summers in Skagway, Alaska performing in *The Days of '98 Show*, a long-running ragtime musical about the history of the Alaskan gold rush. Emily is also an active church musician and has served as music director at various churches across Delaware County, and currently serves as organist for Media Presbyterian Church. She earned a B.M. in Piano Performance from the Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College and an M.M. in Collaborative Piano from Florida State University where she was awarded a graduate assistantship. Former teachers include Valerie Trujillo, Jocelyn Swigger, and Jan Jiracek von Armin. Emily has worked with the Villanova Singers and Villanova Voices since 2015.

Villanova Voices Membership

Soprano I

Elizabeth Brown
Liz Champagne
Katie Harrington
Lily Holzinger
Emily Jo
Rachel Jordan*
Maria MacDonald
Kayla MacKinnon
Kaya Robinson*
Issie Russo

Soprano II

Bella DiFrancesca

Sophia Gunderson
Phoebe Keyser
Ava LaSasso
Anna Schafhauser*
Clare Vogt

Alto I

Julia Anderson
Claire Donnelly
Adriana Fernandez
Abby Gibbons*
Caitlyn Ng
Ellen Pataky
Rachel Rhee*

Nora Tiffen
Priscilla Zhang

Alto II

Max Cabral
Jane Huston
Madeline Okenquist
Jenna Parker
Bailey Proctor-Madden
Ava Studivant
Sophie Stevens

* Denotes Senior

The Villanova Voices Board

President:

Ava LaSasso

Vice President:

Sophia Gunderson

Treasurer:

Jane Huston

Fundraising

Coordinator:

Ava Studivant

Secretary:

Kayla MacKinnon

Music Librarian:

Issie Russo

Tour Director:

Max Cabral

Social Media

Director:

Nora Tiffen

Alumnae Director:

Madeline Okenquist

Publicity Director:

Emily Jo

Campus Involvement

Coordinator:

Ellen Pataky

Social Chair:

Anna Schafhauser

Assistant Social Chair

Kaya Robinson

Assistant Tour

Directors

Abby Gibbons &
Rachel Jordan

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 60-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 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 Ministries at Mother of Divine Providence Church in King of Prussia where she serves as organist and director of the choirs and String Ensemble. Ms. Beatty also teaches at St. Aloysius Academy. She directs the boys' choir and teaches piano and strings. Cecilia has performed numerous times at Carnegie Hall, the Kimmel Center and at 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 second 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 Roster

Tenor I

Warren Cho*
Jonathan Cocca*+
Marco Klisch
Jacob Long +
Shamar Long +
Jeremiah Mathew +
Garrett Schultz

Tenor II

Zach Amos
Alex Edmonds
Nick Menendez
Andrew D. Moerschel*

Mikey Murphy
Ben Schmidt
Shawn Shakiba

Bass I

Brendan Clark*
Joseph Corigliano
Derick Denecke
Ben Mongirdas +
Carter Smith
Stewart Tewksbury +

Bass II

Quinn Burns +

Rhys Davies*+
Mark Faverzani
Joey Klieman
Justin Lescavage
Andrew Patton*+
Carlos Schaver
Jacob Scotto +
Ryan Valcarcel
Eric Van Zele +
Matt Yang*
Aleko Zeppos +

+ Denotes Spire
* Denotes Senior

The Villanova Singers Board

President:

Carter Smith

Vice President:

Jonathan Cocca

Treasurer:

Aleko Zeppos

Secretary:

Rhys Davies

Fundraising

Coordinator:

Ben Mongirdas

Alumni Director:

Jacob Scotto

Publicity Director:

Matt Yang

Tour Director:

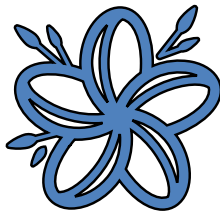
Warren Cho

Librarian:

Andrew Moerschel

Historian:

Mark Faverzani



Special thanks to the Mullen Center for hosting the Villanova Student Performing Arts Fall Semester Concerts and Showcases!

The Mullen Center would love to hear about your experience at this event!

Please scan the QR Code to complete a brief survey. Thank you!





Special Thanks to the
Villanova Singers Alumni Association
for hosting a pre-concert reception
for our students and guests.

vusingerslegacy.org

Upcoming Fall Semester Performances

Villanova Jazz Band and Chamber Strings Christmas Concert *12/3*

Jazzy Christmas tunes & serene Strings join up for this yearly Christmas Concert. The Jazz Band is led by Pete New and Chamber Strings is conducted by Anna Pulaski. Sunday, Sunday December 3rd, Topper Theatre, 2pm.

Dance Company & Ensemble Fall Showcase *12/9*

Join our talented Villanova Dancers in their semester end showcase featuring large numbers, small ensembles, and solo numbers. There's something for everyone! Saturday, December 9th, Topper Theatre, 2pm.

Villanova Band Christmas Concert *12/10*

Join us for our yearly Villanova Band Christmas Concert with great arrangements of your favorite holiday tunes!. The concert will include familiar Christmas Music, modern classics, & fun surprises! The band is conducted by Beth Sokolowski & Dave Orehowsky; Sunday, December 10th, Topper Theatre, 2pm.

Choral & A Cappella Spring Concerts

A Cappella Palooza *March 22*

Kick off the second half of spring semester with a great night of A Cappella in Jake Nevin Fieldhouse!

Voices & Singers Spring Concert *April 6*

The Singers and Voices spring concert will feature the Fauré Requiem, with the combined choirs conducted by Dr. Ted Latham, as well as individual sets that highlight our seniors! Topper Theatre, 2pm

Spring A Cappella Showcases *April 7*

Our eight a cappella groups return to the Topper Theater for three weekends of A Cappella Showcases! Friday night at 8:30pm, *April 12*
Sundays at 3:00pm *April 28*

