



Deck *the* Halls



Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023

7:30 PM

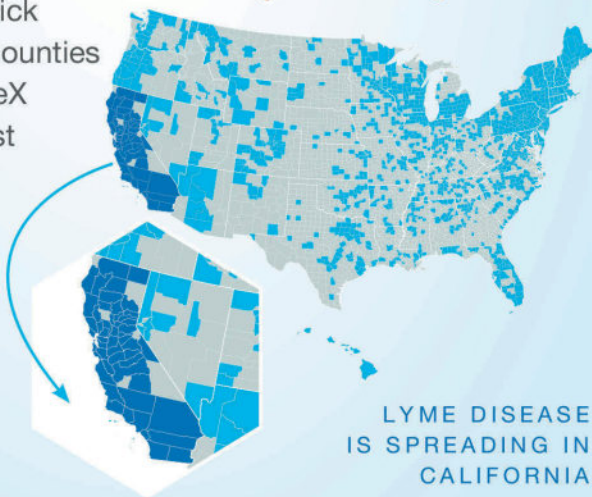
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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to our annual Deck the Halls holiday concert!!! We are thankful to be here with you, sharing joy and music from around the globe, and from a broad range of composers and arrangers. You will see that our ranks continue to grow, even from pre-pandemic numbers, and with your support as patrons, we have outgrown some of our favorite venues - an amazing problem to have!

Since this concert last year and with a huge round of thanks to our Operations Manager, Brendan Lodge, we've also implemented some new event and donor management software, which we hope made your experience with our Box Office even better, and will also make tax preparation a wee bit easier. On that front, we also want to thank Board Members, Kira Dixon and Ron Hodges, respectively for introducing new Silent Auction processes, and establishing means of accepting stocks as a form of donation - huge operational leaps from where we were a few years ago.

Lastly, we'd like to thank Ruthie Wilkins, who kicked off a matching award for our November fundraising campaign, which snowballed into a fundraiser that offset the loss of a major grant we had last year. These kinds of personal efforts and dreams for how this community can produce concerts, connections, and crowded tables is what life is all about. We've got some exciting plans for the upcoming year - so thank you for your support as we come into our own.

Speaking of coming into their own...Our amazing Artistic Director, Jeffrey Benson, is celebrating his 10th year with us and each year is better than the last! We are so honored to have him lead Peninsula Cantare. You will see a mini montage of photos later in this program, and would love to gather more over the course of this year.

We thank our advertisers, donors, ticket holders, and Silicon Valley Creates, who've made it possible to cover our concert expenses and tuition scholarships. Please do keep us in mind as you consider your end-of-year or longer-term giving decisions, and always look for your own opportunities to include others in your life. But for tonight, we hope that you will participate in our annual drawing for a Sectional Basket and a chance to conduct a carol - with your own, sparkly baton!



Ginny Grant

Chair, Board of Trustees, Peninsula Cantare

PROGRAM

arr. MICHAEL ENGELHARDT
(b. 1974)

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
(1685-1750)

Jennifer Mitchell, soprano
Jules Citino, mezzo soprano
Taylor Lynne Dunye, mezzo soprano
Jonathan Smucker, tenor
Michael Kuo, bass

HYUN KOOK

AUDIENCE SING ALONG

arr. BOB CHILCOTT
Hebrew Folksong

arr. ANDREA RAMSEY
Words and Music by
Hemby, McKenna & Carlile

arr. JOHN ALEXANDER
Words by Lee Mendelson
Music by Vince Guaraldi

arr. DANIEL AFONSO Jr.
Folclore Brasileiro

arr. ELAINE HAGENBERG
Traditional English

AUDIENCE SING ALONG

arr. MICHAEL HANAWALT
& JUSTINE SASANFAR
Words and Music by
Gordon Lightfoot

arr. GARY FRY
Music by Felix Mendelssohn

Gaudete!

