

Home for the Holidays

**Saturday,
December 13**

3:00pm

Audience Sing-Along

Sacramento Memorial Auditorium

***Celebrating 30
Amazing Years!***



CONDUCTOR Donald Kendrick

HEADLINER Sam Faustine

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Home for the Holidays

Donald Kendrick, Music Director
Sam Faustine, Guest Artist

Personent Hodie
A Christmas Festival

I

Lara Hoggard
Nigel Hess

O Come All Ye Faithful
The Very Best Time of the Year
Home For the Holidays
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
Magnificat

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Taylor Scott Davis
John Rutter
Mark Hayes
Barlow Bradford
Taylor Scott Davis

O Holy Night
I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In
A Child's Christmas in Wales
Hallelujah (Messiah)

III

John Rutter
Taylor Scott Davis
Gary Fry
G.F.Handel

INTERMISSION

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AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

Sing We Now of Christmas Randol Alan Bass
O Come/Away in a Manger/First Noel/Joy to World/Silent Night/Hark!

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella
It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Joy to the World

V

Barlow Bradford
Mark Hayes
Taylor Scott Davis
Taylor Scott Davis

Sleigh Ride
Believe
The Twelve Days of Christmas

VI

Leroy Anderson
Gary Fry
Randol Alan Bass

Away in a Manger
Silent Night
We Wish You A Merry Christmas

VII

Taylor Scott Davis
Taylor Scott Davis
Randol Alan Bass

The mission of your Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra (SCSO) is to provide worldclass choral orchestral music for the people of the Greater Sacramento Region and beyond.

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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WELCOME

James McCormick

President & CEO

Dear Patrons, Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of your entire Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra (SCSO) and our Board, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our Home for the Holidays celebration. Today's concert marks a significant milestone as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of this beloved annual performance, a cherished tradition that has brought joy to the Sacramento community for three decades.

We are honored to share this special occasion with you in the historic Memorial Auditorium. Known affectionately as the Grande Dame of Performing Arts Venues in Sacramento, this magnificent venue provides the perfect, grand backdrop for our holiday celebration. As we bask in its grandeur today, we also look forward to its own momentous milestone, its 100th anniversary in 2026.

Over these past thirty years, the SCSO has grown in size and artistic ambition, guided by a commitment to musical excellence and community enrichment. SCSO conductor Donald Kendrick, our dedicated volunteer chorus and talented professional orchestra members have worked tirelessly to prepare a program that captures the true spirit of the season. Today's performance is not just a concert; it's a testament to the power of music to bring people together, creating lasting memories and reinforcing the bonds that make Sacramento a wonderful place to live and celebrate the holidays.

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence makes this anniversary celebration even more special. With your ongoing friendship and support, we look forward to charting the SCSO's course for the next 30 years and beyond!

We collectively wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a healthy and peaceful 2026.

JOIN US IN THE 2025-2026 SEASON

Performances at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center – 1301 L St, Sacramento 95814



OPERA - *Bluebeard's Castle*

Ari Peltó, conductor
David Lefkovich, director
BARTÓK *Bluebeard's Castle*

Saturday
Nov 22, 2025
7:30 PM



Tchaikovsky and Schumann

Ari Peltó, conductor
Zlatomir Fung, cello

Saturday
Jan 31, 2026
7:30 PM



Appalachian Spring

George Manahan, conductor

Saturday
Feb 28, 2026
7:30 PM



OPERA - *La traviata*

Sahar Nouri, conductor
VERDI *La traviata*

Friday
Mar 20, 2026
7:30 PM

Sunday
Mar 22, 2026
2:00 PM



Love and Death: From Romeo & Juliet to Faure's Requiem

Melisse Brunet, conductor
Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera Chorus

Saturday
Apr 25, 2026
7:30 PM



Beethoven Symphony No. 9

Ari Peltó, conductor
Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera Chorus
Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra Chorus

Saturday
May 30, 2026
7:30 PM

Sunday
May 31, 2026
2:00 PM

COMING TO THE SOFIA IN JUNE 2026!

The Sofia, Home of B Street Theater – 2700 Capitol Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816



Chamber Opera - *Three Decembers*

Ryan Murray, conductor
Vaughn Irving, director
HEGGIE *Three Decembers*

Friday
June 12, 2026
7:30 PM

Sunday
June 14, 2026
2:00 PM

Buy tickets online



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Merry Christmas!



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The Wonder of Christmas

THE ART OF THE CHRISTMAS CAROL 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.

