

radiant midnight

christmas program explores 46th season's theme of chiaroscuro

As you listen to the music in Masterworks Chorale's Christmas concert, *Radiant Midnight*, you may want to keep in mind the Nativity scene below by Flemish painter Michael Sittow (c.1469–1525). This masterpiece exemplifies the Chorale's 46th season theme of *chiaroscuro*, and if you pay attention to the poetry in the compositions, you will find many references to light, dark, and the contrast between them. Here are some of those references.

chiaroscuro (kee-ar-uh-SKOOR-oh)

an oil painting technique, developed during the Renaissance, that uses strong tonal contrasts between light and dark to model three-dimensional forms, often to dramatic effect — Wikipedia

*Light
warm and heavy as pure gold
and the angels sing softly / to the new-born baby.*¹

Even the lowly beasts are bathed in its warmth.

*O great mystery and wondrous sacrament,
That animals should see the new-born Lord / lying in their manger.*^{2,3}

Almost all the glorious light in this image radiates from the baby. This, oh little town of Bethlehem, is the "everlasting light" that "in thy dark streets shineth."⁴

In the distance, through the window, a distant hillside. There must be many dark streets and alleyways between this luminous scene and the faraway dwellings where people huddle around tiny fires. Danger lurks in the darkness between.

*Herod the king, in his raging, chargèd he hath this day
his men of might / in his own sight
all young children to slay.*⁵

The poetry, however, helps us overcome our fears. We sing of brilliant lights.

*Sun, moon and stars out of the darkness shining.*⁶

We become seekers of truth.

*Star of wonder, star of night / star with royal beauty bright...
guide us to thy perfect light.*⁷

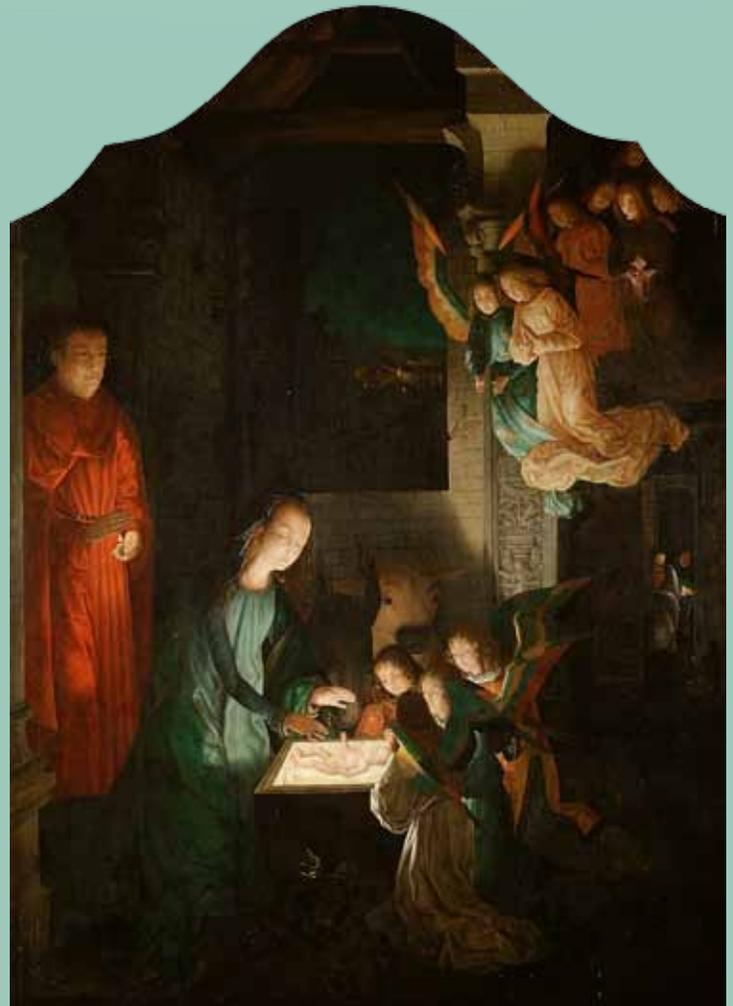
Our lyrics urge us to become stronger in faith.