Ian Aseltine and Zachary Blickensderfer, soloists

Magnificat in D

- I. Magnificat
- II. Et exultavit
- III. Quia respexit
- IV. Omnes generationes
- V. Quia fecit
- VI. Et misericordia
- VII. Fecit potentiam
- VIII. Deposuit potentes
- IX. Esurientes
- X. Suscepit Israel
- XI. Sicut locutus est
- XII. Gloria Patri

Hear the Angels Sing!



O, Come, All Ye Faithful



Mi y'maleil

Crowded Table

Gabrielle McColgan, soloist

Christmas Time Is Here

Amy Spencer and Truysten Tautolo, soloists

A Nossa Lapinha

Sussex Carol



Deck the Halls



Song for a Winter's Night

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



O, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels.

Refrain:

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, in the highest.

(Refrain)

DECK THE HALLS

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la la la la!
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la la la la!

Fast away the old year passes,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa la la la la la la la!
Sing we joyous all together!
Fa la la la la la la la!
Heedless of the wind and weather,
Fa la la la la la la la!

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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!"



TRANSLATIONS

Gaudete!

Gaudete! Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!

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

Tempus adest gratiae
Hoc quod optabamus,
Carmina laetitiae
Devote reddamus.

A time of grace is here,
For which we had hoped.
Songs of joy
We devotedly return.

Deus homo factus est
Natura mirante,
Mundus renovatus est
A Christo regnante.

God is made man;
Nature marvels.
The world is renewed
By Christ's reign.

Ergo nostra contio
Psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino:
Salus Regi nostro.

Therefore, our assembly
Sings now in brightness.
We bless the Lord:
Greetings to our King.

Magnificat in D

I. Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

II. Et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo
salutari meo

and my spirit has exulted in God my
saviour.

III. Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae
suae; ecce enim ex hoc beatam me
dicent

For he hath regarded the low estate of
his handmaiden: for, behold, from
henceforth all generations shall call me
blessed.

IV. Omnes generationes.

every generation.

V. Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius.

because he who is mighty has done
great things for me, and holy is his
name.

VI. Et misericordia a progenie in
progenies timentibus eum.

and his mercy [continues] from
generation to generation for those who
fear him.

VII. Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

He has made known the power of his
arm, scattered those who are arrogant
in the thoughts of their heart.

VIII. Deposuit potentes de sede et
exaltavit humiles.

He has put down the mighty from their
seats [of power] and raised up those
who are lowly.



TRANSLATIONS

Magnificat in D

IX. Esurientes implevit bonis et
divites dimisit inanes.

The hungry he has filled with good
things, and the rich he has sent away
empty.

X. Suscepit Israel puerum suum
recordatus misericordiae suae.

He has taken under his protection
Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

XI. Sicut locutus est ad Patres
nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

in accordance with what he said to
our fathers,
to Abraham and to his seed forever.

XII. Gloria Patri, gloria Filio,
gloria et Spiritui Sancto!
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et
semper et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

Glory to the Father, glory to the Son,
glory also to the Holy Spirit! As it was
in the beginning and [is] now and
always and throughout ages of ages.
Amen.

Mi y'maleil

Mi y'maleil g'vurot Yisrael? Otan mi
yimneh?
Hein b'chol dor yakum hagibor goeil
ha'am.

Who can recount the heroism of
Israel? Who can count them?
In every age, a hero or sage Shall
come to our aid.

Shma!
Bayamim haheim bazman hazeh,
Makabi moshia ufodeh.
Uvyameinu kol am Yisrael
Yitacheid yakum v'higael.

Hark!
In this time of year, In days of yore,
Maccabees the Temple did restore
And tonight our people, as we dream,
Will arise, unite, and be redeemed.

A Nossa Lapinha

A nossa lapinha
Já vai se queimar.
E nós pastorinhas
Devemos chorar.

Our little lapa (nativity)
Is about to be burned.
And we, the little shepherdesses
Should cry.

Que dor eu sinto
Em meu coração
De ver a lapinha
Virada em carvão.

I feel such pain
In my heart
For seeing the little lapa
Turned into coal.

