

Sounds of Christmas
University Singers, Knights Chorus, and PLU Ringers

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
The College of Professional Studies and School of Music, Theatre & Dance present

Sounds of Christmas

University Singers
Tiffany Walker, *conductor*

Knights Chorus
Barry Johnson, *conductor*

PLU Ringers
Linda Miller, *conductor*

Michael Plagerman, *organ* • Amy Boers and Mariyka Vasilchuk, *piano* • Elizabeth Landis, *harp*

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM

(Please hold applause until the conclusion of the concert)

Prelude: In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 608..... J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Michael Plagerman, *organ*

Processional: Once in Royal David's City

Verse 1: Kaitlyn Owen and Faye Stock, *soloists*

Once in royal David's City
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Verse 2: All

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,

And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Verse 3: All

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Reading: Advent..... Thomas Merton (1915-1968)
Joseph Stitzel, *reader*

Charm with your stainlessness
these winter nights,
Skies, and be perfect!
Fly vividly in the fiery dark, you quiet meteors,
And disappear.

You moon, be slow to go down,
This is your full!

The four white roads make off in silence
Towards the four parts of the starry universe.

Time falls like manna
at the corners of the wintry earth.
We have become more humble than the rocks,
More wakeful than the patient hills.

Charm with your stainlessness
these nights in Advent, holy spheres,
While minds, as meek as beasts,
Stay close at home in the sweet hay;
And intellects are quieter

than the flocks that feed by starlight.

Oh pour your darkness and your brightness
over all our solemn valleys,
You skies:
and travel like the gentle Virgin,
Toward the planets' stately setting,

Oh white full moon as quiet as Bethlehem!

PLU Ringers

Angels from the Realms of Glory **Traditional Carol**
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Knights Chorus

Resonet in laudibus **Johannes Schulz (1582-1653)**

It echoes in praise
with joyful applause
Zion with the faithful:
He appeared whom Mary gave birth to.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
A virgin gave birth to God
whom the divine Word foretold.
Today He appeared in Israel:
A King was born of the Virgin Mary.

Of the Father's Love Begotten **Divinum Mysterium/13th Century Plainsong**
arr. Edwin T. Childs

O Tannenbaum **Traditional German Carol**
arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Harry Gomes and Spencer McCray, *soloists*

Reading: O Simplicitas **Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007)**
Isabella Wilkins, *reader*

An angel came to me
and I was unprepared
to be what God was using.
Mother I was to be.
A moment I despaired,
thought briefly of refusing.
The angel knew I heard.
According to God's Word
I bowed to this strange choosing.

A palace should have been
the birthplace of a king
(I had no way of knowing).
We went to Bethlehem;
it was so strange a thing.
The wind was cold, and blowing,
my cloak was old, and thin.
They turned us from the inn;
the town was overflowing.

God's Word, a child so small
who still must learn to speak
lay in humiliation.
Joseph stood, strong and tall,
The beasts were warm and meek
and moved with hesitation.
The Child born in a stall?
I understood it: all.
Kings came in adoration.
Perhaps it was absurd;
a stable set apart,
the sleepy cattle lowing;
and the incarnate Word
resting against my heart.
My joy was overflowing.
The shepherds came, adored
the folly of the Lord,
wiser than all men's knowing.

University Singers

from *A Ceremony of Carols, op. 28*Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

- 1. *Procession*
- 2. *Wolcum Yole!*

Elizabeth Landis, *harp*

Today Christ is born
 Today the Savior has appeared
 Today the angels sing
 The archangels rejoice
 Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
 Glory to God in the highest, Alleluia!

The Rose.....Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Amy Boers, *piano*

Carol: The First Nowell (please stand and sing)

1. (All)
 The first Nowell the angel did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds
 in fields as they lay;
 In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
 Born is the King of Israel.

2. (Treble voices)
 They looked up and saw a star
 Shining in the east beyond them far;
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 And so it continued both day and night.

(All)
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
 Born is the King of Israel.

3. (Tenor/Bass voices)
 And by the light of that same star
 Three Wise Men came from country far;
 To seek for a king was their intent,
 And to follow the star wherever it went.

(All)
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
 Born is the King of Israel.

4. (All)
 Then let us all with one accord
 Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
 That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
 and with his blood mankind hath bought:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
 Born is the King of Israel.

