

# The Gift of Winter

## Prelude

*Performed by the St. Cloud String Quartet*

**O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion** (from *Messiah*)  
**Sussex Carol**  
**Carol of the Bells**  
**Still, Still, Still**

George Frideric Handel, arr. Lorento Golofeev  
English carol, arr. Daniel Kelley  
Mykola Leontovych, arr. Daniel Kelley  
Austrian carol, arr. Paul Thompson

## Program

**“Winter Walk”**

Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB, *narrator*

Brian Newhouse

**The Great Clear Twilight**

Great River Chorale ♦ Barbara Brooks, *piano*

Austin Schend

**“Winter”**

S. Michaela Hedican, OSB, *narrator*

James Simpson

**Light from Above**

Great River Chorale ♦ Barbara Brooks, *piano* ♦ Thea Stockinger, *cello*

Richard Nance

**“A Fire in Winter”**

Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB, *narrator*

Brian Newhouse

**I will light candles this Christmas**

Great River Chorale ♦ Barbara Brooks, *piano* ♦ Brendon Bushman, *oboe*  
St. Cloud String Quartet ♦ Dennis Douma, *double bass*  
Mary Emmons, *timpani* ♦ Haylee Elvendahl-Rumley, *percussion*

Kim André Arnesen

**Audience Carol: Angels we have heard on high**

French carol, arr. Julian Wachner

Charles Echols, *organ* ♦ Mary Emmons, *timpani*

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

**Gloria in excelsis Deo** (from *Gloria*)

St. Cloud String Quartet

Antonio Vivaldi, arr. Lorento Golofeev

**Quem pastores laudavere**

GRC Treble Choir ♦ Barbara Brooks, *piano*

German carol, arr. Mary K. Geston

**Sing we now of Christmas**

GRC Treble Choir ♦ Barbara Brooks, *piano* ♦ Brendon Bushman, *oboe*

French carol, arr. Kyle Pederson

**“Luminous Beings”**

S. Michaela Hedican, OSB, *narrator*

Charles Anthony Silvestri

**Brightest and Best**

GRC Treble Choir ♦ Barbara Brooks, *piano*  
Marian Judish, *violin* ♦ Dennis Douma, *double bass*

Reginald Heber, arr. Shawn Kirchner

**Audience Carol: Joy to the world**

Charles Echols, *organ* ♦ Mary Emmons, *timpani*

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, arr. Julian Wachner

ALL Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

ALL No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

CHOIRS 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, repeat, the sounding joy.

ALL 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, wonders, of his love.

**“Come Thou Wisdom”**

Br. Paul-Vincent Niebauer, OSB, *narrator*

Charles Anthony Silvestri

**Ecce novum**

Great River Chorale ♦ Barbara Brooks, *piano* ♦ St. Cloud String Quartet

Ola Gjeilo

**Sanctus (from *Requiem Novum*)**

Great River Chorale ♦ Charles Echols, *organ*

Mårten Jansson

**“In Excelsis”**

S. Michaela Hedican, OSB, *narrator*

William Bliss Carman

**Auld Lang Syne**

Great River Chorale

Traditional Scottish, arr. Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

**Gloria**

Great River Chorale ♦ Barbara Brooks, *piano*  
St. Cloud String Quartet ♦ Mary Emmons, *timpani*

Randol Alan Bass



## Texts and Translations

### “Winter Walk”

*Brian Newhouse*

The longest night  
The brightest moon  
The sharpest sting of cold  
The barest branch  
The hardest earth  
My breath the only cloud

And I am out walking to ask the winter moon:  
Who will I be when the spring rains come?

The air so still  
Smoke rising straight  
The snowbanks sleep so deep  
The quiet star  
The silent night  
A lone bird wakes and sings

And I am out walking to hear my heart,  
And I am out walking to hear my heart.

### The Great Clear Twilight

*Music: Austin Schend*

*Words: Sara Teasdale*

I watch the great clear twilight  
Veiling the ice-bowed trees;  
Their branches tinkle faintly  
With crystal melodies.  
The larches bend their silver  
Over the hush of snow;  
One star is lighted in the west,  
Two in the zenith glow.  
For a moment I have forgotten  
Wars and women who mourn,  
I think of the mother who bore me  
And thank her that I was born.

### “Winter”

*James Simpson*

In the stillness of early morning  
still dark  
every molecule of breath suspended, tiny ornaments  
filaments of a river of stars  
the people sleep  
the planet sleeps

flora and fauna far and wide  
cocoon, burrow, hibernate, hide.

Still, life is  
and will be again.

Silent morning, silent night  
silence not golden but white  
frosted.

The world is our jewelbox  
we shall not want:  
For is not the snow-swept field  
a field of dreams, of diamonds?

If you do not believe  
or do not remember,  
leave off shoveling  
wrap yourself once more in flora and fauna far and wide  
cocoon, burrow, hibernate, hide.

Still, life is  
and will be again.

