

A CLASSIC BRASS CHRISTMAS

December 8, 2024 | 5 PM
National Presbyterian Church
Washington, DC



Choralis

Gretchen Kuhrmann, Artistic Director

Wei-Han Wu, Associate Conductor
and Keyboard Artist

Greg Mugione, Conducting Fellow

The Classical Brass Quintet

Benjamin LaPrairie, Guest Organist

CHORALIS
25 YEARS UNITED IN SONG

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CONCERT PROGRAM

- Personent Hodie *Lara Hoggard (1915-2007)*
***O Come, All Ye Faithful** *arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)*
Verbum Caro Factum Est *Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)*
Wei-Han Wu, Conductor
- O Come, O Come Emmanuel *arr. Trevor Manor (b.1985)*
- March on a theme of Handel
"Lift Up Your Heads", Op. 15, No. 2 *Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)*
Benjamin LaPrairie, Organ
- Sussex Carol *arr. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012)*
- *The First Nowell** *arr. Sir David Willcocks*
Greg Mugione, Conductor
- Bogoroditse Devo from *All Night Vigil* *Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)*
- What Sweeter Music *John Rutter (b.1945)*
- Still, Still, Still *arr. Philip Ledger (b.1937-2012)*
Greg Mugione, Conductor
- Lully, Lulla, Thou Little Tiny Child *Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*
Bry Toll, Soprano
- Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King *arr. Mark Butler*
Joanna Zorak-Greene, Soprano
Échos
- *Jingle Bells** *James Lord Pierpont (1822-1893)*
- Good King Wenceslas *Traditional, arr. Don Gillis (1912-1978)*
The Classical Brass Quintet
- Joy! *Gary Fry (b.1954)*
- *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** *arr. Sir David Wilcocks (1919-2015)*
- *Silent Night** *Franz Gruber (1787-1863)*
- *We Wish You a Merry Christmas!** *Traditional English Carol*

We invite you to join in the singing of the carols marked in red.

PERSONENT HODIE

Lara Hoggard (1915-2007)

Text: Piae Cantiones, 1582

*Personent hodie,
Voces puerulae,
Laudantes iucunde,
Qui nobis est natus,
Summo Deo datus,
Et de virgineo,
Ventre procreatus.*

Today must resound,
Children's voices,
Praising delightfully,
He who is born to us,
Given by most high God,
And of a virgin,
Womb begotten.

*In mundo nascitur,
Pannis involvitur,
Praesepe ponitur,
Stabulo brutorum,
Rector supernorum,
Perdidit spolia,
Princeps Infernorum.*

Born into the world,
Wrapped in swaddling clothes,
Placed in a manger,
In a stable for animals,
The Master of the heavens,
Rescued the spoils,
Of the Prince of Hell.

*Magi tres venerunt;
Munera offerunt;
Parvulum inquirunt,
Stellulam sequendo,
Ipsum adorando,
Aurum, thus et myrrham,
Ei offerendo.*

The three Magi came,
To offer gifts,
Inquiring for the Little One,
Following after a star,
They adored Him,
Gold, frankincense and myrrh
They offered to Him.

*Omnes clericuli,
Pariter pueri,
Cantent ut Angeli:
"Advenisti mundo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!"*

All must join him in praise;
Men and boys voices raise
Sing with the Angels:
"You have come to the world!
Glory to God in the highest!"

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN THE SINGING OF
THE CAROLS MARKED IN RED.**

*** O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

arr. Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

VERBUM CARO FACTUM EST

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

Wei-Han Wu, Conductor

*Verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis
et vidimus gloriam ejus
gloriam quasi unigeniti
a Patre
plenum gratiae et veritatis.*

The Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us
and we beheld his glory
the glory of the only-begotten
by the Father
full of grace and truth.

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

arr. Trevor Manor (b.1985)

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee,
O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring,
come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee,
O Israel.

O Come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel Shall come to thee,
O Israel.

O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse,
 free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
 From depths of hell Thy people save,
 And give them vic'try o'er the grave.
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel Shall come to thee,
 O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations,
 bind All peoples in one heart and mind.
 Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
 Fill all the world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel Shall come to thee,
 O Israel.

SUSSEX CAROL

arr. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012)

On Christmas night, all Christians sing,
 to hear the news the angels bring.
 News of great joy, news of great mirth,
 news of our merciful King's birth.

