The Benzie County
Community Chorus Presents

Carols and Lullabys

2019 Christmas Season

Benzie County Community Chorus's Christmas Concerts

Friday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd, Beulah

Saturday, December 14, 3:00 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd, Beulah

Sunday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.
Frankfort United Methodist Church
537 Crystal Ave., Frankfort

The Benzie County Community Chorus's Christmas Concerts have always been offered as a gift to our communities. This year, Carols and Lullabys is one of childhood, youth, comfort and peace. Irrespective of age, no matter where life has taken us, regardless of where we are on life's path, all of us need a little joy, space for reflection and a little peace for the soul. It is our hope that the songs, smiles, music and moods will wrap around you like a cozy blanket, warming your heart and blessing your soul. May it be a blessed event for all of us.

CAROLS AND LULLABYS

If you are so moved, we would appreciate your applause on the songs marked with an asterisk. Much as you might be moved to show your appreciation during other songs, we ask that you hold on to that feeling while the songs create the mood, moving one into the other.

THE SUSSEX CAROL
English Carol, arranged by Elaine Hagenberg
This tune originated in Sussex, England and is still performed at Chichester Cathedral every December. We might not be hearing this today had composer Vaughan Williams not "collected" it by chance, after hearing it sung in 1904.

DECK THE HALLS
Welsh Carol arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
The Welsh winter carol NOS GALAN received English lyrics in 1862 and was later arranged by Parker and Shaw into the standard known by so many choirs.

CHRISTMASTIME*
Michael W. Smith and Joanna Carlson arr. by Heather Sorenson
Dallas composer Heather Sorenson's arrangement of this contemporary American carol is quickly becoming a popular holiday tune.

JINGLE BELLS*
James Lord Pierpont, arranged by Kirby Shaw
First published in 1857, this song legitimizes Christmas concerts the world over. Brought to you, courtesy of Abby Hayes, Nancy Reed, Jennifer Flynn, Melissa Hamp, Cory Bissell, Dale Herscher, Cody Bowers and Dave Johnson.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
French Carol, arranged by Steven Strite
An unknown author penned the original text, "The Angels In Our Countryside." It was translated to the English version that we know today by Bishop James Chadwick. With a little imagination, the excited approach to the lowly cattle stall is replaced by awe and wonder as the manger is approached, ending with the excitement of spreading the news.

SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL*
John Rutter
This is Rutter's first published work written when he was but 18 years old. His choir director, Sir David Wilcocks assisted in seeing that PIPE CAROL was published the following year. It now enjoys its 50th year as one of Rutter's top-selling carols.

FUM, FUM, FUM*
Howard Helvey, Traditional Catalan Carol
The literal definition of "fum" in Catalan means smoke, as in smoke rising from a chimney, as on Christmas Day. It could be an onomatopoeia (the formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named), the sound of a rocking cradle, the sound of a drum, the strum of a guitar or bowing on a fiddle. At 400 years old, the carol can mean whatever you'd like it to mean.

INTERMISSION

YOU'RE A MEAN ONE, MISTER GRINCH*
Albert Hague, arranged by Scott Turnbull
An ode to the gloriously terrible Grinch, with lyrics written by Dr. Seuss himself! Thank you to the ensemble of Toby Gould, Ed Scarbrough, Dave Limer, Stan Otto, Ray Miller, Steve Chapman, and, as the wonderfully awful Mr. Grinch, Neil Nugent.

THE PRAYER*
David Foster and Carol Sager
Emily Wagner and Ramsey Blough present this simple prayer for wisdom, protection, and peace. The Italian lyrics are translated with the English: "Lead us to the place; guide us by Your grace, to a place where we'll be safe." Winner of a Golden Globe in 1999, THE PRAYER was recorded by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli.

GOODNIGHT MOON
Margaret Wise Brown, presented by Rachel Higgins, with thanks to this evening's student actress, Serenity Schulz.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS (INSTEAD OF SHEEP)*
Irving Berlin, arranged by Julie Gaulke
Berlin wrote this classic number in 1952 after his doctor advised him to cure his sleeplessness by 'counting your blessings.' Berlin did so and reported 'several nights of good sleep' and soon composed this sweet tidbit, which he included in the 1954 movie White Christmas. Recorded by Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney, the song was also nominated for Best Song in the 1955 Academy Awards and is brought us by Jeanne Hafer, Rachel Higgins, Michelle Thompson and Maria Wolowiec.

LULLABYE (GOODNIGHT, MY ANGEL)
Billy Joel, arranged by Phillip Lawson
Performed by the tenors and basses of the Benzie Chorus, Joel's loving gift to his small daughter demonstrates that not all lullabies are about sleep. "In your heart, there will always be a part of me."

SUO-GAN
Welsch melody, arranged by Barlow Bradford
"Community and choir: this is a marriage made in heaven. That is what heaven would be to me."… Bradford, director of the Utah Symphony Chorus. Suo-Gan, (meaning suo="lull", and gan=" song") was first discovered in print about 1800. Unfortunately, the name of the composer of this exquisite melody has been lost to history.

