
Hope in the Wandering



Christmas Concert

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
AND THE SHRINE OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

December 7, 2025

3:00 PM

Reminder

There is to be no recording of any kind during today's concert.

Please silence cell phones and other electronic devices.

Please hold applause until the end of the program.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Please consider a donation to the
CATHEDRAL BASILICA MUSIC PROGRAM.
You may use this QR code to do so.
Your support is appreciated!



Program

I Wonder As I Wander

harm. Carlos Salzedo

Maryanne Meyer, *harp*

I Wonder As I Wander

John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)
arr. Steve Pilkington

Frances Melgren, *soloist*

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for die
For poor orn'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Wondering, wondering.

When Mary birth'd Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall
And the promise of the ages it did then recall.

Lullaby, lullaby.

If Jesus had wanted any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on wing.
All of God's angels in heaven sing,
He surely could have had it 'cause he was the king.

Scott Purcell, *soloist*

This is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem
to ask him, Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.

And they asked him,
What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, What art thou?
that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Fanfare arr. Mark Shepperd

Arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

ALL STAND AND SING:

*H*ark! 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!

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail, th'incarnate Deity:
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King!

Hail! the heav'n 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 us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King!

Arietta (based on "Rise Up, Shepherd")

Thomas H. Kerr, Jr. (1915-1988)

Mark Loria, *organ*

Look Up and Count the Stars

Peter Latona (b. 1968)

"Look up and count the stars if ye may", thus God to Abra'm did declare;
"so shall all your descendants be for now and all eternity.

We are the stars from God's own hand, reflections of his own true love,
the beauty of God's heav'nly plan, th'eternal gift from heav'n above.

Now gaze upon the infant child with Joseph and the Virgin nigh;
may all our fam'lies be like them in peace and joy and unity.

Grant Lord, we pray, the grace to be the shining splendor of God's love:
his radiant light of truth and hope from heaven down to earth below.

So gaze up on the stars on high, sing praise to God with single voice.
Accept his gift and guard it well and let his will be our hearts' choice.

Praise God the Father, Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit with them one.
We pray they bless our fam'lies now and throughout all eternity.

Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars

Jonathan Dove (b. 1959)

Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
the night is light about me. Amen.

People look East

Traditional French Carol
Text by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)
Arr. John Leavitt (b. 1956)

CANTUS ANGELORUM CATHEDRAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, The Lord is coming,
People, Look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.
People, look east!

Though the road was long, the time drew near,
Heaven's King on earth would soon appear.
Yet, no bed prepared; no waiting crown.
Just a stable near the edge of town.
Here the Child was born so far from home
to those humble trav'lers all alone.
So they whispered low their soft amen,
on that lonely night in Bethlehem.

Come behold the shepherds, oft unseen,
chosen first to look though rough, unclean.
"Tis the Christ!" Now peace on earth begins:
He will save his people from their sins.
See our Mighty God has done great things!
Hear the angel hosts his glories sing: Alleluia
And repeat the sounding joy again
on that holy night in Bethlehem. Alleluia.

You are worthy of all,
stooping down to grace that cattle stall.
You did not recoil to meet us there,
all our weakness, shame and grief to share.
So bring down the mighty from their seat;
gently lift the humble to their feet,
that we all would at your manger bend
to behold that sight in Bethlehem.
See our Mighty God has done great things!

Hear the angels hosts his glories sing!
And repeat the sounding joy again
on that holy night in Bethlehem.

Maryanne Meyer, *harp*

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Stuart Forster

ALL STAND AND SING:

*G*od rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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. **Refrain**

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks afeeding, in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway, this blessed Babe to find. **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
and with true love and charity each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface. **Refrain**



Enamoured of its gaze
The mother's gaze in turn
Contrived a single beam of light
Along which love may move.
Hail Maria!
Hail Sophia!
Hail Maria!
Through seeing, through touch, through hearing the newborn heart
Conduits of being join.
Hail Maria!
Hail Sophia!
Hail Maria!
So is the image of heaven within
Started into life.
Hail Maria!
Hail Sophia!
Hail Maria!
As in the first adoration
Another consciousness has come to praise
The single theophanic light
That threads all entrants here
Hail Maria!
Hail Sophia!
Hail Maria!
This paradise where all is formed of love
As flame to flame is lit
Hail Maria!
Hail Sophia!
Hail Maria!
ATMA, ATMA, ATMA, ATMA, ATMA
Hail Maria!
Hail Sophia!
Hail Maria!

