



# St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Linda Blanchard, Conductor    Sean Fleming, Organist



# W eremony of L essons and C arols 2011

7:30 PM Friday, December 9  
Second Congregational Church, Newcastle, Maine

3:00 PM Saturday, December 10  
Bowdoin College Chapel, Brunswick, Maine



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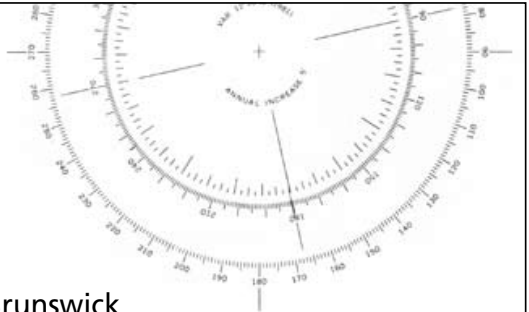
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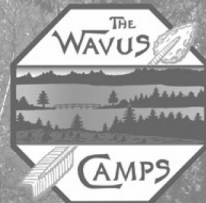
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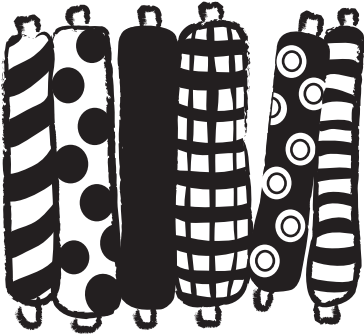


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March 17 Studzinski Recital Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, 7:30 p.m.

March 18 Falmouth Congregational Church, Falmouth, 3:00 p.m.

**April 2012 - Cold Fusion**

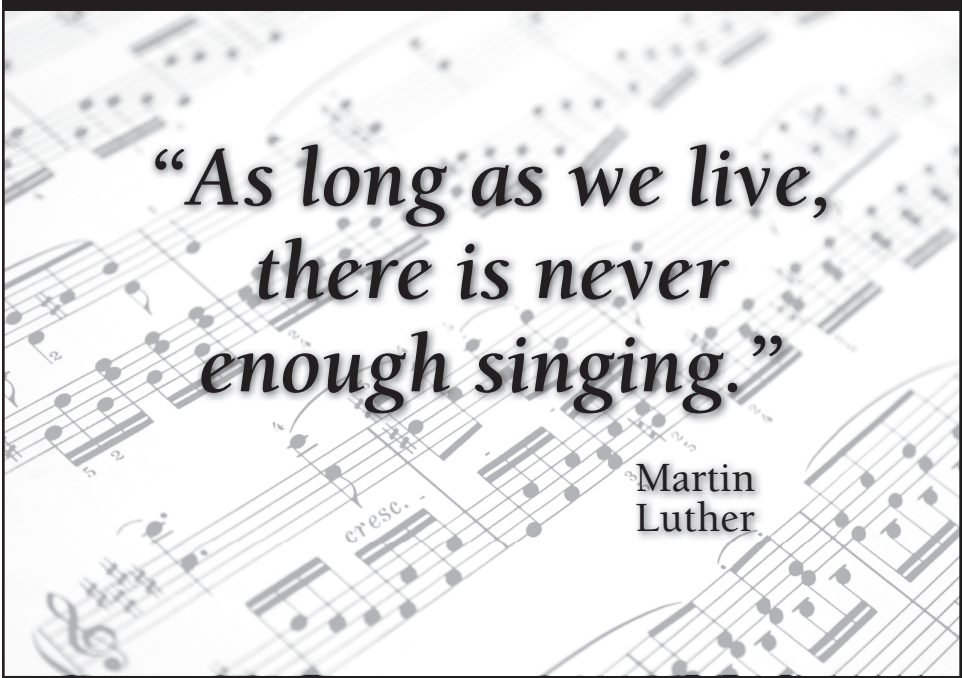
**with the Orchid Ensemble**

Chinese/Western music with the Vancouver-based trio Lan Tung, Yu-Chen Wang, and Jonathan Bernard, in residency April 25-29

April 28 Montgomery Theater, Morse High School, Bath, 7:30 p.m.

April 29 Woodfords Congregational Church, Portland, 3:00 p.m.

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A background of a musical score with various notes, rests, and a treble clef. The text is overlaid on this background.