If you do not believe  
or do not remember,  
leave off shoveling  
wrap yourself once more in swaddling clothes  
and go out  
when the snow and moon are new:  
The cold vast glitter

can take your breath away.  
The muted music of ice drops  
soft castanet click on the nimble fingers of the trees.  
Listen to the whisper of booted feet  
leaving trails for others to follow in their footsteps.

Even in this still, frozen time  
everything old is new again.  
Therefore let not coldness of limbs chill your heart  
rather quicken your pulse and your imagination.  
Share the warmth of this winter dressing:  
even in this still tableau  
this early night  
this long lingering dark  
the promise of life eternal.

### Light from Above

*Music: Richard Nance*

*Words: Native Alaskan legend*

Perhaps they are not the stars,  
but rather openings in heavens,  
where the love of our lost ones  
pours through and shines down upon us  
to let us know they are happy.  
The love of those in heaven  
pours down on us like light from above.  
Joy, the light of joy. Alleluia.

### **“A Fire in Winter”**

*Brian Newhouse*

Here in the winter dark  
our ministry is flame.  
We light this candle for comfort.

When you are lost,  
we will build the signal fire,  
a towering blaze of welcome.  
When you are broken,  
a hearthfire to mend a scattered heart.  
When you are hungry,  
living embers will bring you bread.  
We are found,  
we are whole,  
we are fed by fire.

Angels fan these flames  
so your way may  
be lit by joy.

### **I will light candles this Christmas**

*Music by Kim André Arnesen*

*Words by Howard Thurman*

I will light candles this Christmas,  
Candles of joy despite all sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all year long.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among others,  
To make music in the heart.

### **Quem pastores laudavere**

*Music: Michael Praetorius, arr. Mary K. Geston*

*Words: 15th-c. Latin*

(Latin)

*Quem pastores laudavere,  
quibus angeli dixerunt,  
absit vobis jam timere,  
natus est rex gloriae.*

(English Translation)

Shepherds left their flocks a-straying,  
God's command with joy obeying  
When they heard the angel saying  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

Wise men came from far and saw him  
Knelt in homage to adore him  
Precious gifts they laid before him  
Gold and frankincense and myrrh.

*Christo regi, Deo nato,  
per Mariam nobis dato,  
merito resonet vere,  
laus, honor et gloria.*

(English Translation)

Christ the King, God is born,  
Who was given to us by Mary,  
We should sing thy merit  
Praise, honor and glory.

### **Sing we now of Christmas**

*Music: Traditional French, arr. Kyle Pederson*

*Words: Traditional*

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel;  
hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near.  
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel;  
sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.

In stillness waits the world  
in silent reverie—  
longing for the birth of love and mercy.  
Yearning for hope, good news to fill our soul;  
turning to the manger that grounds all mystery.

Angels bending low and shepherds bend their knee;  
wisemen from the east have come the child to see.  
All of creation where love has come to dwell—  
sing we now of Christmas,  
the good news now we tell.  
Sing Noel, sing Noel, sing we now Noel.

### **“Luminous Beings”**

*Charles Anthony Silvestri*

Rejoice, o seekers of the Light—  
For the Star that shone that night  
Still shines for those with eyes to see.

A candle flame, flickering, fragile,  
Illuminates but a hand, a face, a passageway.  
The humble hearth fire, softly glowing,  
Reaches only to the corners of our sitting room.

But luminous,  
Luminous beings are we!  
We drive away the darkness  
With an inner light.

Lightning flashes bright as day,  
But only for an instant,  
And all again is darkness,  
Shadows ever gathering, cov'ring, veiling.

But luminous,  
Luminous beings are we,  
Of spirit and of starlight made,  
Bearers of the light of Love  
Born to drive away all darkness.

### **Brightest and Best**

*Music & words: Reginald Heber, arr. Shawn Kirchner*

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great mediator,  
Down from the regions of glory descend!  
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,  
Lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.  
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and monarch and savior of all.

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,  
Odors of Edom and offerings divine:  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

### **“Come thou, Wisdom”**

*Charles Anthony Silvestri*

Come thou, Wisdom,  
Gift of Winter—  
Strengthen us to wait  
For that which is to come.

Come thou, Healing Snow,  
Falling from the highest height—  
Blanket the sleeping earth  
In purest white.

Come thou, Longest Night,  
Summer's twin—  
Remind us that joy  
Comes in the morning.

Come thou, Ancient Flame,  
Powerful and secret—  
Kindle our hearths  
And mend our hearts.

Come thou, Holy Lady,  
Queen of Winter—  
Renew us  
Even as you turn the year.

Come thou, Spirit of Light,  
Eternally born  
To make all things new—  
Blessed little brother.

### **Ecce novum**

*Music: Ola Gjeilo*

*Words: Piaae Cantiones (1582)*

(Latin)

*Ecce novum gaudium  
Ecce novum mirum,  
Virgo parit filium,  
quae non novit vium.*

*Sed ut piru pirum,  
Gleba fert papyrus  
Florens lilium.*

*Ecce quod natura  
Mutat sua iura,  
Virgo parit pura  
Dei filium. Amen.*

(English translation)

Behold! A new joy!  
Behold! A new wonder!  
A virgin bears a son,  
who knew not a man

But as the pear-tree bears the pear,  
the flourishing papyrus brings  
the lily from the soil.