For our milestone 30th anniversary season, Music Director Donald Kendrick has once again drawn together a colorful selection of seasonal works ranging from Lara Hoggard's magical dramatic opening of the concert to stunning recent choral orchestral arrangements by American and English composers.

WE HEARTILY WELCOME our headliner Sam Faustine to our stage, not as the Roasted Swan in *Carmina Burana* or as Curly in *Oklahoma*, but as a tenor who will regale us with warm Christmas musical memories.

We are thrilled to once again feature delightful holiday works by Leroy Anderson, Mark Hayes, English composer John Rutter, Utah-based composer Barlow Bradford, and even Mr. Handel himself!

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 works in today's program.

Gary Fry is an Emmy-winning Chicago-based composer who has completed many commissions for the Chicago Symphony and the Dallas Symphony. His magical setting of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* will help us re-discover the wonder of Christmas as seen through a child's eyes.

Today we are excited to showcase 6 choral orchestral works by Taylor Scott Davis, a young rising star composer based in Plano, Texas. His music has been described as sonically luxurious, with evocative and memorable melodies underpinned by soulful orchestrations that inspire hope. His lush harmonies exude a rich musical language and a strong sense of narrative.

We salute and thank Conductor Donald Kendrick and our amazing and dedicated SCSO Team of Musicians for offering their gift of beautiful music all year long.

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.”

—French novelist Marcel Proust

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy, Healthy 2026 from all of us in the SCSO!

—James McCormick, PhD

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Donald Kendrick, Conductor

Sacred Heart Church
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Saturday December 20, 2025 • 7:30 pm
Sunday December 21, 2025 • 2:00 pm

Tickets: \$20 General; \$15 Students/Seniors

Advance tickets online: scholacantorum.com/listen/concerts

850-545-4298 Some tickets available at the door



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, praesepi 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.

Translation

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!)

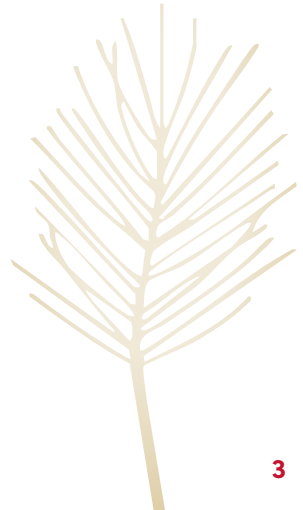
Three wise men come, bearing gifts.
They have found the Child by following
a little star. Adoring the Lord, they offer
Him gold, incense and myrrh.

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

O Come All Ye Faithful

Taylor Scott Davis

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...



The Very Best Time of Year

John Rutter

Christmas trees and boughs of holly, Yuletide logs and mistletoe;
Candles burning bright, and meadows frosty white,
And faces in the firelight's glow;
Sounds of happy children's voices singing carols that you love to hear;
Then the silence of the night And the winter air so still and clear.
Feels like you could reach and touch the sky, Or catch a star and fly away;
Feels like you could wish for peace on earth,
And all at once it would come, some day.
Families and friends together Feel a special kind of love and cheer,
Sharing all the joys of Christmas time The very best time of year.
That shining, magic time of year.

Home for the Holidays

Mark Hayes

Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays
'Cause no matter how far away you roam
When you pine for the sunshine of a friendly gaze
For the holidays you can't beat home, sweet home

I met a man who lives in Tennessee
And he was headin' for
Pennsylvania and some homemade pumpkin pie
From Pennsylvania folks are trav'lin' down
To Dixie's sunny shore
From Atlantic to Pacific, gee,
The traffic is terrific!

Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays
'Cause no matter how far away you roam
If you want to be happy in a million ways
For the holidays you can't beat home, sweet home



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.

Magnificat

Taylor Scott Davis

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
Et exultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo,
Quia respexit humilitatem
ancillae suae:
ecce enim ex hoc
beatam, me dicent omnes
generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna,
qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius,

Translation

My soul magnifies the Lord.
And my spirit has rejoiced
in God my Saviour,
For he has regarded the low estate
of his handmaiden:
for behold, henceforth all
generations
shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty
has done great things to me:
and holy is his Name.



O Holy Night

John Rutter/Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices! O night, divine!
O night when Christ was born, O night divine.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.

The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger;
Behold your King! before him bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy Name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.



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*Also sings Tenor
in the awesome
SCSO chorus!*

I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In

Taylor Scott Davis

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?
And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas day in the morning?

