



Acknowledgements

Dr. Amy Mitchell-Cook, Dean of College of Arts, Social Sciences, & Humanities (CASSH)

Lori Glaze, CASSH Senior Administrative Specialist

Jerre Brisky, Director of Center for Fine & Performing Arts

Dakota Scarborough, Interim Coordinator of Center for Fine & Performing Arts

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Dr. Hedi Salanki-Rubardt, Director of Piano Program

Caroline Bruns, Interim UWF Music Department Office Administrator

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Jerre Brisky, Administrator of the Summer Festival Chorus

Hannah Mills, UWF Summer Festival Chorus Manager



presents

Christmas in June

featuring the

UWF Summer Festival Chorus

**Dr. Peter Steenblik, director
Meredith Stemen, piano**

with

Danny Lyons, solo handbell artist

Nyasha Brice, guest conductor

**June 25, 2022
Rolfs Music Hall
7:30pm**

Christmas in June

June 25, 2022, 7:30 pm

Rolfs Music Hall

Christmas Bells (2001) David A. Zabriskie
Danny Lyons, handbells

Deck the Halls (16th c./1958)..... Traditional Welsh Carol
arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925) & Robert Shaw (1916-1999)

The First Noel (19th c./2009)..... Traditional English Carol
Nyasha Brice, conductor arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Carol of the Stranger (2014)Abbie Betinis (b. 1980)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (1840/1968)Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Paul Miller & Meredith Stemen, piano arr. Norman Dello Joio (1913-2008)

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*Angels from the Realms of Glory* (19<sup>th</sup> c./1992)..... Henry Smart (1813-1879)  
arr. Douglas Wagner (b. 1946)

*Carillon on Joy to the World* (1848/1992) ..... Lowell Mason (1792-1872)  
arr. Danny Lyons (b. 1949)

*Ding Dong Merrily on High* (16<sup>th</sup> c./1993)..... Traditional French Carol  
arr. C. Anderson (b. 1949) & Douglas Wagner  
Danny Lyons\*, solo handbell artist

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Sussex Carol (1919/2018) Traditional English Carol
arr. Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

from *All-Night Vigil* (1915)Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
No. 7: *The Six Psalms "Glory to God in the Highest"*

Il est né le divin enfant (1862/1995) Traditional French Carol
Honya Richbourg*, percussion arr. Jackson Berkey (b. 1942)

Lo, How A Rose/The Rose (16th c./1977/2007)..... Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Sarah Wolff, soloist Amanda McBroom (b. 1947)
arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

I Saw Three Ships (17th c./1987)..... Traditional English Carol
with Paul Miller & Danny Lyons arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

UWF Summer Festival Chorus
Meredith Stemen, collaborative pianist
Dr. Peter Steenblik, conductor

Dr. Peter Steenblik is Director of Choral Activities at the UWF and Artistic Director of the Choral Society of Pensacola. While under his direction, Steenblik's choirs have performed at the Southern ACDA conference with the Mobile Symphony Orchestra, and have appeared in concert with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Women's Chorus of Dallas, Utah Symphony, Ballet West, Pensacola Opera, and Pensacola Symphony Orchestra. He is an active clinician, having recently conducted honor choirs in Quartz Mountain, OK, Chattanooga, TN, and the Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Mobile County Districts. He routinely adjudicates the Utah State Choir Festival, and was a featured clinician at the Chengdu International Children's Chorus Festival in China. He is a regular presenter at the annual conventions of the FMEA, FVA, state and regional ACDA, and was a featured presenter at the 2018 Xi'an International Choral Festival in Xi'an, China. A former member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Steenblik made frequent solo appearances. With training in musical theater, he often provides music direction for community productions, most recently at Pensacola Little Theatre and Pensacola State College and four seasons as chorus master with the Pensacola Opera. His degrees are from the University of Utah and the University of North Texas.

Meredith Stemen is a pianist and teacher from Pensacola, FL with diverse performance experience. She has been applauded for her powerful command of the keyboard, sensitive musicality, and vibrant collaborative spirit. She is currently a candidate for the DMA degree in collaborative piano under the direction of Ana Maria Otamendi at LSU, where she holds a graduate assistantship. Meredith recently served as music director for Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona* and was a rehearsal pianist and vocal coach for the premiere of Hannah Rice's opera *Seneca Falls* as part of the first Operability micro-opera festival. Meredith holds a MM degree from UF, where she taught both applied and group piano classes as a graduate teaching assistant. She graduated summa cum laude with a BM degree in piano performance from UWF, where she received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in music. Additional awards for both solo and collaborative performances include first place in the UWF Student Scholars Symposium Concerto Competition and the UWF Collaborative Piano Competition, and finalist in the Catholic University of America International Piano Competition. Meredith was recently invited to lead her session "Practical Applications of Mindfulness for Musicians" at the Florida State Music Teachers Assoc. annual conference and also presented several papers on the vocal works of Ricky Ian Gordon at UF.

