

SACRAMENTO
CHORAL SOCIETY
& ORCHESTRA

DONALD KENDRICK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

HOME for the
HOLIDAYS



DECEMBER 9, 2023

CONCERT SEASON 28

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MUSIC

SACRAMENTO CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

Donald Kendrick, Music Director

Finn Sagal, Guest Artist

Saturday, December 9, 2023 ~ 3 p.m.

Sacramento Memorial Auditorium

HOME for the HOLIDAYS

In loving memory of

Suzanne Kenyon 1949 – 2023

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MISSION

The mission of the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra (SCSO) is to provide world-class choral orchestral music for the people of the Greater Sacramento Region.

Since its establishment, the SCSO, conducted by Donald Kendrick, has grown to become one of the largest symphonic choruses in the United States. Members of this auditioned, volunteer, professional-caliber chorus, hailing from six different Northern California counties, have formed a unique arts partnership with their own professional symphony orchestra.

The Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra is governed by a Board of Directors responsible for the management of the Corporation. An Advisory Board and a Chorus Executive elected from within the ensemble also assist the SCSO in meeting its goals.

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Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra

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WELCOME

JAMES McCORMICK
PRESIDENT AND CEO



WELCOME HOME to Memorial Auditorium

Welcome to the SCSO's *2023 Home for the Holidays* celebration in Memorial Auditorium, the *Grande Dame* of Sacramento's performing arts venues!

This afternoon, we revel in the joy, hope and warmth of community that beautiful music creates in all of our lives. Conductor Donald Kendrick, our large chorus and orchestra, our young headliner Finn Sagal, and even Santa himself, all plan to guarantee merriment for you today. Together, we will add to the many meaningful memories that already float throughout this amazing historical landmark, reconnecting with one another as a caring community.

In this *Season of Light*, it is fitting that we dedicate today's performance in memory of our good friend **Suzanne Kenyon**, a longtime SCSO Alto who brought so much light to all of our lives through her kindness and creativity. Suzanne embodied the giving spirit of the SCSO so naturally.

We promise to regale you with more beautiful *live* music at our March 2, 2024 *European Masterworks* concert at the new SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. Please join us when we cap our 28th season on May 4 with a nostalgic trip-down-Memory-Lane performance celebrating the legacy of Broadway's most famous duo, *Rodgers and Hammerstein*.

In June 2024, we once again look forward to serving as international cultural ambassadors on another SCSO self-funded tour featuring three performances of the Mozart *Requiem* in Northern Italy—the Lake Como and Lake Maggiore region. (Reach out to us if you are a Bass with good music reading skills.)

AS WE EMBRACE 2024 TOGETHER, we continue to give heartfelt thanks to you, our patrons and supporters, our Board, our chorus and orchestra members, our stage hands, our volunteers and our City of Sacramento leaders.

From the bottom of our collective SCSO hearts, we sincerely thank you for your ongoing friendship and support, and we wish you and your families a healthy and peaceful 2024. Thanks for celebrating with us! Happy holidays!

Merry Christmas!



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The WONDER of the SEASON

CHRISTMAS CAROLS & HOLIDAY MUSIC

THE ART OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS extends back to the Middle Ages, producing a rich and complex tradition over the centuries that continues to the present day. The carol genre covers a variety of styles, involving poetic forms both popular and courtly. The international nature of the carol brings together a vast array of diverse characteristics, each expressing similar religious sentiments and beliefs but created in a wide spectrum of musical idioms ranging from polyphony (a number of parts) to simple straightforward melodies.

Music Director Donald Kendrick has once again drawn together a colorful selection of seasonal works including stunning choral and orchestral arrangements by American and English composers Randol Alan Bass, John Rutter, Robert Wendel, Barlow Bradford, Lara Hoggard, David Willcocks, Gary Fry, Leroy Anderson and even Peter Tchaikovsky!

WE HEARTILY WELCOME baritone soloist **Finn Sagal** to our stage today. Originally from La Cañada, California, Finn is a UCLA graduate in music. He joins us today from Yale University to share his versatile talent and passion, spreading good cheer all year round with his love of great music.

Dallas-based American composer Randol Alan Bass is sometimes referred to as *Father Christmas* in the choral orchestral world. His orchestrations are fantastic as evidenced in his four works on today's program.

Many of American composer Leroy Anderson's works have been heard with the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler. John Williams described him as "one of the great American masters of light orchestral music."

Utah-based American composer Barlow Bradford has garnered much well-deserved attention for his fresh harmonic coloring of standard carols and his dramatic approach to well-known songs.

