Benzie County Community Chorus

Presents Our 2016

Christmas Concerts

Friday, December 9 , 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd., Beulah

Saturday, December 10, 3:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd., Beulah

Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m.
Frankfort United Methodist Church
537 Crystal Ave., Frankfort

A freewill offering will be taken.

Your gracious applause is always appreciated. To contribute to the overall performance and meaning of today's concert, we ask there be no applause following songs with an asterick. (*) Thank you, and we hope that you enjoy this Christmas celebration.

The Benzie Chorus would like to thank you for attending our concert. It is always a pleasure to share our music with our audiences. We wish you a very blessed Christmas season and a peaceful New Year.

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

Thank you to:
- Hilda Quist for turning the pages for husband, Tim.
- Gail Brandt for her program notes
- Churches and church members for your hospitality.
- Christy Case and Benzie Central High School for the use of the conga drums.

In the Mind of God,
Love was born
as Christ among us:
the height of joy,
the depth of peace,
the breadth of love.

Benzie County Community Chorus
2016 Christmas Concert

In the Mind of God

*Heleluyan — Stan Otto, Soloist
Traditional Muscogee (Creek) Indian, arr. by Jerry Ulrich

*Ubi Caritas
Maurice Duruflé, Op. 10, No. 1, adapted by J. Mark Baker

O Come, Emmanuel — Elaine Hagenberg

In the original language of the Muskogee tribe of southern United States, "Heleluyan" can be understood as referring to the hallelujah that would be found at the end of a literal trail (Trail of Tears) or the end of a spiritual trail, as in an afterlife. In both cases there is an assurance that one's own people will be "there."

Twentieth century Parisian Maurice Durufle' (1902-1986) was known as a brilliant organist and composer. The text of "Ubi Caritas," originally believed to have been a Gregorian chant, translates as

Ubi caritas et amor,	Where charity and love are,
Deus ibi est.	God is there.
Congregavit nos in unum	Gathering us together in one
Christi amor.	is the love of Christ.
Exultemus,	Let us rejoice
et in ipso iucundemur.	and be glad in it.
Timeamus,	Let us fear
et amemus Deum vivum.	and let us love the living God,
Et ex corde diligamus	and from a sincere heart,
nos sincero.	let us love one another.

"O Come, Emmanuel" is categorized as an antiphon, a Gregorian chant or psalm, sung alternately between two different choirs in a call and response manner.

Love Was Born

The Birthday of a King
William Harold Neidlinger, arr. by Lloyd Larson

Dormi, Dormi, Bel Bambin
Italian Carol, arr. by Valerie Showers Crescenz

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (in four short movements)
Tim Quist, Soloist
Tempus Adelt Floridum, setting by Wilbur Held

Some of Neidlinger's (1864-1924) compositions include the famous "Crossing the Bar" and "Memories of Lincoln." Adding to his other 1,000 plus works, arranger Lloyd Larson included a fresh harmonization of Adeste Fideles to the arrangement of this well-loved chestnut.

"Dormi, Dormi" is a loving lullaby to the Christ Child, an 18th century Swiss-Italian-Corsican carol. The women of the Chorus are pleased to present it to you.

Dormi, dormi, dormi,	Sleep, o sleep,
o bel babin	my lovely Child,
Re divin, Re divin.	King divine, King divine.
Fa la nanna, o fantolino,	Close your eyes and sweetly slumber,

The tune name for "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child," *Tempus Adelt Floridum* is a 13th-century spring carol that translates to "The time is near for flowering." It was first published in the 1582 Finnish song collection *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of seventy-four songs intended for use in church and school, making the collection a unique record of the late medieval period.

As Christ Among Us

"Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling"
Hector Berlioz, Chorus from "*Childhood of Christ*," Op. 25

*Amazing Grace Traditional folk song, arr. Thomas Keesecker

Angels Unaware Pepper Choplin Emily Wagner, Soloist

French Romantic composer Hector Belioz (1803-1869) was known for his musical innovation and expression and originally wrote this piece as an organ piece for a friend. Also known as "The Shepherd' Farewell to the Holy Family" each verse envisions the baby Jesus and the holy family diminishing into the distance as they leave Bethlehem for Egypt.

