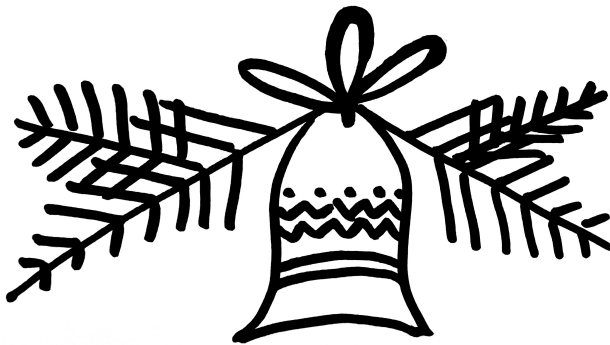




Presents:

# A Holiday Homecoming

## Songs of the Season



Jim Barkovic, Music Director  
Terry Halco, Accompanist

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.  
First Church Unitarian  
19 Foster St, Littleton, MA

# PROGRAM

**Masters in This Hall**

French Traditional Carol  
Words by William Morris  
Arr. by David Willcocks

**And the Glory of the Lord** *from* Messiah

George Frideric Handel

**All This Time**

William Walton  
Words 16<sup>th</sup> Century  
Vivian Cardinal and Ed Knights, Soloists

**For Unto Us a Child is Born** *from* Messiah

George Frideric Handel  
Leah Bergquist, Conductor

**Carol of the Bells**

Ukrainian Carol  
Arr. by Mykola Leontovych and Peter Wilhousky

**Christmas Day**

Gustav Holst  
Nicole Barrus, Michael Moore, Emily Finkel,  
Ed Knights, Laura Verdibello, and Laura Kochis, Soloists

**White Christmas**

Irving Berlin  
Arr. by Roy Ringwald  
Leah Bergquist, Conductor

**\*Skating**

Vince Guaraldi  
Words and arr. by Steve Jong  
Jon Welch, Soloist

**Hallelujah** *from* Messiah

George Frideric Handel

# INTERMISSION

\*World premiere

**Nova, Nova**

Medieval Carol

Translation by Dennis Perzanowski

Nicole Barrus, Stephanie Barrus, Vivian Cardinal, Emily Finkel,  
Terry Halco, Steven Jong, Lisa Klemmer, Ed Knights,  
Michael Moore, John Norton, Jessica Silverman

**\*Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head**

Appalachian Carol

Arr. by Terry Halco

Nicole Barrus, Stephanie Barrus, Vivian Cardinal,  
Emily Finkel, Steven Jong, Lisa Klemmer, Ed Knights  
Michael Moore, John Norton, Jessica Silverman

**The Holly and the Ivy**

English Traditional Carol

Arr. by John Rutter

**Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind** *from* When Icicles Hang

John Rutter

Words by William Shakespeare

**Mary's Lullaby**

John Rutter

**The Very Best Time of Year**

John Rutter

**Donkey Carol**

John Rutter

Leah Bergquest, Conductor

**Audience Carol Sing-along!**

# Westford Chorus

James Barkovic, Music Director

Terry Halco, Assistant Director and Accompanist

## Soprano

Rebecca Audette	Vivian Cardinal	Jackie Feather
Emily Finkel	Beth Jarok	Sugantha Jeevankumar
Lisa Klemmer	Patricia Reppucci	Laurie Schmalz
Isabella Snider	Pamela Snyder	Heather Tullar
Ann Vanderperre	Laura Verdibello	Grace Wai Wissmann

## Alto

Nicole Barrus	Stephanie Barrus	Emily Bell
Leah Bergquist	Frances Chang	Jacki Dibble
Debbie Eston	Deb Girard	Margaret Hoag
Jayne Jarger	Laura Kochis	Cindy Kogler
Meagan Manas	Margaret Morris	Melinda Raboin
Irina Sears		Jessica Silverman

## Tenor

Steven Jong	Ed Knights	Don Morgan
Jenn Putnam	Tom Rarich	Emily Welch

## Bass

George Bibler	Mark Johnson	Michael Moore
John Norton		Jon Welch

# Sing with Westford Chorus!

Welcome to the 41<sup>st</sup> season of the Westford Chorus and Jim Barkovic's 15<sup>th</sup> year as Music Director. Founded in 1983, the Chorus's mission is to present the widest possible spectrum of choral music to audiences in Westford and the surrounding communities.

The Westford Chorus, one of the area's premier choral ensembles, has openings for singers. We are a self-auditioned group, open to anyone who can match pitch and learn their parts.

Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7:00-9:15 p.m. at the Parish Center for the Arts, 10 Lincoln Street, in Westford. The open rehearsals for the Spring 2024 season are January 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be performing Rutter's Requiem and Other Rutter works on May 19, 2024.

Come check us out!