English composer John Rutter always makes the holidays brighter through his charming and translucent holiday arrangements. His contribution to the choral art worldwide has been monumental.

New York-based American composer Robert Wendel has supplied music to the top 400 orchestras in America, Canada, Southeast Asia and Australia.

Gary Fry is an Emmy-winning Chicago-based composer who has completed a number of commissions for the Chicago Symphony, the Dallas Symphony and other orchestras around the nation.

LIVE MUSIC DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON provides a truly fine occasion for our Community to draw together in Memorial Auditorium, with its rich 97-year Sacramento history. The intimate horseshoe-style seating provides a perfect setting for that most welcome feeling of *connectedness* as we prepare to embrace a new year!

**Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and
Happy, Healthy 2024 from all of us in the SCSO!**

— James McCormick, PhD

Celebrating a Life of Kindness and Light



Suzanne Kenyon
1949 ♥ 2023

We dedicate today's performance in memory
of our dear friend Suzanne.

A pillar in the SCSO alto section for 20 years, she shared her talents as a singer, seamstress, stained-glass artist, woodworker, baker, decorator and world traveler.

She was also a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, in-law, sister, coworker and friend.

Eternally cheerful, with a wonderful sense of humor and bright smile, Suzanne will be remembered with enormous fondness and gratitude.



TEXT & TRANSLATION

Personent Hodie

Lara Hoggard

Personent hodie voces puerulae
laudantes iucunde qui nobis est natus,
summo Deo datus,
et de virgineo ventre procreatus.

In mundo nascitur, pannis involvitur,
praesepe ponitur stabulo brutorum,
rector supernorum.
Perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.

Magi tres venerunt munera offerunt,
parvulum inquirunt, stellulam sequendo,
ipsum adorando, aurum thus
et myrrham ei offerendo.

Omnes clericuli, pariter pueri cantent
ut angeli, advenisti mundo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Let youthful voices resound today,
joyfully praising Him who is born for us,
who is given unto us by the most high
God, and brought forth from a virgin.

He is born in the world, is wrapped in
swaddling cloths and placed in a manger in
a stable of beasts. He is ruler over all things.
(The prince of darkness has lost his prey!)

Three wise men come, bearing gifts. They
have found the Child by following a little
star. Adoring the Lord, they offer Him gold,
incense and myrrh.

Let all choristers sing now as did the angels,
praising Him who has come into all the
world: "Glory to God in the highest!"

White Christmas

Irving Berlin/Ringwald

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas just like the ones I used to know,
where the treetops glisten and children listen to hear sleigh bells in the snow.
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas with ev'ry Christmas card I write;
may your days be merry and bright, and may all your Christmases be white.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Emily Crocker

Said the night wind to the little lamb, do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb, do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite.

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song, high above the tree, with a voice as big as the sea.

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, do you know what I know?
In your palace warm mighty king, do you know what I know?
A child, a child, shivers in the cold, let us bring him silver and gold.

Said the king to the people ev'rywhere, listen to what I say!
Pray for peace, people ev'rywhere!
Listen to what I say. A child, a child sleeping in the night,
He will bring us goodness and light!

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TEXT & TRANSLATION

It Wouldn't Be Christmas Without You

Robert Wendel

I hope you can drop by this year
To share a cup of Christmas cheer, or I won't stop thinking about you.
For it wouldn't be Christmas without you.
Alone beneath the mistletoe, I'd miss you in the fire's glow.
It wouldn't feel like Christmas, no, it wouldn't be Christmas without you.

Time to hang the wreath of holly. Sing the carols bright and jolly.
All the while I'm feeling blue.
So catch a train, a cab, or sleigh. Have Santa drop you on his way
and we'll have a merry Christmas, it's true, for it wouldn't be Christmas without you!

I brave the crowds at all the stores to find the gift that will be yours,
but there's still one present left that's due.
For it wouldn't be Christmas without you.
The presents wrapped, the tree is trimmed. My Christmas spirit won't be dimmed
as long as I know that you'll come through, for it wouldn't be Christmas without you.

And when I raise my glass to toast. Absent friends we miss the most.
Please don't let that be you.
So catch a train, a cab, or sleigh. Have Santa drop you on his way
and we'll have a merry Christmas, it's true, For it wouldn't be Christmas,
it couldn't be Christmas, it wouldn't be Christmas without you.

