

*Meritage* Vocal Arts Ensemble  
presents

# Christmas Fanfare

Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble  
Meritage Brass Ensemble  
Brian Dehn, *conductor, artistic director*  
Mark Salters, *organ, piano*

Sunday  
December 17, 2023  
4 PM

Anaheim United Methodist Church  
1000 S. State College Blvd, Anaheim 92806



MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

**Congratulations to**

*Meritage Vocal  
Arts Ensemble*

**on its 2023-24  
concert season!**

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# Welcome



Greetings, Supporters and Friends of Merit age Vocal Art Ensemble,

Happy Holidays! I am thrilled to extend to you a warm and heartfelt welcome to the 27th season of the Merit age Vocal Art Ensemble. As we embark on this exciting journey into the 2023-2024 season, I am filled with anticipation and enthusiasm for the exceptional musical experiences that lie ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Jamboree Housing and Todd Priest and Associates (TPA). Thank you so much for your support of Merit age.

This Season promises to be a captivating blend of classical masterpieces, innovative contemporary works, and inspiring collaborations. Our goal is to transport you on a musical voyage that will touch your hearts and souls.

Over the past 26 seasons, our ensemble has flourished, enchanting audiences with our harmonious voices and captivating performances. Each year has been a testament to the dedication and talent of our members and the unwavering support of our cherished patrons. Whether you are a generous donor, a dedicated volunteer, or simply a music lover who attends our concerts, you are an integral part of the Merit age family, and we are grateful for your presence. None of this would be possible without your continued support.

I invite you to stay connected with us throughout the season. Follow us on social media, subscribe to our newsletter, and join us at our concerts and events. With your continued support, we will create memorable moments, forge lasting connections, and continue to inspire through the power of music. Thank you for being a part of our remarkable journey.

With warmest regards,

**JOEY BAITAL, PRESIDENT**

Board of Directors, FOCM dba  
Merit age Vocal Arts Ensemble

*Thank you, Merit age,  
for continuing to enrich  
my life with the gifts of  
music and friendship!*

*Joey*



# Program

## Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble

Hodie! ..... Matthew J. Armstrong  
Rejoice and Be Merry ..... John Rutter  
While by My Sheep ..... Hugo Jüngst, arr. Linda Spevacek  
*Andrea Flores, Wendy Stokes, Caroline Cannistra, Harriet Edwards  
Shawn Taylor, Danny Dayton, Michael Liu, Keith Morton*

Fum, Fum, Fum ..... Traditional  
Jingle Bell Rock ..... Bobby Helms  
*Anon and Beyond  
Erika Silver, Barbra Josefsberg, Paul Shirts, Joey Baital*

That's Christmas to Me ..... arr. Pentatonix/Taylors  
*Liana Koepfel-Taylor, Abby Taylor, Paige Taylor*

## Audience Sing-Along

O Come, All Ye Faithful ..... Traditional, arr. David Willcocks  
Angels We Have Heard on High ..... Traditional  
Festival First Noel ..... Traditional, arr. Dan Forrest

## Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble

Do You Hear What I Hear ..... Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne  
arr. Harry Simeone  
Go Where I Send Thee ..... arr. André Thomas  
*Samuel Nunez, soloist*  
I Saw Three Ships ..... Traditional, arr. John Frederick Hudson  
*Harriet Edwards, soloist*

★★★★ INTERMISSION ★★★★★

# Program



## Audience Sing-Along

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.....Felix Mendelssohn  
arr. David Willcocks

## Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble

Gloria.....John Rutter

I. Gloria in excelsis

II. Domine Deus

*Grace Lee, Wendy Stokes, Meghan DeFord, soloists*

III. Quoniam tu solus sanctus

## Audience Sing-Along

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.....Traditional

Silent Night.....Franz Gruber & Joseph Mohr, arr. Patrick Hawes

Joy to the World!.....Antioch, George F. Handel & Isaac Watts  
adapt. Lowell Mason, arr. William P. Rowan