Why should we on earth be sad,
 since our Redeemer made us glad?
 When from our sin he set us free,
 all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before his grace,
 then life and health come in its place.
 Angels and people with joy may sing,
 all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
 which made the angels sing this night.
 Glory to God and peace to all,
 now and forever more, amen.

*** THE FIRST NOWELL***arr. Sir David Willcocks*

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,
 In a cold winter's night that was so deep:
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 Born is the King of Israel.

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

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.

**BOGORÓDITSE DÉVO
 FROM ALL NIGHT VIGIL***Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)*

*Bogoróditse Dévo, ráduyšia,
 Blagodátnaya Mariye, Ghospód s Tobóyu.
 Blagoslovénna Tivzhenáh,
 i blagoslovén Plod chréva Tvoyegó,
 yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshih.*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,
 Mary full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.
 Blessed art Thou among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb,
 for Thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

WHAT SWEETER MUSIC*John Rutter (b.1945)*

What sweeter music can we bring
 Than a carol, for to sing
 The birth of this our heavenly King?
 Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
 And give the honour to this day
 That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn
 Smile, like a field beset with corn?
 Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn
 Thus, on the sudden? Come and see
 The cause, why things thus fragrant be:

'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
 Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
 To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
 Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
 Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come,
 And fit it is, we find a room
 To welcome him, to welcome him.

The nobler part,
 Of all the house here, is the heart,
 Which we will give him; and bequeath
 This holly, and this ivy wreath,
 To do him honour; who's our King,
 And Lord of all this reveling.

(What sweeter music can we bring,
 Than a carol, for to sing
 The birth of this our heavenly King?)

STILL, STILL, STILL

arr. Philip Ledger (b.1937-2012)

Still, still, still, weil's Kindlein schlafen will.

Still, still still, Let all the world be still

Maria tut es niedersingen,

For Mary lays her son to rest,

ihre keusche Brust darbringen

Sings to him softly at her breast,

Still, still, still, weil's Kindlein schlafen will.

Still, still still, Let all the world be still

Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf, mein liebes Kindlein, schlaf!

Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby, sleep,

Die Englein tun schön musizieren,

The angels all rejoice and sing,

vor dem Kripplein jubilieren.

Heav'n for your delight shall ring,

Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf, mein liebes Kindlein, schlaf!

Sleep, sleep, sleep, My dearest baby, sleep.

Groß, groß, groß, die Lieb' ist übergroß.

Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy!

Gott hat den Himmelsthron verlassen

The God of love has left his throne,

und muss reisen auf den Straßen.

Made this humble world his own,

Groß, groß, groß, die Lieb' ist übergroß.

Joy, joy, joy, My heart is filled with joy!

LULLY, LULLA, THOU LITTLE TINY CHILD*Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

Lully, Lulla, thou little tiny child,
 By, by, lully, lullay,
 Lully, thou little tiny child, lully, lulla, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do,
 For to preserve this day?
 This poor youngling, for whom we sing,
 by, by, lully, lullay!

Herod the king, in his raging,
 Charg'd he hath this day
 His men of might, in his own sight,
 All children young to slay,

That woe is me, poor child, for thee!
 And ever mourn and say,
 For thy parting nor say nor sing,
 By, by, lully, lullay.

GLORY HALLELUJAH TO THE NEWBORN KING*arr. Mark Butler***Ēchos**

Oh, glory hallelujah,
 Who do you call that wonderful counselor,
 Oh, glory hallelujah
 Glory hallelujah to the newborn king.

Let me tell ya He was born in a manger
 He was born in Bethlehem,
 the Son of the most high God
 and Jesus is His name. Hallelujah!

Let me tell ya He's the king of all nations
 Savior and Lord of Lords
 and he reigns forever and Jesus is His name

Oh glory hallelujah, wonderful counselor
 Glory to the newborn King!

*** JINGLE BELLS**

James Lord Pierpont (1822-1893)

Dashing through the snow, in a one-horse open sleigh,
 O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way.
 Bells on bob-tail ring, making spirits bright,
 What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight!

O Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,
 O what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!
 Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way
 O what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

JOY!

Gary Fry (b.1954)

For on this Christmas night is born God's one True Light,
 and heaven and earth will sing for joy!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
 let earth receive her King.
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy! Heav'n and nature sing!
 Joy! Sing for joy!
 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King.
 Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of His righteousness
 and wonders of His love,
 and wonders of His love,
 and wonders, wonders of His love.

