



CU SINGS
PEOPLE'S
CHORUS

LIGHT & JOY

Carols for All

in collaboration with

Unitarian Universalist Church CrUUners
Sycamore Brass Ensemble with Guest Percussionists
...and special guest Ricardo Herrera

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024

**McKinley Memorial
Presbyterian Church**

801 S 5th Street, Champaign, IL

Director's Note

Good afternoon, and welcome to "Light and Joy - Carols for All," presented by CU Sings: People's Chorus. We are delighted to share this festive occasion with you, as we celebrate the spirit of the season through music that reflects the diverse traditions and stories of winter celebrations around the world.

Today's program is an exploration of light, hope, and unity, featuring beloved carols, sacred music, and songs that honor Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the winter solstice. We invite you to join us in singing familiar carols, adding your voices to this tapestry of joy and connection.

Our concert opens with the resounding brass and choir arrangement of "O Come, All Ye Faithful," setting a majestic and celebratory tone. Throughout the program, you'll hear treasured holiday pieces such as "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Joy to the World," alongside songs that shine a light on traditions beyond Christmas, including the Hanukkah classics "S'Vivon" and "Ocho Kandelikas."

We are thrilled to feature special performances by our guest artist, Ricardo Herrera, whose renditions of "O Holy Night" and "Gesu Bambino" will transport you with their beauty and emotion. The CrUUners, a dynamic ensemble from our community, will present highlights such as the enchanting "Solstice Song" and "Winter Treasures."

As we honor diverse cultural and spiritual traditions, we also include powerful reminders of justice and unity, such as the stirring "Lift Every Voice and Sing," a hymn of resilience and hope. The inclusion of restorative pieces like "Iesous ahatonnia," reflects our commitment to harmony and healing.

No celebration would be complete without the joy of participation! You, our audience, are invited to sing along with us during carols like "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Let's raise the roof together and fill this space with joy.

We're deeply grateful to our brass ensemble, percussionists, and pianist, Hannah Freeman-Choi, for their collaboration, as well as to our guest artists and soloists who bring depth and brilliance to this performance. Most of all, we thank you, our audience, for being part of this celebration of light, joy, and togetherness.

We hope this concert warms your heart, lifts your spirit, and reminds us all of the beauty we create when we come together. Thank you for joining us today. Let's begin!



Dr. Frank Gallo, DMA
Artistic Director

Help further our
mission by donating!



Light and Joy: Carols for All

Prelude - Sycamore Brass Ensemble

O Christmas Tree

The First Noel

Jolly Old St. Nicholas

O, Come All Ye Faithful* Arr. Patrick Hawes

A La Nanita Nana Arr. Victor Johnson

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Winter Treasures, Arr. Douglas Wagner

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Arr. Jay Rouse

S'vivon Arr. Betty Bertaux

Ma'oz Tur Arr. Todd Marchand

Ocho Kandelikas Ladino Song, Arr. Michael Duling

Light One Candle* Peter, Maul, and Mary, Arr. Jack Zaino

O Holy Night

Angels We Have Heard on High Arr. Dan Forrest

Intermission

Please visit the coffee shop for refreshments.

Joy to the World* Arr. Patrick Hawes

Lift Every Voice and Sing J.R. Johnson, Arr. Dilworth

Wade in the Water Arr. Kenneth Abeling

Iesous ahatonnia' Huron Carol, Arr. Sarah Quartel

Silent Night

Solstice Song, Jan Garrett, Arr. Larry Nickel

Here Comes the Sun* The Beatles, Arr. Alan Billingsley

12 Days of Christmas* Traditional

Gesu Bambino

Festival First Nowell Arr. Dan Forrest

Postlude - Sycamore Brass Ensemble

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Jingle Bells

* Audience Participation



Ricardo Herrera

Bass-baritone Ricardo Herrera performed the title role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with the Aspen Music Festival under Julius Rudel in 1997, and the next year he became a member of the Juilliard Opera Center and sang in several Opera productions directed by Frank Corsaro and Ted Altschuler including *La Calisto*, *Così fan tutte* and Weill's *Der Kuhandel*. In 1999 he was honored with the First Prize Award Winner of the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation Competition in NYC and was also invited to participate in Plácido Domingo's Operalia World Opera Contest.

While at Juilliard he was chosen to represent the Voice Division for a PBS City Arts documentary on Juilliard entitled *Taking the Vow*. He was a 1999 Merola Opera Center participant in San Francisco and performed the title role in the Western Opera Theater National Tour of *Don Giovanni*. During the summer of 2000, after participating in the premiere season of *Opera Aegean* in Greece under the Artistic Direction of Sherrill Milnes, Mr. Herrera received the Demodocus Award that entitled him to his Carnegie Hall debut as the bass soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* in D Minor. In 2002 he received the Adler Fellowship with San Francisco Opera and appeared in many San Francisco Opera productions including *La Traviata*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Mother of Us All*, and *Billy Budd*. He has sung many concerts and recitals in Europe including a recital of music by Paul Bowles in Palma de Mallorca, Spain; *L'enfance du Christ* by Berlioz in the Cathedral of Monaco, and a recital of Opera arias and Mexican songs in Greve, Italy. He made his European Operatic debut as Escamillo at the Oldenburgisches Staatstheater in Germany.