Danny Lyons* is a solo handbell artist, handbell director, composer, and clinician, and he is the inventor of a method of playing 8-in-hand and has named it "Danny's 8". He has been the director/clinician at numerous handbell festivals, and has played solo handbell performances throughout the United States and abroad. Danny has recently retired as the handbell director at Christ Episcopal Church, Pensacola, but continues performing on solo handbells, composing handbell music, and accepting teaching and directing positions nationally. He is now semi-retired from a 50-year career as a piano technician and rebuilders, and lives in Pensacola with his 2 dogs – Nicky, a Golden Retriever, and Koby, a Whippet.

Born in Zimbabwe and raised in the state of Florida, **Nyasha Brice** strives for integration in life and in music. She began her music studies at age 6 with piano and theory lessons and participated in various choirs throughout her time in high school. She received a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of West Florida and a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from Azusa Pacific University. Dedicated to diversity and inclusion in the arts, Nyasha will be travelling to Maine this summer to participate in the Medomak Conductors' Retreat to continue to hone her craft and participate in discussions on community ensembles' impact on social change.

*Special guests **Danny Lyons** (handbell artist), and **Honya Richbourg** (percussionist) appear courtesy of a generous anonymous donor in support of the UWF Summer Festival Chorus and its mission.

This performance will be available for viewing online by June 28 at www.uwfsingers.com
No additional audio or video recordings permitted.

Texts & Translations

Christmas Bells – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

Till, ringing, singing, on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Deck the Halls – Thomas Oliphant (1799-1873)

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

See the blazing Yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
While I tell of Christmas treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Sing we joyous all together, Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Heedless of the wind or weather, Fa la la la la, la la la la.

The First Noel – Traditional English Text (19th century)

Noel, Born is the King, Noel.
The first Noel, the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where 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.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our 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, Noel!

Carol of the Stranger – Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

Peace and grace be to this house
Where all are welcomed in;
Receive the guest, receive this heart;
Tell the Stranger, tell.
Tell the Stranger what you cannot tell those who love you and desire your joy: Tell.

Make tall your walls, make long these beams,
Who once believed alone;
Make wide the circle, feed the fire:
Tell the Silence, tell.
Tell the Silence what you cannot tell those who love you and desire your joy: Tell.

Blessings be upon this place,
Let ev’ry wound be healed,
Let ev’ry secret, ev’ry dream:
Tell the Angel, tell.
Tell the Angel what you cannot tell those who love you and desire your joy: Tell.

Welcome!
Peace and grace be to this house,
All will be returned:
Let ev’ry soul be called your own,
Tell the Myst’ry, tell.
Tell the Myst’ry what you long to tell those who love you and desire your joy: Tell.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – from *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739)

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 the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ by highest heav’n 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 man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Sussex Carol – from *Small Garland of Pious and Godly Songs* (1684)

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King’s birth.

When sin departs before his grace
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn king.

Then why should men on earth be sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad;
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
“Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Now and for evermore,” Amen!

The Six Psalms – Russian Orthodox Liturgical Text

Slava v vuishnikh Bogu,
I na zemli mir;
V chelovetsekh blagovoleniye.

Glory in the highest to God
And on earth peace
Good will to men.

Gospodi,
Ustne moi otverzyeshi,
I usta moja vozvestyat khvalu Tvoyu.

O Lord,
Open thou my lips,
And my mouth will proclaim Thy praise.

Il est né le divin enfant – Traditional French text (ca. 1875)

He is born the Divine Child. Play the musetta, play the joyous oboe,
He is born the Divine Child. Sing we all and rejoice this day!
Now is born the Child Divine.

O, how lovely, and O, how mild. [*Il est né*] See this perfectly charming child,
O, how lovely, and O, how mild. [*Il est né*] *Il est né*, rejoice this day! [Born this day]
[Sing, sing we all His Holy birth!]

Through the ages and evermore, [So lovely and so pure.]
Prophets and wise men foretold His coming. [Forever more.]
Twice two thousand years, or more, [Forever more.]
Now the age of Gold restore! [*Il est né*. Born this day]

Jesus, Lord of all the world. Coming as a child among us
Is this perfect Child of heaven. Gracious gift of God to Man!