Merry Christmas, Darling.....Richard Carpenter & Frank Pooler  
*Dennis Coppens*

Don Oiche Ud I Mbeithil.....arr. David Downes  
*Grace Lee and Hannah Park*  
*Cecelia Frankenfield, violin*

## Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble

Carol of the Bells.....Mykola Leontovych, arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

We Wish You a Merry Christmas.....Traditional, arr. Jonathan Willcocks

Sing We Now of Christmas.....French carol, arr. Fred Prentice

# Special Thanks

The Brass Ensemble appears tonight  
thanks to a generous gift from

**Susan and Michael Jacobs**

Refreshments made possible  
by a donation from

**Ron Hargreaves**





## Artistic Director's Note

The songs and sounds of Christmas are among our most favorite of our concert seasons and we are so happy you have gathered here with us for this concert. We truly feel that few things can move the spirit like choral harmonies and that fact is elevated when accompanied by the regal resonance of brass. In this concert we share together, we not only celebrate the festive season but also

seek solace in the transformative power of choral music—an art form that, like a comforting fire in the hearth, soothes the wounds of a world that can often be arduous and unyielding.

As we embark on this hectic, yet important season, we hope you find this melodic sojourn as a respite from all that is going on in the world. As many of us take a break from shopping, cleaning, planning, visiting, or preparing for the end of year, we come together to sit to listen and, I hope, to be moved. Much of tonight's concert is bombastic, joyful, and invigorating. From the opening fanfare of *Hodie!* and *Rejoice and Be Merry*, to the charming echo carol *While By My Sheep*, you will hear a fantastic conversation between our voices and the brass.

I hope you sing loudly on our sing-alongs. I have tried to find arrangements that “sing well” but also give the brass and choir a chance to shine. In these moments you become a performer, and it is the heart of this performance, where the world's burdens can momentarily dissipate. I trust your voice will become a refuge for those around you—an oasis where the complexities of life are distilled into harmonies that offer a sanctuary for the weary heart and solace for the troubled mind.

I hope that the repertoire, a curated selection that traverses the emotional spectrum, becomes a poignant narrative of resilience. From jubilant carols that lift spirits to contemplative arrangements that provide moments of introspection, each note is a testament to the power of music to illuminate the darkest corners of our lives and to instill a sense of hope, even when the path ahead seems uncertain. There is a charmingly progressive story in *Do You Hear What I Hear*, excitement in *Go Where I Send Thee*, and amazing metaphors in the carol, *I Saw Three Ships*. But, the centerpiece of the concert, where all of this comes together, is John Rutter's *Gloria*. This three-movement masterpiece is a feast for the singers and brass players alike. You will hear fantastic rhythms and cadences. The first movement is a wonderful expression of what makes brass work – the offset entrances, the roll of percussion and the depth of the organ. The second movement is one of my most favorite parts of the concert – the ethereal spiraling of the organ, the close choral harmonies, and the lush brass hymnody is all just preparation for one of the best climaxes in all the repertoire when we finally say the word, “Rex”—a sound truly worthy of a “King!”

And as we approach the final crescendo of this musical masterpiece, I find the grand finale as a fitting testament to the fortitude of the human spirit. The collective voices, entwined with the regal brass, have over 60 changes in tempo, mode, or time signature that creates a resplendent, nearly overwhelming cacophony. Rutter takes seemingly insurmountable tempo and register changes, and makes them enjoyable, even rewarding. He makes music that echoes with the proclamation that, despite the challenges we face, the indomitable spirit of humanity can be fortified by the transformative magic of music.

This concert is a wonderful synthesis of choral resilience and brass magnificence, we invite you to not only revel in the beauty of sound but to recognize the healing power that music imparts. May the harmonies resonate within your soul and may the brass fanfares be a source of inspiration—an affirmation that, even in the harshest of times, the alchemy of music has the ability to elevate, console, and ultimately make the world a more harmonious place. From the Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble to each cherished listener, may this Christmas concert be a testament to the season, the enduring ability of music to illuminate the shadows, and perhaps most importantly, proof that harmony can be a sanctuary, a respite from the challenges that confront us, and a reminder that even amidst the harshness of existence, beauty and solace can be found in the cadence of music.