A nossa lapinha
Já vai se queimar.
Em fogo, em brasa,
Já vai se acabar.

Our little lapa
Is about to be burned.
In fire and flames
It will soon end.



Amy Nasci Worden

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Post Office Box 3243
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Brendan Lodge, *operations manager*
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Andrew Lu
Christopher Montoya
Jeremy Ryan
Cody Scott*
Richard Vaughan
Paul Weidler
Ruthie Wilkins

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Nathaniel Bergson-
Michelson
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Konstantin Kunz
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Dave Peters
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Julia Vetter
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* Section Leader

Guest Orchestra

Catalina Barraza *violin*
Erica Buurman *violin*
Tovah Keynton *viola*
Paul Hale *cello*
Yuchen Liu *bass*
Sarah Benton *flute*
Angelina Ho *flute*
Robert Scott *oboe*

Cindy Thorp *oboe*
Sean Martin *bassoon*
Mike Marmarou *trumpet*
Chris Wilhite *trumpet*
Mike Pakuluk *trumpet*
Chris Pun *percussion*
Andrew Hathaway *percussion*
Gordon Haramaki *harp*

ARTISTIC STAFF



Jeffrey Benson

Jeffrey Benson is Artistic Director of Peninsula Cantare and Director of Choral Activities at San José State University. The *Washington Post* hails his choirs for singing “with an exquisite blend, subtlety of phrasing, confident musicianship and fully supported tone.”

Dr. Benson made his international conducting debut with the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the SJSU Choraliers in Limerick, Ireland in 2016, and he made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 2015 with the SJSU Choirs and the New York Festival Orchestra. He has served as cover conductor for the Grammy award-winning Washington Chorus, where he helped to prepare the ensemble for Maestros Leonard Slatkin and Marvin Hamlisch.

Choirs under his direction have performed at multiple state and regional choral conferences and have toured throughout the United States and Europe, including invited performances at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The White House and Washington National Cathedral. Recently Dr. Benson’s choirs have been invited to perform with the Rolling Stones, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, Sarah Brightman, the Los Angeles Festival Orchestra and the Skywalker Orchestra.

Dr. Benson is a published composer and arranger, and is the editor of the Jeffrey Benson Choral Series with Gentry Publications. He has compositions published with Colla Voce Music and Santa Barbara Music Publishing, under the Charlene Archibeque Choral Series.



Emily Hsu

Emily Hsu began her piano and musical training at the age of three and had won several prestigious accolades by the age of ten. After moving from Taiwan to the Bay Area in 1996, she studied with renowned pianist Rebecca-Sen Chan. Since then, she’s won numerous competitions including the U.S. Open Competition, Young Pianist’s Beethoven Competition, and San Jose Jazz Society Piano Competition. Emily is a graduate of the University of California, Davis where she studied music and computer science.

ARTISTIC STAFF

(Emily Hsu)

In addition to having an extensive and accomplished solo career, Emily is a collaborative musician by nature. In addition to her work with Dr. Jeffrey Benson and the San Jose State University Concert Choir, Emily has served as the accompanist for the California All-State Choirs. She has arranged numerous choral repertoire for the Tzu Chi Foundation and Bo-Ai Chorus. She has also aided Dr. Jennifer McDowell on the completion of her songbook, *The Women's Basketball Songbook*, performed with the Cambrian Symphony under the direction of Maestro Scott Krijnen, and worked closely with distinguished music educator Jim Yowell for over a decade.

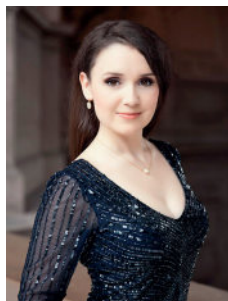


Brendan Lodge

Peninsula Cantare is thrilled to welcome Brendan Lodge as Operations Manager. In 2014, he earned his BM in Vocal Music Education at Alma College under the tutelage of Dr. Will Nichols, where he had the opportunity to conduct multiple choirs as a student director. Brendan taught middle school choir for four years in Michigan and California before earning his MM in Choral Conducting at San José State University in May 2023.

