



St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Linda Blanchard, Conductor Sean Fleming, Organist

Ceremony  
of  
Lessons  
and  
Carols

Music by  
Palestrina  
R. Francis  
Taverner  
Stanford  
Porter  
Warlock  
Parry  
K. Francis

Friday, December 11 7:30 PM  
Second Congregational Church, Newcastle, Maine

Saturday, December 12 3:00 PM  
Bowdoin College Chapel, Brunswick, Maine

2009

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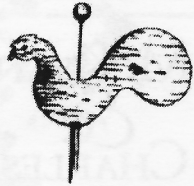
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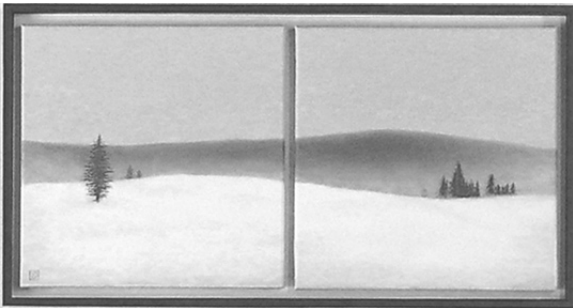


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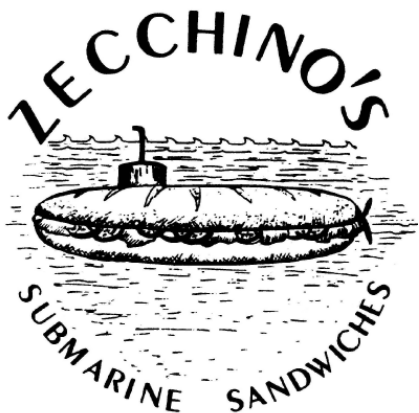
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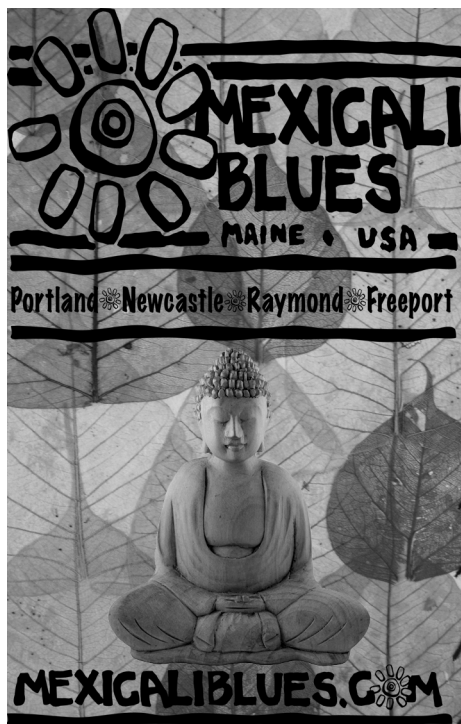
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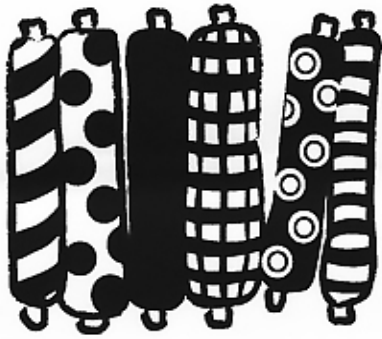


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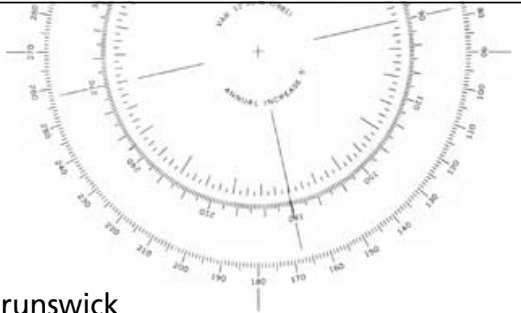
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# St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

INVITES YOU TO

## Celebrate Spring!

Saturday, April 10 at 3:00 PM  
Bowdoin Chapel, Brunswick

Sunday, April 11 at 3:00 PM  
Second Congregational Church, Newcastle

For more information: [www.ceciliachoir.org](http://www.ceciliachoir.org) or 563-8191

