



Program Notes

Bonny Wood Green is a ballad from World War I which is still popular in Ireland today. The Irish were unenthusiastic about entering the war on the British side, but once the decision had been made there were surprisingly large numbers of volunteers. The divided loyalties of the Irish soldiers cannot have made their ordeal in the trenches any easier. The song portrays the idyllic Bonny Wood Green and the sweethearts separated by the war, followed by the nearly inevitable heartbreak.

O Holy Night, also known as the *Cantique de Noel*, is a setting by Adolphe Adam of the poem by Placide Clappeau from 1847. There is an unsubstantiated anecdote to this song, which illustrates the depth of affection this melody holds, whether true or not. It is said that during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871, with French and German soldiers facing each other in trenches on Christmas Eve, a French soldier stepped out of his trench and sang the *Cantique*. Not only did the Germans hold their fire, a German soldier then responded with an equally beloved German carol. If only music could thus inspire all those who find themselves in conflict!

Carol of the Bells was originally a Ukrainian folksong that was sung around New Year's Day heralding the coming spring. The original title translates to "bountiful" and the lyrics describe a swallow arriving to the home of its master and singing of the upcoming spring and the wealth that it would bring. After hearing a performance of the piece which reminded him of bells, the American choral director Peter Wilhousky wrote the lyrics presented here in 1936. Since then it has become one of the most popular songs performed during the holiday season.

Longing for Spring (Sehnsucht Nach Dem Fruhlinge, K. 596) is the most popular of Mozart's songs in Europe. Under the title *Drei deutsche lieder (Three German Songs)*, it was entered into his catalogue on January 14, 1791, a few days before his 35th, and last, birthday. The set was commissioned by a wealthy patron who asked Mozart to write some wintertime songs for his children. It is a stunning example of the elegant simplicity and musical genius of Mozart.

Angels We Have Heard on High is a well-known French carol. For this arrangement, the harmonization was borrowed in part from a Vienna Boy's Choir recording and from the Pilgrim Hymnal. It is an excellent teaching piece for the development of part-singing, which includes three types of harmony, parallel thirds, contrary motion and counterpoint.



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Do You Hear What I Hear? is the very well known Christmas song by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne, made famous in this arrangement by Harry Simeone. It was written in October, 1962 as a plea for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Released shortly after Thanksgiving in 1962, the original recording by the Harry Simeone Chorale sold a quarter-million copies during the 1962 Christmas season. It has since sold tens of millions of copies and has been covered by hundreds of different artists.

Perhaps the most famous of all Christmas carols, **Silent Night** has been set here in an arrangement which features the choir singing in seven parts, including a newly composed descant.

Let it Snow has become synonymous with the holiday season since it was first written in 1945 by composer Jule Styne and lyricist Sammy Cahn. Although it was originally conceived as a love song, *Let it Snow* has a message that has expanded in meaning to represent the love shared by family and friends throughout the holiday season.

*Oh! The weather outside is frightful,
But the fire is so delightful,
And since we've no place to go,
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*

*It doesn't show signs of stopping
And I brought some corn for popping;
The lights are turned way down low.
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*

*When we finally kiss goodnight,
How I'll hate going out in the storm!
But if you'll really hold me tight,
All the way home I'll be warm.*

*The fire is slowly dying
And my dear we're still goodbying,
But as long as you love me so,
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*



The FCCC Board of Directors and Staff wish you all the very best of this joyous season.

Thank you for attending our program and please join us again!!

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For audition and ticket information, please contact us at:



