The Benzie County
Community Chorus
presents our
Christmas Concerts
Friday, December 11, 7:00 p.m.
Frankfort United Methodist Church
537 Crystal Avenue
Saturday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.
Frankfort United Methodist Church
537 Crystal Avenue
Sunday, December 13, 3:00 p.m.
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd., Beulah

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

Sopranos
Alice Farr
Ginny Freeman
Rachel Higgins
Hannah Long
Sharon McKinley
Maureen Merry
Lauren Michalak
Melissa Napper
Becky Ogilvie
Nancy Reed
Karen Remington
Sandy Scarbrough
Mary Ann Short
Shelley Thompson
Julie Van Antwerp
Emily Wagner
Maria Wolowiec

Altos
Pat Blackmer
Nancy Boehm
Judy Bosma
Gail Brandt
Joanne Carlson
Jeannine Chapman
Jeryl Colby
Phyllis Crowell-VanHammen
Myra Elias
Jennifer Flynn
Melissa Gilbert
Charlene Lang
Peggy Link
Emily Luxford
Becky Sattler
Susie Vigland
Judy Welch
Karyn Wells

Tenors
Al Bryant
Toby Gould
Julie Hirschfeld
Corbin Lopez
Jay Peregrine
Ed Scarbrough
Andy Wagner

Basses
Cory Bissell
Bob Boehm
Steve Chapman
Steve Elrick
Dale Herscher
Dave Johnson
Bob King
Ray Miller
Andy Mollema
Neil Nugent
Stan Otto
John Ruckrich

BENZIE CHORUS PROGRAM NOTES DECEMBER 2015

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS arr. Mark Hayes (1953-)
This exuberant setting of the old carol NOEL, NOUVELET (CHRISTMAS COMES ANEW) dates back to the late 15th century, during the earliest period of the French Renaissance.

THE ROAD HOME adapted by Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)
Soloist: Karen Remington
The Dale Warland Singers commissioned the beloved Minnesotan composer Paulus to write a short "folk" type choral arrangement. He chose the tune "Prospect", from SOUTHERN HARMONY, 1835, for which his friend Michael Dennis Browne wrote a new text. THE ROAD HOME speaks of coming home after being lost or wandering. May this moving, quietly powerful message bring your heart "home" this season.

I WISH YOU CHRISTMAS John Rutter (1945 -)
Renowned English choral composer John Rutter created a modern and uplifting carol that reflects his love of the holiday. His admiration of American holiday music in popular song is reflected in the warmth and sentiment of this selection. Rutter has said, "With music, your Christmas can always be perfect. With real life Christmas, there's always something that's going to go a bit wrong. You're hoping it's going to snow on Christmas day, but it doesn't. Or, your turkey smells absolutely gorgeous, but it turns out that it's a bit burned when you come to eat it. But the music of Christmas is always perfect, and so I love to remember and celebrate Christmas in music and song."

GLORIA Antonio Vivaldi (1669?-1741)

The text is translated from the original Latin: "Glory be in the highest to God!" Undiscovered until the late 1920s, it took another 37 years until an authentic rendition of the GLORIA was published and then performed at the First Festival of Baroque Choral Music at Brooklyn College, NY. Vivaldi probably composed the GLORIA in 1715, while he served as a priest, music teacher and virtuoso violinist at Ospedale della Pieta', an orphanage for girls in Venice. The entire GLORIA is Vivaldi's most famous choral piece, which in its entirety presents the traditional GLORIA from the Latin mass in twelve varied cantata-like sections. Tonight you will hear the first selection of this glorious composition.

THE SLEIGH ('A La Russe') Richard Kountz (1896-1950)

Evocative of a fast dash through a snowy Russian forest, American composer Richard Kountz's concert classic is short and sparkling. You can almost hear the sleigh bells!

READING - from Dylan Thomas' A Child's Christmas in Wales

read by Andy Mollema

THERE IS FAINT MUSIC Dan Forrest (1978-)

"There is faint music in the night, and pale wings fanned by silver flight…..a frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow"…… This masterful poetic setting is filled with wonderful imagery. The delicate text from American poet Nancy Buckley partners with Forrest's gentle melody and rich harmony.

THE SONG OF MARY arr. Faye Lopez (1955-)

Soloist: Emily Wagner

"My soul exalts the Lord my God, and my spirit rejoices in praise to God my savior…" This traditional text of Mary's MAGNIFICAT from Luke's gospel is set to a beloved melody of Sergei Rachmaninoff in this heartfelt song of thanksgiving and wonder.