For more information, please visit

**[westfordchorus.org](http://westfordchorus.org)**

Or email us at: **[westford.ma.chorus@gmail.com](mailto:westford.ma.chorus@gmail.com)**

## Westford Chorus Board of Directors

Jim Barkovic, ex officio  
Margaret Hoag, Treasurer  
Emily Finkel, Membership

Mark Johnson & Tom Rarich, Members at Large

Deb Girard, President  
Michael Moore, Clerk  
Melinda Raboin, Publicity

## JAMES BARKOVIC - DIRECTOR

Jim is an accomplished choral conductor, church musician, and choral, vocal and instrumental accompanist. In addition to directing the Westford Chorus, he is the Music Director at West Concord Union Church and Holy Family Parish, both in Concord MA. He also serves as the Assistant Conductor and Accompanist for the Spectrum Singers, Chapel Organist and Instructor of Organ at Middlesex School, and Choir Director at Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westborough.

Mr. Barkovic received his Master of Music in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Stephen Drury, performed in master classes for Leonard Shure and Veronica Jochum, and studied organ improvisation with William Porter. A native of Minnesota, he received his undergraduate diploma from St. Olaf College, with concentrations in music theory and history.

Jim joined the Westford Chorus as Music Director in 2009 and has been enthusiastically received by all the singers for his conducting, teaching, and playing skills and his engaging and humorous personality that embraces all members of the chorus.

## TERRY HALCO - ASST. DIR. and ACCOMPANIST

Terry is an active accompanist, vocal coach, organist and singer in the Boston area. Originally from Ohio, he received his musical training at Baldwin Wallace University in Ohio and at the New England Conservatory of Music.

In addition to Westford Chorus, Mr. Halco is the accompanist and assistant conductor for Musica Sacra (Cambridge), and accompanist for Chorus pro Musica (Boston) and the choruses of the University of Massachusetts in Boston. He also serves as the Music Director at Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church in Cambridge. He has been the accompanist for the Polymnia Choral Society in Melrose, the Emerson College Chorale, and the Simmons College Chorale.

Terry has arranged music for the Chorus, including "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" by George and Ira Gershwin, and the old Appalachian Carol "Jesus, Jesus Rest your Head." As a singer, he has performed with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and the vocal ensemble Capella Alamire. His recordings include Kurt Weill's Johnny Johnson, directed by Joel Cohen on the Erato label, and The Early Josquin, directed by Peter Urquhart on the Dorian label.

## MASTERS IN THIS HALL - Text

Masters in this hall, Hear ye news today  
Brought from over sea, And ever I you pray:

Nowell, nowell, nowell! Nowell sing we clear!  
Holpen are all folk on earth, Born is God's Son so dear:

Nowell, nowell, nowell! Nowell sing we loud!  
God today hath poor folk raised And cast adown the proud.

Going o'er the hills, Through the milkwhite snow,  
Heard I ewes bleat While the wind did blow:

Shepherds many an one Sat among the sheep,  
No man spake more word Than they had been asleep:

Quoth I, 'Fellows mine, Why this guise sit ye?  
Making but dull cheer, Shepherds though ye be?'

'Shepherds should of right Leap and dance and sing,  
Thus to see ye sit, Is a right strange thing':

Quoth these fellows then, 'To Beth'lem town we go,  
To see a mighty lord Lie in manger low':

'How name ye this lord, Shepherds?' then said I,  
'Very God,' they said, 'Come from heaven high':

This is Christ the Lord, Masters, be ye glad!  
Christmas is come in, And no folk should be sad:

## ALL THIS TIME - Text

*Refrain:* All this time this song is best:  
'Verbum caro factum est.' (The Word became flesh.)

This night there is a child yborn  
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn;  
We must sing and say therefor, (*Refrain*)

Jesus is the childes name,  
And Mary mild is his dame;  
All our sorrow shall turn to game: (*Refrain*)

It fell upon high midnight:  
The stares shone both fair and bright;  
The angels sang with all their might, (*Refrain*)

Now kneel we down on our knee,  
And pray we to the Trinity  
Our help, our succour for to be; (*Refrain*)

# SKATING - Text

Sweep, Sweep... Broom the edges... Zoom, Zoom

Sit and tie your laces, ponds are perfect places  
on these bright and chilly days for skating.

Wear your woolen mittens, find a hat that fits  
and call around and get our friends to play.

(Ask them to bring some hot chocolate.)

Once you're really striding, gloriously gliding,  
just avoid colliding, now you're skating.

I can spin a camel just like Dor'thy Hamill,

I can turn and skate the other way.

(Let's make a ring with these traffic cones.)

You and I can pair to dance "Bolero,"

(Get pucks and sticks!)

Step and twizzle just like Jane and Dean can.

Take my hand and grip and we can crack the whip  
and use your inner edge to flip while skating.

