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The NIH Community Orchestra and The NIH Community Chorus

present

A Holiday Concert



December 9, 2017

Cedar Lane Unitarian
Universalist Church
Bethesda, MD

About the NIH Musical Organizations

The NIH Community Orchestra (NIHCO) is an all-volunteer organization founded in the fall of 1996 for the purpose of bringing together the musical talent of NIH and the surrounding community. Since then, the orchestra has played music spanning six centuries, and is now a regular participant in the arts community of Montgomery County.

The group presents three concerts a year (two with the NIH Community Chorus), as well as a number of outreach performances. Donations collected at today's concert benefit NIH charities, including the Children's Inn at NIH, Friends of the Clinical Center, the Patient Emergency Fund, and Special Love, Inc./Camp Fantastic, which provides a weeklong summer camp and many other programs for children and young adults with cancer and their families. For more information, please visit our website at www.nihco.org.

The NIH Community Chorus (NIHCC) was also founded in 1996, when the Bethesda Little Theatre began its collaboration with the NIHCO to perform a sing-along of Handel's *Messiah*. Since then, the all-volunteer chorus has participated in 17 sing-along *Messiahs*, as well as other concerts with the NIHCO, including the Holiday Concert last December and selections from the *Coronation Mass* by W.A. Mozart last June.

The Chorus will be preparing Brahms' *Naenie* for presentation in May and June. Chorus rehearsals will begin again on January 9, 2018.

The NIHCC welcomes singers in all voice parts. For more information, please visit our website at www.nihco.org.

The NIH Community Orchestra

Music Director and Conductor, Richard Scerbo
Assistant Conductor, Philip Espe

Violin I

Heather MacArthur,
Concertmaster
Paul Austin
Michael Beirne
Mike Cohen
Latrinia Elliott
Tom Holzman
Jenna Johnson
Jasleen Kaur
Jakub Kostal
Sacha de Lange
Karin Peeters
Liane Toohey

Violin II

Freda Balkan
Maria Barragan Santana
David Benor
Candy Cheung
Stephanie Dailey
Moyna Daley
Diane Johnson
Kristi Johnson
Leslie Klein
Jane Koda
Basil Manns
Taylor Richter
Sarah Rudzinkas
Isabel Spiegel
Emily Storch
Adeline Willilams
Barbara Zain

Viola

Regina Ahn
Timothy Doerr

Clara Fisher
Lee Rucker Keiser
Pamela Klein
Ivars Peterson
Amanda Pomicter
Elena Thompson
John Warshawsky

Cello

Carolyn Carroll
Cheryl Fisher
Serri Graslie
Hannah Holzacker
Nancy Jakubowsky
Cindi Lostrito
Keri Strnad
Tom Zebovitz

Bass

Fred Talcott

Flute

Ellen Ensel
Nancy Henderson
Sara Kane

Piccolo

Ellen Ensel

Oboe

Lisa Gansheroff
Katie Kane
Daryl Kaufman
Jo Ann Lynn

English Horn

Daryl Kaufman

Clarinet

Karin Caifa
Michelle Escumbise
Ed Kaita
Carole Read

Bass Clarinet

Ed Kaita

Bassoon

Keli Edwards
Steve Wechsler
Rachel Willingham

French Horn

Stan Kusnetz
Yoko Oda
Harold Seifried
Alyson Williams

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Trombone

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Tuba

Dale Kiesewetter

Percussion

Scott Schaffer
Caitlin Williams

Piano

Judith
Bourzutschky

The NIH Community Chorus

Music Director, W. Robert Johnson

Soprano I

Betsy Ballard
Emily Christian
Joan Dine
Mary Kirby
Lori Minasian
Tina Neilson
Terri Sorota
Mary Lou Steptoe
Kathie Van Aalten

Soprano II

Sally Amero
Lynn Balabanis
Alison Bennett
Rose Berstein
Diana Hurley
Ana Astrid Molina
Megan Nathan

Alto I

Laura Ariovich
Nancy Clark
Linda Edwards
Miriam Goldberg
Lynne Gots
Sara Kane
Ari Lechsinska
Rebecca Lees
Carol Meyers
Laurie Nadler
Joanna Pratt
Bobbi Sachs

Accompanist

Judith Bourzutschky

Alto II

Laurie Berman
Deb Bryant
Miriam Bunow
Angeline Butler
Carol Dennis
Lucy Hand
Cassandra Jones
Barbara Moschella
Eileen (Teddi) Pensinger

Tenor I

Jerry Dennis
K. David Hulteng
Joyce Rosenthal
Steve Vaughn

Tenor II

Weilan Moy
Tom Robbins
Kathi Rogers
Virginia Weber

Bass I

Robert Berendt
Tom Dine
Colten Eberhard
Kellan Moorse
Thomas Pranzatelli

Bass II

Igor Baumann
Henrique Browne
Daniel Carrera
Thomas Kirby
Harold Seifried
Bruce Weber