Recent engagements include *Don Giovanni* with Pine Mountain Music Festival, Mozart's *Requiem* and Brahms' *Requiem* with Marin Symphony, *Carmen* with El Paso Opera, *Elijah* with San Francisco City Chorus, *The Dream of Gerontius* with Kalamazoo Symphony, *Earthrise* with San Francisco Opera, *Macbeth* with Berkeley Opera, *Semele* and *Agrippina* with Chicago Opera Theater, and *L'italiana in Algeri* with San Francisco Opera. In 2005 he performed the roles of Tiresias and Le Veilleur in Enesco's *Oedipe* with Sinfonia da Camera under Ian Hobson. Upcoming engagements include several feature roles with San Francisco Opera, *The Celebrant* in Bernstein's *Mass* as part of the 75th Anniversary Jubilee of the UI College of Fine and Applied Arts, *Figaro* in *Nozze di Figaro* with Sinfonia da Camera, and several recitals with New York Festival of Song.



Dr. Frank Gallo, DMA

Artistic Director, CU Sings

Dr. Frank Gallo's musical journey began with early immersion in classical piano, voice, and trumpet. Fueled by his passion for music, he embarked on advanced studies in choral conducting, guided by mentors like Robert Shafer, Péter Erdei, and Edward Bolkovac.

Gallo's exceptional talent has led to frequent invitations as a guest conductor, presenter, and composer. Highlights include leading ILMEA district choirs and the Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE) National Chamber Choir. He was recently an invited clinician at the European Music Educators Winter Conference in Stuttgart, Germany.

Dr. Gallo currently serves as the Chair of Graduate Music at Lakeland University's Summer Kodály Graduate Music Program in Wisconsin and Adjunct Music Faculty at Parkland College in Champaign. Concurrently, he holds the role of Artistic Director of the CU Sings: People's Chorus in Urbana.

The past recipient of OAKE's Ruth Boshkoff Composition Prize, Dr. Gallo's works are published by Boosey & Hawkes, Colla Voce, and Hal Leonard. Expanding his educational repertoire, Gallo has embraced a new role as Lecturer and Assistant Director of Public Speaking Instruction at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. He finds joy in bridging the worlds of choral music performance and public speaking, highlighting their complementary nature, and sharing his passion for both disciplines.

People's Chorus

SOPRANO

Drea Abbas
Natalie Allison
Jennilee Benda
Natalie Brown
Cynthia Carroll
Suzanne D'Andria
Mariah Davis
Dezarae Dowers
Rosalie Dowers
Bailey Ford
Megan Fry
Jody Hanger
Conny Hauf
Anna Kasten
Chris Kunka
Emily McKown
Hailey Miller
Amy Rice
Deb Sederwall
Claire Stelter
Lake Stewart
Pamela Van Wyk

ALTO

Linda Bailey
Susanne Belovari
Kelly Boeger
Julie Bumpus
Stephanie Craft
Ellen de Waard
Lisa Diaz
Miranda Ecker
Becky Forsythe
Amy Frasca
Kimberly Freemon
Rhonda Gordon
Tanja Hodges
Sarah Jacobson
Janelle Jorgensen
Lisa Kinderman
Katriena Knights
Amber LaBau
Jessica Lagios
Margaret Miller
Olivia Moline
Zayda Reyes
Teresa Rupsch
Kristy Stoker
Jennifer Sutton
Jael Thorp
Katie Voss

TENOR

Orev Bartov
Jim Bready
Bobbi Jo Dannenfeldt
Brian Ford
Joseph Hinchliffe
Kelsey McClurg-Pyle
Excellence Onalundula
Shelbee Owens
Pam Splittstoesser
James Stelter

BASS

Jedediah Alvey
Jerry Carden
Felix Chan
Anthony Fanelli
Chris Fosnot
Samuel Gilbert
Samuel Grayson
Nate Harroun
Jake Johnston
Timothy S Thorp
Ryan True
Gavin Ward



Join us
next spring!

Sycamore Brass Ensemble

Grayden Fields, Trumpet

Luke Yoakam, Trumpet

Prashant Anand, French Horn

Jonathan Kirchem, Trombone

Preston Smith, Tuba

Daisy Waters, Percussion

Baryl Brandt, Percussion

CrUUners

Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana Champaign

Sponsored by the Terry and Barbara England Music Fund

Sopranos – Jody Hanger & Evelyn Chan

Altos – Katriena Knights & Tanja Hodges

Tenors – Jim Hannum & Howie Robinson

Baritones – Michael Loui & Jerry Frye

Basses – Jerry Carden, Scott Rohde & Paul Weston.

Pianist – Michael Duling

Percussionist – Sam Beshers

O, Come All Ye Faithful

*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!