Arabesque and whizzy, spin until we're dizzy,  
this is so much fun I'm gonna stay!

## **Soprano:**

Combination, skating freely, try a Salchow, try a Walley,

Combination, skating freely, try a spiral that's a sore knee,

Combination, skating freely, try a sit spin, that's beyond me,

Combination, skating freely, try an axel, that one's easy.

Combination, skating freely, try a layback, nice and breezy,

Combination, skating freely, try a scratch spin, getting dizzy!

## **Alto:**

One two three, turn with me,

One two three, watch that tree!

One two three, elbows free,

One two three, waltz with me.

# SKATING - Text (continued)

## **Tenor:**

There's a poke check, breakaway!  
Hey, that was penalty! (That isn't a penalty!) We get a power play!  
(That's not a penalty!) We get a power play!  
Call ev'ryone and ask whether or not they want to play hockey  
bringing their goalie mask  
Skate, pass and shoot, skate pass and score!  
That's a good goal there!

## **Bass:**

Sprinting and striding and race through the crossover,  
Sprinting and striding and swinging your arm,  
Sprinting and striding and race down the straightaway.  
Sprinting and striding and ...  
... around the last turn Skates are clapping, arms are flapping,  
knees are tapping, elbows fly  
Look out, watch where you're going!  
It's still anybody's race as we're sprinting to the finish!  
We're slipping and falling and slipping and falling  
and leaning across the finish line we slide and  
Yeah! Looks like I'm the only guy left still standing So I win!  
He's the last guy left standing.  
Race for gold? No, that's alright  
It's getting cold and now it's night.  
We have had enough of skating.

Come and take a seat, ... let's get a bite to eat  
and what a lot of fun we had today!  
Scratch spin! Toe step! Slap shot! I win today!

# NOVA, NOVA - Text

Refrain: Nova, Nova. Ave fit ex Eva.  
(Noel, Noel. Hail, son of Eve.)

Gabriel of high degree,  
he came down from Trinity  
from Nazareth to Galilee. (*Refrain*)

I met a maiden in a place,  
I kneel'd down afore her face  
And said 'Hail Mary, full of grace.' (*Refrain*)

When the maiden heard tell of this,  
She was full sore abashed, I wis,  
And ween'd that she had done amiss. (*Refrain*)

Then said the angel: 'Dread not thou  
For ye be conceiv'd with great virtue  
Whose name shall be called Jesu.' (*Refrain*)

It is not yet six weeks agone  
Since Elizabeth conceived John,  
As it was prophesied before. (*Refrain*)

Then said the maiden: 'Verily  
I am your servant right truly":  
Ecce ancilla Domini. (Lo, the handmaid of the Lord.)  
(*Refrain*)

**Westford Chorus** is performing a concert on May 19, 2024. This concert will feature music by acclaimed English composer John Rutter, known "for the infectiousness of his melodic invention and consummate craftsmanship" (London Evening Standard review, 25 Sept. 2005.) For the centerpiece of the concert, the Chorus will be joined by a chamber ensemble to perform Rutter's Requiem, a setting of parts of the Latin Requiem with added psalms and biblical verses in English. The concert will also include other popular pieces by John Rutter, including "For the beauty of the earth," "All Things bright and beautiful," and "Lord of the dance."

Be sure to join us!!!

# PROGRAM NOTES

Happy Holidays to one and all! It has been several seasons since the Chorus offered a holiday music program; we are excited to offer you a bit of Yuletide spirit this year! Our program consists of seasonal choral music by one of the eminent choral composers, John Rutter, and friends.

The program starts with a traditional French carol, with words by the 19th C. English poet William Morris. Because of the rapid pace that the lyrics are presented, the text is provided later in the program. I encourage you to follow along, so you'll capture the gist of the story.

Scattered throughout today's program, the Chorus will be performing three familiar and beloved choral movements from Part I of Messiah by George Frideric Handel.

William Walton composed his setting of the 16th Century text "All This Time" in 1970. The carol is set partly in Latin and in the vernacular (middle English, in this case.) Given the antiquity of the language, the text of the Walton piece is included in this program.

The Ukrainian composer, Mykola Leontovych composed "Shchedryk," a Ukrainian folk tune, in 1914. Originally set to secular lyrics, Peter Wilhousky later adapted the melody for chorus and provided it with a fresh holiday season text. Wilhousky's setting, published 83 years ago, instantly became one of the most popular holiday choral pieces of the 20th century.

Gustav Holst (originally Gustavus Theodore von Holst) composed "Christmas Day," a choral fantasy on old carols, in 1910. The idea of composing a medley of carols was his; many composers have since followed suit. The work skillfully intertwines vocal solos and chorus, often with the chorus responding to the solos.

