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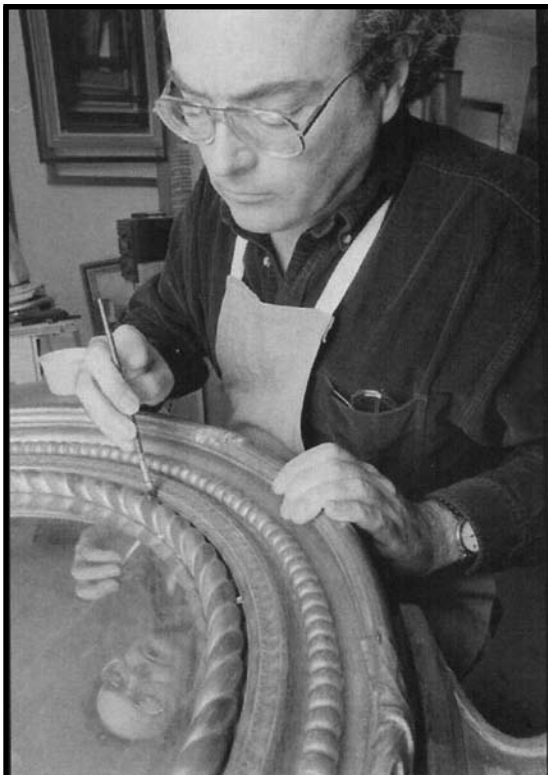
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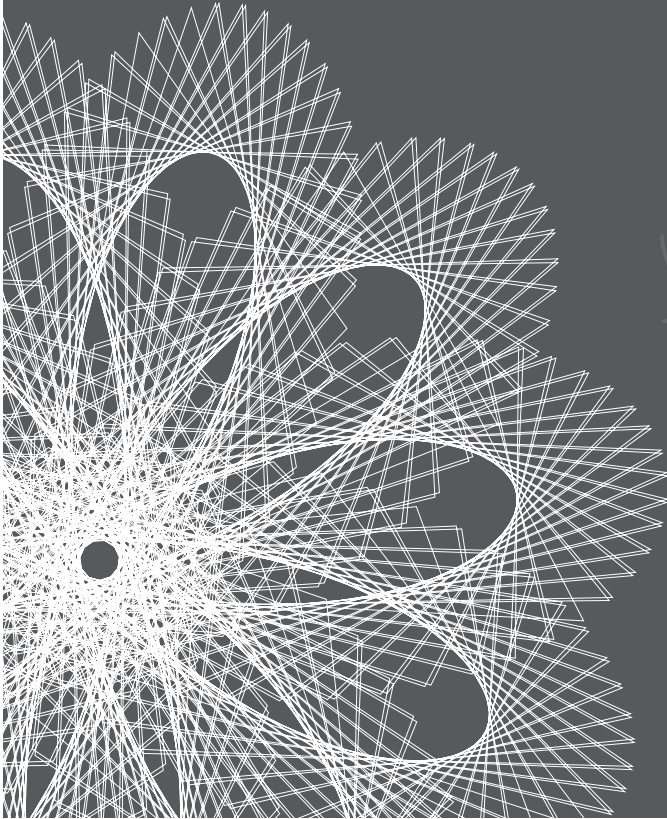
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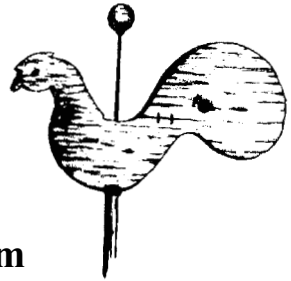
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was breath and food."*

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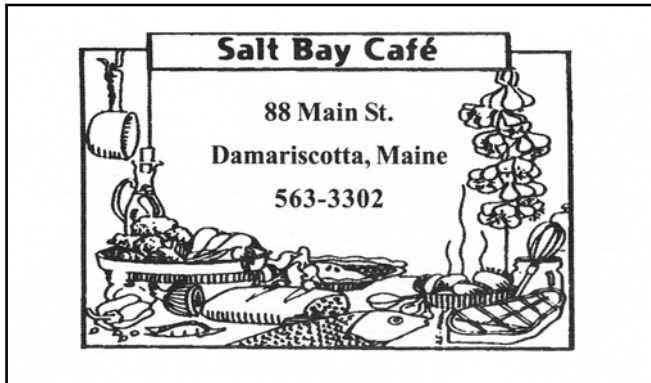