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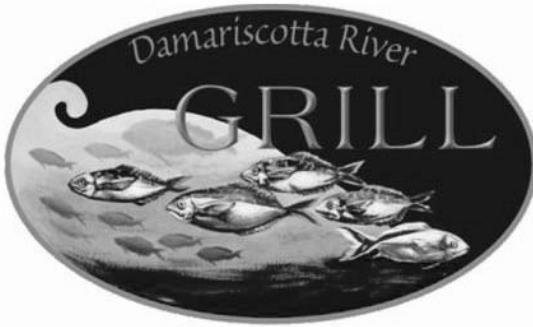
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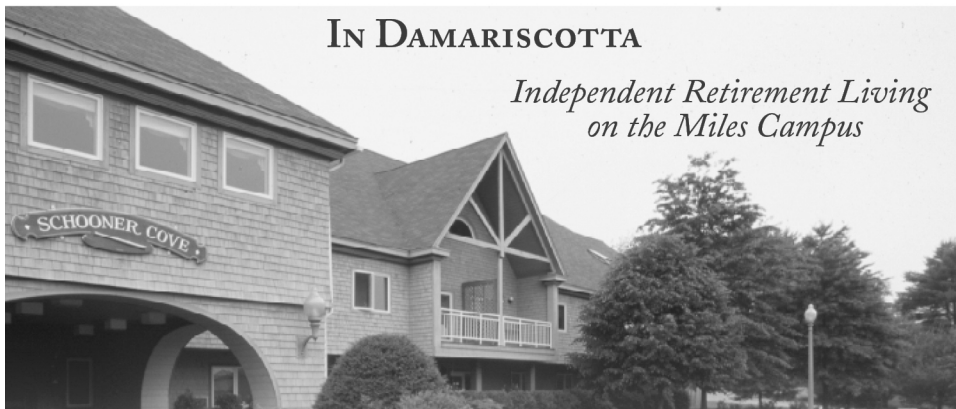
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# St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Linda Blanchard, Director

## Ceremony of Lesson and Carols

Friday, December 11, 2009 Second Congregational Church, Newcastle

Saturday, December 12, 2009 Bowdoin College Chapel, Brunswick

Reading: Book of John

Matin Responsory

Giovanni Da Palestrina, b. 1525

*Cally Aldrich, Carli Jo Storms, Richard Francis,  
Del Merritt, John Ward, soloists*

Reading: Book of Isaiah

People, Look East

Richard Francis, b. 1969

Reading: Book of Isaiah

The Lamb

John Tavener, b. 1944

Of the Father's Heart Begotten

arr. Sir. David Willcocks

Reading: Book of Luke

Magnificat

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

*Maddy Sherrill, Soprano*

Reading: Book of Luke

Sweet Was the Song

Tim Porter, b. 1948

Benedicamus Domino

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Reading: Book of Luke

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

*Jacqueline Merritt, Natasha Salvo, Sopranos*

*Richard Francis, Del Merritt, Baritones*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1947) arr. Willcocks

## Intermission

Gaudete

Anonymous 16th century

*Sandy Falconer, Laura Ludwig, Del Merritt, John Ward, soloists*

Welcome, Yule

Sir Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

Reading: from "Ceremonies for Christmas"

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional, arr. Willcocks

Carol

Keith C. Francis, b. 1933

Reading: from "Salutation to a friend," written on Christmas Eve

The Oxen

K.C. Francis

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Traditional, arr. Willcocks

Reading: from "Christmas in Maine"

Ding Dong Merrily on High

French, 16th cen., arr. Willcocks

O Come All Ye Faithful

English, 18th cen., arr. Willcocks

Reading: from Hamlet, Act I, Scene 1

Silent Night

Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

## **READING: Book of John**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

— John i:1-5

## **CAROL: Matin Responsory**

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,  
And a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:  
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign  
Over they people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,  
Go you out to meet him and say:  
Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel,  
Thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep,

Tell us, art thou he that should come?  
Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come  
To reign over they people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost.  
I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming,  
And a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:  
Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign  
Over thy people, Israel?

## **READING: Book of Isaiah**

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

— Isaiah ii:2, 4



## **CAROL: People Look East**

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.

Furrows be glad, though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People look East and sing today:  
Love, the Rose is on the way.

Birds, though ye long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
He for fledging time has chosen.  
People look East, and sing today:  
Love the bird is one 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 to man and beast  
Him who cometh from the East.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People look East and sing today:  
Love, the Lord is on the way.

## **READING: Book of Isaiah**

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

## CAROL: The Lamb

Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?  
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing, woolly bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice?

Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?  
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,  
He is called by thy name.  
For he call himself a Lamb.

He is meek and he is mild,  
He became a little child.  
I, a child, and thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name.  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

## CAROL: Of the Father's Heart Begotten

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,  
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
That the race from dust created  
Might not perish utterly,  
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
In the depths of hell to lie,  
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the World his praises cry!  
Evermore and evermore.

Sing ye heights of heav'n, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
Evermore and evermore.

## READING: Book of Luke

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

— Luke i:26-31

## CAROL: Magnificat in G

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth all generations  
Shall call me blessed.

For He that is mighty hath magnified me:  
And Holy is His Name.

And His mercy is on them that fear Him,  
Throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with His arm,  
He hath scattered the proud  
In the imagination of their hearts,  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,  
And hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
And the rich He hath sent empty away.  
He remembering His mercy,  
Hath holpen his servant Israel.  
As he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
And ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **READING: Book of Luke**

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David): to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

— Luke ii:1-7

## **CAROL: Sweet Was the Song**

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang  
When she to Bethlem Judah came,  
And was delivered of a son,  
Blessed Jesus. Lullaby, lullaby.

My son and eke a saviour born,  
Who hath vouchsafed from on high  
To visit us that were forlorn. Lullaby.

Lulla, lullaby sweet babe sang she,  
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.  
Lulla, lullaby.

## **CAROL: Benedicamus Domino**

Procedenti puero  
Eya, nobis annus est!  
Virginis ex utero  
Gloria Laudes!

Deus homo factus est  
Et immortalis.  
Eya, nobis annus est!  
Natus est de virgine  
Gloria Laudes!

Sine viri copia  
Eya, nobis annus est!  
Natus est ex Maria  
Gloria Laudes!

Deus homo factus est  
Et immortalis.  
In hoc festo determino  
Eya, nobis annus est!  
Benedicamus domino!  
Gloria! Laudes!  
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

**READING: Book of Luke**

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

— Luke ii:8-15

**CAROL: In the Bleak Mid-winter**

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part,  
Yet what can I give him, give my heart.

### **CAROL: 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.

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 as man with man 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 Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.

### **Intermission**

#### **CAROL: Gaudete**

*Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, Gaudete.*

Tempus ad est gratiae, hoc quod optabamus;  
Carmina laetitiae, devote redamus.

*Gaudete!...*

Deus homo factus est, natura mirante;  
Mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.

*Gaudete!...*

Ezechiellis porta clausa per transitur;  
Unde lux est orta salus invenitur.

*Gaudete!...*

Ergo nostra cantio, psallat iam in lustro;  
*Benedicat Domino; salus Regi nostro.*

*Gaudete!...*

**CAROL: Welcome, Yule!**

Welcome, be Thou Heavenly King,  
Welcome, born on this morning,  
Welcome for whom we shall sing,  
Welcome, Yule.

Welcome, be ye Stephen and John,  
Welcome Innocents ev'ry one,  
Welcome, Thomas, Martyr one,  
Welcome, Yule.

Welcome, be ye good New Year,  
Welcome, Saints, loved and dear,  
Welcome, Yule.

Welcome be ye, Candlemas,  
Welcome, both to more and less,  
Welcome, Yule.

Welcome be ye that are here;  
Welcome all, and make good cheer,  
Welcome all, another year,  
Welcome, Yule.

**READING: from "Ceremonies for Christmas"**

Come, bring with a noise,  
My merry, merry boys,  
The Christmas Log to the firing;  
While my good Dame, she  
Bids ye all be free;  
And drink to your heart's desiring.  
With the last year's brand  
Light the new block, and  
For good success in his spending,  
On your Psaltries play,  
That sweet luck may  
Come while the log is a-tinding.  
Drink now the strong beer,  
Cut the white loaf here,  
The while the meat is a-shredding;  
For the rare mince-pie  
And the plums stand by  
To fill the paste that's a-kneading.

— Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

## **CAROL: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:  
*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:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

The shepherds at those tidings rejoined much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway this blessed babe to find:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

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;  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface;  
*O tidings of comfort and joy...*

## **CAROL: Carol**

A star shines bright over Bethlehem, and angels dance and sing.  
This star outshines the brightest gem,  
And the shepherds in their field arise at the wonder and glory  
Of the skies to seek their newborn King.

Let us go with the shepherds to Bethlehem, to see that child of peace.  
They have gone ahead, let us follow them where the path leads up  
Thru' the starry night to the stable amid the mysterious light  
That shines and does not cease, and does not cease.