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He comes forth from the Virgin's womb.
Our very God, begotten not created,
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 heaven above!
Glory to God, all 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!

*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!

A La Nanita Nana

Translation

Come, let's sing a little lullaby,
My Child is sleepy, blessed be.
Come, let's sing a little lullaby.
My Child is sleepy, blessed be.
A little fountain running clear and loud.
A nightingale that sings
and weeps in the forest.
Hush, while the cradle rocks.
Come, let's sing a little lullaby.

Come, let's sing a little lullaby.
My Child is sleepy, blessed be.
A little fountain running clear and loud.
A nightingale that sings
and weeps in the forest.
Hush, while the cradle rocks.
Come, let's sing a little lullaby.

Come, let's sing a little lullaby.
Hush, while the cradle rocks.
Come, let's sing a little lullaby.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

* 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 a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with all of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

* Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that all 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!"

S'vivon

Translation

Little dreydl, spin, spin, spin
Hanukkah is a festive time.
A joyous holiday for everyone,
For a Great Miracle Happened There!

Ocho Kandelikas

Translation

Beautiful Chanukah is now here
And eight candles for me appear.
Beautiful Chanukah is now here
And eight candles for me appear.

CHORUS

Oh – one little candle, two little candles,
Three little candles, four little candles;
Five little candles, six little candles,
seven little candles,
Eight little candles for me appear.

Lots of parties for my leisure
So much fun and so much pleasure.
Lots of parties for my leisure
So much fun and so much pleasure.

CHORUS

Dainty pastries for me to eat
With almonds and honey so sweet.
Dainty pastries for me to eat
With almonds and honey so sweet.

CHORUS



Light One Candle

Light one candle for the Maccabee children
With thanks that their light didn't die.
Light one candle for the pain they endured
When their right to exist was denied.
Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice
Justice and freedom demand.
But light one candle for the wisdom to know
When the peacemaker's time is at hand.

CHORUS

* Don't let the light go out!
It's lasted for so many years!
Don't let the light go out!
Let it shine through our hope and our tears.

Light one candle for the strength that we need
To never become our own foe.
Light one candle for those who are suffering
Pain we learned so long ago.
Light one candle for all we believe in
Let anger not tear us apart.
Light one candle to bind us together
With peace as the song in our hearts.

*CHORUS

What is the memory that's valued so highly
That we keep it alive in that flame?
What's the commitment to those who have died
That we cry out "They've not died in vain?"
We have come this far always believing
That justice would somehow prevail.
This is the burden, this is the promise
This is why we will not fail!



* Audience Participation

*CHORUS (repeated 2x)

Joy to the World

* 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.

* Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns,
Let men their Songs employ,
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains,
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.

* He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

*** Audience Participation**

lesous ahatonnia'

Translation

Sky woman, Yaa'tayenhtsihk, fell from the sky at sea.
An island formed on the Turtle's back, wild animals diving deep.
From battling Twins rose harmony, creation's Circle, for a long time.
Singing peace, peace, singing peace.

Then came the missionaries with their own mythology:
a child born to the Mother Mary, come to set souls free.
Three Magi bearing gifts they came, led by a star to praise His name.
Jesus is born. Jesus is born.

The Jesuits' story, fashioned as the Wendat's own,
drove some toward these new beliefs as death and war had grown.
As conflict grew, division came; the circle severed, ever changed.
They have separated and taken different paths.

Sing thanks to those who've come before to teach us harmony.
A wold of peace where differences can shape our unity.
True friendship grows a Circle strong, for generations yet to come!
Singing peace, peace, let us prepare our minds.

Here Comes the Sun

* CHORUS

Here comes the sun
Here comes the sun
And I say, it's all right

Little darling
It's been a long, cold, lonely winter
Little darling
It feels like years since it's been here

* CHORUS

Little darling
The smiles returning to their faces
Little darling
It seems like years since it's been here

* CHORUS

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Little darling
I feel the ice is slowly melting
Little darling
It seems like years since it's been clear

* CHORUS (repeated 2x)

* Audience Participation

Twelve Days of Christmas*

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

(Continue adding numbers and counting down with each verse.)

Three French hens,
Four calling birds,
Five golden rings,
Six geese a-laying,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Eight maids a-milking,
Nine ladies dancing,
Ten lords a-leaping,
Eleven pipers piping,
Twelve drummers drumming.

Gesu Bambino

Translation

When Blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night
Was born the child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful Earth rejoiced,
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.

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

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of Love and Light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name,
The grateful chorus swell,
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.

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

* Audience Participation for
the Entire Song!

Acknowledgements

First United Methodist Church & Pastor Bob Freeman

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church

Piato Cafe

Community Foundation of East Central IL

Tanja Hodges and CrUUners

George Alberti (instrumentalist hiring manager)

Sycamore Brass Ensemble

Ricardo Herrera

David Sutton (recording)

Mike Frasca (recording)

McKinley Foundation and Pastor Heidi Weatherford

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