Francis Melgren, Jackie Dunleavy, Jessica Kerler

soloists

*Hacia Belén se encaminan
María con su amante esposo,
llevando en su compañía
a todo un Dios poderoso.
Alegría, alegría, alegría,
alegría, alegría, y placer,
que la Virgen va de paso
con su esposo hacia Belén.*

*En cuanto a Belén llegaron
posada al punto pidieron;
nadie les quiso hospedar
porque tan pobres les vieron.
Alegría, alegría, alegría,
alegría, alegría, y placer,
que la Virgen va de paso
con su esposo hacia Belén.*

*Los pajarillos del bosque,
al ver pasar los esposos,
les cantaban melodías
con sus trinos armoniosos.
Alegría, alegría, alegría,
alegría, alegría, y placer,
que la Virgen va de paso
con su esposo hacia Belén.*

Mary and her loving husband,
Are going to Bethlehem,
They have in their company
An almighty God.
Joy, joy, joy,
Joy, joy and pleasure
The Virgin is on her way
With her husband to Bethlehem.

The little birds in the woods,
As they saw the couple pass by,
Sang them melodies
With their harmonious tweets.
Joy, joy, joy,
Joy, joy and pleasure
The Virgin is on her way
With her husband to Bethlehem.

Upon reaching Bethlehem,
They asked for lodging,
Nobody wanted to oblige
Because they saw they were so poor.
Joy, joy, joy,
Joy, joy and pleasure
The Virgin is on her way
With her husband to Bethlehem.



Payapang Daigdig

Felipe De Leon (1912-1992)

*Ang gabi'y payapa lahat ay tahimik
Pati mga tala sa bughaw na langit
Kay hinhin ng hangin wari'y umiibig
Sa kapayapaan ng buong daigdig
Payapang panahon ay diwa ng buhay
Biyaya ng Diyos sa sangkatauhan
Ang gabi'y payapa lahat ay tahimik
Pati mga tala sa bughaw na langit*

The night is at peace and everything is still
so are the stars in the dark blue skies
The breeze is so gentle as though falling in love...
...with peace all around us
This peaceful moment is life's very essence
It is a grace from God to all mankind
The night is at peace and everything is still
And so are the stars in the dark blue skies

Jason Berger, soloist

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

Gina Ricci, soloist

*Noche de paz, noche de amor,
Todo duerme en derredor.
Entre sus astros que esparcen su luz
Bella anunciando al niño Jesús.
Brilla la estrella de paz,
Brilla la estrella de paz.*

ALL sing:

*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.*

O Come All Ye Faithful

Tune ADESTE FIDELES and Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

Fanfare arr. Mark Shepperd

Hymn arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

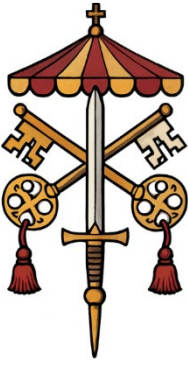
ALL STAND AND SING:

*A*deste fideles læti triumphantes,
Venite, venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte Regem angelorum:
Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus Dominum.

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 Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory 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;
Jesus, to thee be all 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.



KEYS AND SWORD SOCIETY OF THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
1723 RACE STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103
info@cathedralphila.org

This new *Keys and Sword Society of the Cathedral Basilica* inspires a vision and plan for developing greater financial gifts to the Cathedral Basilica to establish a fund for financing major events and projects outside the operation budget. The Cathedral Basilica is the iconic centerpiece of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. It is the church of the Archbishop and the Archdiocese as well as of a vibrant center city parish. We have a duty and responsibility to invest in its patrimony for today and for the future.

