The Benzie County Community Chorus
Wishes You and Yours

# Good Tidings

## OF COMFORT AND JOY

at our
2021 Concert Series

*Masks required.*

# Benzie County Community Chorus's Christmas Concerts

Friday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.
&
Saturday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd, Beulah

Sunday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.
Frankfort United Methodist Church
537 Crystal Ave., Frankfort

Following general and current choral practices, we are asking all to wear masks this evening, regardless of vaccination status. Thank you for helping us keep all of us safe and well.

In our joy of returning to live performances, it is our hope that our 2021 concerts will bring a measure of comfort and joy in a season that may need a little extra of those precious things. Whether the music surrounds you like warm water or a cozy blanket on a blustery day, we hope to give you food for the soul and allow your heart to prepare for all that the coming days hold for us. We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Joyful Holiday Season.

# 2021 Christmas Program

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.

## SOLI DEO

Additional Percussionists:
Jeannine Chapman, Eric Joslin, Nancy Reed

Michigan composer David Waggoner currently teaches elementary music in Woodhaven, MI and created the festive "Soli Deo" against the background of the "Old Hundredth," tune, first published in 1551. Soli Deo is Latin for "God Alone," a phrase used by Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frederic Handel and others at the end of their pieces to signify that the work was produced for the sake of God.

## MAJESTY AND GLORY*

Tom Fettke, lyrics by Linda Lee Johnson, based on Psalm 8, released in 1979. Whether camping under the stars, standing on a sidewalk anywhere in the world or driving home at night - sleigh or car - the magnitude of what is beyond us can remind us that we are connected in so many ways and for a long time.

## STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING*

Eugene Butler, lyrics by Robert Frost written in 1922. In a letter to a poet colleague, Frost said this poem was his "best bid for remembrance." Mr. Butler has over 750 compositions with 47 publishing houses, and those are the published pieces. The poem doesn't give us an origin or destination, but it surely could be on the road home.

## THE ROAD HOME* Soloist: Christy Case

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) and lyrics by Michael Dennis Browne
Minnesota born Paulus used the pentatonic tune named "Prospect," published in the shaped note hymn book, Southern Harmony, first published in 1835. Mr. Paulus composed over 450 works, many with themes of homecoming, being found, grace and hope.

## AMAZING GRACE*

This piece brings together seemingly dissimilar elements: the melody of "House of the Rising Sun" by rhythm, blues and rock band, The Animals, the 1700's lyrics from previous slave trade investor and ship captain turned English Anglican cleric, John Newton and the hymn tune "New Britain". Retired church musician, Thomas Keesecker, melded these three elements into a piece that is as delightful to sing as it is to hear.

## I HEAR THE PROPHET CALLIN'*

Additional Percussionists: Jeannine Chapman & Nancy Reed
Soloists: Eric Joslin & Ed Scarbrough

The words and music by Pepper Choplin are based on Isaiah 35:1-2, 4-6 and 40:3, woven into an Appalachian folk style that evokes the call of the prophet while rocking on the front porch.

## BREAK FORTH, O BEAUTEOUS HEAVENLY LIGHT*

This piece is what happens when great musicians come together, even centuries apart. As part of this Christmas Oratorio, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) harmonized the German lyrics of Johann Rist (1607-1667). Famous arrangers/editors, Alice Parker and Robert Shaw put their spin on it for publication in 1986.

## FAIREST LORD JESUS

Using the hymn tune "Crusader's Hymn," which is based on a Silesian (East European) folk melody, the author of the text is unknown, although it was first published in the Münster Gesangbuch (hymnal) of 1677. Joseph August Seiss translated the lyrics into English in 1873.

## IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE CHRISTMAS

Made famous by numerous entertainment greats, the song was written in 1951 by Meredith Willson. The 'tree in the Grand Hotel' may refer to the Yarmouth Grand Hotel in Nova Scotia where there was a five and dime store operating in that same area at the time of composition. It could also refer to the Historic Park Inn Hotel in Mason City, Iowa, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. 94-year-old Anita Kerr is an American singer, arranger, composer, conductor, pianist, and music producer.

## PERFECT CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Words and Music by Paul O'Neill, Robert Kinkel, and Jon Oliva, arranged by Greg Gilpin from the Universal Pictures Motion Picture "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," which pretty much says it all. In addition to his composition and conducting work, Greg Gilpin also conducts choral tours through the U.S. and abroad.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Arranged by Warren Barker

"Silver Bells," Words and Music by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans, "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire), Words and Music by Mel Torme and Robert Wells, and "We Need a Little Christmas," Words and Music by Jerry Herman. Some of the most

iconic Christmas literature of the 20th century all packaged together for singing and listening pleasure.

# The Chorus

Rosemary Abbett
Amanda Babcock
Emily Baker
Delores Berta*
Cory Bissell
Bob Boehm
Nancy Boehm
Cody Bowers
Jeannine Chapman
Steve Chapman
Jeryl Colby
Dawn Cummings
Myra Elias
Bob French
Phil Gates*
Kay Gossens*
Jeanne Hafer
Missi Hamp
Abby Hayes
Dale Herscher
Rachel Higgins
Alana Holbrook*
Kathi Houston
Fran Johnson**
Rob Jones*
Eric Joslin*
Charlene Lang
Dave Limer
Peggy Link
Leslie McElduff
Sharon McKinley**
Maureen Merry
Becky Ogilvie
Stan Otto
Nancy Reed
Vivian Reed
Judy Rodes*
Rick Rodes*
Ed Scarbrough
Sandy Scarbrough
Serenity Schulz
Shelley Thompson
Julie Van Antwerp
Sabine Vera
Judy Welch
Karyn Wells

*New this season

** Charter member

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 (The Cherry Hut) and spending time with her sons, Carson and Caleb, and husband, Andy.

OUR DRUMMER

Cody Bowers is a graduate of Benzie Central High School and has an audio engineering certification. His dream job is to be able to write and play music.

Please note that our

## Summer 2022 Concerts

will be held June 25, 26, 27 and July 10 & 11.

We aren't yet sure about the venue yet, but we'll let the papers and social media know in plenty of time. The theme of the concerts will fall under "A Rose Is a Rose." We hope you'll be able to attend!

The Benzie County Community Chorus is grateful to the good people of Frankfort United Methodist and St. Andrew 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, Martha Mollema, for her faithful photography and videography, this and all the previous years. And thanks to Dave Limer for video-taping this year's concerts.

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 the first Sunday of March.

To keep up with our events, please feel free to check out our website, www.benziechorus.com or follow us on Facebook: Benzie County Community Chorus.

If you'd like to give us a little more support, you can go to our Facebook or web pages or use the QR code below. We really do appreciate your on-going support.

Donate Here