**BRIAN DEHN**  
Artistic Director

# Sing-Along Lyrics



## O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
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,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!



## God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

## Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

## Festive First Noel

ALL VOICES:  
The First Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay;  
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

TREBLE VOICES ONLY:  
They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
BASS VOICES ONLY:  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

ALL VOICES:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood mankind has bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.







# Sing-Along Lyrics

## 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.

Hail the heav'n-born  
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.

## Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room.  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let us, our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains;  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## Silent Night

ALL VOICES:

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;  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

TREBLE VOICES ONLY:

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!

ALL VOICES:

Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

MERITAGE ONLY:

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;  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

ALL VOICES:

Silent night! Holy night!  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing  
alleluias to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

ALL IS  
calm  
ALL IS  
bright

Joy

No more let sin and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove;  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.



# Texts / Translations



## Hodie!

MATTHEW J. ARMSTRONG

Hodie Christus natus est:

Hodie Salvator apparuit:

Hodie in terra canunt

Angeli, laetantur Archangeli:

Hodie exultant justi,

Dicentes:

Gloria in excelsis Deo,

Alleluia

*Today Christ is born;*

*Today the Savior has appeared;*

*Today the Angels sing,*

*The Archangels rejoice;*

*Today the righteous*

*Rejoice, saying:*

*Glory to God in the Highest.*

*Alleluia!*

## Rejoice and Be Merry

JOHN RUTTER

*This is a joyful carol in which John Rutter sets a traditional English text to a bold and straightforward melody and creates an uplifting work replete with forthright Christmas cheer.*

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth,  
O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth:  
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation: his praises we'll sing.

A heavenly vision appeared in the sky,  
Vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy,  
Proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation:

his praises, his praises we'll sing.

Likewise, a bright star in the sky did appear,  
Which led the wise men  
from the East to draw near;

They found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing.

And when they were come,  
they their treasure unfold,  
And unto him offered myrrh, incense and gold.  
So blessed forever be Jesus our King,  
Who brought us salvation:  
his praises we'll sing, his praises we'll sing.

Rejoice and be merry, rejoice and be merry,  
Rejoice!

## While By My Sheep

LINDA SPEVACEK

While by my sheep I watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright:  
How great my joy,  
joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

There shall be born,  
so he did say  
In Bethlehem a child today:  
How great my joy,  
joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

There shall he lie in manger mean.  
Who shall redeem the world from sin:  
How great my joy,  
joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

## Do You Hear What I Hear?

WORDS & MUSIC NOEL REGNEY AND GLORIA SHAYNE, ARR. HARRY SIMEONE

*Do You Hear What I Hear?* tells a story loosely based upon the story of the Nativity of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Matthew, incorporating fragments of the annunciation to the shepherds from the Gospel of Luke, though Jesus is never mentioned by name or explicitly identified. A "night wind" tells a lamb of a star, following which the lamb tells his



# Texts / Translations

## Go Where I Send Thee

ARR. ANDRÉ THOMAS

Children, go where I send thee.  
How shall I send thee?  
I'm gonna send thee one by one.  
One for the little bitty baby.  
He was born! Born! Born in Bethlehem.

I'm gonna send thee one by one,  
One for the little bitty baby.  
Two was for Paul and Silas.  
Three was the Hebrew children.  
He was born! Born! Born in Bethlehem.  
Born! Born! Born in Bethlehem.

Four came knockin' at the door.  
Four came knockin' at the door.  
Somebody's knockin' at the door!  
Somebody's knockin' at the door!  
Four was the four that came  
Knockin' at the door.  
Oh, sinner,  
Why don't you answer?  
Somebody's knockin' at your door.