Our Savior Christ and His lady,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
Our Savior Christ and His lady,
On Christmas day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all
three,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day?
Pray whither sailed those ships all
three,
On Christmas day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,

O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on Earth shall ring,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the bells on Earth shall ring,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the angels in Heav'n shall
sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the angels in Heav'n shall
sing,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the souls on Earth shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
And all the souls on Earth shall sing,
On Christmas day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
Then let us rejoice amain,
On Christmas day in the morning.

Hallelujah!

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!



AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

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.



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."

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Barlow Bradford

Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella
Bring A Torch, Come Swiftly And Run
Christ Is Born, Tell The Folk Of The
Village

Jesus Is Sleeping In His Cradle
Ah! Ah! Beautiful Is The Mother
Ah! Beautiful Is Her Child.

It Is Wrong When The Child Is
Sleeping
It Is Wrong To Speak So Loud;
Silence All, As You Gather Around
Lest Your Noise Should Waken Jesus
Hush! Hush! See How Fast He
Slumbers
Hush! See How Fast He Sleeps!

Hasten Now, Good Folk Of The
Village
Hasten Now, The Christ-Child To See
You Will Find Him Asleep In The
Manger
Quietly Come And Whisper Softly
Hush! Hush! Peacefully Now He
Slumbers
Hush! Peacefully Now He Sleeps!

Softly Now Unto The Little Stable,
Softly For A Moment Come!
Look And See How Charming Is Jesus,
Look At Him There, His Cheeks Are
Rosy!
Hush! Hush! See How The Child Is
Sleeping;
Hush! See How He Smiles In His
Dreams.

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Mark Hayes

It's the most wonderful time of
the year
With the kids jingle belling
And everyone telling you "Be of
good cheer"

It's the most wonderful time of
the year
It's the hap-happiest season of all
With those holiday greetings and
gay happy meetings
When friends come to call
It's the hap-happiest season of all

There'll be parties for hosting
Marshmallows for toasting
And caroling out in the snow
There'll be scary ghost stories
And tales of the glories of
Christmases long, long ago

It's the most wonderful time of
the year
There'll be much mistltoeing
And hearts will be glowing
When loved ones are near
It's the most wonderful time of
the year

It's the most wonderful time of
the year
There'll be much mistltoeing
And hearts will be glowing
When love ones are near
It's the most wonderful time
It's the most wonderful time
It's the most wonderful time of
the year

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Taylor Scott Davis

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Joy to the World

Taylor Scott Davis

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and
nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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, wonders, of His love.



Believe

Gary Fry

Children sleeping
Snow is softly falling
Dreams are calling
Like bells in the distance

We were dreamers
Not so long ago
But one by one, we
All had to grow up

When it seems the magic's slipped
away
We find it all again on Christmas day

Believe in what your heart is saying
Hear the melody that's playing
There's no time to waste
There's so much to celebrate
Believe in what you feel inside
And give your dreams the wings to fly
You have everything you need
If you just believe

Trains move quickly
To their journey's end
Destinations

Are where we begin again

Ships go sailing
Far across the sea
Trusting starlight
To get where they need to be

When it seems that we have lost
our way
We find ourselves again on
Christmas day

Believe in what your heart is saying
Hear the melody that's playing
There's no time to waste
There's so much to celebrate
Believe in what you feel inside
And give your dreams the wings
to fly
You have everything you need
If you just believe
If you just believe

If you just believe
Just believe
Just believe

California/Canada Goodwill *Entre Amis* Concert Tour

MOZART REQUIEM — JUNE 2026

Montréal / Québec City / Ottawa



The Twelve Days of Christmas

Randol 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, even 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 sent to me: 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 tree.

ON THE ELEVENTH DAY of Christmas, my true love sent to me: 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 tree.

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!

Away in a Manger

Taylor Scott Davis

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
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.

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 take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.



Silent Night

Taylor Scott Davis

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



Thank You, Diane McCormack

Today's *Home for the Holidays* performance pays tribute to Diane McCormack and her remarkable 29-year legacy with the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra. As our Graphic Designer, Program Book Coordinator, SCSO Alto, Board Member, World Traveler, Donor, and Friend, Diane's gracious manner and natural talent elevated the SCSO's mission for nearly three decades and left an enduring impact on our community.

A 29-Year Legacy of Design

Celebrating Diane's exceptional creativity and dedication to the SCSO.

Defining Our Elegant Style

Honoring the aesthetic that shaped the SCSO's public image and showcased our organization to the world.

Visual Storyteller

From program books and posters to banners and brochures, Diane's meticulous designs captured the spirit of every performance.



Giving Our Collective SCSO heartfelt thanks to our DEDICATED CHORUS OPERATIONS TEAM

Did you know that our volunteer 40+ Member Chorus Operations Team provides solid support every week for the SCSO to keep humming a happy tune?