O, how lovely, and O, so pure. See this charmingly perfect, Holy Child,
Through the ages and evermore, Let all sing and rejoice this day!
[*Il est né!* Born this day! Il est né!]

Now is born the Divine Child. Play the musetta play the joyous oboe,
Now is born the Divine Child. Sing we all and rejoice this Day!
Il est né! Christmas Day!
Il est né! The Child Divine.

Lo, How a Rose / The Rose – Traditional German text / Amanda McBroom (b. 1947)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.
Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;
It came, a Flow'ret bright,
Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;
Amid the cold of winter
I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.
When half-spent was the night.
It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;
It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;
It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give;
And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.
This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air.
When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong;
True Man, yet very God,
Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;
From sin and death He saves us
Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.
And lightens ev'ry load.

I Saw Three Ships – Traditional English text (17th century)

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? ...
Our Savior Christ and His lady, ...
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three? ...
O, they sailed in to Bethlehem, ...
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
All the souls on earth shall sing, ...
Then let us all rejoice amain!
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Then let us all rejoice amain!
On Christmas Day in the morning. Christmas Day!
And all the bells on earth shall ring. Christmas Day!
All the souls on earth shall sing this Day!

The **UWF Summer Festival Chorus** is the reemergence of a tradition begun at the University of West Florida in the early 1970s. While under the direction of Dr. G. Robert Chancellor, and, later, Dr. Joseph T. Rawlins, the university choirs collaborated with the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in an effort to bring choral and symphonic masterworks to the Pensacola area. Works such as *King David*, *Carmina Burana*, *Hora Novissima*, *Elijah*, and the *Symphony of Psalms* were performed as part of this summer series. The chorus today differs in that it is now a multi-generational, community effort, bringing together singers of all levels and backgrounds. The quality of the music-making, however, remains the same. Summer Festival 2.0 claims the following accomplishments:

- 2017** a new wind band transcription of the Fauré *Requiem*, and involved over 90 performers
- 2018** a performance of Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, with soloists from the community
- 2019** shorter works like John Rutter's *Gloria* and selections from *Carmina Burana* and *Elijah*
- 2021** modified format, 2-day event with video release performances

We invite you to be a part of this group in future seasons. More info available at www.uwfsingers.com

UWF Summer Festival Chorus			
Hannah Mills, Chorus Manager			
Nyasha Brice	A1 L	Abi Mascaro	A1 M
Tom Buck	B2 L	Tia McCombs	A1 M
Gabby Carley	S2 M	Jamie Meyerholz	S1 H
Gwynedd Chadwick	S1 H	Hannah Mills	S2 M
Anthony Chiarito	T2 M	Margaret M Murray	A2 L
Erica Dake	T1 H	Mike Nichols	B1 L
Florence B. De Bardeleben	A1 M	Elizabeth Phillips	A1 M
Natalie Duphiney	S2 H	George Phillips*	T2 H
Chad Michael Eyer	B1 L	Leigh Proctor	A1 L
Joshua Fortune	B1 M	Carla Quinn*	S1 H
Kathleen Franz	S2 H	Andrei Tyler Reynoso	T2 H
Dr. Rachel Gibson*	A2 L	Brooke Ryan	S2 M
Elise Gordon	A2 L	Stephen Spilger*	T2 M
Alayshia Green*	A2 L	Geoffrey Stemen*	B2 L
John Harnish	B2 L	Isaac Swanagan	B2 L
Mary Holway*	S2 M	Joy Van Caster	S2 M
Mark H Hughes	B2 L	Greg Vannoy	T2 M
Gwenda Iffrig	A1 L	Tatyana Vlasova	A1 M
Phil Igney*	B1 M	Gregory Watson*	T1 H
Ty Jones	T2 M	Sarah Weaver	S2 M
Hyunjoo Kim*	A1 M	Wilco West	T1 H
Deborah Kuhr	S1 H	Morgan Whitehead	S1 H
Harry S. Larimer, Jr.*	B1 L	Sarah Wolff*	S1 H
Vivian Luce	A2 L	Veronica Zaldana	S2 H
Danny Lyons	T2 M		
*denotes section leader			

Audition Dates:

- Choral Society of Pensacola: August 1 www.choralsocietyofpensacola.org
- Pensacola Children's Chorus: August 6 www.pensacolasing.org/join
- Pensacola Opera: early September www.pensacolaopera.com/opera-chorus
- UWF Singers: August 19-23 www.uwfsingers.com/auditions