The *Society* sponsored this Christmas Concert as one of its first efforts:

Maestra Circle - 10,000 +
Artists Circle – 5,000 +
Benefactor – 2,500 +
Donor – 1,000 +
Sponsor – 500 +
Friend – 100 +

The monies collected beyond the expense of the concert will be directed to other liturgical music events and the liturgical music program of the Cathedral Basilica. If you would like to know more about the *Keys and Sword Society of the Cathedral Basilica*, please contact us at info@cathedralphila.org. If you would like to donate on-line to the *Society's* fund, please see:

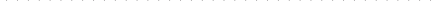
<https://www.osvhub.com/cathedralofsspeterpaul/giving/funds>.

Thank you and God bless, Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill, Rector

Thank you to our Christmas Concert 2025 Sponsors

MAESTRA CIRCLE - 10,000 +
Dr. John BianRosa

DONOR – 1,000 +
Barbara Rensman
Margaret Rubin
Saint Agnes Saint John Nepomucene Parish
Saint Andrews Lithuanian Parish
Craig and Judy Bickel



SPONSOR – 500 +
James & Anastasia Bacon
Sarah Contrucci
Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill
Susan Hunt
Aaron & Charlotte Pisacane
Daniel Heenan

FRIEND – 100 +
John & Beth Delaney
Mo Gerngross

Special Thanks to . . .

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE CATHEDRAL PARISH
for their time, effort and assistance
with facilities management, ushers and the Box Office.

SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL
for the use of their marimba and gong.

ORCHESTRAL CHAIR SPONSORS:
Karl Heck
Lukach Law

CANTUS ANGELORUM CATHEDRAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Olivia Bordenga	Chloe Reese	Amélie Staron
Harold Chen	Sean Santosa	Aubrey Van Hees
Shekinah DeLuna	Silas Santosa	Alaina Wuchter
Corrina Nardi	Sylvanus Santosa	Ella Wuchter
Joseph Oniate		

Danielle Molan, *Director*

CATHEDRAL BASILICA CHOIR

Andrea Behler	Samantha Fallacaro	Gina Ricci
Jason Berger	Kayla Jones	Grace Sweeney
Lydia Carroll	Jessica Kerler	Noah Trudeau
Joe Donahue	Frances Melgren	Ariana Warren
Jackie Dunleavy	Nnamdi Peter	Charles Witmer
	Scott Purcell	

ARCHDIOCESAN CHOIR *of* PHILADELPHIA

Shannon Alexander	Janice Duckett	
Les Anders	Andrea Garcia	Matthew Prusinski
Eric Borun	Ileona Garozzo	Sophia Santiago
Mark Brown	Michael Garozzo	Harriet Spinka
Kathie-Urszula Bujnowska	Rachel Garozzo	Liesel Sullivan
Abigail Chapman	Louise Lamb	Christina Turn
Sally Cranney	Anne Liebeskind	Megan Vareha
Sadia Decastro	William Lim	Rylanda Wilson
Logan Dell'Acqua	Jean Madden	Sarah Worth
	Mary Pennington	

CATHEDRAL BASILICA INSTRUMENTALISTS

Xuan Yao, <i>violin</i>	Ed Jakuboski, <i>trumpet</i>
Sarah Thomas, <i>violin</i>	Tessa Ellis, <i>trumpet</i>
Nina Cottman, <i>viola</i>	Patricia Gangiulio, <i>horn</i>
Richard Jones, <i>cello</i>	Justin Moore, <i>trombone</i>
Omar Martinez, <i>double bass</i>	Ben Kauffman, <i>tuba</i>
Chelsea Meynig, <i>flute</i>	William Kerrigan, <i>percussion</i>
Agnes Marchione, <i>clarinet</i>	Mark Loria, <i>organ</i>
Maryanne Meyer, <i>harp</i>	

Charlene Angelini, *Music Director*

For more information about the Cathedral Children's Choir programs, please visit:
<https://cathedralphila.org/> or contact Danielle Molan at: cantusangelorumccc@gmail.com

CHARLENE ANGELINI, *Director of Cathedral Parish Music*

Charlene Angelini is currently serving in her tenth year as the Director of Liturgical Music for the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and the Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel. In this role, she conducts the Cathedral Basilica and Archdiocesan choirs, and oversees the *Cantus Angelorum* Cathedral Children's Choir.