Knights Chorus

The Boar's Head Carol.....English Secular Carol

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head.....John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

Eric Woodson and Kendan Bendt, *soloists*

PacemLee Dengler (b. 1951)

Kade Levien, *flute*

Give us peace.
 And on earth
 Peace to all of goodwill.

University Singers

from *A Ceremony of Carols, op. 28* Benjamin Britten

3. *There is no Rose*

4b. *Balulalow*

Lydia McDougall, *soloist* • Elizabeth Landis, *harp*

Still, Still, Still (A Lullaby) **Traditional Austrian Carol**

arr. Michelle Hynson

Caroline Bergren, *student conductor*

Reading: Carol **Thomas Merton**

Spencer McCray, *reader*

Flocks feed by darkness
with a noise of whispers,
In the dry grass of pastures,
And lull the solemn night with their weak bells.

The little towns upon the rocky hills
Look down as meek as children:
Because they have seen come this holy time.

God's glory, now,
is kindled gentler than low candlelight
Under the rafters of a barn:
Eternal piece is sleeping in the hay,
And Wisdom's born in secret

in a straw-roofed stable.

And O!
Make holy music in the stars, you happy angels.
You shepherds, gather on the hill.
Look up, you timid flocks, where the three kings
Are coming through the wintry trees;

While we unnumbered children of the wicked
centuries
Come after with our penances and prayers,
And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay
Beside the wise men's golden jars.

Carol: As With Gladness Men of Old (please stand and sing)

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

2. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,

Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

3. In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down:
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King

Reading: Not Celebrate? **Ann Weems (1935-2016)**

Lydia McDougall, *reader*

Not celebrate?
Your burden is too great to bear?
Your loneliness is intensified
during this Christmas season?
Your tears have no end?
Not celebrate?
You should lead the celebration!
You should run through the streets
to ring the bells and sing the loudest!
You should fling the tinsel on the tree,
For He is born this day to you.

and open your house to your neighbors,
and call them in to dance!
For it is you above all others
who know the joy of Advent.
It is unto you that a Savior is born this day,
One who comes to lift your burden
from your shoulders,
One who comes to wipe the tears from your eyes.
You are not alone,

PLU Ringers

I Saw Three Ships **Traditional Carol**
arr. Sandra Eithun

University Singers

This Endris Night..... **Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)**
Jessica Heinauer, Hannah McVay, and Hailey Wharton, *handbells*
Caroline Bergren, *student conductor*

from A Ceremony of Carols, op. 28 **Benjamin Britten**
10. Deo Gracias
Elizabeth Landis, *harp*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing **Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)**
arr. Josh Sparkman
Amy Boers, *piano*

Reading: It Is Not Over **Ann Weems**
Melody Molina-Vasquez, *reader*

It is not over, this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which God can throw stars.
When we begin to think that we can predict
the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ

in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening, always listening for angel words.

Benediction **James Early (b. 1947)**
Josh Green, *reader*

May your heart hear the songs of angels,
and may the star of Bethlehem
shine on the gift you bring the Christ Child.

Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful (please stand and sing)

1. (All)
O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

2. (All)
God of God, Light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created:
O come, let us adore him...

3. (All)
Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest:

O come, let us adore him...

Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729..... **J. S. Bach**
Michael Plagerman, *organ*

University Singers

Tiffany Walker, *conductor*

Caroline Bergren, *student conductor* • Amy Boers, *piano*

Soprano

Janelle Chin
Olivia Curry
Allison Geary
Ina Hong
Paulina Kormos
Lydia McDougall
Gracie McDanold
Kaitlyn Owen
Katia Yeager

Alto

Vicky Bratcher
Angeli Chaves
Madison Maleport
Lainey McCarl
Melody Molina-Vasquez
Elizabeth Oie
Faye Stock
Isabella Wilkins
Ali Tyrell-Smith

Knights Chorus

Barry Johnson, *conductor*

Mariyka Vasilchuk, *piano*

Tenor

Joel Barkman
Kendan Bendt
Harry Gomes
Lennon Green
Samuel Johnson
Kade Levien
Joaquin Makinster
Spencer McCray
Jacob Ray
Joseph Stitzel
Eric Woodson

Bass

Daniel Allen
Gabriel Casey-Aguinaga
Josh Green
Jake Kesling
Ryan Lelli
Brandon Liukkonen
Declan Long
Quinlan Shick
Hal Warren
Ivan Wilson

