



### Program Notes

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,  
Blessed art thou among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

*The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary  
And she conceived by the power of Holy Spirit.  
Behold the handmaid of the Lord.*

*Be it done unto me according to your Word.  
And the Word was made flesh. And dwelt among us.*

The **Coventry Carol** is an English Christmas carol dating from the sixteenth century. The carol was traditionally performed in Coventry, England, as part of a mystery play called *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*. The play depicts the Christmas story from chapter two in the Gospel of Matthew: the carol itself refers to the Massacre of the Innocents, in which Herod ordered all male infants under the age of two in Bethlehem to be killed, and takes the form of a lullaby sung by mothers of the doomed children. Our arrangement of *Coventry Carol* is by Kate Victor, a former FCCC chorister who is now teaching voice, piano and cello in New Jersey, as well as performing with the jazz big band *Boardwalk Jazz* and a vocal trio known as the YY Sisters.

**Count On Me** was recorded by American singer-songwriter Bruno Mars on his debut album, *Doo-Wops & Hooligans* (2010). Musically, *Count On Me* is a folk and tropical record that lyrically details the importance of friendship.

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

One of our favorites, **Haida** is a Chassidic round known as a "nigun," a song to inspire worshippers during a service. The word *Haida* has no specific meaning but is meant to be treated much like "lah" in American folk or pop music. In the Chassidic tradition the music usually begins slowly, growing in excitement and speed until its frenzied conclusion.

The melody of **Dona Nobis Pacem**, as performed for this concert, is sung as a "round," the common name for a canon in which each singer returns from the end of a melody to its beginning, then repeats it *ad libitum*. The melody of a round consists of sections of equal length which are designed to combine harmonically when sung together. This particular round is often attributed to Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, although it is unlikely that he actually composed it. On the word *nobis*, we hear the melodic leap of a seventh, the distance of seven steps between two notes. Such an interval, expressive though it might be, was considered dissonant or "disagreeable" in Palestrina's time and would have been avoided by so conservative a composer.



### Program Notes

The hit song **Bridge Over Troubled Water** by Paul Simon has become one of the most popular songs in our repertoire. Written in 1969 and released in 1970, it won Song of the Year as sung by Art Garfunkel in 1971. Today we are performing a popular Gospel arrangement by Kirby Shaw.

Part of our Mission Statement is as follows: *"The FCCC believes not only that all people can sing, but that all people need to sing, and is committed to promoting singing throughout our culture."* The Music Educators National Conference, concerned that our society is losing important cultural traditions, has called for the promotion of community singing. And so we ask you to please join us for our final selection, **Winter Wonderland!**

#### INTRO

*Over the ground lies a mantle of white  
A heaven of diamonds shine down through the night.  
Two hearts are thrillin' in spite of the chill in the weather.*

*Love knows no season, love knows no 'clime:  
Romance can blossom any old time.  
Here in the open we're walkin' and hopin' together.*

#### VERSE 1

*Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane, snow is glistening.  
A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight,  
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.*

*Gone away is the bluebird, Here to stay is a new bird  
He sings a love song, as we go along,  
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.*

*In the meadow we can build a snowman,  
Then pretend that he is Parson Brown  
He'll say: Are you married? We'll say: No man,  
But you can do the job when you're in town.*

*Later on, we'll conspire, as we dream by the fire  
To face unafraid, the plans that we've made,  
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.*

#### VERSE 2 – Audience & Guests!

*Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane, snow is glistening.  
A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight,  
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.*

*Gone away is the bluebird, here to stay is a new bird  
He sings a love song, as we go along,  
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.*

#### All sing

*In the meadow we can build a snowman, And pretend that he's a circus clown.  
We'll have lots of fun with Mr. Snowman, Until the other kiddies knock him down!*

*When it snows, ain't it thrillin' though your nose gets a chillin'!  
We'll frolic and play the Eskimo way  
Walkin' in a winter wonderland. (3X)*



*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!!*

#### We have a busy concert schedule in December.

The December 10 concert on the Music For Youth Series is free, open to the public and highly recommended.