Thomas Keesecker pairs the tune from the popular song, "The House of the Rising Sun," with "Amazing Grace." While this title may not elicit immediate thoughts of the holiday season, it follows the theme of "Christ Among Us."

"Angels Unaware" reflects the composer's desire to "create a feeling of holy expectation as we reflect on those around us who are in need of kindness." This gentle composition asks us, at Christmas and all year round, to remember that "if we take the time to show love and care, it's like there are angels everywhere."

The Height of Joy

A Reading "Christmas Believing" read by Andy Mollema
Found on Facebook at how-about-that.com

*Good King Wenceslas
Dave Johnson, Master & Rachel Higgins, Page
English Spring Carol, arr. by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

*The Boar's Head Carol
English Carol. arr. by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Christmas In the Great Hall	Arr. by Mark Hayes
Masters in This Hall	French Melody
I Saw Three Ships	English Melody and Words
	Judy Welch & Neil Nugent, soloists
The Sussex Carol	English Melody and Words
How Far Is It to Bethlehem?	French Melody
	Jeanne Hafer & Tania Arens, Soloists
O Little Town of Bethlehem	English Melody and Words
What Star is This?	Michael Praetorius, 1609

Published in 1853, "Good King Wenceslas" celebrates part of the Boxing Day tradition. Along with his devoted page, the lyrics use the 10th century Catholic Duke of Bohemia (patron saint of the Czech Republic) as the noble heroes of this carol.

"The Boar's Head Carol" is a hearty fifteenth century English carol that describes the ancient tradition of sacrificing a boar and presenting its head at a Yuletide feast. This robust practice is still observed at a number of schools and clubs in Britain today, as well as part of contemporary celebrations in the United States and Canada. You will hear it performed today by the basses and tenors of the Benzie Chorus.

French, English, and German carols come together in the fantasy of "Christmas In the Great Hall." These, and so many of the familiar carols, create the height of the Christmas singing tradition.

INTERMISSION

The Depth of Peace

Deck The Hall — Traditional

*I Hear the Prophet Callin' — Pepper Choplin
Ed Scarbrough, soloist
Jeannine Chapman & Nancy Reed, Percussion

*All 'Round the Glory Manger — Peggy Cunningham, Soloist
American Spiritual, arr. Larry Shackley

Soli Deo — David Waggoner
Jeannine Chapman, Andy Mollema, Nancy Reed, Cody Bowers, Percussion

Ye Followers of the Lamb
American Shaker Song, arr. Edwin Earle Ferguson

"Deck the Hall" is popularly known by its traditional English words, but is lesser known as having a traditional 16th century Welsh tune. Because it's always fun to sing, feel free to join us.

Pepper Choplin echoes the feel of Southern Harmony and Appalachian hymns in the strong and steady declaration "I Hear the Prophet Callin'." Choplin is one of today's more prolific choral music composers.

A loving look at the "baby down in the straw," the radiant "All 'Round the Glory Manger" has been performed by Harry Belafonte, the American Spiritual Ensemble, and Chicago a Cappella.

Michigan composer David Waggoner created the festive "Soli Deo" as a joyful interpretation of the "Old Hundreth,"first published in 1551.

The Shakers were an 18th-19th century religious sect that splintered from the Quakers and settled in New England. Their services featured lively music, clapping and impassioned shaking/dancing. In this arrangement of "Followers," Ferguson attempts to portray the fervent nature of their beliefs through increasing dynamics and tempo. Toward the end of the piece, he uses an unusual and creative tempo/mood indication: "Delirio."