Joy to the world!
 Joy to the world!
 Joy to the world!

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
 Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!

*** HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

arr. Sir David Wilcocks (1919-2015)

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With th'angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"
 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald...

*** SILENT NIGHT**

Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

Silent Night, Holy Night,
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

***WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Traditional English Carol

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
And a happy New Year!



ABOUT CHORALIS

The Choralis Foundation was established by Artistic Director Gretchen Kuhrmann in 2000 to nurture a passion for choral music through excellent choral performances, professional development opportunities for young soloists and conductors, education and training for young choristers, and community outreach events. Nearly 100 singers perform across two ensembles: Choralis, an auditioned SATB chorus, and Échos, a semi-professional chamber group. Choralis is committed to programming that includes not only the classical choral repertoire, but compositions of living composers and world music.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Artistic Director **Gretchen Kuhrmann** is the founder and visionary of Choralis. A true advocate for choral music in all schools and communities, she has spent her career honing choral ensembles into musically sensitive performers and encouraging young singers to develop their skills.

The daughter of a diplomat, Ms. Kuhrmann has traveled and lived around the world, including an extended stay in Hamburg, Germany, where she spent her formative years. Before leaving Europe, she toured and performed with her own ensemble throughout Western Europe. In addition to being a sought-after conducting and choral clinician, Kuhrmann has shown great success in building choral organizations and is in demand as a speaker and consultant on the topic at choral conventions and workshops around the world.

Audiences and critics alike have recognized Choralis for its musical excellence. Ms. Kuhrmann's detailed preparation and skillful conducting have earned Choralis ensembles acclaim throughout the United States and Europe. Critics observed "...Kuhrmann has trained this big group to sing with the delicacy and transparency of a chamber chorus, and it does this very well" and "...Conductor Gretchen Kuhrmann drew a clear and beautifully blended sound from the group, which was maintained when the music pulled down to only a handful of voices." (*The Washington Post*)



Ms. Kuhrmann also has prepared choruses for many notable U.S. and international conductors as well as numerous area diplomatic and political events. She is the Director of Music for Fairfax Presbyterian Church and holds performance degrees in conducting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and George Mason University.

Described as “brilliant” by the *Pittsburgh Tribune*, **Wei-Han Wu** is active as a soloist, chamber musician, ensemble pianist, and vocal coach. He has performed in venues such as the Chicago Cultural Center, the Kennedy Center, and Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall. He has been a featured performer at the Tanglewood, Aspen, Castleton, Lake George, and Walla Walla Chamber Music Festivals and was recently featured guest artist at the Washington State Music Teachers Conference.



Dedicated to the performance and promotion of new music, Wu is currently pianist for the [Switch~ Ensemble] as well as Duo Axis, which was co-founded with flutist Zach Sheets. Duo Axis has commissioned and premiered dozens of works by up-and-coming composers, including Katie Balch, Anthony Cheung, and Tonia Ko. Recently the duo was in residence at the University of Iowa, University of Missouri, UC San Diego, and UC Davis. Wu previously served as pianist for the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble and Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and he is a past president of OSSIA New Music at the Eastman School of Music.

He is currently on faculty at Peabody Conservatory, the Taos Opera Institute, and WNO’s Opera Institute. More recently, Wu has served as music director for several opera productions in the DC area, including *Carmen* with Loudon Lyric Opera, and *Hydrogen Jukebox* by Philip Glass at Shenandoah University. Wu is the pianist for The Washington Chorus, and he works frequently with the Washington Bach Consort, and the Exigence Vocal Ensemble of the Sphinx Organization.

A member of Pi Kappa Lambda, he is the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Juilliard School, the Felicia Montealegre Fellowship from the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Collaborative Piano Fellowship from Bard College. Wu holds degrees from Northwestern University, the University of Michigan, and the Eastman School of Music, where he earned two doctoral degrees in piano performance and collaborative piano.

Julie Huang Tucker is a conductor and keyboard artist who serves as music director at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, associate conductor and accompanist of Washington Men's Camerata, and conducting fellow of Choralis.

As a collaborative organist, she has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Choral Arts Society of Washington, and Washington Chorus at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Hall, and National Cathedral.

Her experience as an educator is diverse and spans the gamut from teaching tango music workshops in Mexico, coaching young artist opera choruses in Italy, and directing township youth and prison choirs in South Africa. She also shares her knowledge of music as an on-air host on WETA, Washington's classical music radio station.