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# St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Linda Blanchard, Director

## Ceremony of Lesson and Carols

Friday, December 9, 2011

Second Congregational Church, Newcastle

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Bowdoin College Chapel, Brunswick

Reading: Book of Isaiah

Carol: **Drop Down, ye Heavens**

Richard Lloyd, b. 1933

Soprano Trio: Mary Benner,

Jacqueline Merritt, and Ruth Monsell

Reading: Book of Isaiah

Carol: **People, Look East**

Richard Francis, b. 1969

Reading: Book of Isaiah

Carol: **Es ist ein Ros entsprungen**

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Carol: **I Am the Day**

Jonathan Dove, b. 1959

Reading: Book of Luke

Carol: **Angelus Ad Virginem**

arr. Sir David Willcocks, b. 1919

Reading: Book of Luke

Carol: **Nativity Carol**

John Rutter, b. 1945

Reading: Book of Luke

Carol: **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

arr. Willcocks

## Intermission

Carol: **I Saw Three Ships**

trad. English, arr. Simon Preston, b.1938

Solo: Olivia Vanner

Reading: From "Ceremonies for Christmas," by Robert Herrick

Carol: **God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

arr. Willcocks

Carol: **Ding Dong! Merrily on High**

arr. Mack Willberg, b. 1955

Reading: "The Oxen," by Thomas Hardy

Carol: **Lux Aurumque**

Eric Whitacre, b. 1970

Reading: From "Christmas in Maine," by Robert P.T. Coffin

Carol: **Winter's Wait**

James Whitbourn, b. 1963

Carol: **O Come All Ye Faithful**

arr. Willcocks

Reading: from Hamlet, Act I, Scene I, by William Shakespeare

Carol: **Silent Night**

Franz Gruber, (1787-1863)

Soloists: Benji and Phoebe Pugh

## **Texts and Translations**

### **Reading: Book of Isaiah**

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

— Isaiah 45:8

### **Carol: Drop Down Ye Heavens**

Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Savior.

Be not very angry, O Lord, neither remember our iniquity for ever: Thy holy cities are a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

We have sinned and are as an unclean thing: And we all do fade as a leaf: Our iniquities like the wind have taken us away; Thou has hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us because of our iniquities.

Ye are my witnesses saith the Lord and my servants whom I have chosen; that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I am the Lord, and beside me there is no Savior: and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, my salvation shall not tarry. I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Drop down ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Savior.

— The Advent Prose

### **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 2: 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 on the way.

Stars, keep the watch when night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frozen weather  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East and sing today  
Love the Star is on the way.

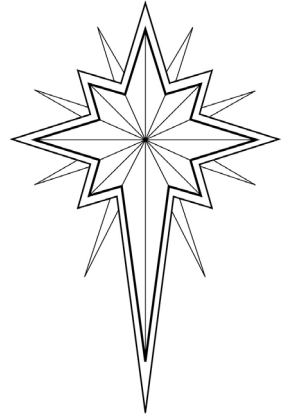
Angels, announce to man and beast  
Him who cometh from the East.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look East and sing today  
Love, the Lord is on the way.

—Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

## 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.

— Isaiah 11: 1-2, 6



### **Carol: Es ist ein Ros entsprungen**

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen, Aus einer Wurzel zart. Wie uns die Alten sungen, Aus Jesse kam die Art Und hat ein Blümlein bracht, Mitten im kalten Winter, Wohl zu der halben Nacht. Das Röslein das ich meine, Davon Jesaias sagt: Maria ist's, die Reine, Die uns das Blümlein bracht. Aus Gottes ew'gen Rat Hat sie ein Kind geboren Wohl zu der halben Nacht	A rose has sprung up, from a tender root. As the old ones sang to us, Its lineage was from Jesse. And it has brought forth a floweret In the middle of the cold winter Well at half the night. The rosebud that I mean, Of which Isaiah told Is Mary, the pure, Who brought us the floweret. At God's immortal word, She has borne a child Well at half the night.
---	---

— Anonymous, 16th c.

### **Carol: I Am the Day**

I am the day, soon to be born.  
I am the sprig from the root of David  
and the bright star of the morning.  
I am the alpha and the omega,  
the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end.  
O come, Emmanuel,  
Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee.