LULLABY
Daniel Elder
"Lullaby" is the second of a trio of songs written by Elder (born in 1966) and sung by BC3. (The other piece was "Ballade to the Moon", from our 2018 summer concerts.) Some of the lyrics of this piece pay homage to the text traditionally sung to "Taps," the tune generally played on bugle or trumpet to signal the end of day.

Lullaby, sing lullaby The day is far behind you
The moon sits high atop the sky
Now let sweet slumber find you Away, away

The day is done, and gone the sun That lit the world so brightly
The earth's a-glow with speckled show
Of twinkling stars so sprightly Away, away

Where the sunlight is beaming Through a deep cloudless blue
And the treetops are gleaming With a fresh morning dew
Where the mountains are shining On the meadows below
In a brilliant white lining of a new fallen snow

Close your eyes, breathe in the night A softer bed I'll make you
The trial is done, all danger gone
Now let for dreaming take you Away, away

Where the ocean is lapping at a soft, pearly shore,
and the swaying palms napping
as their swinging fronds soar.
Nor the dark night approaches yet so soft and so mild.
Lullaby, sing lullaby; sleep my child.

GLOW

Eric Whitacre

Born in 1970, Mr. Whitacre somehow made his way through piano lessons, junior high marching band and a techno-pop band not being able to read music. That issue was resolved during the time it took to receive his Bachelor of Music degree in composition. Making up for lost time, Whitacre created the first 'virtual choir,' involving over 2,000 voices from 58 countries via the internet.

Softly falls the winter snow,
Whispers to the sleeping world below:
"Winter tide awakes,"
Morning breaks and sets the Earth aglow.
In gentle tones of warmest white,
Proclaim the glory of Aurora's[1] light.
Sparrow sings in a clear, clean voice,
A sweet silver carol for the season born.
Radiant wings as the skies rejoice,
Arise and illuminate the morn.
Softly falls the morning snow,
Whispers to the sleeping world below:
"Glow... Like the softly falling snow" Glow, glow, glow.

[1] *Aurora was the Roman goddess of dawn.*

SILENT NIGHT

Peter Anglea

Born in 1988, Peter Anglea (pronounced "angel") is most likely the youngest of this evening's composers. In what is likely one of the most arranged tunes, STILLE NACHT composed by Franz Gruber in 1818, is one of the most easily recognized lullabies around the world.

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU
Peter Christian Lutkin
We send you home with Lutkin's "Seven-Fold Amen". Generations of music lovers have been first introduced to his music through his benediction first published in 1900.

Our Chorus

Sopranos	**Altos**	**Tenors**
Amanda Babcock	Nancy Boehm	Toby Gould
Dawn Cummings	Jeannine Chapman	Julie Hirschfeld
Peggy Cunningham	Jeryl Colby	Dave Limer
Alice Farr	Myra Elias	Ed Scarbrough
Ginny Freeman	Jennifer Flynn	
Jeanne Hafer	Miram Godoshian	**Basses**
Evelyn Harper*	Melissa Hamp	Cory Bissell
Abby Hayes	Fran Johnson**	Ramsey Blough
Rachel Higgins	Charlene Lang	Bob Boehm
Pat Kinske	Leslie McElduff	Cody Bowers
Sharon McKinley**	Vivian Reed	Steve Chapman
Maureen Merry	Susie Vigland	Bob French
Becky Ogilvie	Judy Welch	Dale Herscher
Emily Rafferty		Dave Johnson
Nancy Reed	*New this season	Bob King
Serenity Schulz	** Charter member	Ray Miller
Laura Sheffield		Neil Nugent
Shelley Thompson		Stan Otto
Julie Van Antwerp		Andy Wagner
Maria Wolowiec		

The Benzie County Community Chorus is grateful to the good people of Frankfort United Methodist and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches. Without their willingness to work us into their busy holiday seasons, our Christmas concerts would be so very different. We are grateful for each of you who make it possible.

Thank you, Gail Brandt, for writing a large portion of this season's program booklet. Without her help, the performances would also be very different.

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 in late February. The date will be announced on the chorus website (www.benziechorus.org) and on our Facebook page (Benzie County Community Chorus).

Please note that our Summer 2020 Concerts will be held July 10, 11, 12 and 13.

As in the last few years, the shows will be presented at the Benzie Central High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Please note that the coming summer concerts will be presented over one weekend. We appreciate your continued support as the Chorus seeks the best balance between performers and our audiences.

OUR DIRECTOR

While still in high school, Dinah Haag took her first church choir directing job. After a double degree in instrumental and music education, becoming a high school music and choral director in Wisconsin for seven years, and receiving a Master of Divinity degree, she 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 ever-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 SINGER ACCOMPANIST

Jeannine Chapman, a graduate and saxophone major of University of Michigan spent her teaching career in Ann Arbor (elementary instrumental), Iowa City (piano), and Chapel Hill, NC (middle school orchestra). In retirement, she loves studying piano and participating in vocal & instrumental ensembles.