Kudos and special thanks to our:

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Sam Faustine, Tenor

Sam Faustine (AEA/AGMA) is no stranger to the SCSO's stage, having appeared as the Roasted Swan in *Carmina Burana* in May 2023 and as Tenor soloist in our May 2024 *Rodgers & Hammerstein Celebration*.

A San Francisco native, Sam is an award-winning singer and actor who performs a wide-variety of genres ranging from baroque opera to modern musical theater. Enjoyed for his versatility, Sam has appeared in Europe, China, and across the US in concerts and in roles such as Tony in *West Side Story*, Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*, Prunier in *La Rondine*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, The Baker in *Into the Woods* and many more.

Sam is also known as an oratorio and concert soloist, and has been hired by many companies including the San Francisco Symphony, California Bach Soloists, San Jose Symphonic Choir, among others. He is known in particular for his 'Roasted Swan' aria in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, having performed the piece several times around the country. Sam is also an active member of the Bay Area's sacred music and choral community, and frequently performs around the region, most notably with the San Francisco Symphony, Gaude, Volti SF, Cappella SF, and Grace Cathedral where he sings counter-tenor in addition to tenor.

Sam is energized by New Music, and has worked intimately with several composers and creators, in recordings and live performances. In 2020 he was a part of a GRAMMY Award winning recording of Terry Riley's *Sun Rings Album*, a collaboration with Kronos Quartet. Sam found his roots and passion for performance with San Francisco's beloved Lamplighters Music Theatre, having played leading roles in 10+ productions from 2014–2019. His favorites include Colonel Fairfax, Robin Oakapple, and more.

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John Hillebrandt

John Hillebrandt enjoys a distinguished career as a pianist, composer, and educator. Each season, John presents acclaimed solo recitals, chamber performances, concertos, and original works. After a 15-year tenure at California State University, Stanislaus, where

he gave more than 500 performances as staff accompanist and lecturer, he retired in 2011. Since 1996, Hillebrandt has served as Principal Pianist and Keyboardist for the Modesto Symphony Orchestra.

Much in demand as a master piano teacher, he has taught many award-winning students, and is a regular adjudicator for the United States Open Music Competition, the Music Teachers' Association of California, and others. He is also currently teaching a course in Music Appreciation for which he wrote his own curriculum at Modesto Junior College, and performs regularly on faculty artist concerts.

The Modesto Symphony Orchestra featured the world premier of the newly revised Hillebrandt Piano Concerto in November, 2013. The MSO has featured other of Hillebrandt's creative work in past seasons, including "Fantasy on French Carols" for chorus and orchestra, two new compositions for chamber orchestra, and Vivaldi's "Four Seasons," featuring original realizations on the harpsichord.

Over the years, pianist and composer John Hillebrandt has been featured in regional and national arts coverage for both his performances and his original compositions. *Capital Public Radio* described his work, *Transcendental Hymn-Fantasies*, as the culmination of years reimagining a number of the well-known church hymns he grew up with "a new, concert-etude form blending virtuosity with reflection." (*Insight Music*, Sept 19 2019).

Dr. Hillebrandt and his wife Ramona are avid skiers and mountaineers. Climbs include the Grand Teton, Mt. Shasta, Mt. Rainier, and Mt. Whitney; and Hillebrandt has hiked to the top of Half Dome in Yosemite more than 50 times.

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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 40 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.

Don and the SCSO have represented Sacramento as great international choral ambassadors around the world with performances 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. In 2008 he made his debut with the SCSO in LA's Disney Hall in a well-received performance of the Mozart Requiem.

In 1993, Don co-founded the Sacramento Children's Chorus (SCC) with his former graduate student Lynn Stevens. The SCC regularly partnered 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 recorded eight professionally mastered CDs and has toured throughout North America, Spain, England, Italy, Austria, Germany and the Baltics.

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 Sacramento 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, as the SCSO Board helps prepare the way for an important leadership transition in the near future.



SUPPORT SCSO

CELEBRATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

As your SCSO celebrates its milestone 30th anniversary this season, our Board of Directors is hard at work on a strategic plan, led by the national arts management consulting firm AMS Planning & Research.

When completed, in the near future, the plan will lay the groundwork for the next 30 years of commitment to artistic excellence, inspiring choral orchestral repertoire, and community engagement. Most importantly, your SCSO will continue to enhance the quality of life in the Sacramento region and beyond through our large musical Team’s dedication and commitment.

Your support is essential and appreciated as we undertake this exciting journey to shape the future of music in Sacramento.



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