See how nature  
changes her laws:  
a pure virgin bears  
the son of God. Amen

### **Sanctus** (from *Requiem Novum*)

*Music: Mårten Jansson*

*Words: Requiem Mass*

(Latin)

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.*

(English translation)

Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord:  
Hosanna in the highest.

## In Excelsis

*William Bliss Carman*

The new moon hangs in the wintry tree,  
The spring rains march by the door,  
The summer comes and the roses blow,  
The mellow woods of autumn glow,  
And love is more and more.

The seasons pass, the strong winds die,  
The sunlight steals from the wall,  
The glittering planets wheel and sink,  
The tides return to the ocean's brink,  
And love is all in all.

## Auld lang syne

*Music: Trad. Scottish, arr. Joanna Forbes L'Estrange*  
*Words: attrib. Robert Burns*

Should auld [old] acquaintance be forgot,  
and never brought to mind,  
should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
and days of auld lang syne [old long since]?

And here's a hand, my trusty friend,  
and gie's [give] a hand o' thine,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,  
for the sake of auld lang syne.

## Gloria

*Music: Randol Alan Bass*  
*Words: Mass Ordinary*

(Latin)  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
*Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.*  
*Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.*  
*Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.*  
*Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.*  
*Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.*  
*Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.*  
*Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.*  
*Qui tollis peccata mundi miserere nobis.*  
*Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris miserere nobis.*  
*Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.*  
*Tu solus altissimus Jesu Christe.*  
*Cum sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*



(English translation)  
Glory to God in the highest.  
And on earth peace to all those of good will.  
We praise thee. We bless thee.  
We worship thee. We glorify thee.  
We give thanks to thee according to thy great glory.  
Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father almighty.  
The only begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ.  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.  
Thou who takes away the sins of the world have mercy on us.  
Thou who takes away the sins of the world receive our prayer.  
Thou who sits at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us.  
For Thou alone are holy. Thou alone are the Lord.  
Thou alone are the most high Jesus Christ.  
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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## INSTRUMENTALISTS

*St. Cloud String Quartet*  
Marion Judish, *Violin I*  
Sarah Dahl, *Violin II*  
Jennifer Wildeson, *Viola*  
Thea Stockinger, *Cello*

*Organ*  
Charles Echols  
  
*Double Bass*  
Dennis Douma

*Oboe*  
Brendon Bushman  
  
*Percussion*  
Mary Emmons  
Haylee Elvendahl-Rumley

**GREAT RIVER CHORALE** is an adult community choir based in St. Cloud, MN that draws members from across Central Minnesota. The choir was founded in 2001 with a mission to enrich the community through choral excellence and to inspire connection and learning through the choral art. It is the principal choral partner of the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra and regularly collaborates with local and regional artists. Great River Chorale has been selected four times for YourClassical MPR's *Taste of the Holidays* CD featuring Minnesota's best regional ensembles and was the only choir outside the Twin Cities metro area to perform in Chorus America's 2021 National Conference.

**Conductor & Artistic Managing Director**

Mary Kay Geston – *Sponsored by Anita & Don Fischer, Donna Harris, Charles & Judith Welter*

**Collaborative Pianist**

Barbara Brooks – *Sponsored by Gary Sneide*

**Soprano**

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Jessica Basol – *Sponsored by Roberta Basol, Donna Harris*

Rebecca Botz

Madeline Briekos

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*& Janice Wichman, OSF*

Haylee Elvendahl-Rumley

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Jennifer Stoutenburg

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Aera Wenisch

**Alto**

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Eileen Farrell – *Sponsored by Tom Farrell, Molly Warden*

Kate Gardner

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*memory of Delores Weatherill, Marc & Cynthia Cannon,*

*Karen Larken, Mary Munger*

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Aelred Senna, OSB

Derik Weldon

Riley Wenisch

Charles Wright

**Bass**

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*of Stephen Fuller*

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Charles Welter – *Sponsored by MOverland Consulting*

Matthew Zook

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**THE GRC TREBLE CHOIR** is a new choir for adult treble voice singers that was created to provide an opportunity for sopranos and altos in Central Minnesota to pursue their passion for choral singing at the highest level possible. The choir is led by artistic managing director Mary Kay Geston and accompanied by collaborative pianist Barbara Brooks. Auditions for the spring semester will be held in early January 2025. For more information go to [greatriverchorale.org](http://greatriverchorale.org).

**Soprano**

Violet Allen

Carolyn Brown

Ardis Nelson

Josie Ekholm Brown

Abbey Dupuy

Jessica Larson

Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt

Pam Stoutenburg

**Alto**

Anna Blommer

Audra Massetti

Kinsey Morford

Susan Schleper

Jennifer Schreifels

Gray Allen

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*Viehauser, Naomi Viehauser*

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# Great River Chorale

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