Charlene is a graduate of West Virginia University with a bachelor of music in piano performance, vocal performance and piano pedagogy. A cantor since the age of 10, liturgical music has always been an integral part of Charlene's spiritual and musical life. After graduating college, Ms. Angelini became the Director of Music at Our Lady Help of Christians Church and Nativity B.V.M. (Philadelphia, PA), where she served as organist and choir director for 11 years. In 2010, Charlene began cantoring at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, and moved into the role of Principal Cantor for all archdiocesan and televised events. She had the honor of cantoring both Papal Masses with Pope Francis, here at the Cathedral and on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Throughout her career, Charlene has taught for a variety of institutions including DeSales University, Nazareth Academy, Waldron Mercy and Westminster Choir College.

MARK LORIA, *Cathedral Organist*

A native of Staten Island, NY, Mark Loria was appointed Principal Organist of the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in 2017. He has previously served as Organist and Accompanist of Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, NJ and as Associate Organist of the Church of Saint Jean Baptiste in New York City. He is the associate conductor for the contemporary music ensemble, *Orchestra 2001*, with whom he has presented the music of George Crumb to audiences in Cuba, United Arab Emirates, and China. He has appeared as guest conductor with the New York-based *ensemble mise-en*, whom he has led in world premieres of music by Elisabeth Harnik, Eric Lyon, Karen Power, Brian Fennelly, and Reiko Futing. He holds degrees from Swarthmore College and Westminster Choir College and is a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists.

DANIELLE MOLAN, *Cantus Angelorum Cathedral Children's Choir Director*

Danielle Molan is happy to be embarking on her ninth year as part of the music staff at the Cathedral, directing the *Cantus Angelorum* Cathedral Children's Choir. In addition to this, she is the Director of Choirs at The Shipley School. She also is the founder and director of Epiphany Singers, a choral ensemble in Philadelphia consisting of young adults.

Prior to her current positions, Ms. Molan studied music at West Chester University and Westminster Choir College, earning degrees in music education and sacred music. Since then she has worked with children grades Kindergarten through twelfth in many capacities, as well as college singers while directing the Rooke Chapel Vocal Ensemble of Bucknell University. She is also certified in both Kodaly and Orff methodologies, regularly incorporating these methods into her rehearsals. She loves working with young voices and molding them into the best singer/ musicians they can be!

Christmas at the Cathedral Basilica

CONFESSIONS FOR ADVENT 2025

Sundays *of* Advent

9:00 AM, 12 Noon (in Spanish in the Chapel) and 5:30 PM in the Basilica

Monday through Friday

11:30 AM in the Cathedral Basilica

Saturdays *of* Advent

4:15 PM in the Cathedral Basilica

Resources for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation
can be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship,
<http://www.odwphiladelphia.org/sacred-liturgy/archdiocesan-guidelines/>

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS 2025

Solemnity *of* the Nativity *of* the Lord, December 25

A Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025

5:00 PM Solemn Vigil Mass (English)

7:30 PM Vigil Mass (English and Spanish) in the Cathedral Basilica

11:00 PM Choral Prelude to Mass during the Night
(Midnight Mass) in the Cathedral Basilica

Thursday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2025

12 Midnight, Solemn Mass in the Basilica

8:00 AM Mass, 10:00 AM Mass and 12 Noon Solemn Mass
in the Cathedral Basilica

There is no evening Mass on December 25