Program

Selections from <i>The Nutcracker</i>	Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky (1891 – 1893)
Marche	
Trepak	
Mother Ginger and Her Children	
The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies	
Waltz of the Flowers	
<i>The Wand of Youth</i> , First Suite	Edward Elgar (1875 – 1934)
Overture	
Serenade	
Minuet	
Sun Dance	
Fairy Pipers	
Slumber Scene	
Fairies and Giants	

Intermission

Selections from <i>L'enfance du Christ</i> , Part II	Hector Berlioz (1803 – 1869)
Overture	
The Shepherd's Farewell	
<i>'Twas the Night Before Christmas</i>	Ken Darby (1909 – 1992) Harry Simeone, Arr. (1911 – 2009)
<i>A Christmas Festival</i>	Leroy Anderson (1908 – 1975)

Program Notes

Selections from *The Nutcracker*, Opus 71

Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky

The last of Tchaikovsky's three ballets, *The Nutcracker* was first performed in December 1892 at the Maryinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg. The story of *The Nutcracker* is loosely based on the E.T.A. Hoffman fantasy story, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*, about a girl who befriends a nutcracker that comes to life on Christmas Eve and wages a battle against the evil Mouse King. The ballet, choreographed by Marius Petipa, was not an instant success. In fact, the newspapers reviled Tchaikovsky, and he did not live to see the piece succeed. Since then, the complete *Nutcracker* as well as the *Suite*, which Tchaikovsky compiled before the ballet's debut, has enjoyed enormous popularity, and is now performed by countless ballet companies, primarily during the Christmas season, especially in North America,

In addition to four selections from the *Suite*, we are including a favorite number from the ballet, *La Mère Gigone et les polichinelles* (Mother Ginger and Her Children), in which little children or clowns emerge from Mother Ginger's enormous hoop skirt to do a short dance.

The Wand of Youth, First Suite, Opus 1a

Edward Elgar

The son of an organist and music dealer, Elgar left school at age 15 and worked briefly in a lawyer's office. He was an excellent violinist, played the bassoon, and spent periods as a bandmaster and church organist, but had no formal training in composition. After working in London for a few years he moved to Malvern, Worcestershire, and began to establish a reputation as a composer, particularly with several large choral works and the popular *Enigma Variations* for Orchestra in 1899. Among his best-known compositions are the *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, concertos for violin and cello, and two symphonies.

He also composed choral works, chamber music, and songs.

As a boy, Elgar composed some tunes for use in a play staged by the young members of the Elgar family. He noted the tunes down in a sketchbook and in 1907, four decades later, he arranged the music as the two *Wand of Youth* suites. He gave the suites the opus number 1 in recognition that they were his earliest surviving compositions, albeit now scored for full orchestra with the mature Elgar's mastery of orchestration. The First Suite was premiered at the Queen's Hall, London, December 14, 1907, conducted by Henry Wood.

Conductor, clarinetist, and educator **Philip Espe** is the assistant conductor of the NIHCO. In addition to his duties with the NIHCO, Mr. Espe manages the Children's Orchestra, an El Sistema-inspired music education initiative serving four Title 1 schools in Washington DC, and serves as a staff conductor for the DC Youth Orchestra Program. In connection with this initiative, Mr. Espe was instrumental in bringing cellist Yo Yo Ma and violinist Joshua Bell to visit with students at Bunker Hill Elementary School as part of the DC Youth Orchestra's Turnaround Arts program, which seeks to give underperforming schools more resources for arts and music.

Recent conducting highlights include serving as a 2015-2016 Chicago Sinfonietta Project Inclusion Freeman Conducting Fellow, a performance at the Argentine Embassy in celebration of Argentina's bicentennial and guest conducting the Northwestern University Philharmonia. Mr. Espe holds a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from Northwestern University, an Artist Diploma in Conducting from San Diego State University, and a Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance from DePaul University.



About our Music Directors

Richard Scerbo (Music Director and Conductor, NIHCO) maintains an active schedule as a conductor, performer, teacher, and arts administrator.

In 2004, he founded the Inscape Chamber Orchestra with the intent of introducing audiences to diverse chamber and ensemble repertoire. This unique brand of programming has made Inscape one of the most exciting ensembles in the Washington metropolitan area. Under Mr. Scerbo's leadership, Inscape has commissioned and premiered over twenty-five new works.

In addition to his work with Inscape, Mr. Scerbo is the Artistic Director of the National Orchestral Institute (NOI+F), a training program for orchestra musicians on the threshold of their professional careers. Last year, he was selected as one of thirty Musical America Innovators, and he is profiled in Musical America's December 2016 Special Report.

Mr. Scerbo holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Maryland, where he studied conducting with James Ross, and bassoon with Daniel Matsukawa, Sue Heineman, and Linda Harwell. He has attended conducting programs in Austria and the Czech Republic, working both with the International Festival Orchestra, Kromeriz, and the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic.