THE HANDS THAT FIRST HELD MARY'S CHILD Dan Forrest (1978-)

Soloist: Emil Khudyev, clarinet

Originally commissioned by the Myers Park United Methodist Women's Choir, Charlotte, NC, this is a new meditation upon Joseph the carpenter as he first beheld the Child Jesus: "The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood. From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood" as "the tiny form in Joseph's hands" filled him with joy and gratitude.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR arr. F. M. Christiansen (1871-1955)

Christiansen's arrangement of this traditional Silesian folk tune is characterized by beautiful harmonies and thoughtful text. He led the St. Olaf Choir for 30 years, and BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR is the choir's signature anthem. It is sung at the conclusion of its concerts.

Intermission

THE FIRST NOEL arr. By Carolyne M. Taylor

Nozomi Khudyev, piano

The traditional French carol has been arranged in the setting of Tchaikovsky's B Flat Minor Piano Concerto.

RISE UP, SHEPHERD, AND FOLLOW arr. By Gordon Thornett (1942-)

Soloist: Emil Khudyev on clarinet

British composer and musical therapist Gordon Thornett has created a captivating rendition of a sweet classic spiritual. In this gentle adaption, he adds new flavor to the original melody with a clarinet counter-melody.

FREE US, EMMANUEL! Pepper Choplin (1957-)

This passionate plea for the coming of the Christ Child has a vigorous piano accompaniment that celebrates God's faithfulness to us. Choplin is a popular and prolific composer and arranger of contemporary sacred music.

GO WHERE I SEND THEE arr. By Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory

Probably written in the 18th century and sourced to either Kentucky or Arkansas, this rollicking Afro-American spiritual tells the Gospel story with vivid imagery.

READING - from Laura Lee Hope's <u>The Story of a White Rocking Horse</u>

read by Julie Hirschfeld

THE TWELVE DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS Frederick Silver (1936-2009)

Soloists: Lauren Michalak, Gail Brandt, Cory Bissell, Neil Nugent

At last, we discover the fate of those twelve famous gifts!

CHRISTMAS ON BROADWAY arr. John Higgins

Soloists: Sandy Scarbrough, Becky Sattler, Judy Welch, Ed Scarbrough, Steve Chapman, Stan Otto, Rachel Higgins, Toby Gould, Andy Wagner, Nancy Reed

Angela Lansbury, hanging the holly onstage and insisting to nephew Patrick that "We Need a Little Christmas!" (MAME) is a treasured memory to many lucky concert goers. This Broadway medley includes four such evocative titles. The Benzie Chorus hopes that these tunes will bring back some happy memories for you.

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," from HERE'S LOVE
"Pine Cones and Holly Berries," from HERE'S LOVE
"My Favorite Things," from THE SOUND OF MUSIC
"We Need a Little Christmas," from MAME

SILENT NIGHT arr. Craig Courtney (1948-)

In 1818, "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" was heard for the first time in a village church in Oberndorf, Austria. It was during a midnight mass on Christmas Eve that Father Joseph Mohr and choir director and composer Franz Gruber sang the beautiful words and melody through the candlelit church.

Please join the Benzie Chorus in singing the middle two verses.

Silent night, holy night. ,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth;
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

DINAH HAAG is a native of Minnesota, having graduated from St. Cloud State University with a double Bachelor of Science degree in vocal and instrumental music education. She directed church choirs even before graduating from high school; and after seven successful years teaching public school choral music, she attended Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN, earning a Master of Divinity degree. She has served the First Congregational Church of Frankfort, MI as pastor since 1998.

A native of Japan, NOZOMI KHUDYEV has performed as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral keyboardist at prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. An active collaborative pianist, she has played recitals with both instrumentalists and vocalists in Tokyo, New York, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New Haven and Ann Arbor, Michigan. She completed a bachelor of music degree in piano performance at the University of Michigan, and a master of music degree in collaborative piano at the Julliard School. Post graduation, she has worked as a staff pianist at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, California, and the Killington Music Festival in Vermont, while maintaining her collaborative performances with musicians around the country. She currently serves as an instructor of piano and as a collaborative pianist at Interlochen Arts Academy.

EMIL KHUDYEV is instructor of clarinet at Interlochen Arts Academy and Clarinet Institute. Previously, he served as acting associate principal clarinet, second clarinet and E-flat clarinet with the Kansas City Symphony. Mr. Khudyev has performed with many orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Pacific Symphony. He is also an active chamber musician performing with the Obetti Trio, Los Angeles Grand Ensemble, and with members of the Paris Opera.