Jingle Bells

Paul Campbell

Dashing thro' the snow, on 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. Oh!
Jingle, bells, jingle, bells, jingle all the way;
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

A day or two ago I thought I'd take a ride and soon,
Miss Fanny Bright was seated by my side.
The horse was lean and lank, misfortune seemed his lot;
He got into a drifted bank and then we got upsot. Jingle, bells...

A day or two ago, The story I must tell, I went out on the snow
And on my back I fell. A gent was riding by In a one-horse open sleigh,
He laughed as there I sprawling lie, But quickly drove away. Oh!
Jingle, bells...

Now the ground is white; Go it while you're young,
Take the girls tonight, And sing this sleighing song.
Just get a bob-tailed bay, Two-forty for his speed;
Then hitch him to an open sleigh And crack! you'll take the lead. Oh!
Jingle, bells...



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TEXT & TRANSLATION

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Barlow Bradford

Christmas future is far away, Christmas past is past.
Christmas present is here to stay, bringing joy that will last.
Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be light.
From now on our troubles will be out of sight.
Have yourself a merry little Christmas, make the yuletide gay.
From now on our troubles will be miles away.
Here we are as in olden days. Happy golden days of yore.
Faithful friends who are dear to us, gather near to us once more.
Through the years we all will be together if the fates allow,
Until then we'll have to muddle through somehow.
So, have yourself a merry little Christmas now, a merry little Christmas.

O Come All Ye Faithful

Dan Forrest

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.
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come let us adore Him...

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!
O come let us adore Him...

Bell Carols

Randol Alan Bass

Ding, dong merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing.
Ding, dong verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, you ringers;
May you beautifully rime your eve'time song ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells, all seem to say: throw cares away.
Christmas is here bringing good cheer to young and old, meek and the bold;
Ding, dong and dong, that is their song with joyful ring all caroling.
Ding, dong, ding, dong...
One seems to hear words of good cheer from ev'rywhere filling the air;
Oh how they pound raising the sound o'er hill and dale telling their tale.
Hear, hear them ring—while people sing— songs of good cheer;
Christmas is here: Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas.
Ding, Christmas bells. Dong, Christmas bells.
On, on they send; on without end, their joyful tone to ev'ry home.

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TEXT & TRANSLATION

Seasonal Sounds

Randol Alan Bass

I JUST CAME BACK from a lovely trip along the Milky Way;
I stopped off at the north pole to spend a holiday.
I called on dear old Santa Claus to see what I could see;
He took me to his workshop and told his plans to me.

Oh, you better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout, I'm tellin' you why:
Santa Claus is comin' to town. He's makin' a list And checkin' it twice;
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice. Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He sees you when you're sleepin', he knows when you're awake,
He knows when you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake!
Oh, you better watch out, You better not cry, better not pout,
I'm tellin' you why: Santa Claus is comin' to town.

Now Santa is a busy man, he has no time to play.
He's got millions of stockings to fill on Christmas Day.
You'd better write your letter now and mail it right away
Because he's getting ready his reindeer and his sleigh.

With little tin horns and little toy drums, rooty-toot-toot and rummy tum tums;
Santa Claus is comin' to town. And curlyhead dolls that doddle and coo,
Elephants, boats, and kiddie cars too; Santa Claus is comin' to town.

The kids in Girl and Boy-land will have a jubilee,
They're gonna build a toy-land town all around the Christmas tree.
So, you better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout,
I'm telling you why: Santa Claus is comin' to town!

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?

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.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say:
"Rudolph, with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"
Then, how the reindeer lov'd him as they shouted out with glee:
"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, you'll go down in history!"

FROSTY, THE SNOWMAN, was a jolly happy soul,
With a corn cob pipe and a button nose and two eyes made out of coal.
Frosty the Snowman is a fairy tale, they say; he was made of snow,
but the children know how he came to life one day.

There must have been some magic in yhat old silk hat they found,
For when they placed it on his head he began to dance around!

Oh, Frosty the Snowman was alive as he could be
And the children say he could laugh and play just the same as you and me.
Frosty the Snowman knew the sun was hot that day
So he said, "Let's run, and we'll have some fun now before I melt away."

TEXT & TRANSLATION

Down to the village with a broomstick in his hand,
Running here and there, all around the square; sayin', "Catch me if you can."

He led them down the streets of town right to the traffic cop
And he only paused a moment when he heard him holler "Stop!"
Frosty, the Snowman had to hurry on his way,
But he waved good-bye, sayin', "Don't you cry, I'll be back again some day!"

DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW in a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go, a-laughing all the way.
Bells on bob-tail ring, to make our spirits bright;
What fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song tonight.

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way! Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh. Hey! Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way!

