

Sounds of Christmas
University Singers and Knights Chorus

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 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
Raul Dominguez, *conductor*

Knights Chorus
Barry Johnson, *conductor*

Justin J. Murphy-Mancini, *organ* • Amy Boers and Mariyka Vasilchuk, *piano*

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

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: Flourish on “Adeste Fideles” (2021) **Zanaida Stewart Robles**
Justin J. Murphy-Mancini, *organ*

Processional: Once in Royal David’s City

Verse 1: Miri Nannestad, *soloist*

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)**
Nate Clay, *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!

Knights Chorus

Gaudete! (2017) **Anonymous, “Piae Cantiones”**
arr. Casey Rule

Logan Somers, Marco Diez, Hudson Groom, and Coleton Davis, *soloists*

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.
Rejoice!

The time of grace has come, for which we have prayed;
Songs of gladness with devotion we offer.

God is made human in this wonderful birth;
The world is renewed through the rule of Christ.

The closed gate of Ezechiel has been passed through;
From where the light rises, Salvation is discovered.

Therefore let our congregation now sing psalms in sacrifice;
Let us bless the Lord, King of our Salvation.

Sing We Now of Christmas (1991) **English Carol**
arr. David York and Bryan Johnson

Nolan Akers, *guitar* • Marisa Robbins, *cello*

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming (1609) **German Carol**
arr. Praetorius

Marco Diez, Samuel Johnson, Logan Somers, Giacobbe Whitworth,
Hudson Groom, Cooper Perez, Nate Clay, and Blake Swales, *octet*

Reading: O Simplicitas **Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007)**
Emry Newton, *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

Shepherd's Pipe Carol (1967)**John Rutter**
 Cadence Philbeck, *soprano*

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (1980)**arr. David Willcocks**

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 (1953)**English Secular Carol**
 arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Gesu Bambino**Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943)**
 Coleton Davis, *soloist*

The Work of Christmas (2014)**Dan Forrest**
 text by Howard Thurman

University Singers

Gloria **Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)**
ed. John Leavitt

Glory to God in the highest and peace on Earth to all of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you.

What Sweeter Music (2002) **Eleanor Daley**
Jessica Garcia, *soprano*

Reading: The Darkling Thrush **Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)**
Casper Schaefer, *reader*

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

Carol: God Rest Ye Merry Gentle Ones (please stand and sing)

1. (All)
God rest ye merry gentle ones
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. (Tenor/Bass voices)
From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy...

3. (Soprano/Alto voices)
But when to Bethlehem they came
Whereat this infant lay,
They found Him in a manger
Where oxen feed on hay,
His mother Mary kneeling
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy...

4. (All)
Now to the Lord sing praises
All you within this place,
And with true love and fellowship
Each other now embrace,
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy...

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

Jocelyn de Leeuw, *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,

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,
For He is born this day to you.

University Singers

Winter Song (2008)Sara Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson

arr. Mac Huff

A Choice to Change the World (2025)Kevin Phillip Johnson

Chelsea Hesselbach and Keegan McDaniel, *soloists*

Adrian Ragil, *percussion*

Reading: Peace on Earth – A Queer Christmas Poem (2022).....Esther Spurril-Jones

Mia Caldwell, *reader*

I heard the bells on Christmas day,
Their voices calling in the morn,
Familiar carols bright and gay,
They sang of joy and peace on earth.

Despite their cheer my heart was torn,
For hate is strong and mocks the song,
Of Love then in a stable born,
Who came to herald peace on earth.

I wondered if the bells belong
In such a world, with hate and strife,
To sing of peace and joy feels wrong
When't seems there is no peace on earth.

When Love's disciples would deprive
The least of these of joy and peace,
Then how can love and joy survive?
And how can there be peace on earth?

And yet, the ringing did not cease,
The bells sang on more loud and deep;
Their rolling thunder did increase:
A louder cry for peace on earth.

“God is not dead; Love does not sleep!”
And then, through the prevailing grey.
A rainbow ‘cross the sky did sweep:
A clarion call for peace on earth

BenedictionJames Early

Will Morgan, *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)

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| <p>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:</p> <p>O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!</p> | <p>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...</p> <p>3. (All)
Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest:</p> <p>O come, let us adore him...</p> |
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Night of Silence (1984)**David Kantor**

Postlude: Fugue on "Personent Hodie" (2013)**Philip Moore**
Justin J. Murphy-Mancini, *organ*

University Singers

Raul Dominguez, *conductor*
Amy Boers, *piano*

Soprano

Sky Allen
Izzy Anderson
Natalie Bastida
Belle Bodley
Mia Caldwell
Janelle Chin
Chelsea Hesselbach
Jocelyn de Leeuw
Katherine Marchant
Emry Newton
Sofia Ribeira
Isabel Sanchez-Muniz
Grace Weddle