*O doubter of the light, / Confused by fear and wrong,
Lean on the heart of night / And let love make thee strong!*⁸

Finally, we proclaim that we are going to make the world a brighter place.

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!*⁹

Please join us on Saturday, December 2 at 8 p.m. or Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m. as we open our concert season with a celebration of brightness in the midst of darkness, warmth where it is cold, and hope that outshines despair. With this program of songs, readings, and audience carols, we'll usher in the holiday season thoughtfully and joyfully.



Nativity scene by Michael Sittow, c. 1469 – 1525. Sittow probably copied an earlier work by Hugo van der Goes.

Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. Downloaded from Wikipedia.



"I welcome you to bring the mix of light and dark that is your own life, and be moved with me at our Christmas concerts"

Tim Cloeter,
Artistic Director and Conductor

from the director
chiaroscuro: an interplay of light and shadow that describes life

The word *chiaroscuro* (literally "bright-dark" in Italian) may have been coined to describe Renaissance painting, but such interplay of light and shadow also describes life. It's expressed in the concept of yin and yang, it underlies the term "bittersweet," it produces the sayings about clouds with silver linings and windows that are opened when doors are closed. Sorrow and joy, despair and hope—all are interwoven. Our experience is a mix of light and dark.

I am particularly moved by Christmas images of light in the darkness: a bright star in a black sky, a baby of bright hope born in a dark and rough stable, warm candlelight on our faces as we sing Silent Night. I like the quiet joy of starlight on a cold night, and the exuberant joy of dazzling angels in the dead of night, and the deep joy of a parent's love

for a miraculous newborn. One need only scan the news, however, or plumb one's own heart to find sorrow as well as joy, so it's important to remember that Christmas is not just a story of warm love that we celebrate at the darkest time of the year, but it's also a story of grace and redemption brightening the darkest places of our lives.

As we in the Chorale seek to connect lives through choral music, it's our mission to brighten each other's lives even in the darkness of tragedy and suffering. Again, *chiaroscuro*: I welcome you to bring the mix of light and dark that is your own life, and be moved with me at our Christmas concerts by music and readings that give voice to grace and redemption, that depict a radiant midnight.

masterworks chorale's annual christmas program

radiant midnight

⁵Coventry Carol
arr. Linda Kachelmeier

from *Messiah*
George Frideric Handel

For Behold! Darkness shall Cover the Earth
The People that Walked in Darkness
For unto us a Child Is Born

How Still He Rests
Brent Pierce

I Wonder as I Wander
John Jacob Niles, arr. Keith Christopher

In the Bleak Midwinter
arr. Gustav Holst

⁶*Let There Be Light*
Susan Boersma & Craig Courtney

¹*Lux Aurumque*
Edward Esch & Eric Whitacre

My Dancing Day
arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

Noel
Todd Smith, arr. Brad Holmes

O beatum et sacrosanctum diem
Peter Philips & John Rutter

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

⁴*O Little Town of Bethlehem*
arr. Dan Forrest

²*O Magnum mysterium*
Cesar Carrillo

³*O Magnum mysterium*
Tomás Luis de Victoria

People, Look East
Eleanor Farjeon, arr. Howard Helvey

See What Joy
arr. Carolyn Jennings

⁷*Star Carol*
John Rutter

Star of Wonder/We Three Kings
Terre Roche & John Henry Hopkins
arr. Joseph Jennings

⁸*The Stars Above the Hill*
Bliss Carman & David Dickau

⁹*This Little Light of Mine*
arr. Moses Hogan

'Twas the Moon of Wintertime
arr. Tim Cloeter

a seasoned singer
baritone joe myers: family man, educator, musician, artist



Joe Myers, Chorale Baritone, with three of the many pictures he has painted.

Involvement with the Chorale Joe is now in his tenth season with the Chorale. He has served as vice president of the board.