PLU Ringers

Linda Miller, *conductor*

Caroline Bergren
Vicky Bratcher
Ella Brei
Caitlin Collins
Jessica Heinauer
Ryan Lelli
Hannah McVay

Gabe Murray
Zyreal Oliver-Chandler
Dane Schmidt
Isaiah Utto-Galarneau
Dominic Walker
Hailey Wharton

Fall Events

at Pacific Lutheran University

ALL MUSIC EVENTS ARE IN MARY BAKER RUSSELL MUSIC CENTER, LAGERQUIST CONCERT HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Sunday, 3pm**
Artist Series: Erik Steighner, Saxophone, free admission
- 24 Sunday, 5pm**
High School Woodwind Workshop Showcase, free admission

OCTOBER

- 5 Thursday, 5:15pm**
Andrew Kozar Trumpet Masterclass. Mary Baker Russell Music Center Room 322, free admission
- 5 Thursday, 7:30pm**
Artist Series: Andrew Kozar, Trumpet, free admission
- 9 Monday, 5:30pm**
Corrine Byrne Voice Masterclass. Mary Baker Russell Music Center Room 334, free admission
- 12 Thursday, 7:30pm**
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center
- 13 Friday, 12pm**
Orchestra Festival concert, free admission
- 15 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 17 Tuesday and 18 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Choral Concert
- 22 Sunday, 3pm**
South Sound Saxophone Ensemble, free admission
- 24 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
University Symphony Orchestra

NOVEMBER

- 2 Thursday, 1:45pm**
Covert Ensemble Saxophone Masterclass. Mary Baker Russell Music Center Room 334, free admission
- 4 Saturday, 7:30pm**
PLU Opera Gala. Tickets: \$40 adult; \$35 senior citizen (60+), military, alumni, PLU faculty/staff (limit 2); \$25 PLU students (limit 1); \$20 children under 12
- 10 Friday, 7:30pm**
Choral Union
- 11 Saturday, 5pm**
Artist Series: PLU Faculty Brass Showcase
- 12 Sunday, 3pm**
Angela Meade Vocal Competition, free admission
- 12 Sunday, 7:30pm**
PLUtonic/Gold Rush, free admission
- 15 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Keyboard Students Recital, free admission
- 17 Friday, 7:30pm**
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center
- 18 Saturday, 3pm**
Woodwind Students Recital, free admission
- 18 Saturday, 4:30pm**
Brass Students Recital, free admission
- 18 Saturday, 7:30pm**
Percussion Ensemble, free admission
- 19 Sunday, 12pm**
Artist Series: Camas Woodwind Quintet. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission
- 19 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble & University Concert Band
- 19 Sunday, 7:30pm**
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission
- 21 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
Steel Band. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center, free admission
- 28 Tuesday, 5:30pm**
Saxophone Quartets & Jazz Combos. The Cave, Anderson University Center, free admission

NOVEMBER, Cont.

- 29 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Piano Ensemble, free admission

DECEMBER

Light, A PLU Christmas Concert

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, November 1

Saturday, December 2, at 7:30pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Sunday, December 3, at 2pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Monday, December 4, at 7:30pm - Benaroya Hall, Seattle
Saturday, December 9, at 7:30pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall
Sunday, December 10, at 2pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall

- 3 Sunday, 7:30pm**
PLU Ringers, free admission
- 5 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
String Kaleidoscope, free admission
- 6 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission
- 7 Thursday, 7:30pm**
Sounds of Christmas, featuring University Singers and Knights Chorus
- 10 Sunday, 7:30pm**
Composers Forum. Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, free admission

JANUARY

- 6 Saturday, 5 and 6:30pm**
Northwest High School Honor Band, free admission
- 14 Sunday, 5pm**
PLU Honor Orchestra for Strings, free admission

To Order Tickets:

On Line: www.plu.edu/music/tickets

At the Concert: Lobby Desk in Mary Baker Russell Music Center or Karen Hille Phillips Center (depending on performance location)

CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

All ticket sales are final - no refunds

MUSIC EVENT TICKET PRICES: \$16 GENERAL PUBLIC; \$12 PLU FACULTY/STAFF, ALUMNI, MILITARY, SENIORS (60); \$8 IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF PERFORMERS, PATRONS UNDER 18; FREE TO PLU STUDENTS WITH STUDENT ID. CONCERTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND SOME CONCERTS MAY BE ADDED AFTER PUBLICATION. www.plu.edu/music/calendar (updated November 16, 2023)