The Benzie County Community Chorus Presents Our Christmas Concerts

Friday, December 8
7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd., Beulah

Saturday, December 9
3:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd., Beulah

Sunday, December 10
7:30 p.m.
Frankfort United
Methodist Church
537 Crystal Avenue

A freewill offering
will be taken to assist
with Chorus expenses.

The Benzie County Community Chorus wishes
you and your loved ones
a very merry Christmas and a most peaceful and happy New Year.

OUR DIRECTOR

While still in high school, Dinah took her first church choir directing job. After obtaining a double degree in instrumental and music education, Dinah became a high school music and choral director in Wisconsin. Seven years later she changed careers after receiving a Master of Divinity degree and became the Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Frankfort. Within days after becoming a Michigander, she began singing with the BCCC in 1998. It is her joy to direct this delightful family of musicians.

OUR ACCOMPANIST

Christy Case received her undergraduate degree from Western Michigan University and her master's degree in vocal music education from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. For seventeen years, Christy led the vocal music department at Benzie Central High School. Fortunately for all of us, she was willing to fit the BCCC into her life of summers at the family business and spending time with her sons, Carson and Caleb and husband, Andy.

OUR CONCERT

Sometimes a theme arises from the songs selected, sometimes it is “the flow” and other times it is a scenario. The “lights” that have shown through this years’ pieces are the composers, without whom we would simply be a nice gathering of people. Mixed in with some of the time-tested choral pillars are lesser known names, and all of them come together in a manner that hopefully, simultaneously moves the heart toward that place of “peace on earth and good will to all.” - Dinah

BENZIE COUNTY COMMUNITY CHORUS
CHRISTMAS CONCERTS 2017

Welcome to this concert and thank you for attending! Your gracious applause is always appreciated. To contribute to the overall performance and meaning of this concert, we ask that there be no applause following songs with an asterisk. (*) Thank you, and we hope that you enjoy this Christmas celebration.

ADESTE FIDELES — Arr. Alice Parker

From the oldest known version dating from 1751, composer, conductor, teacher and international choral music giant, Alice Parker arranged "O Come, All Ye Faithful" upon commission from Robert Shaw in 1977. At 92 years young, Parker is still teaching and leading conferences.

Adeste, fideles,	O come, all ye faithful
Laeti triumphantes,	joyful and triumphant!
Venite, venite in Bethlehem!	O come ye, o come ye, to Bethlehem.
Natum videte,	Come and behold Him,
Regem angelorum	born the King of angels;
Venite adoremus Dominum.	O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

ALL THE WORLD IS WINTER* — Ruth Elaine Schram

With over 2,000 published sacred and secular works to her credit, including music for THE SOPRANOS, Ruth Elaine Schram is a well-known modern day composer. In this piece, she reminds us of our sometimes austere and beautiful northern Michigan winters.

EMMANUEL, EXPECTED JESUS* — Ruth Elaine Schram

Bridging both sacred and secular, Ms. Schram wove this dialogue between two old melodies, O COME, O COME EMMANUEL and COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS into a choral tapestry. The former title has threads that go back to the 5th century and the later title is a hymn by Charles Wesley.

CHRISTMAS CANTICLES* Mary McDonald

Knoxville native Mary McDonald also wove together two different tunes. The English SUSSEX CAROL was first published by Luke Wadding in his 1684 work called *Small Garland of Pious and Godly Songs* by Luke Wadding. GESU BAMBINO was written by Italian born American Pietro Yon, who based the refrain on ADESTE FIDELES (O Come, All Ye Faithful.)

JUBILO, JUBILATE John Ness Beck

In addition to his own composing, the late John Ness Beck co-founded a music publishing company. The John Ness Beck Foundation continues to support young, unpublished composers of traditional sacred choral music. (Jubilo means to shout/sing out/joyfully| rejoice. Jubilate is derived from the Latin verb jubilare, which means "to shout for joy.")

READING: Andy Mollema

"Christmas Is for Love," author unknown

HURRY, SHEPHERDS, RUN!* Douglas E. Wagner

After 30 years as a high school music educator and administrator, Douglas Wagner now devotes himself to composition. He has published over 3,000 titles over the years including works for choir, band, orchestra, organ and hand bells, among others.

O COME TO SET US FREE* Mary McDonald

With texts taken from the books of John, Revelation, Mary McDonald brought together hints of the gospel hymn, "JESUS IS MY LORD" with parts of O COME, O COME EMMANUEL.

ANGELS WAS A'SHOUTIN' ON CHRISTMAS MORN* David Lantz III

David Lantz III has been composing since 1981 and has been a high school music educator, a choral editor, a church choir director and a busy pop and jazz pianist, bassist and vocalist.

HURRY TO BETHLEHEM! Lloyd Larson

Raised in Illinois, Minnesotan Lloyd Larson's mentors include John Carter and John Ness Beck. All the composers from the first half of our concert are names that are recognized and respected by choirs and choral audiences the world over.