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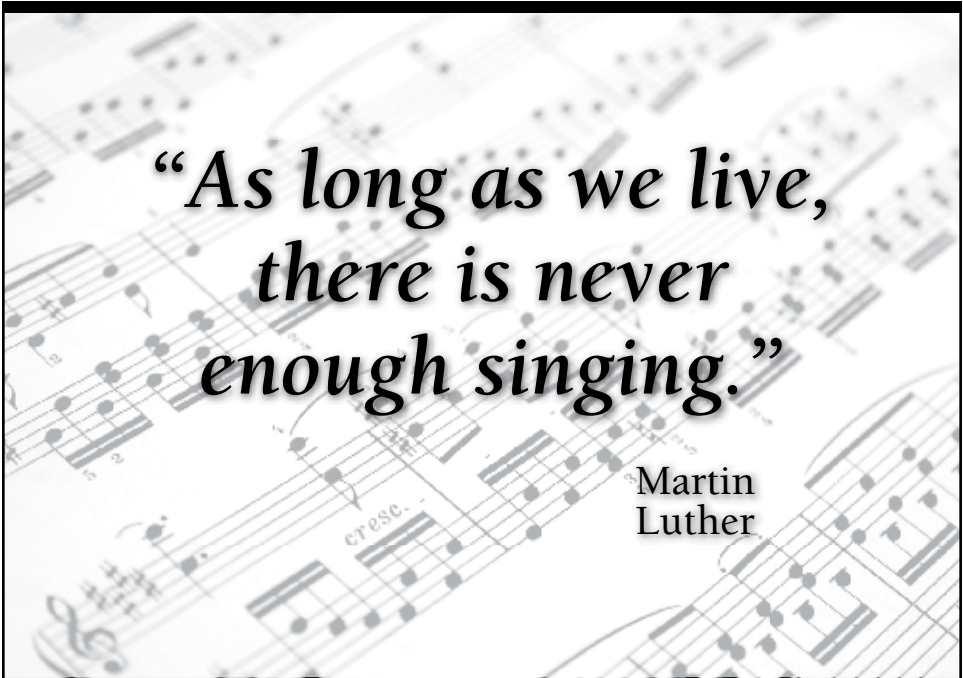
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And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And he shall judge among the nations, and 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.

Bird, though ye long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.

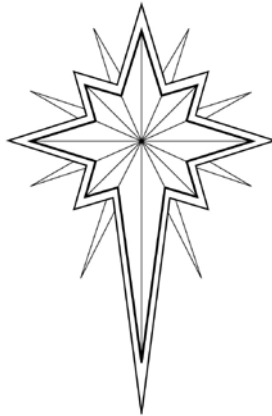
Even the hour when wings are frozen
He for fledgling time has chosen.

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 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.

— Eleanor Fargeon (1881-1965)

Carol: My Lord Has Come

Shepherds, called by angels,
Called by love and angels;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars,
Searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,
His love will cherish me,
Love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,
Sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

— Will Todd (b. 1970)

Reading:

Book of Isaiah

Anna Shaw

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: A Heavenly Song

This is the song that you shall hear:
God is come from his empire
And is made man with high desire
This day.
A heavenly song I dare well say,
is sung on earth to man this day.

He took our kind all of a maid;
By ox and ass he was laid;
Now is fulfilled that Scripture said
This day.
A heavenly song...

Aye, I wonder this in my mind:
That he that all may loose and bind
Would be laid by beasts unkind
This day.
A heavenly song...

He is a lord, and by nature
a maiden's breast he sucked full pure;
Heaven and earth are in his cure,*
This day.
A heavenly song...

* cure=care

— 15th c. English, adapted by Rosemary Greentree



Reading: Book of Luke

George Shaw

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: Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady, Gloria!"

— Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould

Reading: Book of Luke

Pam Van Siclén

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: Candlelight Carol

How do you capture the wind on the water?
How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother,
or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow
shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.

Gloria, Gloria in excelsis deo!

Angels are singing; the Christ Child is born.

Shepherds and wisemen will kneel and adore him,
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior,
but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Candlelight, angel light...

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

Candlelight, angel light...

— John Rutter

Carol: A Little Child There Is Yborn

A little child there is yborn, Eia, Eia, susanni,
And he sprang out of Jesse's thorn, Alleluia, Alleluia,
To save all us that were forlorn.

Now Jesus is the childes name, Eia, Eia, susanni,
And Mary mild, she is the dame, Alleluia, Alleluia,
And so our sorrow is turned to game.

It fell upon the high midnight, Eia, Eia, susanni,
The stars they shone both fair and bright, Alleluia, Alleluia,
The angels sang with all their might.

Three kings there came with their presents, Eia, Eia, susanni,
Of myrrh and gold and frankincense, Alleluia, Alleluia,
As clerkes sing in their sequence.

Now sit we down upon our knee, Eia, Eia, susanni,
And pray we to the Trinity, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Our help, our succour for to be.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

— anon. 15th c.

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 heaven 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'nborn Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun 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.

— Wesley, Whitefield, Madam, et al.

Carol: All Sons of Adam

All sons of Adam rise up with me,
Go lov the blisshed Trinitie.
Sing we nowell, nowell, nowell,
Cry Kyrie with hosanna,
Sing Sabaoth, sing alleluja,
Now save us all Emanuel.