Fairfield County Children's Choir

P.O. Box 110588

Trumbull, CT 06611

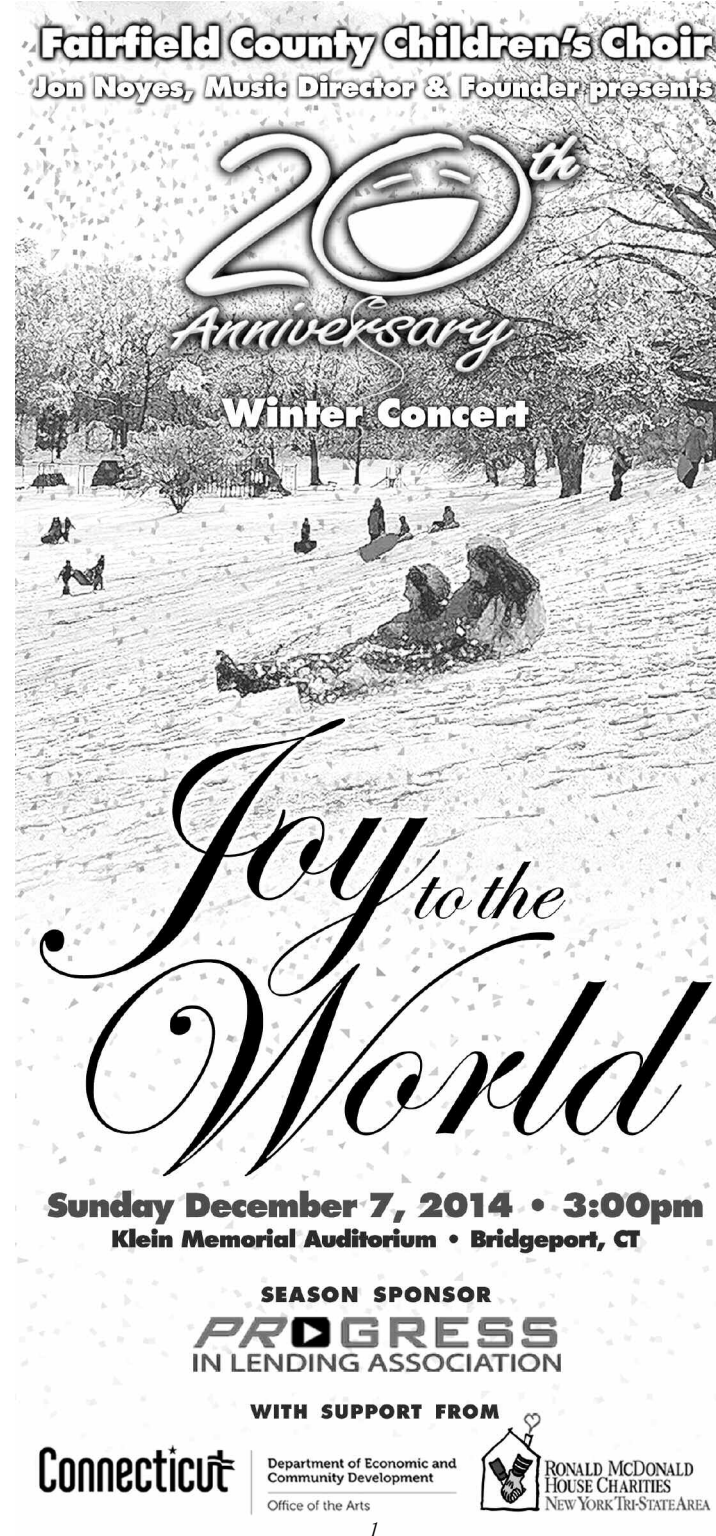
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Fairfield County Children's Choir
Jon Noyes, Music Director & Founder presents

20th
Anniversary

Winter Concert



Joy to the
World

Sunday December 7, 2014 • 3:00pm
Klein Memorial Auditorium • Bridgeport, CT

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Fairfield County Children's Choir

Jon Noyes, Music Director & Founder presents

20th Annual Winter Concert



Sunday, December 7, 2014 3:00pm

The Klein Memorial Auditorium • Bridgeport, CT

Combined Choirs

Jubilate DeoMichael Praetorius

Fairfield County Youth Choir

Joy to the WorldLowell Mason, arr. Noyes

Let There Be Peace On EarthSy Miller & Jill Jackson

Chorus

When Christmas Comes To TownGlen Ballard/Alan Silvestri

HanukkahSuzanne Sherman Propp

Hand Me Down My Silver TrumpetSpiritual, arr. Bartle

Chorale

Riu, Riu, ChiuSpanish Carol, arr. Linda Spevacek

Hanerot HalaluBaruch Cohon, arr. Chass

Jingle Bell SwingDavid J. Elliott

Concert Choir

Halicha L'Kesaria (Eli)D. Zehavi/H. Senesh

You Raise Me UpLovland/Graham

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the YearEddie Pola/George Wyle, arr. Ades

Chamber Singers

S'vivonTraditional Chanukah Song, arr. Shields

Bonny Wood GreenIrish Ballad, arr. Hatfield

O Holy NightAdolphe Adam, arr. Noyes

Carol of the BellsM. Leontovich, arr. Wilhousky

Combined Choirs

Longing for Spring (K. 596)W.A. Mozart

Angels We Have Heard on HighFrench Carol, arr. Noyes

Do You Hear What I Hear?Regney/Shayne, arr. Simeone

Silent NightGruber, arr. Noyes

Let It Snow! Let It Snow!Cahn/Styne

Jubilate DeoMichael Praetorius



Program Notes

Welcome to the Twentieth Annual Winter Concert of the Fairfield County Children's Choir! Today's program features beloved carols such as *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Joy To the World*, *O Holy Night* and *Silent Night*, and classic holiday selections such as *Let It Snow*, *Do You Hear What I Hear*, *Carol of the Bells* and *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, among many others. And of course, we will have nearly three hundred angelic voices on stage! Thank you for joining us in this most musical season of the year.