An avid musical theatre fan, Brendan has worked as a music/pit director for multiple productions, and enjoys performing when he can. Brendan also works as an arranger and frequently arranges music for his own choirs to sing. The Alma College Choirs have repeatedly commissioned his arrangements, and he had the privilege of conducting his own works for the 2014 and 2017 Alma College Homecoming Concerts. In 2017 and 2019, his arrangements were featured at the Michigan Music Conference's Choral Hour. At SJSU, Brendan worked as an instructor in Music Appreciation, Music Fundamentals, and Ear Training, with all of the SJSU choral ensembles in various administrative and artistic capacities, and served as the director of SJSU's Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Brendan now works as the choir teacher at Livermore High School in Livermore, CA. He currently resides in San José with his fiancé, Tyler, and their two Boston Terriers, Jan and Bob.

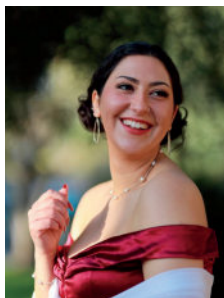
GUEST SOLOISTS



Jennifer Mitchell

Soprano Jennifer Mitchell is delighted to join Peninsula Cantare for this program! Jennifer made her San Francisco Symphony solo debut in Mendelssohn's Lobgesang under the direction of András Schiff. She has been a soloist with Masterworks Chorale and Sacramento Choral Society. Operatic credits include Barbarina (Le nozze di Figaro) Opera San José, Despina (Cosi fan tutte) at Pocket Opera, and the leading ladies of The (New) Mikado, H.M.S. Pinafore, and Patience at Lamplighters Music Theatre. Musical theatre credits include Phoebe (A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder), Cinderella (Into the Woods), Marian (The Music Man), Laurey (Oklahoma!), Johanna (Sweeney Todd), and Clara (The Light in the Piazza) with companies including 42nd Street Moon, Broadway by the Bay, Cinnabar Theater, and Hillbarn Theatre.

Jennifer is in her sixth season with the SF Symphony Chorus; additionally, she is an adjunct voice faculty member at SJSU and a private voice teacher. www.jenniferalexismitchell.com



Jules Citino

Jules Citino is delighted to be featured as a soloist in today's performance of Bach's Magnificat. Starting out in Lake Forest, California, Jules has truly enjoyed their time in San Jose and has been thrilled to get to know the Bay Area. Jules began their musical journey as a cellist in high school and early college, and has since transitioned to a choral and operatic focus during their time at SJSU and Saddleback College. Studying under soprano Sandra Bengochea and tenor Christopher Bengochea at SJSU, Jules has had the privilege of acquiring immense knowledge pertaining to vocal artistry and the intricacies of opera production. While under the instruction of Christopher Bengochea in March 2023, Jules was honored to place 3rd in the Upper Level College category of the SFBAC NATS Chapter.

Jules has gone on to perform at esteemed venues, including the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and the Judy Morr Theater, as well as at the San Jose SAP Center. Most recently, Jules performed the soprano solo in Mozart's Coronation Mass, with the SJSU and Florida State Choirs in Portugal. Jules brought Jack's Mother to life in SJSU's production of Into the Woods in November of 2022. They also had the privilege of performing as a member of the choir in Andrea Bocelli's performance in San Jose in June of 2022. Jules currently holds a position at the university's Hammer Theatre Center. During their time at the Hammer Theatre, Jules assistant directed SJSU Opera Theatre's double bill production of La Curandera and Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial by Jury in May of 2022. Jules enjoys reading and spending time with their cat, Ginkgo.

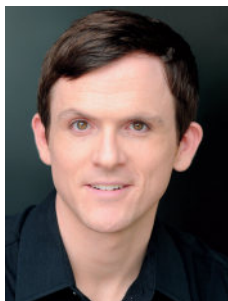
GUEST SOLOISTS



**Taylor Lynne
Dunye**

Taylor Lynne Dunye (she/her/hers) is a Bay Area based Mezzo-Soprano and music educator.