I shall send thee five by five.  
Five for the Gospel preachers.  
I shall send thee six by six,  
Six was the six that couldn't get fixed.

Seven went up to heaven.  
Eight was the eight that stood at the gate.  
Nine was the nine that got left behind!  
Ten by ten 'cause ten was the ten commandments.

Go where I send thee.  
How shall I send thee?  
Go where I send thee.

How shall I send thee?  
Born! Born! Born in Bethlehem.  
Born! Born! Born in Bethlehem.

*young shepherd that he also hears a loud song. They are each led to a "mighty king," whom they tell of a child in the cold and ask to bring the child silver and gold (much as the Biblical Magi, which in tradition with prophecies in the Book of Isaiah and Psalm are often characterized as kings, did with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh). The king proclaims a prayer of peace and announces that the child will "bring goodness and light."*

Said the night wind to the little lamb  
"Do you see what I see?  
Way up in the sky little lamb,  
Do you see what I see?  
A star, a star, dancing in the night  
With a tail as big as a kite,  
With a tail as big as a kite."

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy  
"Do you hear what I hear?  
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,  
Do you hear what I hear?  
A song, a song high above the trees  
With a voice as big as the sea  
With a voice as big as the sea."

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king  
"Do you know what I know?  
In your palace warm, mighty king  
Do you know what I know?  
A Child, a Child, shivers in the cold—  
Let us bring him silver and gold,  
Let us bring him silver and gold."

Said the king to the people everywhere,  
"Listen to what I say!  
Pray for peace, people, everywhere  
Listen to what I say!  
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night  
He will bring us goodness and light  
He will bring us goodness and light."



# Texts / Translations



## I Saw Three Ships

TRADITIONAL, ARR. JOHN FREDERICK HUDSON

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 Saviour Christ and his lady,  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?  
Our Saviour Christ and his lady,  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?

Pray, wither sailed those ships all three,  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Pray, wither sailed those ships all three,  
On Christmas Day in the morning?

O they sailed into Bethlehem,  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
O they sailed into 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 Heav'n shall sing,  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the Angels in Heav'n shall sing,  
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.

Then let us all rejoice again,  
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Then let us all rejoice again,  
On Christmas Day in the morning.

## Gloria

JOHN RUTTER

*From the composer: **Gloria** was written as a concert work. It was commissioned by the Voices of Mel Olson, Omaha, Nebraska, and I directed the first performance on the occasion of a visit to the United States—the first of many—in May 1974. The Latin text, drawn from the Ordinary of the Mass, is a centuries-old challenge to the composer: exalted, devotional and jubilant by turns. My setting, which is based mainly on one of the Gregorian chants associated with the text, divides into three movements roughly corresponding with traditional symphonic structure. The accompaniment is for brass ensemble with timpani, percussion and organ—a combination which in the outer movements makes quite a joyful noise unto the Lord, but which is used more softly and introspectively in the middle movement.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
(Gloria in excelsis Deo.)

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.



# Texts / Translations

Quoniam tu solus sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu,  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.  
(Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.)

*Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.  
We praise thee. We bless thee.  
We worship thee. We glorify thee.  
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.  
(Glory be to God on high.)*

*O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father Almighty,  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand  
of God the Father, have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the  
glory of God the Father. Amen.  
(Glory be to God on high. Amen.)*

## Carol of the Bells

MYKOLA LEONTOVYCH AND  
PETER J. WILHOUSKY

Hark! How the bells, sweet silver bells,  
All seem to say, "throw cares away."  
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer,  
To young and old, meek and the bold,  
Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song,

With joyful ring, all caroling.  
One seems to hear, words of good cheer,  
From ev'rywhere, filling the air.  
Oh, how they pound, raising the sound,  
O'er hill and dale, telling their tale.  
Gaily they ring, while people sing,  
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here!  
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!  
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!  
On, on they send, on without end,  
Their joyful tone to ev'ry home,  
Ding, dong, ding, ding, dong.