Jubilate Deo is a song of rejoicing by German composer Michael Praetorius (1571 - 1621). The theme is stated once in unison, followed by a three-part canon, creating the rich, polyphonic cathedral-like quality of a Renaissance motet. This was the opening selection of our Premiere Concert on December 17, 1995!

Rejoice in the Lord, Alleluia.

The music of **Joy to the World** is from a tune entitled "Antioch," with a text by Isaac Watts. Set by Lowell Mason in 1848, the original score included the annotation "from George Frederick Handel." However, scholars who have studied the issue state that none of the music actually comes from Handel's work. The tune is named after the city of Antioch, Syria.

In 1955, the husband and wife song-writing team of Sy Miller & Jill Jackson wrote **Let There Be Peace on Earth**. The song, which brought them unexpected fame, appeals for a world peace that begins within each person. It was printed in major songbooks and widely recorded by celebrities and has been performed for premiers, presidents, and popes and in countless concerts and religious services.

When Christmas Comes to Town is from the 2004 musical fantasy film "The Polar Express," based on the children's book by Chris Van Allsburg. The chorus sings in unison for the first half of the piece and then breaks off into two-part harmony from the middle of the piece, continuing to the end. This is an enchanting story about the magic and the excitement of Christmas from a child's perspective.

continued from page 3



Program Notes

Hanukkah was written by Suzanne Sherman Propp for her 4th and 5th grade Chorus from Green's Farms Elementary School in Westport, Connecticut. The song had its debut performance in 2012 with the adult choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Bridgeport in Stratford, Connecticut, under the direction of Ellen Hardy (a former FCCC parent!). The FCCC Chorus had the chance to work with Suzanne Propp at one of our rehearsals where she helped us capture the festive style of this piece.

The delightful spiritual, **Hand Me Down My Silver Trumpet**, is set here in a lively arrangement by Jean Ashworth Bartle. It is an excellent piece for introducing two-part harmony to beginning singers due to the natural call and response of the refrain.

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu is the call of the nightingale and it is featured throughout this Spanish carol which dates back to 1556. The meter of the melody alternates between two and three and, combined with the text, gives the piece a very percussive feel. The English text is secular and is not a translation of the original sacred Spanish text.

In the style of a Jewish folk song, **Hanerot Halalu** has a spirited melody in a minor key accompanied by a vocal ostinato. This selection has varying tempi and then culminates in a boisterous shout.

*We kindle these lights
For the wonders and the redemptions
Thou didst perform for our fathers
Through Thy holy priests
These Hanukah lights are holy
And through them we sanctify Thy name.*

Jingle Bell Swing is one of several holiday songs that make up *Christmas Lites*, a jazz suite commissioned by the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus from Illinois. This arrangement by David Elliot really does swing, but the catch is - it's in 5/4!

continued from page 4



Program Notes

Hannah Senesh was a Hungarian Jewish woman who emigrated to Israel at age eighteen. In 1943, she enlisted in the British Army and volunteered for a secret mission to parachute into occupied Yugoslavia. After staying with Yugoslav partisans, she was discovered crossing into Hungary and died at the hands of the Nazis in 1944 at the age of 35. Among her poems was one called **Eli, Eli - HaLicha L'Kesaria** (My God, My God, Journey to Caesarea) that became an internationally acclaimed song that represented Israel in music, plays, films and literature.

*My God, My God,
May these things never end:
The sand and the sea,
The ocean's roar,
The sparkling skies,
The prayer of Mankind.*

You Raise Me Up was composed by Rolf Løvland and Brendan Graham of the duo Secret Garden. The song became a minor UK hit early in 2002. It has since been recorded by more than a hundred other artists including Josh Groban, whose rendition became a hit in the United States in 2003.

"With kids jingle-belling, and everyone telling you be of good cheer," as Eddie Pola and George Wyle wrote back in 1963, **It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year** again. Whether performed by Andy Williams, Johnny Mathis or in a commercial for Staples stores, this lilting melody in triple time is sure to brighten your spirits!

S'vivon is the traditional Chanukah song about the spinning dreidl. The word "Chanukah" means "to dedicate" and refers to the joyous eight-day celebration through which the Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem.

*Dreidl spin, spin, spin.
Chanukah is a good holiday!
It is a holiday of joy for the people.
A great miracle happened there!*