W. Robert Johnson (Music Director, NIHCC) has had a long and varied association with choral music. Beginning in Kansas, he sang in choirs and choruses for more than 50 years. Although he chose a career in the military and government service, he conducted choirs and choruses wherever his assignments took him. In 1971, while employed by the National Security Agency, he organized the Parkway Chorale and served as its Music Director until he retired from federal service in 1998.

Following retirement, he founded The New Century Singers in 1975 and sang in the Washington Cathedral Choral Society for 28 years, serving on the Society's Board of Trustees for more than 16 years. As a member of the American Choral Directors Association, he served as the President of the District of Columbia Chapter. In 2006, he was appointed the National Chair for Community Choirs, retiring in June 2009. In September 2009, he was appointed Music Director of the NIH Community Chorus, a position he currently fills, in addition to serving as the Music Director of the East Avenue Ensemble.

Selections from *L'enfance du Christ*, Part II, Opus 25

Hector Berlioz

The works of French composer Hector Berlioz showcase the innovation and expressiveness that were hallmarks of Romanticism. His best known pieces include the *Symphonie fantastique* and the Requiem Mass.

Although greatly admired abroad, Berlioz failed to gain wide acceptance at home. But his 1854 oratorio, *L'enfance du Christ*, for which he also wrote the text, finally brought him both recognition and financial stability. The oratorio is a trilogy, based on the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. The composition of *L'enfance* was haphazard, almost unintentional. It started at a card game in 1850, when Berlioz scribbled some music as a diversion. "I take a scrap of paper and draw a few staves on which, in a little while, an Andantino in four parts for organ makes its appearance," Berlioz recalled later, "I find a certain character of naïve, rustic devotion in it and promptly decide to add some words in the same vein. The organ piece disappears and becomes the chorus of the shepherds of Bethlehem saying goodbye to the child Jesus at the moment when the Holy Family are setting out on their journey to Egypt." Thus, from the germ of a few bars of organ music grew the fully realized work.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Ken Darby

Harry Simeone, Arranger

The text for "Twas the Night Before Christmas," by Clement Clark Moore, was published anonymously in 1823 in the *Troy* (N.Y.) *Sentinel* and reprinted in Moore's collected *Poems* in 1844.

Hollywood composer-arranger Ken Darby (who created, among other things, the Munchkin voices in *The Wizard of Oz*) wrote this colorful setting, which was arranged by Harry Simeone. This arrangement became a million-selling recording featuring Fred Waring and The Pennsylvanians in 1943.

A Christmas Festival

Leroy Anderson

Leroy Anderson was an American composer of light concert pieces, many of which were introduced by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler. Anderson has been described as "one of the great American masters of light orchestral music." *A Christmas Festival* was first performed on June 12, 1950 at a Boston Pops concert, and recorded a week later.

Texts

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all
through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney
with care,
In hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would
be there.

The children were nestled all snug in
their wee little beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced in
their wee little heads
Mama in her kerchief and I in
my cap
Had just settled down for a long
winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose
such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what
was the matter.
Away to the window I flew
like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw
open the sash.

Then, what to my wondering eyes
should appear
But a miniature sleigh and eight
tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so lively
and quick,
I knew in a moment it must
be Saint Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers
they came,
And he whistled and shouted and
called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now,
Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On Donner
and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch, to the top
of the wall!

Now, dash away! Dash away!
Dash away, all!"

Up to the housetop the coursers
they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys and
Saint Nicholas too.

And then in a twinkling I heard
on the roof,
All the clattering noise of each
galloping hoof.
All bundled in fur from his head
to his foot,
His clothes were all tarnished with
ashes and soot.
I drew in my head and was
turning around,
When down the chimney he came
with a bound.
A bag full of toys he had flung on
his back,
And he looked like a peddler just
opening his pack.

His eyes - how they twinkled! So gay!
His dimples - how merry were they!
His cheeks were like roses,
when kissed by the sun,
His nose, like a cherry, all wrinkled
with fun!
His droll little mouth was drawn up
like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as
white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight
in his teeth,
And the smoke went around his head
like a wreath.
Oh, he was so jolly and plump,
A right jolly old, jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him,
In spite of myself.

He had a broad face and a
little round belly,
That shook when he laughed like a
bowl full of jelly.

He gave me a wink of his eye and a
twist of his head,
A chuckle and a smile, I knew
all the while
I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word but went
straight to his work,
He filled all the stockings; then
turned with a jerk,
And laying a finger aside
of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney
he rose.
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team
gave a whistle
And away they all flew like the
down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim ere he drove
out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a
good night!"

'Tis the night after Christmas and all
through the house,
Not a creature is stirring, not even a
mouse.

The presents are scattered and
broken, I fear
And Saint Nicholas won't come
again for a year.

The children are nestled all snug in
their wee little beds,
While mem'ries of sugarplums
danced in their
wee little heads.
Mama in her kerchief, Papa
in his cap
Are settled at last for a long
winter's nap.

The Shepherds' Farewell

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare.
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, Loving mother,
Shelter Thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee
With humble love and holy fear.
In the land that lies before Thee,
Forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling,
Ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!