Taylor can be seen actively performing with regional company Opera San Jose- most recently in Falstaff by Giuseppe Verdi and Tosca by Giacomo Puccini. In the past, Taylor has appeared in concert with numerous choral groups including the Santa Clara Chorale and the San Jose State University Choraliers. Taylor has had the privilege of traveling with the San Jose State University's many choral ensembles to incredibly captivating places such as Ireland, Finland, the Baltic states, and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Her love of performing has sparked into a lifelong passion for sharing music with everyone around her, especially with her 2 beautiful children and her students. Eternal gratitude to all family and teachers past and present who continue to support Taylor as an artist and educator, you are irreplaceable!



**Jonathan
Smucker**

Ohio-born tenor Jonathan Smucker has sung more than fifty roles in opera, oratorio, operetta and musical theater, ranging from early Baroque to highly contemporary.

A fixture on Bay Area and California stages, his recent appearances include the Witch of Endor in Handel's Saul with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale, Miles in Missy Mazzoli's Proving Up with Pasadena Opera, First Elder/Tassi/Oculist in the West Coast premiere of Laura Schwendinger's Artemisia with Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, and Zotico in Cavalli's Eliogabalo with West Edge Opera.

Additional performances of note include the US Premiere of O'Regan's Heart of Darkness with Opera Parallèle, a solo debut with American Bach Soloists in the Monteverdi Vespers, Ferrando in Così fan tutte and the title role in Candide for Pasadena Opera, the title role in Jephtha with Handel Opera Project, Gherardo in Gianni Schicchi for Livermore Valley Opera, and Gligoro in the modern premiere of La Circe by Pietro Ziani with Ars Minerva.

Jonathan is a member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, and sings regularly with the American Bach Soloists' Cantorei and the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale. A committed music educator, he serves as co-coordinator of the voice area at San José State University and is former voice department chair at San Francisco Community Music Center.



Michael Kuo

Michael Kuo received his bachelors of science in music at Pacific Union College in 2015 and his Masters degree in vocal performance at San Jose State University in 2017. Since then he has been working both domestically and abroad, performing roles such as Papageno (Lyric Opera Studio of Weimar), The Pirate King (Lyric Theatre of San Jose) and Sciarrone (Pocket Opera). His upcoming productions include Marullo in Opera San Jose's production of Rigoletto and Schunard in Pocket Opera Production of La Bohème

UPCOMING CONCERTS



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FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024
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Jeffrey Benson, Artistic Director





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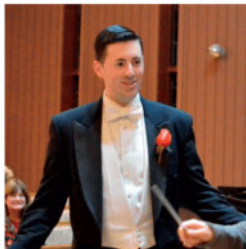
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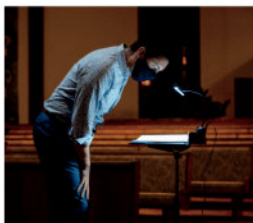


Thank you, Jeffrey, for an amazing decade!



From the moment we met you, and in every rehearsal, Board meeting, concert, and trip, you have truly brought magic to the Peninsula Cantare. While the years flew by - although you truly don't age - we've all had so many experiences growing as individual singers and as a community.

You roll off "Jeffrey's Gems" at every rehearsal, quotes that enable us to feel and then deliver on your incredible interpretations. You excite the Board and our patrons alike, encouraging us to think big. In everyday interactions, you embody the message of hope, and all being welcome.



You brought us through the pandemic via home-bound rehearsals and technical marvels of pieces that still bring a smile to our faces - and the desire to 'Dance in the Graveyard' - do check out our YouTube video... And then we were back together, and singing was even more precious.

You've taken us to places we've dreamed of singing - Carnegie Hall, Ireland, the Baltics, Lisbon & Seville, and found new, local concert locations as our numbers have swelled.

We can't wait for this next decade! Thank you....



Concert and rehearsal photos by Robyn Peters





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