INTERMISSION

GOD REST YE, MERRY GENTLEMEN Transcribed by George Wu
The wildly popular Texas ensemble THE PENTATONICS, with their pop-techno style, have been instrumental in bringing a capella music to a new level. Cory Bissell, Cody Bowers, Toby Gould, Kristopher Smith and Emily Wagner share their version this year.

COLD AND FUGUE SEASON Arr. Ellen Foncannon
Steve Chapman, Liz Dornbos, Jennifer Flynn, Dale Herscher, Andy Mollema, Nancy Reed, Ed Scarbrough, Sandy Scarbrough bring us this little ode of Bach's G Minor Fugue and the common cold.

CANDY CANE LANE Jennifer Zuffinetti Denmark, Arr. Greg Gilpin
Recorded by the group Point of Grace in 2010, this Christmas confection is a gift from Jeanne Hafer, Rachel Higgins, Becca Smith, Shelley Thompson, Julie Van Antwerp and Maria Wolowiec. Denmark's work has been influenced by everyone from Ella Fitzgerald to Patsy Cline.

READING: Pat Blackmer & Myra Elias
Martha Stewart's Christmas Letter to Erma Bombeck and Erma's Response

BELL CAROL arr. Heather Sorenson
Arranger, composer and Minnesota born Heather Sorenson used the traditional BELL CAROL tune created a choral fantasy for choir and two pianists. Jeannine Chapman is piano primo and Christy Case is piano segundo.

IRVING BERLIN'S CHRISTMAS* arr. Mark Brymer
George Gershwin called Irving Berlin "the greatest songwriter that has ever lived" and Jerome Kern concluded that he "...has no place in American music…he IS American music." Immigrating from Russia at the age of 5, Berlin created a legacy of hundreds of familiar compositions, including: HAPPY HOLIDAY, I'VE GOT MY LOVE TO KEEP ME WARM, COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, SNOW, and WHITE CHRISTMAS.

THE VERY BEST TIME OF THE YEAR John Rutter
The dean of 20th century British choral music, Sir David Willcocks, considered John Rutter the most gifted composer of his generation. Tonight's Rutter piece is one that is homey and all that is sentimental about Christmas.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS????? Arr. by The Buffoons
Over 50 years ago, the a cappella group The Buffoons came into being at the University of Colorado at Boulder. 30 years later, the professional a capella group STRAIGHT, NO CHASER made the Buffoon's TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS their own.!

GOD BLESS US EVERYONE Glen Ballard and Allen Silvestri
Composers Ballard and Silvestri have worked for decades individually and in concert on projects such as BACK TO THE FUTURE, FORREST GUMP, CHARLOTTE'S WEB AND THE POLAR EXPRESS. We end our evening with our wish for you and yours in this holiday season.

OUR CHORUS

Sopranos
Peggy Cunningham
Liz Dornbos
Alice Farr
Ginny Freeman
Jeanne Hafer
Rachel Higgins
Sharon McKinley**
Maureen Merry
Kendra Nuske*
Becky Ogilvie
Nancy Reed
Melinda Reitman*
Sandy Scarbrough
Shelley Thompson
Julie Van Antwerp
Emily Wagner
Maria Wolowiec

Altos
Pat Blackmer
Nancy Boehm
Joanne Carlson
Jeannine Chapman
Jeryl Colby
Myra Elias
Jennifer Flynn
Melissa Gilbert
Miriam Godoshian
Fran Johnson**
Peggy Link
Leslie McElduff
Kelly Ottinger
Becca Smith
Susie Vigland
Susan Wachowski
Judy Welch
Karyn Wells

Tenors
Gordon Banks*
Toby Gould
Julie Hirschfeld
Ed Scarbrough

Basses
Cory Bissell
Bob Boehm
Cody Bowers
Steve Chapman
Steve Elrick
Dale Herscher
Bob King
Gil Markus
Ray Miller
Andy Mollema
Stan Otto
Kristopher Smith*

*New this season

** Charter member

Thank you to the good people of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Frankfort United Methodist Church. Without your willingness to work us into your busy holiday seasons, our Christmas concerts would be so very different. We are grateful for each of you who make it possible.

Should you be in the area, keep an eye open for a concert that will be sponsored by the Chorus and presented by the St. Croix Falls, WI Chamber Choir and Jazz Band. The director of the Chamber Choir, Shawn Gudmunsen, was Dinah Haag's student and has held her former position for 17 years, bringing the choral program to great heights. These young people are sure to entertain the March doldrums away.

Mark your calendars for our Summer 2018 Concert, to be presented at the Benzie Central High School Auditorium at 7:30 pm on June 30, July 1, 2, 15 and 16. If you are interested in becoming a member of the BCCC, please contact any chorus member or give our director Dinah Haag a call at 231-651-0311. Rehearsals will begin sometime in February. The date will be announced on the chorus website (www.benziechorus.org) and on our Facebook page (Benzie County Community Chorus).

Thank you, Gail Brandt, for doing the lion's share of creating this season's program. Unable to sing with us this season, she found time time to lay the groundwork for this program.