Julie holds degrees from Cornell University, the University of Oklahoma, and is currently pursuing a DMA in choral conducting at the University of Maryland.



A native of Nazareth, Pennsylvania, **Greg Mugione** is a graduate from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania and The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC receiving degrees in Music Education and Piano Pedagogy, respectively. In studying piano and voice, he has been mentored by Galen H. Deibler, Dr. Barbara English Maris, Dr. James Litzleman, and the late Cyril M. Stretansky. Greg began his career teaching K-8 General Music at St. Catherine Labouré School in Wheaton, Maryland, and also taught piano classes and private lessons at The Academy of Fine Arts (formerly known as the Academy of Music) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. As a performer he has played concerts and accompanied artists throughout the Washington, DC metro area, including the Kennedy Center and the White House. As a member of the faculty for over two decades, Greg currently serves as the Chair of the Performing Arts Department at McLean School in Potomac, Maryland where he directs three choruses, teaches a drama class and directs two



major drama productions each year. He is the piano accompanist for Catholic liturgies sponsored by Dignity-Washington. Greg has been a member of Choralis and Échos since 2007 and is grateful for the opportunity to hold the position of Conducting Fellow. As an avid Lionel Electric Trains enthusiast, he is a member of the Train Collectors Association's Eastern Division and has been featured in their publications. His collection includes toy trains from the 1920s to the present. Greg enjoys spending time with his partner, Brad, and dog, Chesska—and, of course, his massive train layout.

Organist **Benjamin LaPrairie** serves as Associate Director of Music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Since 2011, he has assisted in the leadership of the music department and has regularly accompanied daily, Sunday, and other special Masses throughout the year. Notable liturgies include the Canonization Mass of Saint Junípero Serra, celebrated by Pope Francis, and the Funeral Mass of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. In May of 2019, Benjamin performed with the Choir of the Basilica in concerts and liturgies in Rome for the commemoration of 35 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See. Previous posts include Principal Organist at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Washington, DC, and Director of Music at St. Patrick Catholic Church in St. Charles, Illinois.



As a composer, Benjamin's works have been performed by the Choir, Brass, and Orchestra of the Basilica, and have been recorded and broadcast worldwide on EWTN, Salt & Light Media, and CatholicTV. His setting of *Christus Vincit* was premiered upon the entrance of Pope Francis into the Great Upper Church of the National Shrine in September of 2015. Recent works include a setting of *Ye Sons and Daughters* for the Choir and Orchestra of the Basilica, and a setting of *Joy to the World* for the choirs and orchestra of The Catholic University of America. Upcoming commissions include a choral and brass setting of *ISTE CONFESSOR* for the Diocese of Orange, CA. As an organist, Benjamin has performed throughout the United States and abroad, and has been featured as a soloist with the Pine Mountain Music Festival, at Boardwalk

Hall in Atlantic City, NJ, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Eccles Organ Festival at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City, UT, the Sacra Liturgia Conference at St. Patrick Seminary in San Francisco, CA, the Cathedral Concert Series at St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo, MI, the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and the Festival Organistico Internazionale della città di Alba, Italy.

A native of Michigan, Benjamin is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance, where he studied organ with Robert Glasgow. He received a Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where he studied organ with John Walker, and was the recipient of the Bruce R. Eicher Prize in Organ. In the fall of 2019, Benjamin was appointed Lecturer in Organ at The Catholic University of America Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art, and in the spring of 2024, he joined the music faculty of Christendom College in Front Royal, VA. Since 2022, Benjamin has been a member of the board of the Catholic Sacred Music Project, under the patronage of Robert Cardinal Sarah.

CHORALIS

Gretchen Kuhrmann, Artistic Director

Wei-Han Wu, Associate Director & Keyboard Artist

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* Section Leaders

† Echos

‡ High School Scholar

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Rick Tommy Lee

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CHORALIS SUPPORTER

Gifts totaling \$250–\$499

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Margaret Ann Tutwiler &
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Jon Robert Westergaard
Chris & Chreyl Xystros

THANK YOU

FRIEND OF CHORALIS

Gifts totaling \$249 and under

Anonymous
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The list above reflects gifts received from June 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Every effort has been made to ensure this list is complete and accurate. If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our apologies and contact Jeannette Oliver, Chorus Manager, at joliver@choralis.org so the error may be corrected.

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