## We Wish You a Merry Christmas

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH WEST COUNTRY CAROL,  
ARR. JONATHAN WILLCOCKS

We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy new year  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy new year

Oh, bring us some figgy pudding  
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding  
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding  
And bring it right here  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy new year

We won't go until we get some  
We won't go until we get some  
We won't go until we get some  
So bring it right here  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy new year.  
We all like our figgy pudding  
We all like our figgy pudding  
We all like our figgy pudding  
With all its good cheer.  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy new year.



# Texts / Translations



## Sing We Now of Christmas

FRENCH CAROL, ARR. FRED PRENTICE

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.  
Of our Lord and Savior, we the tidings tell.  
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.  
Sing we noel, for Christ the Lord is born.  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Angels from on high say,  
"Shepherds come and see.  
He is born in Bethlehem,  
a blessed lamb for thee."  
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.  
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born..  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Shepherds found the child  
lying in a manger stall.  
Joseph standing by, and mother Mary mild.  
So now sing we noel, for Christ the King is born.  
Sing we noel, for Christ the King is born..  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Magi oriental journeyed from afar.  
They did come to greet Him  
'neath the shining star.  
Glory to God, for Christ the King is born.  
Glory to God, for Christ the King is born.  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.



## Cats in Need of Human Care – Fullerton Chapter

Looking for a perfect feline companion? We have a wonderful selection of beautiful, affectionate, and playful cats and kittens of all ages hoping to share your love and home.

We are a 503(c)3 non-profit organization of volunteers who work with one another and the community to find safe, loving homes for homeless pets. Stop by and visit us in the *Fullerton PetSmart at 1411 S. Harbor Blvd, Fullerton CA 92832!* Adoptions are held on Saturdays from 11 am to 4 pm and during the week by appointment. There are many loving kitties waiting to meet you!

You can also visit us online: **Petfinder** ([www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)), **Facebook** (Cats In Need Fullerton) and **Instagram** (@catsinneedfullerton).

Interested in adopting? Contact us by phone at **714-681-6120** or by email at **[catsinneedfullerton@yahoo.com](mailto:catsinneedfullerton@yahoo.com)** for more information or to schedule an appointment.





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 Melanie McDonald  
 Rosie Moreno  
 Keith Morton  
 Chuck Murphy  
 Anjanette Navarro  
 Eric Nelson  
 Samuel Nunez  
 Luke Oury  
 Hannah Park  
 Heidi Peter  
 Mark Peter  
 Kathy Pierce

Jamie Randell  
 Teresa Raridan  
 Leslie Rudolph  
 Sandy Schaefer  
 Paul Shirts  
 Erika Silver  
 Hardeep Singh-Moran  
 Cameron Spicer  
 Wendy Stokes  
 Abby Taylor  
 Laura Taylor  
 Paige Taylor  
 Shawn Taylor  
 Deanna Torchia  
 Richard Ullrich  
 Mary Wissink  
 Ellen Wright  
 William Young

Thanks, Mom & Dad, for instilling in me a love of music and for always coming to hear me sing. Love you!  
*Janet Lewis to Margery & Larry Lewis*

Sammy and Selena, Don't talk during the concert.  
*Love, Dad* ❤️

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# Our Artistic Director



## BRIAN DEHN

**Brian Dehn** has conducted his ensembles in some of the world's most remarkable venues including Carnegie Hall, the Sistine Chapel, St. Mark's in Venice, St. Peter's in Rome, St. Mathias in Budapest, St. Tomaskircke in Vienna, St. Patrick's and The Riverside Church in New York, St. Anne's Cathedral in Sydney, St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's in Dublin, and the Beijing Central Conservatory. His selection of top-quality repertoire and special work with vocal development has him in frequent demand as a guest clinician with choirs throughout California and the Western United States. Brian is also founder and artistic director of Meistersingers, a semi-pro group also based in Orange County.