Alto

Mackenzie Barber
Jessica Garcia
Kaylee Gist
Syrie Hunt
Kaitlynn Koehn
Courtney Lazzarini
Kate Maschhoff
Lainey McCarl
Keegan McDaniel
Amy Muniz-Konstantinos
Rhome Murray
Miri Nannestad
Elizabeth Oie
Cadence Philbeck
Tlalli Ruiz

Knights Chorus

Barry Johnson, *conductor*
Mariyka Vasilchuk, *piano*

Tenor

Coleton Davis
Marco Diez
Samuel Johnson
Will Morgan
Luke Neumeister
Casper Schaefer
Logan Somers
Giacobbe Whitworth

Bass

Nolan Akers
Nate Clay
Ciaran Dewing
Hudson Groom
Prince Jamerson
Paul Kuhn
Cooper Perez
Blakes Swales
Cade Tate

SEPTEMBER

- 21 Sunday, 3pm**
Faculty Recital: Erik Steighner, Saxophone & Oksana Ejokina,
Piano, free admission
- 28 Sunday, 3pm**
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Angela Kraft Cross, Organist

OCTOBER

- 5 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 14 Tuesday 11:15am**
Igor Santos Composition Masterclass. Mary Baker Russell Music
Center Room 334, free admission
- 14 Tuesday and 15 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Fall Festival of Choirs
- 16 Thursday 12:15pm**
John Popham and Pala Garcia Composition Workshop. Mary Baker
Russell Music Center Room 334, free admission
- 21 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
University Symphony Orchestra
- 24 Friday, 12pm**
Orchestra Festival concert, free admission
- 25 Saturday**
NATS Artist Awards competition
- 26 Sunday, 3pm**
South Sound Saxophone Ensemble, free admission
- 28 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
Faculty Recital: Danielle Lemieux, Horn & Amy Boers, Piano, free
admission
- 30 Thursday 10:30am**
Matt Aucoin Composition Masterclass. Mary Baker Russell Music
Center Room 116, free admission
- 31 Friday, 7:30pm**
PLU Symphonic Band, free admission

NOVEMBER

- 2 Sunday, 3pm**
Angela Meade Vocal Competition, free admission
- 2 Sunday, 7:30pm**
Guest Artist Recital: Randall Scarlata, Baritone & Gilbert Kalish,
Piano, free admission
- 8 Saturday, 12:30pm**
Wendy Wilhelmi Flute Masterclass. Mary Baker Russell Music
Center Room 334, free admission
- 9 Sunday, 3pm**
Richard D. Moe Organ Recital Series: Julia Brown, Organist
- 12 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Early Music Concert, free admission
- 15 Saturday, 3pm**
Woodwind Students Recital, free admission
- 15 Saturday, 4:30pm**
Brass Students Recital, free admission
- 16 Sunday, 3pm**
University Wind Ensemble
- 16 Sunday, 7:30pm**
Steel Band, free admission
- 17 Monday, 7:30pm**
PLUtonic/Gold Rush. The Cave, Anderson
University Center, free admission
- 18 Tuesday, 7:30pm**
University Concert Band
- 19 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Piano Ensemble, free admission
- 20 Thursday, 7:30pm**
Percussion Ensemble, free admission
- 21-22 Friday-Saturday, 7:30pm**
Opera Scenes. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille Phillips Center

NOVEMBER, Cont.

- 22 Saturday, 12pm**
Sølvvinden Flute Ensemble, free admission
- 23 Sunday, 12pm**
Guitar Orchestra & Guitar Ensemble, free admission
- 23 Sunday, 3pm**
Choral Union
- 23 Sunday, 6pm**
Chamber Music Kaleidoscope, free admission
- 23 Sunday, 7:30pm**
String Kaleidoscope, free admission
- 24 Monday, 7:30pm**
University Jazz Ensemble. Eastvold Auditorium, Karen Hille
Phillips Center

DECEMBER

All Shall Be Well, A PLU Christmas Concert

Tickets go on sale Tuesday, November 4

Friday, December 5, at 7:30pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall

Saturday, December 6, at 2pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall

Saturday, December 6, at 7:30pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall

Sunday, December 7, at 2pm - Lagerquist Concert Hall

Monday, December 8, at 7:30pm - Benaroya Hall, Seattle

- 2 Tuesday, 6pm**
Saxophone Quartets & Jazz Combos. The Cave, Anderson
University Center, free admission
- 3 Wednesday, 7:30pm**
Sounds of Christmas, featuring University Singers and Knights
Chorus

JANUARY

- 10 Saturday, 4:30 and 6:30pm**
Northwest High School Honor Band, free admission
- 18 Sunday, 6pm**
PLU Honor Orchestra for Strings, free admission
- 25 Sunday**
South Sound Flute Day, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

To view more detailed event information, please visit:

www.plu.edu/music/calendar (Updated October 30, 2025)