

PROGRAM NOTES

Quincy Symphony Orchestra & Choruses - December 1, 2018
Dr. Paul Borg

The December holiday season is filled with **stories** and the music that goes along with them. Sacred and secular stories reflect both serious and fun expectations that families have while anticipating the arrival of Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year. Familiar religious stories of the season are Hanukkah, the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem and the lighting of the Menorah, as well as the Nativity of Jesus in Bethlehem. Other stories have developed over centuries, including the Christmas Eve journey of Santa Claus.

HARK!

arranged by William Camphouse

In the arranger's words:

"*HARK!* is joyful statement of celebration - in all respects it's musically extroverted. Visions of angelic hosts, sturdy four bar phrases and similar harmonic rhythm patterns are common characteristics that link Felix Mendelssohn's *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* and *Angels from the Realms of Glory* from the British hymn tune *Regent Square*. Opening with a recurring fanfare motive, both tunes are stated independently, then developed and interwoven making the most of orchestral color and ensemble energy."

Ding, Dong, Merrily / Good King Wenceslas

arranged by John Mindeman

In the arranger's words:

"*Ding Dong Merrily / Good King Wenceslas* is a lively blend of two traditional Christmas carols, though not always treated in traditional ways musically. "Ding Dong" is a straightforward, rhythmic, happy announcement of the joy of the season, with lots of interplay between the different sections of the orchestra. *Good King Wenceslas*, by contrast, is a quiet, reflective look at the compassion of King Wenceslas shown to the poor man in the story. The two carol melodies sound simultaneously in the last section of the piece for an exuberant ending."

Carols of the Nativity

arranged by William Camphouse

"*Carols of the Nativity* is a contemplative lullaby grown from well established central European cultural roots and quotes from *Gently Rocking* (Czech) and *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (Polish). The text, the pure quality of childrens' voices and delicate orchestration are designed to create a sense of quiet calm."

The Snowman

film music by Howard Blake

The Snowman is a children's picture book without words by English author Raymond Briggs, first published in 1978. Turned into a film in 1982, it has become one of the most beloved fantasy tales of the Christmas season. The Quincy Symphony Orchestra performs the music live while we watch the engaging visuals. The story relates the adventures of a boy, the snowman he creates that comes to life, and their antics, first at home, then further away in England, over to Norway, the Arctic, and finally a snow-covered forest where they meet Father Christmas. It seems more than a mere dream when at the end the boy finds confirmation of the journey in his pocket—the scarf that Father Christmas had given him.

It's Christmastime

arranged by Calvin Custer

We continue second half of the program on the secular side of the stories. Calvin Custer has artfully arranged several of the holiday favorites in a medley for orchestra. Included are *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, *Silver Bells*, and *I'll Be Home for Christmas*.

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson

We welcome our "Battle for the Baton" winner to conduct this popular favorite which exhibits the joy that a snowy Christmas season offers to people wanting to have fun. Its evocation of jingling bells, the lively trot of the horse, its sudden turn into a jazzy idiom, all contribute to a sense of pleasure that everyone enjoys.

A Christmas Garland

Conrad Susa

In 1988 Conrad Susa composed this medley of Christmas songs for the Cantari Singers. In the composer's words:

"A glittering orchestral ritornello with cries of 'Noel' garlands the verses of *God rest ye merry*, in which the angels announce the principal message of comfort and joy. The orchestra dances into *The Holly and the Ivy* but the chorus sings *I saw Three Ships*, . . . [After the Three Kings visit the manger,] celebration breaks out in *Joy to the World*, humorously deconstructed to show its relationship to several of Handel's works. The ritornello with its 'Noels,' now all embracing and triumphant concludes the work."

O Holy Night

arranged by John Mindeman

In the arranger's words:

"Adolphe Adam's **O Holy Night** has become known as one of the most heartfelt expressions of the season. Adam composed the original piece in 1847, with words by poet and wine merchant Placide Cappeau. The piece has become not just a beloved carol of the birth of Jesus, but also an anthem of hope, gratitude, and brotherhood. In this arrangement, I have tried to communicate the mystery, wonder and majesty inherent in the story of Christmas, while highlighting the melody and words with fresh orchestral and vocal color."

Christmas Singalong

John Finnegan

Audience participation is the goal of this stirring arrangement. With few exceptions, whenever the audience sings, the trumpet carries the melody. The work opens with *Jingle Bells* followed by *Joy to the World*, *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*, *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, *Silent Night*, *Away in a Manger*, *Deck the Halls*, and *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.



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We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Arthur Harris

The west country of 16th-century England is the origin of this carol. It evokes convivial merriment and dining; "figgy pudding" was a popular dish shared by the wealthy with carolers on Christmas Eve. It also extends a greeting to the New Year, only a week away.

MEET THE COMPOSERS



William Camhouse is engaged in music making with student, community-based and professional performing ensembles throughout a career that continues to provide inspiration, enjoyment and an opportunity to work with similarly motivated people. At Kaskaskia College in Centralia, IL, Camhouse developed and led a comprehensive community college music program making a vital contribution to the cultural life of the community. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois.

His interest in composition and arranging has been ongoing throughout his career and has resulted in a number of commissioned and published works for concert band and orchestra. Many are based on regionally inspired themes, including *Swallows In the Window* commissioned and premiered by the QSO to open the 2014-15 concert season.

He is a member of the Quincy Concert Band, appears as a festival clinician throughout the Midwest and is a frequent presenter at the ILMEA All-State conference. Extra musical interests include service as Village President of Perry, IL where he and his wife, Kristine, are restoring their Civil War era family home. They are parents of three sons and grandparents of three active children.



John Mindeman is Associate Professor of Trombone and Euphonium at Western Illinois University. As an instrumentalist, he has performed widely with fine orchestras and chamber ensembles such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Lyric Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, the Joffrey Ballet, the Filarmonica de Santiago (Chile), the Illinois Symphony, the Millar Brass Ensemble, the Chicago Brass Quintet, and many others. He has played under some of the world's most acclaimed musicians and conductors, including Mstislav Rostropovich, Christian Thielemann, Zubin Mehta, Daniel Barenboim, and others.

As an arranger and composer, John has created a substantial catalog of works for brass and other ensembles. His arrangements have been performed by some of the finest ensembles in the country, including the New York Philharmonic Brass, the Monarch Brass, the Washington (DC) Symphonic Brass, the Millar Brass Ensemble, the Springfield (OH) Symphony Orchestra, the Tower Brass of Chicago, the Red Peppers Ragtime Ensemble, and the Chicago Brass Quintet. He studies composition with Paul Paccione, and has written original music for brass ensemble, string trio, string quartet, oboe, piano, mixed chamber ensemble, and orchestra.