Brian completed 15 years of teaching at the high school level where his ensembles were awarded consistent "Superior" ratings, and invitations to prestigious festivals around the state, including an invitation to perform at the 2018 ACDA Western Region Convention. He took his programs on performance tours to New York, Spain and Portugal, San Francisco, China, Italy, Ireland, England, and Australia. For over 20 years he

has also held positions as Director of Music for a variety of Southern California churches, currently serving as Director of Music Ministry for First Christian Church of Orange.

As an accomplished tenor soloist, Dehn has performed in Chicago Symphony Hall for Chapman University, The New Century Singers, The California Women's Chorus, Pasadena Pro Musica as well as soloist for many other professional music ensembles, colleges and churches throughout Southern California. An accomplished ensemble singer in his own right, he has performed with Zephyr, De Angelis, and the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Dehn maintains membership in a number of music organizations including the American Choral Directors Association, International Federation of Choral Music, Music Educators National Conference, California Music Educator's Association (where he was a presenter in 2016), Chorus America, and the National Association of Church Music, where he served as board member for Church Literature. He lives in Orange, California, with his wife, Chelsea, and their two sons.



## Our Accompanist

### MARK SALTERS



Mark Salters is opera co-director, vocal coach, and pianist at California State University, Fullerton. Originally from New York, he served on the coaching staff of the Opera Department at the University of Michigan under Gustav Meier. Prior to that, he was on the faculty of the Yale University graduate opera program headed by noted director Tito Capobianco.

Salters has accompanied master classes by many well-known singers and coaches, including Frederica Von Stade, Roberta Alexander, Vladamir Chernov, Carlo Bergonzi, Sherill Milnes, Madame Régine Crespin, Richard Bonyngne, Rodney Gilfry, George Shirley, Carol Neblett, Horst Günther, Marni Nixon, Paul Sperry, Richard Pearlman, Lili Chookasian, as well as many others. In addition, he has worked with conductors and directors from Los Angeles Opera, New York City Opera, Frankfurt Opera, St. Louis Opera,

and the Metropolitan Opera. He has also served on the music staffs of the University of Connecticut, Opera Theater of Connecticut, and the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven, Connecticut.

Currently, Salters regularly accompanies the National Association of Teachers of Singing symposiums in Los Angeles and Orange County, as well as the Classical Singers Association classes and concerts. He has also worked for Opera Pacific, Opera Ala Carte, Cal State Long Beach, Pacific Chorale, Pacific Symphony, Riverside Opera, Southland Opera, and the Intimate Opera Company. He also serves as Director of Music and Principal Organist at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church in Irvine.

As an active freelance accompanist, Salters regularly accompanies many of the finest young vocal artists of the Los Angeles area in recitals and competitions.

For Brian and  
The Choir,  
Thanks for this  
amazing journey. There  
are even greater things  
to come.

*Henrietta Carter*

Congratulations,  
Merit ge, for  
another terrific  
season.

*Dennis Nasitka  
(bass)*

We are so proud  
to be a part of this  
organization! Party on  
Merry Musicians!

*Sheridan and  
Kathy Ball*

It remains an absolute  
honor to sing with  
this group.

*Laura Harlan*



# Thank You



to all who have contributed  
to the success of  
**Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble**  
for our 2023-2024 concert season

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Jenny Kim  
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Margery and  
Lawrence Lewis  
Dennis Nasitka  
Rocket Launch

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Susan Jacobs  
Chris McCandless  
Chris and Bill McCandless  
Michael Moore  
Mary Nimocks  
Mark Peter  
Teresa Raridan  
Marc Russo  
Sandra Schaefer  
Abby and Paige Taylor

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Holly Desgranges  
Nobuko DuVall  
Leslie Jensen  
The Morris Institute  
Lynda Perring  
Jesse and Charlotte Raridan  
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Richard Ullrich  
Elizabeth Ussher

## **ESPRESSIVO LEVEL (\$25-\$99)**

Barraza PRO Baseball Gloves  
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Pauline Klein  
Katherine Pierce  
Julie Stelle  
Ron Witt

Thank you, Brian, for  
your artistic direction!  
You are so talented and  
I love singing with you!