A day or two ago, he thought he'd take a ride,
I, Miss Fannie Bright was seated by his side.
The horse was lean and lank; misfortune seem'd his lot;
he got into a drifted bank, And we, we got upsot.

Oh, jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way!
What fun it is to ride In a one-horse open sleigh.
Oh, jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride and sing on Christmas Day!

Donald Kendrick, Music Director

MESSIAH SING-ALONG

Tue, December 26
at 2:00 pm

Ryan Enright, Organist

*Come sing Handel's entire Messiah
(including the soloists' parts)*

First United Methodist Church
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TEXT & TRANSLATION

Deck the Hall

Carmen Dragon

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Fa la la . . .
'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la . . .
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la . . .
Troll the ancient Christmas carol, Fa la la . . .

Winter Wonderland

Finn Sagal

Gary Fry

Over the ground lies a mantle of white, a heaven of diamonds shone down
through the night; two hearts are thrillin' in spite of the chill in the weather.
Love knows no season, love knows no clime, romance can blossom any old time;
Here in the open, we're walkin' and hopin' together.

Sleigh bells ring are you listening in the lane snow is glistening
A beautiful sight we're happy tonight walkin' in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird here to stay is a new bird; He sings a love song
as we go along walkin' in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman, and pretend that he's a circus clown;
We'll have lots of fun with Mister Snowman, until the little kiddies knock him down.

When it snows, ain't it thrillin', tho' your nose gets a chillin'?
We'll frolic and play the Eskimo way, walkin' in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow, we can build a snowman, and pretend that he is Parson Brown;
He'll say, "Are you married?" We'll say, "No man! But you can do the job
when you're in town."

Later on we'll conspire as we dream by the fire, to face unafraid
the plans that we've made, walkin' in a winter wonderland.

Still, Still, Still

Barlow Bradford

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.

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

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.

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS **RANDOL ALAN BASS**

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.
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, glory in the highest; O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

AWAY IN A MANGER, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky look'd down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

THE FIRST NOEL, the angels did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to the heav'nly
Lord, that hath made heav'n and earth of naught
and with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

SING - A L O N G

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME!

Let earth receive her King. Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
nations prove the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love.

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.

Silent night, Holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia."
Christ the saviour is born, Christ the saviour is born."

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING:

"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconcil'd."
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays his glory by, born that man no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King."

TEXT & TRANSLATION

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Randal Alan Bass

ON THE FIRST DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE SECOND DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE THIRD DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE FOURTH DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE FIFTH DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE SIXTH DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: six geese a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE SEVENTH day of Christmas my true love gave to me: seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE EIGHTH DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE NINTH DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.

ON THE TENTH DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me:

ON THE TWELFTH DAY of Christmas my true love gave to me: twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear. . . in a pear tree!

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TEXT & TRANSLATION

I Sing of a Maiden

John Rutter

I sing of a maiden that is make-less:
King of all Kings to her son she ches.

He came all so still there his mother was,
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came all so still to his mother's bower,
As dew in April that falleth on the flow'r.

He came all so still there his mother lay.
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden was never none but she;
Well may such a lady Goddess mother be.

Hallelujah! *Chorus from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah!
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ.
And He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah!
King of Kings, forever and ever, and Lord of Lords, forever and ever, Hallelujah!
And He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah!

Somewhere In My Memory

John Williams

Candles in the window, shadows painting the ceiling,
Gazing at the fire glow, feeling that gingerbread feeling.
Precious moments, special people, happy faces, I can see.

Somewhere in my mem'ry, Christmas joys all around me.
Living in my mem'ry, all of the music, all of the magic,
All of the fam'ly home here with me.

Silent Night

Philip Stopford

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.

Silent night, holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night. Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Randol Alan Bass

We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas,
we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

GUEST ARTIST



Finn Sagal, Bass Baritone

Finn Sagal, a 23-year-old California native is taking the worlds of classical and operatic music by storm. He grew up in a musical family, playing saxophone at age eight, and eventually falling in love with singing. He won the 2017 Songbook Academy Competition and toured the country, performing with the likes of Michael Feinstein, Liza Minnelli and Kristin Chenoweth.

A 2022 graduate of UCLA's Vocal Performance program, he played prominent roles while studying there, including Pluton in *La descente d'Orphele aux enfers* by Charpentier, Figaro by Mozart and Nick Shadow in *The Rake's Progress* by Stravinsky.

