

PLU Ringers

Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 7pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music

Pacific Lutheran University
College of Professional Studies / Department of Music presents

PLU Ringers

Linda Miller, *director*

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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

- Ring Out Little Bell (Kling Glöckchen)** **German Carol**
arr. Susan e. Geschke
TJ wheeler, *student conductor*
- Arab Dance** **Peter L. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)**
arr. Kevin McChesney
- Carol of the Bells** **Ukrainian Carol**
arr. Arnold B. Sherman
- Boar's Head Carol** **English Carol**
arr. Jason W. King
- Were You There on that Christmas Night?** **Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)**
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
Trevor Kytola, *student conductor*
- Ding Dong! Merrily on High** **English Carol**
arr. Joel Raney and Arnold B. Sherman
- God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen** **English Carol**
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
- Angels from the Realms** **Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)**
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
- Fum, Fum, Fum!** **Spanish Carol**
arr. Patricia A. Sanders
- Go Tell It on the Mountain** **Spiritual/John Carter (b. 1940)**
arr. Kathleen Wissinger
- Peace, Peace** **Rick Powell (1935-2006) & Sylvia Powell**
arr. Fred Bock

Program Notes

Ring Out, Little Bell is a German children's carol that is not commonly known by Americans. Here is the English translation:

Ring, little bell, ringalingaling!
Ring, little bell, ring!
Let me in, you kids!
So cold is the winter!
Open the doors for me!
Don't let me freeze!
Ring, little bell, ringalingaling!
Ring, little bell, ring!

Ring, little bell, ringalingaling!
Ring, little bell, ring!
Girls, listen, and boys,
Open up the room for me!
I bring you many gifts,
You should enjoy them!
Ring, little bell, ringalingaling!
Ring, little bell, ring!

Ring, little bell, ringalingaling!
Ring, little bell, ring!
Brightly glow the candles,
Open your hearts to me,
I want to live there happily.
Devout child, how blessed!
Ring, little bell, ringalingaling!
Ring, little bell, ring!

Arab Dance is the wonderful, mysterious melody from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* ballet, written in 1892. The ballet made its way to America in the 1940's and has become a beloved Christmas tradition. This piece comprises part of the entertainment for Clara and the Prince during their visit to the Land of Sweets.

Carol of the Bells was originally a Ukrainian folksong intended as a "winter well-wishing song." Written in 1916 by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovich and titled "Shchedryk," the song tells the tale of a swallow flying into a household to proclaim the plentiful year that the family will have. The song's title is derived from the Ukrainian word "shchedryj," which means "bountiful."

The ***Boar's Head Carol*** comes to us from Great Britain. While the popular version most often heard today dates from the early 16th century, the tradition of serving the boar's head at the celebration of the Winter Solstice ("Yule") – and later Christmas – has been practiced since ancient times, and is still observed at Queen's College, Oxford, England.

Were You There on that Christmas Night? is Natalie Sleeth's beautiful melody that tells us the story of Christmas. Because we have several choral students in our number, we delight in finding pieces that we can sing and ring.

Ding Dong! Merrily on High has its origins in dance music. The melody was originally named 'Branle de l'Official' and was found in a 16th-century book on French dance forms. English composer and church bell ringing enthusiast, George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934), came across the melody and, through his passion for pealing, was inspired to give the tune a bell-inspired text.

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen. The exact origin of this carol is unknown, but an early manuscript dates back to the 1650's. There are two tunes to which the words have been sung, but the more popular melody in minor is the one we play tonight. The historic meaning of the phrase "God rest you merry" is "may God grant you peace and happiness."

Angels from the Realms came from the pen of James Montgomery. An orphan, he was raised by Moravians in Ireland. It is sometimes called a Moravian carol. Montgomery became involved in a newspaper called the *Scheffield Iris*, in which the text was originally published. The verse was sung to several different tunes, but the one that became popular in the United States was "Regent Square." The name is reportedly an association with James Hamilton, the *Iris*'s publisher, who was minister of the Regent Square Church in London.

Fum, Fum, Fum! is a Catalonian Christmas carol that originated in the 16th- or 17th-century. The word "fum" has many meanings ranging from the sound of a rocking cradle, to the sound of a drum, the strum of a guitar or the playing of a fiddle. The literal definition of "fum" in Catalan means smoke, which could refer to smoke rising from a chimney.

Like many spirituals and folk songs, ***Go Tell It on the Mountain*** likely dates back to the mid 19th-century, but spirituals were passed from plantation to plantation orally, making them difficult to date accurately. The person responsible for making a Christmas classic out of *Go Tell It on the Mountain* is a collector of spirituals named John Wesley Work, Jr. Work compiled spirituals with his wife and brother. *Go Tell It on the Mountain* was first published in their collection *New Jubilee Songs and Folks Songs of the American Negro* in 1907.

Peace, Peace is a simple song with a simple message that never seems to grow old. Combining it with *Silent Night* helps us to connect today's hopes for peace to those of Franz Gruber. It has been an expression of the wish for peace in many

circumstances including during a Christmas cease fire during World War I. You are invited to sing *Silent Night* with us during the last verse of the song.

About the Director

Dr. Linda Miller has been involved in ringing handbells and directing handbell choirs in churches, schools and communities for several decades. In addition, she has served as an area officer in Handbell Musicians of America (HMA). She wrote and has published *ChimeMagic*, a curriculum for using handchimes to teach general music K-5. Miller has presented handchime workshops at numerous HMA and state and regional music educators conferences. Dr. Miller is chair of the music education area at PLU, where she teaches music education courses and places and supervises music student teachers. In addition to her teaching duties, she is faculty advisor of the PLU chapter of the Collegiate Washington Music Educators Association (CWMEA). From 2016-2018, she served as national Chairperson of the Collegiate Advisory Council of the National Association for Music Education.

PLU Ringers

Joel Barkman • Caroline Bergren • Madison Ely • Brent Johnson • Trevor Kytola
Kiah Miller • Gabe Murray • Jenea Staples • Hailey Wharton • TJ Wheeler