



Alma College
presents

A Festival of Carols

Featuring
College Chorale
Alma Acapella
The Alma Choir
Alma Chamber Orchestra

Will Nichols, conductor
Takeshi Abo, conductor
James Schippers, pianist

Saturday, December 2, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 3, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Remick Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall

Welcome Yule!

*Tonight, I feel my spirit fly way up into the heaven high,
Where angels sing in harmony on golden clouds and pearly seas.
Tonight, I feel that I could be like angels pure and heavenly
And shine like stars above on all the world and those I love.*

The Festival of Carols marks the traditional beginning of the Christmas season on the campus of Alma College. Generations of Alma singers have spent their Novembers rehearsing together to prepare, perfect and memorize the carols they would offer. For some fifty years Christmas concerts were sung in the friendly confines of the College Chapel and in 1993, with the opening of this building, our concerts moved to the Heritage Center for the Performing Arts.

The names and number of choirs have changed – from the A Cappella Choir, to the Alma Choir, Glee Clubs, Chorale, Scots on the Rocks and Pretty in Plaid. The size of the choirs has ebbed and flowed. Uniforms have changed from robes to puffy sleeves, from tail coats and sparkly dresses to tuxes and tartan – and even the conductors have changed. Dr. Gene Groves led the choir in the 1940s. Dr. Ernie Sullivan followed and propelled the choir to great heights over twenty-eight years. Dr. Brian Winter took over in the

late 1970s and passed the baton to me in 1983. Through all the changes the music of Christmas has been a constant – as has the talent, dedication and good cheer of the students who make up the Alma choirs and orchestra.

Choir members and alumni know about dedication, about long rehearsals, choir friendships, and tradition. As always, many choir alumni are in the audience today. Their presence leads me to break tradition – or better yet, start a new tradition – and ask the audience to sing with the choirs on two community carols: *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. Please add your voice to the joyful throng and, if you're willing to sing the high notes, third verse descants are in your program

In this, my final Festival of Carols I wish to thank all who have made my life with, and memories of, the Alma College Choirs so grand.

Will Nichols

*I feel content and whole tonight, my heart is filled with pure delight.
Oh, will it always be this way? Or will it change, now who can say?
A gentle snow is on the ground, on bush and tree and all around,
The sleigh bells jingle peacefully, and I'm as happy as can be.*

from *A Gentle Snow is on the Ground*
a Latvian carol by Andrejs Jansons

Program

Adeste Fideles

Soloists: Jennifer Dake, Alina Malinowski, Heather Kaatz,
Elise Bacon, Angela Mish, Cohen Schroeder

O Come All Ye Faithful..... Anthony Patterson and Justin Rito, arrs.
(soprano descant for verse 3 provided below)

Audience, Choirs and Orchestra

Vs. 1

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

Vs. 2

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the father, now in flesh appearing,
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

Vs. 3

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God in the highest,
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

Sing choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
Sing all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Glo - - - - - ry in the high - est.
O come, O come
let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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Program – continued

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.....Mark Riese, arr.
Combined Choirs and Orchestra

Sussex Carol Will Nichols and Anthony Patterson, arrs.
Dr. Lindabeth Binkley, oboe
Alma Choir

Brightest and Best Shawn Kirchner
Dr. Takeshi Abo, violin
Alma Choir

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening..... Robert Frost
Ruth Artman
College Chorale

Joy to the World
Combined Choirs

A Gentle Snow Lay on the GroundAndrejs Jansons
Treble voices of the Alma Choirs

Shepherds Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep Will Nichols and Anthony Patterson, arrs.
Elyor Goforuv, clarinet
Treble voices of the Alma Choirs

Sheep May Safely Graze J. S. Bach
Alma Chamber Orchestra

We Three Kings..... Deke Sharon, arr.
Scots on the Rocks

Last Christmas Wham! / Julie Gaulke, arr.
Pretty in Plaid

Baby, It's Cold Outside.....Frank Loesser / Julie Gaulke, arr.
Alma Acapella
Soloists: Jaelyn Lance-Trout and Tyler Horstman
David Troyer and Ella Bright
Evie Glaves and Taylor Stenger

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This Christmastide Donald Fraser
Combined Choirs