Wendy Stokes



# FRIENDS OF CHORAL MUSIC

## Board of Directors

**President**  
Joey Baital

**Vice President**  
Lucy Dunn

**Artistic Director**  
Brian Dehn

**Founding  
Artistic Director  
Emeritus**  
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Dennis Nasitka

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Past President**  
Stephen Schulist

**Friends of Choral Music (FoCM)** helps support community choral programs, including funding for music, orchestras, vocalists, venues, school scholarships, and outreach programs. 100% of the profit from board-sponsored events is used to help keep choral arts viable in our community.

Friends of Choral Music meets at least six times a year, and is responsible for governance, finance, and fundraising. The board is also responsible for all operating responsibilities of Merit age and Starlight Carolers. FoCM consists mostly of singing members of these choirs that volunteer their time and services to the board.

Friends of Choral Music is a non-profit IRC 501 (c) (3), Tax Id 95-4584695.

**Secretary**  
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Mark Peter  
Katherine Pierce  
Leslie Rudolph  
*(Membership)*  
Gwendolyn Stokes

## PLEASE SUPPORT CHORAL MUSIC

Ticket sales account for only one-third of the cost of presenting our season each year. Our continued growth and success is only possible through the generous contributions of donors like you. All donations are tax deductible (Tax Id 95-4584695). Your gift will be gratefully acknowledged in our concert programs.

To make your tax-deductible donation,  
speak with any singer or visit our website,  
[www.meritage-vocalarts.org](http://www.meritage-vocalarts.org)

Please mail your contribution to:  
**Merit age Vocal Arts Ensemble**  
174 W. Lincoln Ave. Suite 200  
Anaheim, CA 92805

Questions? Please call us at  
(714) 512-2027 or send an email to:  
[office@Meritage-VocalArts.org](mailto:office@Meritage-VocalArts.org).

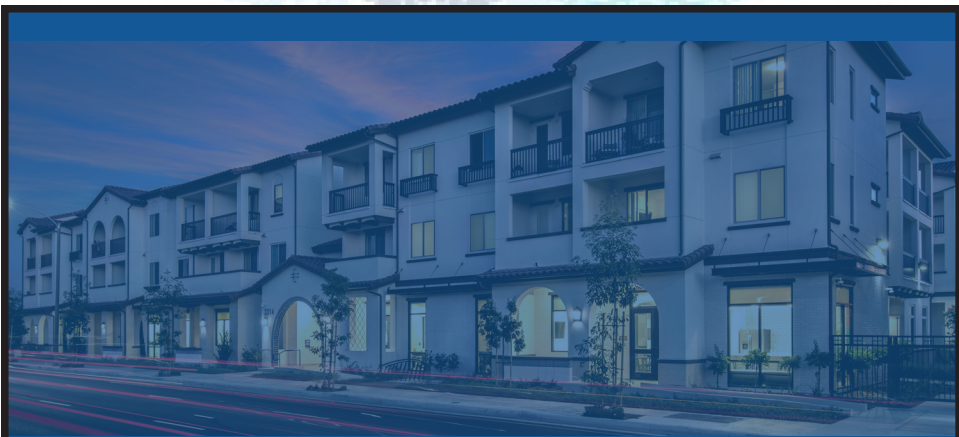
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# 2023-2024 SEASON UPCOMING EVENTS

## **The Hunchback of Notre Dame** *Concert Version*

**April 13** (Saturday)  
7:30 pm

**April 14** (Sunday)  
2:00 pm

## **The Vast Eternal Sky** *for choir & strings* (Two performances)

**June 2** (Sunday)  
4:00 pm

and

**June 8** (Saturday)  
4:00 pm



[meritage-vocalarts.org](http://meritage-vocalarts.org)

*Program Design:*  
*Paul Shirts*