— The Legend of St. Christopher; Book of Revelation 22: 16, 13

### **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 1: 26-31

## Carol: Angelus ad Virginem

Angelus ad virginem  
Subintrans in conclave.  
Virginis formidinem  
Demulcens inquit "Ave."  
Ave regina virginum,  
Coeli terraeque dominum  
Concipies  
Et paries  
Intacta,  
Salutem hominum.  
Tu porta coeli facta  
Medela criminum.  
Quomodo conciperem,  
quae virum non cognovi?  
Qualiter infringerem,  
quae firma mente vovi?  
Spiritus sancti gratia  
Perficiet haec omnia;  
Ne timeas,  
sed gaudeas,  
secura,  
quod castimonia  
Manebit in te pura  
Dei potentia.  
Ad haec virgo nobilis  
Respondens inquit ei;  
Ancilla sum humilis  
Omnipotentis Dei.  
Tibi coelesti nuntio,  
Tanta secreti conscio,  
Consentiens  
Et cupiens  
Videre  
factum quod audio,  
Parata sum parere.  
Dei consilio.  
Eia Mater Domini,  
Quae pacem reddidisti  
Angelis et homini,  
Cum Christum genuisti;

The angel, coming secretly  
to the Virgin's room  
Calming the Virgin's fears,  
he said, Hail!  
Hail, Queen of Virgins!  
The Lord of Heaven and Earth  
you shall conceive,  
and give birth,  
while still a maiden.  
to the Salvation of mankind;  
you, made the Gateway of Heaven,  
the cure for sins.  
How shall I conceive,  
seeing that I know not a man?  
How shall I make an infraction,  
I, who vowed with my firm mind?  
The grace of the Holy ghost  
will do all this;  
don't be afraid  
But be pleased  
and safe  
because chastity  
will remain in you, pure  
power of God  
To these words the noble virgin  
answered to him  
I am the humble handmaiden  
Of the all-powerful God  
By your heavenly announcement  
I am made aware of such secrets  
I am in agreement  
and I want  
to see  
what I hear done  
I'm ready to obey  
God's will.  
Come, mother of the Lord  
who has given back peace  
to angels and man  
when you bore Christ.

Tuum exora filium.	Pray to your Son
Ut se nobis propitium	that he be good to us.
Exhibeat,	Let him show
Et deleat	and wash away
Peccata;	our sins,
Praestans auxilium	giving help
Vita frui beata	to enjoy a happy life
Post hoc exsilium.	after this exile.

— Franciscan origin, 13th c.

### **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 2: 1-7

### **Carol: Nativity Carol**

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;  
 Born 'neath light of star He who loved us so.

*Refrain:*

Far away silent He lay, born today, your homage pay,  
 For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.  
 Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;  
 Over her Son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.

*Refrain*

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills  
 Worship this Babe so rare, hearts with warmth He fills.

*Refrain*

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;  
 Innocent dreaming Babe, make me Thy love to know.

*Refrain*

—John Rutter, b. 1945

**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 2: 8-15

**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.

— Charles Wesley, *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739, alt.

**Intermission**

### **Carol: I Saw Three Ships**

I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
I saw three ships come sailing in  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
And what was in those ships all three?  
On Christmas day in the morning.

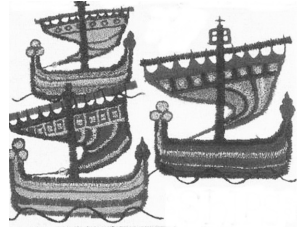
Our Savior, Christ, and His Lady,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
Our Savior, Christ, and His Lady,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?  
On Christmas day in the morning.

O, they sailed to Bethlehem,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
O, they sailed to Bethlehem,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
And all the bells on earth shall ring,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the angels in Heaven shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
And all the angels in Heaven shall sing,  
On Christmas day in the morning.



Then let us all rejoice and amain,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
Then let us all rejoice amain,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day  
And all the souls on earth shall sing,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

— English traditional, 17th c.

**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 You 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...*

—Traditional English

### **Carol: Ding! Dong! Merrily on High**

Ding dong! merrily on high  
In heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!"  
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!



— George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848–1934)



**Reading:        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 hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where  
They dwelt in their strawy pen,  
Nor did it occur to one of us there  
To doubt 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

“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.

—Thomas Hardy

**Carol:    Lux Aurumque**

Lux,  
calida gravisque pura velut aurum  
et canunt angeli molliter  
modo natum.

Light,  
warm and heavy as pure gold  
and the angels sing softly  
to the new-born baby.

— Edward Esche; translated into Latin by Charles Anthony Silvestri

**Reading:        from “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: 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.

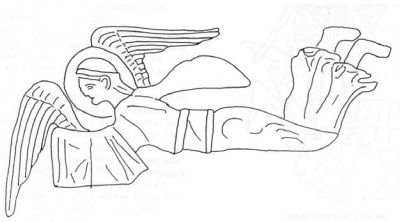
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heav’n above;  
Glory to God in the highest.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

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.