Finn is currently completing a Masters in Music at the Yale School of Music, studying with Gerald Martin Moore. With Yale Opera he has played the roles of Junius in their production of *The Rape of Lucretia*, the Tutor in *Le Comte Ory* and will sing Nick Shadow in *The Rake's Progress* in February 2024.

With his sights set on a future in opera, Finn spent the summer of 2023 in San Francisco's famed Merola Opera Program, where young opera singers participate in an intensive 12-week program to further develop their talents. He was one of only 28 students selected for the program from more than 1,300 international applicants.

Up next, he will be joining the Ryan Opera Center training program at the Lyric Opera of Chicago for the 2024-2025 season. We are delighted to welcome Finn Sagal to the stage.

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MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Donald Kendrick

A native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Donald Kendrick first arrived in Sacramento in 1985 to become the Director of Choral Activities at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). For the past 38 years, he has worked diligently to create awareness of the power and importance of the choral and choral orchestral art via three important pillars in our society: Community, State, and Church. His impact as an educator and conductor has greatly enhanced the quality of life in our region and has resonated on national and international levels.



In 1996, Don became the founding conductor of the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra (SCSO), the only chorus among the 12,000 community choruses in the United States to have a collective bargaining agreement with a professional orchestra. The SCSO regularly presents choral orchestral concerts in Sacramento at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, Memorial Auditorium and Fremont Presbyterian Church. Under Don's leadership, SCSO also undertakes extensive education and outreach to Veterans and countless nonprofits serving the underprivileged.

Under Don's direction, the SCSO has produced eleven professionally mastered CDs and has a unique KVIE PBS documentary that is shown throughout the United States. (Available on YouTube) He has received numerous awards including a "Legend of the Arts" award from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission for his dedication to our Community.

In May 1995, Don made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in a performance of Verdi's *Requiem*. In May 2003, he returned to Carnegie Hall with the SCSO to conduct a triumphant performance of Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

Don and the SCSO have represented Sacramento as great international choral ambassadors around the world with performances in Europe in Munich, Prague, Vienna and Budapest (2004), in Venice, Lucca and at the Vatican in Rome (2013), in Notre Dame in Paris, the American Cemetery, L'Abbaye St. Martin de Mondaye (Normandy), and St. Paul's Cathedral in London (2015), and in Latvia, Estonia and Finland (2017). Don also led a contingent of 220 Sacramento singers and guests to China with performances in Beijing, Tianjin, Xian, Jinan (Sacramento's Sister City) and a special performance on the Great Wall. In 2008 he made his debut with the SCSO in LA's Disney Hall in a well-received performance of the Mozart *Requiem*. In 2009 Don led the SCSO on a tour of Western Canada with performances in Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia.

In 1993, Don co-founded the Sacramento Children's Chorus (SCC) with his former graduate student Lynn Stevens. The SCC regularly partners with the SCSO in their performances.

Don is also Organist and Director of Music at Sacramento's Sacred Heart Church where he conducts Vox Nova and Schola Cantorum. The latter ensemble has

MUSIC DIRECTOR

recorded eight professionally mastered CDs and has toured throughout North America, Spain, England, Italy, Austria and Germany.

During his tenure at Sacramento State, Don oversaw the growth of three choirs, taught advanced conducting, led his students on international tours to Europe, China and Canada, and produced countless memorable performances. He also established the Graduate program in Choral Conducting. Don took great pleasure in linking Sacramento State to the Community, and he was awarded one of the University's first Community Outreach Awards in 2004. He was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Capitol Section of the California Music Educators Association (CMEA). He organized high school festivals such as "Real Men Sing" and the "Women's High School Festival," and has served as the Choral Representative of the CMEA-Capitol Section, providing young singers with the opportunity to experience excellence in choral music together.

Don studied at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, and he holds a doctoral degree from the Eastman School of Music where he also served on the faculty. In addition to Sac State, he has taught at Louisiana State University, the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music in Stockton and at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan.

As Don embraces his semi-retirement years, we are pleased that he is continuing to guide and nurture the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra.

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*We invite you to put your passion for the arts
to work for the good of the community.*

WE ARE THRILLED to recruit **new members** to our growing Board as we continue our mission to provide world-class choral-orchestral music to our community. We seek talented, enthusiastic individuals who embrace our mission and can help in a variety of ways, including Community Outreach, Marketing & Social Media, Tech, Fundraising, Legal, Finance, and more.

Prior Board experience is not required, both singers and non-singers are encouraged to apply. Our members serve a minimum two-year term, during which they actively participate in ensuring our continued success and forging new personal and professional alliances along the way.

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