Then spak archangel Gabriel,
Said Ave Mary mild,
The Lord of Lordis is with thee,
Now sall thou go with child.
Ecce ancilla Domini.

Then said the virgin young:
As thou hes said so mot it be.
Welcom be heavin's king.

There cam a ship fair sailland then,
Sanct Michael was the stieresman,
Sanct John sat in the horn.

Our Lord harpit, our Lady sang
And all the bells of heav'n they rang
On Christsonday at morn.

Then sang the angels all and sum:
Lauda Jerusalem, Dominum,
Lauda Deum tuum, Sion.

The sons of Adam answered them:
Sing glore be to thee God and man,
The Father and the Sprit also,
With honor and perpetual jo.

— anon. Scottish, ca. 1540



Reading: from “Ceremonies for Christmas”

Del Merritt

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,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly 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 ...

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 ...

— English traditional, author unknown, mid 18th c.

Reading: **from “Salutation to a Friend,”** Don Osier
 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 Christ-Child

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
(O weary, weary were the world,
But here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast
His hair was like a star.
(O stern and cunning are the kings,
But here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like a fire.
(O weary, weary is the world,
But here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood on Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at Him,
And all the stars looked down.

— "A Christmas Carol" by G.K. Chesterton, (1900)

Carol: Voices in the Mist

The time draws near the birth of Christ:
The moon is hid; the night is still,
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,
From far and near, on mead and moor,
Swell out and fail, as if a door
Were shut between me and the sound:

Each voice four changes on the wind,
That now dilate, and now decrease,
Peace and good will, good will and peace,
Peace and good will, to all mankind.

— "The Eve of Christmas" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

Reading: from “Christmas in Maine”

Judy Seredynski

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: The Bell Carol

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
 and wild and sweet
 The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
 A voice, a chime,
 A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
 “For hate is strong,
 And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
 The Wrong shall fail,
 The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (adapt.) (1807-1882)

Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels:
Refrain: 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: [Refrain]
Sing, Choirs of Angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, in the highest. [Refrain]
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
— English Traditional, 18th century

Reading: from Hamlet, Act I, Scene 1

Stephen White

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,
Heavenly 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.

— Franz Grüber (1787-1863)

St. Cecilia Chamber Choir

Director

Linda Blanchard

Accompanist

Sean Fleming

Sopranos

Cally Aldrich
Ann Creamer
Claire Enterline
Jacqueline Merritt
Ru Monsell
Pam Van Siclén
Sabrina Turner

Altos

Mary Benner
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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, 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.

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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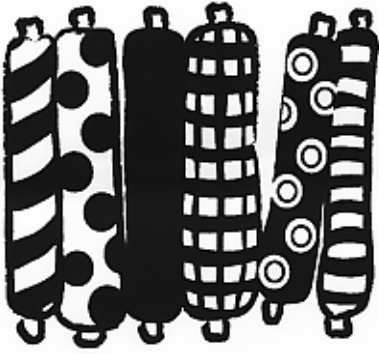
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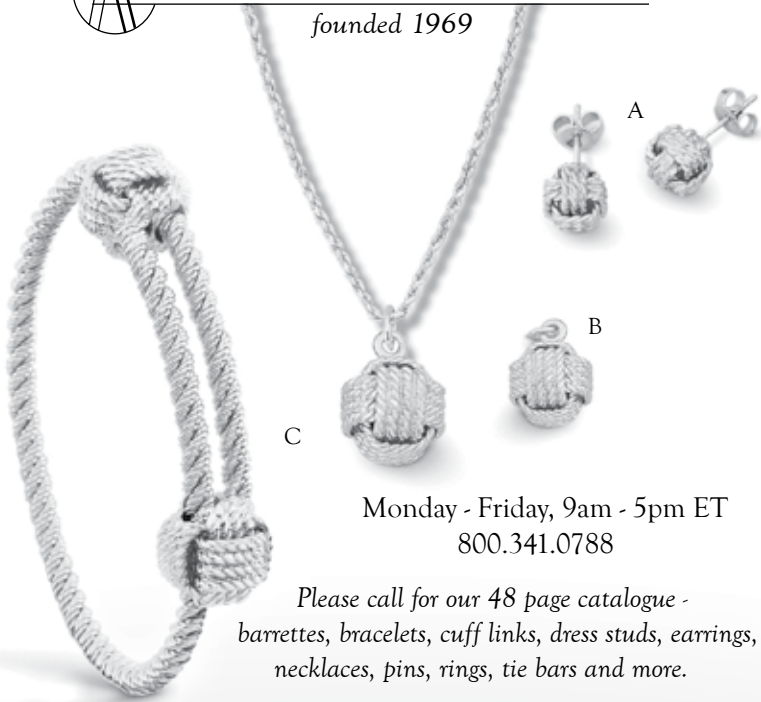
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