One of the most beloved holiday songs is "White Christmas," written by Irving Berlin for the 1942 musical film "Holiday Inn." Arranger Roy Ringwald set it for chorus and orchestra (or for piano, 4-hands) in 1971. Many thanks to Chorus member Leah Bergquist for conducting the piece whilst the music director plays with the chorus accompanist!

Following "White Christmas", the Chorus presents the first of two world premieres this afternoon -- "Skating" from "A Charlie Brown Christmas," with lyrics newly composed by Chorus member Steven Jong. I should warn you that the text (as do the skates!) flies like the wind, so the lyrics are in this program.

## PROGRAM NOTES (continued)

To begin the second half, a subset of the Chorus (a.k.a., the "Schola") will present two short works. "Nova, Nova" is a medieval English carol, often heard at Christmas Revels concerts. Thanks to Margaret Hoag and Michael Moore for accompanying the Schola on finger cymbals and drum! The second piece performed by the Schola is also a world premiere -- a brand new choral setting of an Appalachian carol by Chorus Assistant Director Terry Halco. As luck would have it, Westford Chorus will be premiering Terry's piece at 3pm while the Harvard University Choir will be performing it at 5pm as part of their Choral Evensong service on campus. Thus, our performance will be the world premiere by a mere two hours! You'll be able to say that you heard it here first! :-)

The entire Chorus follows with five pieces either composed or arranged by British choral composer John Rutter (born 1945). These are early works in his oeuvre, as they were composed and published in the 70's and early 80's. While not performed as frequently as his recent works, these early works demonstrate his supreme craftsmanship and his talent at weaving a beautiful melodic line! Again, many thanks to Leah Bergquist for conducting the final Rutter work whilst Terry and I tickle the ivories together!

To close today's program, we invite you to sing some Christmas carols with us. The words will be presented on the screens on either side of the Chorus. Sing heartily, with much vigor!

A final note: the sheet music for ten of today's pieces are from the files of the now defunct Merrimack Valley Chorale. The MVC, based in nearby Chelmsford, was founded in 1982 (one year prior to the founding of the Westford Chorus) and existed as an organization for over 30 years. An MVC member stored all of the chorus's sheet music in her basement for several years before offering it to the Westford Chorus. We are so grateful that she reached out to us! A number of MVC singers have since joined the Westford Chorus. I dedicate this performance to the memory of the MVC, its audiences and to its former members.

*Cheers,*

*Jim Barkovic*

## Presenting Two World Premiere Arrangements

Today's Westford Chorus concert will include the world premieres of two arrangements. "Skating," by Vince Guaraldi, arranged with lyrics by Westford resident and retired technical writer Steve Jong, and the old Appalachian Carol "Jesus, Jesus Rest your Head," arranged by Westford Chorus assistant director and accompanist Terry Halco.

As a child, Steve watched the premiere of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (in B&W) in 1965. He first thought of singing the lovely and lively "Skating" almost 50 years later, but it had no lyrics, and the Vince Guaraldi Trio's complex jazz improvisations in the middle section had never been published. For Steve, this was a moment of "challenge accepted!" He wrote lyrics imagining the basses and tenors sweeping snow off a pond and then everyone simultaneously doing their own thing. The sopranos figure skate, altos ice dance, tenors play hockey and basses speed skate. He transcribed the middle section, and created a contemporary "beatbox" arrangement of the song. This is Steve's first lyric contribution, but Westford Chorus has now performed five of his arrangements, starting with "The Chipmunk Song," and including "The Blue Train," "The US Air Force," and "Dance With Me."

"Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head," is a favorite of Terry Halco because of its simplicity and because we don't hear it hundreds of times every Christmas. He first arranged the old Appalachian carol in 2011 for SAB and organ, because his choir at Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church in Cambridge was not going to have any tenors on Christmas Eve 2011, and they needed another piece for their Lessons and Carols service. This past summer Terry decided to tweak the piece and arrange it for SATB and organ. While this new SATB version will premiere with the Westford Chorus, it will also be performed the evening of Dec. 10 in the 5 p.m. Carol Service by the Harvard University Choir, and for Christmas services at King's Chapel in downtown Boston.

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Updated as of December 1, 2023

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Westford Chorus is supported in part by grants from the **Westford Cultural Council** and **Chelmsford Cultural Council**, and applied for support from the **Littleton Cultural Council**. All these local agencies are supported by the **Massachusetts Cultural Council**, a state agency that also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.



The **Westford Cultural Council** presented a 2019 Certificate of Recognition to the Chorus “In Recognition of excellence in the arts and community service.”

Westford Chorus is a member of the **Greater Boston Choral Consortium**, a cooperative association of diverse choral groups in Boston and the surrounding areas.

Westford Chorus is a member of the **Central Massachusetts Choral Consortium**, a cooperative association of diverse choral groups in central Massachusetts.

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