**Dec 10 - Music For Youth concert - St. Thomas Church Fairfield  
7:00-8:15 PM** (Chamber)

**Dec 12 - Caroling at Carolton 6:00 - 7:30 PM** (Chorus & Chorale)

**Dec 14 - Caroling by bus to various locations** (Chamber)

**Dec 19 - Meadow Ridge Holiday Concert - Redding 7:30 PM** (Chamber)

#### FCCC Music Staff

Jon Noyes – Music Director & Founder, Chamber Singers Conductor

Lisa Bettke – Chorale Conductor & Accompanist

Kevin Cotelleso – Concert Choir Conductor

Ashley Zadravec – Chorus Conductor

Donna Beatty – Accompanist

#### Special Guests

Leslie Waddell – Flute

Brooklyn Boehme - Guitar

Szilvia Cimino – Ukulele

Sofia Nangle – Violin

Kirsten Metellus - Violin

*Photography by Robert Grosshart.*

#### FCCC is a member of Chorus America.

For audition and ticket information, please contact us at:



Fairfield County Children's Choir

P.O. Box 110588 • Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203 414-4292

**SingFCCC.org**

**Fairfield County Children's Choir**  
22ND ANNUAL WINTER CONCERT

# One Voice

The sound of All of us

**3:00pm Sunday  
December 4, 2016**

Klein Memorial Auditorium  
Bridgeport, CT

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22ND ANNUAL WINTER CONCERT

# One Voice

## The sound of All of us

Sunday, December 4, 2016 3:00pm  
The Klein Memorial Auditorium • Bridgeport, CT

### Fairfield County Youth Choir

One Voice .....Ruth Moody  
Wachet Auf .....J. S. Bach  
S'vivon .....Traditional Chanukah Song, arr. Shields

### Chorus

Light a Little Candle .....Mac Light  
Cooroo Cooroo .....Steve Kupferschmid  
Deck the Hall .....Traditional Welsh Carol, arr. Edwin T. Childs

### Chorale

Dodi Li .....Nira Chen, arr. Rao  
When You Believe .....Carlos M. Lopez  
We Need a Little Christmas .....Jerry Herman, arr. Anita Kerr

### Concert Choir

Joyful Noel .....Emily Crocker  
Angels' Carol .....John Rutter  
You're a Mean One, Mister Grinch .....arr. Jeff Funk

### Chamber Singers

Jubilate Deo .....Michael Praetorius  
Ave Maria .....Franz Biebl  
Coventry Carol .....Traditional, arr. Kate Victor  
Count On Me .....B. Mars, P. Lawrence, A. Levine

### Combined Choirs & Guests

Angels We Have Heard on High .....French Carol, arr. Noyes  
Haida .....Traditional Chassidic Canon  
Dona Nobis Pacem .....Traditional  
Bridge Over Troubled Water .....Paul Simon, arr. Shaw  
Winter Wonderland .....Dick Smith/Felix Bernard (*audience sing-along*)



## Program Notes

Welcome to the twenty-second annual Winter Concert of the Fairfield County Children's Choir! Our theme, *One Voice – The Sound of All of Us*, is taken from the text of our opener and connects with our season-long theme of community singing. For today's program we have invited family members, alumni and friends to join us on stage for our entire finale. Our guests have attended rehearsals in November and are prepared to perform with the choir. We will also invite the entire audience to sing with us on our final selection, *Winter Wonderland* (the words are printed below). Thank you for attending and we hope you enjoy the performance!

We begin with **One Voice**, a metaphorical call for unity by The Wailin' Jennys, a Canadian folk music trio originating in Winnipeg, Manitoba, that has been featured regularly on Garrison Keillor's radio variety show *A Prairie Home Companion*. (Their name is a pun on country singer Waylon Jennings.) The song begins with the words “This is the sound of one voice” and builds to “the sound of all of us... helping each other to make it through.” The United States Navy has adopted this song to honor the Wounded Warriors from each of the armed services. The Fairfield County Youth Choir performed *One Voice* at Carnegie Hall three nights ago and our Chamber Singers performed it in New Orleans in June.

The music of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750) is considered by most music historians to be the summation of the Baroque era and all that came before. Bach composed primarily for the various positions he held, including that of Cantor at two churches in Leipzig, Germany, where he was required to compose fifty-eight cantatas per year (a cantata is "a piece to be sung"). *Cantata No. 140 (Wachet auf)* was first performed on November 25, 1731, and is a wonderful example of Bach's genius. His technique was to set a familiar chorale melody to be sung both by the professional choir, soloists and the congregation. Thus the chorale tune appears in numerous contexts, some intricate and some quite basic. Our performance today features the second and third choral pieces from the cantata. The first is a masterful setting of **Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying** with Bach's newly composed melody and bass line, while the second is the hymn tune in Bach's four part harmonization.

**S'vivon**, is a traditional Chanukah song about the spinning dreidl. The meaning of the word Chanukah is "to dedicate" and refers to the joyous eight-day celebration through which 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.