## READING: from “Salutation to a Friend,” written on Christmas Eve

I salute you. There is nothing I can give you which you have not. But there is much that, while I cannot give it, you can take. No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take heaven!

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little instant. Take peace!

The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it, yet within our reach, is joy. There is radiance and glory in darkness, could we but see. And to see, we have only to look. I beseech you to look!

Life is so generous a giver. But we, judging its gifts by their covering, cast them away as ugly or heavy or hard. Remove the covering, and you will find beneath it a living splendor, woven of love by wisdom, with power. Welcome it, grasp it, and you touch the angel’s hand that brings it to you. Everything we call a trial, a sorrow or a duty, believe me, that angel’s hand is there.

Life is so full of meaning and purpose, so full of beauty beneath its covering, that you will find earth but cloaks your heaven. Courage then to claim it; that is all! And so, at this time, I greet you with profound esteem and with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and shadows flee away.

— Fra Giovanni, 1513

## CAROL: The Oxen

Christmas eve, and twelve of the clock...  
Now they are all on their knees, an elder said,  
As we sat in a flock by the embers in fireside ease.  
We pictured the meek, mild creatures  
Where they dwelt in their strawy pen.  
Nor did it occur to one of us then  
To doubt that they were kneeling then.  
So fair a fancy few would weave in these years.  
Yet I feel if someone said on Christmas Eve,  
Come see the oxen kneel on Christmas Eve  
In the lonely barton by yonder coomb  
Our childhood used to know,  
I should go with him in the gloom  
Hoping it might be so.

## **CAROL: Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day**

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to my dance.  
*Sing O my love. This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance;  
Thus was I knit to man's nature,  
To call my true love to my dance.  
*Sing O my love...*

In a manger laid and wrapp'd I was,  
So very poor, this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
To call my true love to my dance.  
*Sing O my love...*

## **READING: Christmas in Maine**

If you want to have a Christmas like the one we had on Paradise Farm when I was a boy, you will have to hunt up a salt-water farm on the Maine coast, with bays on both sides of it, and a road that goes around all sorts of bays, up over Misery Hill and down, and through the fir trees so close together that they brush you and your horse on both cheeks. That is the only kind of place a Christmas like that grows. You must have a clear December night, with blue Maine stars snapping like sapphires with the cold, and the big moon flooding full over Misery, and lighting up the snowy spruce boughs like crushed diamonds. You ought to be wrapped in a buffalo robe to your nose, and be sitting in a family pung, and have your breath trailing along with you as you slide over the dry, whistling snow.

You will have to sing the songs we sang, "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" and "Joy to the World," and you will be able to see your songs around you in the air like blue smoke. That's the only way to come to a Paradise Christmas.

And you really should cross over at least one broad bay on the ice, and feel the tide rifts bounce you as the runners slide over them. And if the whole bay booms out, every now and then, and the sound echoes around the wooded islands for miles, you will be having the sort of ride we love to take from town, the night before Christmas.

— Robert Peter Tristram Coffin (1892-1955)

## **CAROL: Ding Dong Merrily On High**

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing.  
Ding dong! Merrily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

## **CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created.  
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, 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, Christ the Lord.



**READING: from Hamlet: Act I, Scene 1**

I have heard

The cock, that is the trumpet to the morn,  
Doth with his lofty and shrill-sounding throat  
Awake the god of day, and at his warning,  
Whether in sea or fire, in earth or air,  
Th'extravagant and erring spirit hies to his confine.  
And some do say  
That ever 'gainst that season comes  
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,  
This bird of dawning singeth all night long,  
And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad.  
The nights are wholesome then -  
No planets strike, no fairy takes,  
Nor witch hath power to charm,  
So hallowed and so gracious is that time.

— William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

**Carol: Silent Night**

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

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**Founding Director LINDA BLANCHARD** also directs the Sheepscot Valley Chorus, is Director of Choirs at St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle, and prepares the chorus for the Conductors Retreat at Medomak. She has directed the Bowdoin College Chamber Choir, University of Michigan Residential College Choirs and Orpheus Singers, worked in Maine and Michigan as a church organist and choir director, taught junior high and high school chorus in Maine, taught voice at Bowdoin College, and worked extensively as a musical theater director. Ms. Blanchard earned her MA in Conducting from University of Michigan School of Music, Ann Arbor, and her BA in Music from Bowdoin College. She is recipient of the Susan Winchell Burnett Music Prize and the Abraham Goldberg Prize for Directing. She studied orchestral

conducting with Gustav Meier and Zae Munn, and choral conducting with Theodore Morrison, Jerry Blackstone, and Robert Greenlee.