The Breadth of Love

A Reading "Merry Stressmas" read by Pat Blackmer

Mary, Did You Know? Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
Cory Bissell, Cody Bowers, Libby Brouwer, Toby Gould, Emily Wagner, Singers

We Three Kings John H. Hopkins, arr. Russell Robinson

*Once Upon a Wintertime Ray Gilbert and Bobby Worth
Cody Bowers, Drums; Susan Wachowski, Jingle Bells

*I Love the Winter Weather
Tickler Freeman and Walter Brown, arr. Mac Huff
Sandy Scarbrough, Soloist

*The Man with the Bag
Harold Stanley, Irving Taylor and Dudley Brooks, arr. Paul Langford

Santa Baby
Joan Javits, Phil Springer and Tony Springer, arr. Paul Langford

We Wish You a Merry Christmas English Carol, arr. John Rutter

"Merry Stressmas" was aired on National Public Radio in 2006, told by Minnesota humorist, playwright and storyteller, Kevin Kling.

Written by Gaither Vocal Band members Lowry and Greene, "Mary, Did You Know?" was first recorded in 1991 by Michael English. Since then, it has become a contemporary classic sung by dozens of celebrities, appearing on US Billboard charts from Country to Hip-Hop. It was most recently on the Hot 100 chart, brought back by the a cappella group, Pentatonix, who inspired this evening's performance.

Episcopalian clergyman John H. Hopkins composed "We Three Kings" in 1857 as part of a Christmas pageant for his nieces and nephews. Russell Robinson has introduced this classic carol to the rhythms of Dave Brubeck's "Take Five."

"Once Upon a Wintertime" harkens back to the original Disney use of this charming little jazz waltz that was originally sung by Frances Langford in the 1940s and re-released in 1954 as a movie theater cartoon short about a boy and girl's outing on the ice.

"I Love the Winter Weather" was first introduced in the musical film *On the Avenue* and recorded by a long list of notables including Billie Holiday, Dean Martin and Tony Bennett. Mac Huff arranged the Broadway shows *Rent*, *Hairspray*, and *The Producers*.

(Everybody's Waitin' for) "The Man with a Bag" is a Christmas song written in 1950 and made popular by Kay Starr. Across the world, Santa Claus is known by the vision of "The Man with a Bag."

Eartha Kitt recorded "Santa Baby" in 1953 and it was a huge hit. She later said that it was one of her favorite songs to record, her version being described as a deceptively strong cup of eggnog.

Around 1740, the greeting "a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" was first recorded. Set to music, this traditional English carol celebrates the custom of rewarding carolers with Christmas treats. John Rutter has taken all of this and created a fresh and brilliant little trifle.

Please allow the Chorus members to escort you in song to the reception immediately following today's concert. Feel free to join us in singing the carols as we leave the sanctuary.

Joy to the World — George Frederick Handel

2016 Benzie County Community Christmas Chorus

Our Director

In addition to her position with the BCCC, a group with which she has sung since 1998, Dinah Haag is the Senior Minister of Frankfort's First Congregational Church. She received a double degree in choral and instrumental music education from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. Prior to moving to Michigan, she was a public school music and choral teacher for seven years in St. Croix Falls, WI.

Our Accompanist

Tim Quist is a retired elementary school principal and teacher from Grand Rapids. He is celebrating his 50th year as a church musician. He and his wife Hilda are enjoying their retirement of five years in the Frankfort area. Tim has degrees in music from Calvin College and Michigan State University.

2016 Christmas Concert Members

Sopranos

Tania Arens
Peggy Cunningham
Alice Farr
Ginny Freeman
Jean Hafer
Rachel Higgins
Sharon McKinley
Maureen Merry
Becky Ogilvie
Nancy Reed
Sandy Scarbrough
Shelley Thompson
Julie Van Antwerp
Emily Wagner
Maria Wolowiec

Altos

Pat Blackmer
Nancy Boehm
Libby Brouwer
Joanne Carlson
Jeannine Chapman
Jeryl Colby
Phyllis Crowell-VanHammen
Myra Elias
Melissa Gilbert
Fran Johnson
Peggy Link
Emily Luxford
Leslie McElduff
Susie Vigland
Susan Wachowski
Judy Welch
Karyn Wells

Tenors

Toby Gould
Ed Scarbrough

Basses

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