— John F. Wade, c. 1743

## 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.

— Josef Mohr, c. 1816-1818

# St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

## Director

Linda Blanchard

## Accompanist

Sean Fleming

### Soprano

Mary Benner  
Ann Creamer  
Jacqueline Merritt  
Ruth Monsell  
Natasha Salvo  
Anna Shaw  
Sarah Sproul  
Olivia Vanner  
Pam Van Siclén

### Alto

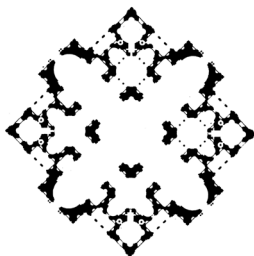
Jane Farlow  
Sidney Harvey  
Franciska Needham  
Nadine Raley  
Susan Russell  
Judy Serebinski  
Georgi Thompson  
Nan White

### Tenor

Laurie Asche  
Richard Bates  
John Cleary  
Del Merritt  
George Shaw  
John Ward  
Steve Ward  
Nan Wilder

### Bass

Peter Asche  
Alan Baldwin  
Harold Falconer  
Kit Hayden  
Franklin Holland  
Scott Ludwig  
Don Osier  
Andy Sherrill  
Stephen White



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Linda Blanchard, Sean Fleming,  
Sidney Harvey, Pam Van Siclén

**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, the Abraham Goldberg Prize for Directing, and the St. Botolph Club Foundation Emerging Artist Grant. She studied orchestral conducting

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



**Organist Sean Fleming** performs regularly with the Bowdoin Chorus, Coastal Chorale, Down East Singers, Lincoln Academy Lincolnaires, Lincoln Festival Chorus, Maine Friends of Music, Maine Pro Musica, Midcoast Community Chorus, St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, Sheepscot Valley Chorus, and Tapestry Singers. He also

regularly accompanies many high school and junior high festivals. He has worked with Ann Arbor Camerata, Bowdoin Chamber Choir, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival Chorus, Colby College Chorale, Oratorio Chorale, Renaissance Voices, University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society, University of Southern Maine Chorale, University of Southern Maine Chamber Singers, and Vox Nova Chamber Choir. Sean has directed or accompanied over sixty-five musical theater productions nationwide. Most recently he was the music director for "Sunday in the Park with George" with Heartwood Regional Theater Company, and "Little Shop of Horrors" at The Waldo Theater. An organ recitalist who has performed throughout the United States, Sean studied organ and piano with Ray Cornils, John Doney, Michael Lindsey, and Gerald McGee. For the past sixteen years he has served as organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Newcastle. He was the recipient of a 2009 St. Botolph Club Foundation grant award for achievements in music.

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Or go to our web site: [www.ceciliachoir.org](http://www.ceciliachoir.org).

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Program texts	Peter Asche and Linda Blanchard
Choir photographs	Bob Mitchell
Decorations	Laura Ludwig, John Cleary and Nan White
Rehearsal space	St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle

## 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, **eighteen gifted young students** have sung with us, many continuing to study music in college and beyond. In recent years the Choir has twice provided scholarship grants to young members of the Choir going on to college.

**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 **sixteen new works by Maine composers**, ten of which were especially composed for the Choir.



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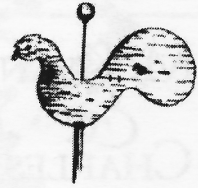
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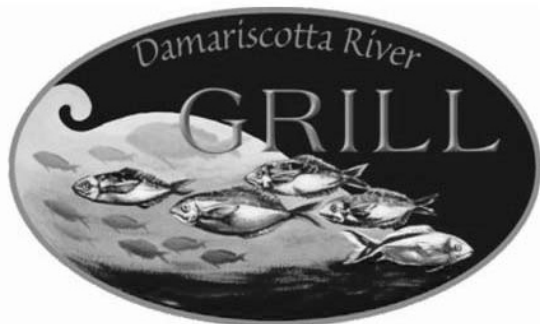
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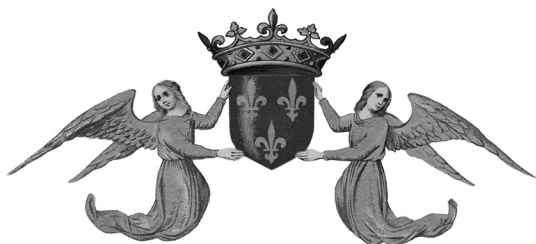
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