**Organist SEAN FLEMING**

has been active as an organist, pianist, accompanist and music director throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Michigan and Ohio. In addition to St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, he accompanies Sheepscot Valley Chorus, Lincoln Arts Festival Chorus, Bowdoin Chorus, Coastal Chorale, and Tapestry Singers.

He has worked with the Ann Arbor Camerata, Bowdoin College Chamber Choir, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival Chorus, Downeast Singers, Oratorio Chorale, University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and University of Southern Maine Chorale and Chamber Singers. Mr. Fleming has performed as accompanist in recitals at Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, Round Top Center for the Arts, University of Southern Maine, University of Michigan School of Music, and many other venues. He has been music director or accompanist for over fifty theatrical productions. Mr. Fleming has performed as an organ recitalist in Maine, Michigan and New Hampshire. He serves as organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Newcastle, and teaches clarinet, euphonium, organ, piano, saxophone and tuba. He studied organ with Ray Cornils, John Doney, Michael Lindsey, and Gerald McGee, and piano with Michael Lindsey.

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### The Mission of the St. Cecilia Chamber Choir is:

- To present outstanding performances of the very **best choral repertoire**;
- To provide challenging musical **opportunities for gifted local youth**;
- To support our community with **outreach programs**; and
- To **support Maine composers** through the commissioning of new music.

Since the Choir's inception, **seventeen gifted young students** have sung with us, many continuing to study music in college and beyond.

**Community outreach concerts** have benefited the Damariscotta Baptist Church Steeple Fund, the Great Salt Bay School lunch program, Skidompha Library, Round Top Center for the Arts, the Kennedy Leadership Center at Kieve, the historic Old German Church in Waldoboro, the historic St. John's Church in Dresden, and the Waldo Theater.

To date, we have performed **fourteen new works by four Maine composers**, eight of which were especially composed for the Choir.

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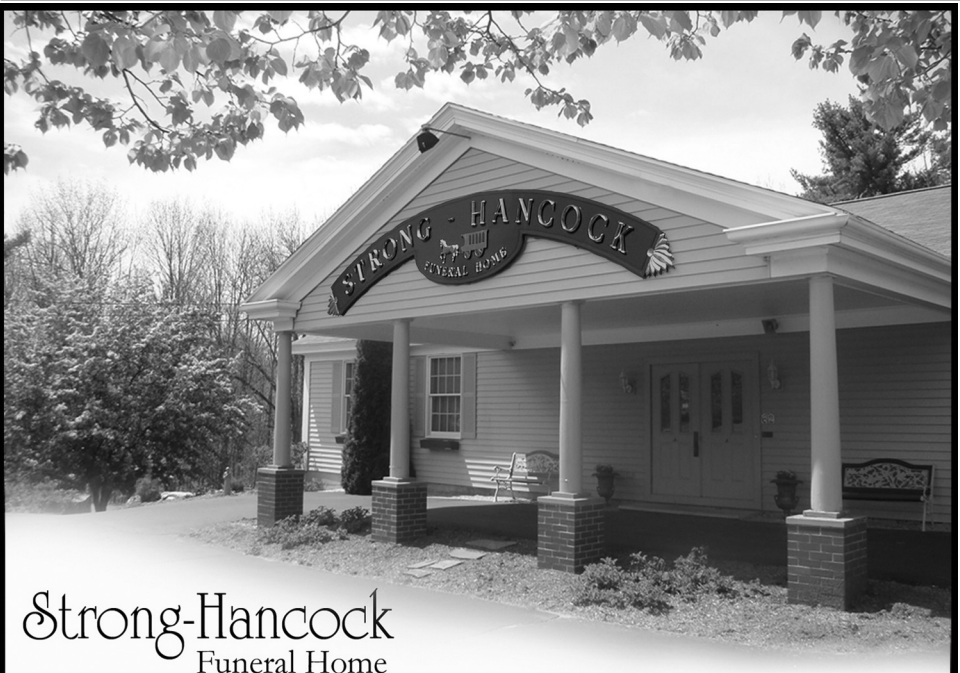


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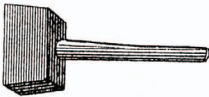
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