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



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**Light a Little Candle** is a festive two-part Hanukkah piece. The Hanukkah menorah has nine candles, eight of which signify a remembrance of the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days in the holy temple. You will hear the choir sing representations of each candle. They are warm feelings of cheer, kindness, charity, friendship, hope, peace, prosperity and thankfulness to heaven above. The piece is set in the Dorian mode, which gives it an ancient and ethnic charm.

**Cooroo Cooroo** is the gentle song of the snowbird in this charming winter piece. "Look to the sky, close your eyes; feel the snowflakes fall. All around, there is no sound but a lone bird's call..." The picturesque words and tender accompaniment of the piano and flute evoke a magical winter scene.

**Deck the Hall** is a traditional Yuletide and New Year's carol. The English words sung today are American in origin and date from the nineteenth century, but the original lyrics are Welsh. In the eighteenth century the tune spread widely, with Mozart using it in a piano and violin concerto. During the Victorian era it was turned into a traditional English Christmas song.

**Dodi Li** is in the style of a lively Israeli dance, with a text from the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) book Song of Solomon (Song of Songs 2:16, 3:6, 4:9, 4:16).

*Dodi li va'ani lo  
Haroe Bashoshanim.*

*My beloved is mine and I am his,  
The shepherd grazing his flock  
among the lilies.*

*Mizot ola Min Hamidbar  
M'kuteret Mor Ul'vona*

*Who is this who goes up from the  
Wilderness perfumed with myrrh  
and frankincense.*

*Libavtini Achoti kala,*

*You have captivated my heart, my  
chosen sister and bride.*

*Uri Tsafon Uvoi Tei man.*

*Awake North Wind and come South Wind.*

A contemporary composition in the form of a partner song, **When You Believe** is an ode to winter that will warm your heart. "Have you seen the snow wrestle with the trees when the wind starts to blow?" Puerto Rican composer Carlos Lopez wonderfully illustrates the beauty of winter and the faith in a young heart.

**We Need A Little Christmas**, made popular by a number of recording artists including Andy Williams and Johnny Mathis, is a joyful salute to the Christmas holiday. In the musical *Mame*, the title character uses this song to help lift the spirits of the other characters with its upbeat tempo and catchy melody. In this arrangement, the tune “Jingle Bells” is included as an accompaniment to the main melody, adding to the excitement and energy of the piece.

**A Joyful Noel** is an up-tempo work written for the holiday season by the very popular choral composer, Emily Crocker. One of the FCCC programmatic



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themes this season is the use of canon in choral music, of which this song is a great example. After introducing each of the four melodies, the composer uses canon form to layer each tune until all four are sounding at the same time. Then, to conclude the piece, the melodies are taken away one by one until only the original is left. In addition to providing structure for the piece, the canon also provides the song with a dynamic bell curve; the beginning and end are both quiet, with a thin texture (one voice), while the center of the piece is louder, with a thick texture (four voices). All of these musical elements come together to create an energetic and joyful Noel.

Written by contemporary English composer John Rutter (b. 1945), the sublime **Angels' Carol** proclaims the Christmas story as told by the angels. It illustrates Rutter's sense of legato melodic line and his stunning harmonies. “Have you heard the sound of the angel voices?”

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas* aired for the first time in 1966, taking the classic Dr. Seuss children's book to the small screen. Since then it has aired annually, was revised as a motion picture in 2000 and continues to be one of the most popular stories told during the holidays. In the original animated version one of the highlights was **You're a Mean One, Mister Grinch**. Through this song we learn just how “nasty-wasty” the Grinch really is. With lyrics by Theodor “Dr. Seuss” Geisel and music by Albert Hague, this song remains just as popular as when it was first performed by Thurl Ravenscroft so many years ago.

**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!

The sacred Latin text, **Ave Maria**, has inspired many composers to write in their most beautiful and sublime musical language. The most well known of the Marian prayers, it is primarily found as an antiphon for the Fourth Sunday in Advent, although it has other liturgical applications throughout the year, both devotional and penitential. This text often includes the *Angelus* (Latin for "angel"), a Christian devotion in memory of the Incarnation. This setting by Franz Biebl (1906 - 2001) has enjoyed wide success in the United States for over twenty years. Its genesis can be traced back to the long tradition of community singing in Germany where professional guilds, private companies, public offices and the like often sponsored choirs to foster a spirit of camaraderie. In Bavaria in 1964 a local fireman asked Biebl, his church's music director, to write a song for his brigade of singing fireman. His “little piece” found its way to the San Francisco-based choral ensemble Chanticleer which has popularized it throughout the world.