Mary's Little Boy Chil' Jester Hairston, arr.
Soloists: Moss Ely, Grant Wiliford, Miranda Avolio, David Troyer
Steelpan solo: Ainsley Kinney
Combined Choirs

Fum, Fum, Fum..... Mack Wilberg, arr.
Alma Choir

Kalanta of the New Year Malcolm Dalglish
Ainsley Kinney and Audrey Merrifield, xylophone soloists
College Chorale

Hodie Christus Natus est Healey Willan
(Today Christ is Born)
Alma Choir

Sing We Now of Christmas Fred Prentice
Alma Choir

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing..... Anthony Patterson and Justin Rito, arrs.
(soprano descant for verse 3 provided below)
Audience, Choirs and Orchestra

Vs. 1

Hark! The herald angels sing, "glory to the newborn king."
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise. Join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic hosts proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing, "glory to the newborn king."

Vs. 2

Christ, by highest heaven adored. Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "glory to the newborn king."

Program – continued

Vs. 3

Hail! The heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "glory to the newborn king."

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes on each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, the fourth staff the fourth line, and the fifth staff the fifth line. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and slurs.

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righ - teous-ness!

Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new born King!"

I Saw Three Ships.....Mack Wilberg, arr.

Combined Choirs and orchestra

Alma Choirs

James Schippers and Vicki Walker, rehearsal accompanists

Chorale

Quinn Addy
Mackenzie Bennetts
Catie Carey
Linnae DeBoer
Regan Elliott
Anna Fein
Emerson Inzeo
Reyna Jayson
Siyeon Jeong
Cassandra McGaugh
Regan Mockerman
Elizabeth Mukurazita
Victoria Posey
Lydia Schramm
Lucie Troyer
Alison Wanink
Mary Webb

Alma Choir

Soprano

Elise Bacon
Ella Bright
Katie Dunaway
Moss Ely
Evie Graves
Faron Grossman
MiShaye Hearn
Fiona Johnston
Jaelyn Lance-Trout
Aubrey Martin
Taylor Pepitone
Rose Robichaud

Alto

Miranda Avolio
Kia Blyzniuk
Jennifer Dake
Alice Hutchins
Heather Kaatz
Chetara Knight
Alina Malinowski
Jerrica Marietti
Angela Mish
Taylor Stenger
Skye Wilcox

Tenor

Killian Glover
Tyler Hoag
Delilah Nethercott
Grant Wiliford
Bass
Jeff Bonomo
Tony Brenes
Carson Dail
Raven Gregory
Tyler Horstman
Cohen Schroeder
David Troyer
Chris Ulysse

Alma Acapella

Elise Bacon
Ella Bright
Jennifer Dake
Moss Ely
Evie Graves
MiShaye Hearn

Aubree Martin
Angela Mish
Jaelyn Lance-Trout
Taylor Pepitone
Taylor Stenger
Jeff Bonomo
Tony Brenes

Carson Dail
Killian Glover
Tyler Horstman
Delilah Nethercott
David Troyer
Grant Wiliford

Alma Chamber Orchestra

Violin I

Takeshi Abo, concert master
Abby Skerik
Lex Flint
Linnae Deboer

Violin II

Melanie Jorgensen
Hannah Abner
Katie Setterlund
Geunyoung Kim

Viola

Jan Caputo
Corbin Holtz

Violist

Dilek Engin

Cello

Emma Adams
Madison Neu
Morgan Brow
Lydia Schramm

Double Bass

Rowan Flaherty
Frank Karl
Billy Poulos

Flute

Dr. Tess Miller
Gino Rimanelli

Oboe

Dr. Lindabeth Binkley

Clarinet

Elyor Goforuv

Saxophone

Jack Letica

Bassoon

Necalli Calavera

Trumpet

Noah Festerling

Percussion

Krysta Bennnett
Ainsley Kinney
Audrey Merrifield
Aaron Krause

Special Thanks

Chloe Seare, stage and lighting design
Bill Mackenzie, stage and sound design
Cindy Wendzel, box office manager
Nan Freed, program design
Meghan Bartlett, events and operations manager
Oncore AV, livestream and lighting

The use of photographic and recording equipment is strictly prohibited.

The Oscar E. Remick Heritage Center for the Performing Arts
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