Other artistic interests A Toledo native, Joe played viola in the Toledo Youth Orchestra. He later played with the Toledo Symphony, the Toledo Opera Orchestra, and the Perrysburg Symphony. Since his high school days at Central Catholic, however, he has always had a string quartet to play with—and sometimes more than one. He currently sings with the choir at St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church.

When he retired from the public schools in 2002 he decided to take up drawing and painting. He's been doing it ever since, and many of his paintings adorn the walls of his beautiful Sylvania home.

Family Joe and his wife Katherine, a retired Spanish teacher, will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary in December. They have three children and five grandchildren. Joe is close to all his kids and grandkids even though some live far away. "I've never stopped being a dad and granddad. Family is all-consuming," he says.

joe was once the vocal music teacher at arbor hills junior high, a position that emily now holds

Career After graduating from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1963, Joe taught orchestral and vocal music first in the Toledo and later in the Sylvania Public Schools. He was the first orchestra director at Southview High and once taught vocal music at Arbor Hills Junior High, (the same job now held by our "rising star," profiled to the right). In 1984

he became a Sylvania Schools guidance counselor and remained in that position until his retirement in 2002. He then worked as a guidance counselor at two Catholic high schools for six years.

and a rising star in the alto section

emily georgeson: young teacher with a gentle musical mission



Emily Georgeson conducts one of her choirs at Arbor Hills Junior High, Sylvania, where she has taught since 2014. As she conducts, she indicates the notes of the scale in the song the children are singing (do, re, mi, etc.) This method of teaching pitch and sight singing is known as solfege. Here, her gesture indicates the solfege syllable do.

Singing This is Emily's fourth year with the Chorale. She also sings with the CB Singers, a jazz choir.

Family The daughter of John and Rinda Holshoe, Emily moved to Sylvania from Toledo when she was 12. She graduated from Northview High School. John sings and plays guitar and drums, and both parents are extremely supportive of Emily's musical activities. Emily's husband, also John, whom she met in the BGSU music education program, plays clarinet and teaches band in the Washington Local Schools.

Profession Emily is in her fourth year teaching choral singing and general music at Arbor Hills Junior High School, Sylvania. She brings a sincere passion to this work. "This is the beginning of the kids' choral experience. My goal is to get them to love it. I hope to give them something they can enjoy their whole lives," she says. For Emily, choral singing is more than just a pleasurable activity. "Choral singing gives kids a way to express emotion face to face. I think this is especially important in this age of social media. It's so different from posting a photo on Instagram. Choral singing gives kids an opportunity to experience openness and to have positive experiences with others in person."

masterworks chorale's "singer's choice" playlist 1
emily's christmas music
on spotify

What kind of Christmas music does our Rising Star, Emily, enjoy? You can find out by listening to her Christmas playlist on Spotify. To hear it, [click here](#). Or search Spotify for "MWC Toledo." If you don't have a Spotify account, you can easily sign up for a free one at [spotify.com](#).



P. O. Box 114
Toledo, Ohio 43697

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Toledo, Ohio
Permit No. 935

Masterworks Chorale is grateful for
generous support from:



Block Communications, Inc.



TAYLOR AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY
KIA NISSAN VOLVO
LOCALLY OWNED. LOCALLY COMMITTED.



AccessRN
Provider of PICC, Midline, IV Services



Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP



SJS Investment Services
"You come first. All the time. Every time."



EASTMAN & SMITH LTD.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Established 1888



Masterworks Chorale

northwest ohio's premier chamber choir

masterworks *Matters*

Go Ahead! Slit the Seal! Here's What's Inside!

A preview of our Christmas concerts, *Radiant Midnight* • The program listing for our Christmas concerts • Profiles of two of our singers: established singer Joe Myers and rising star Emily Georgeson • A link to the Chorale's first "Singer's Choice" playlist, Emily Georgeson's favorite Christmas music on Spotify • A message from Artistic Director Tim Cloeter on our Christmas program and its interplay of darkness and light

Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

Heralding the Tree Lighting at the Toledo Zoo

Friday, November 17 around 6 p.m.
The Toledo Zoo

Our Christmas Concerts

Radiant Midnight

Saturday, December 2 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m.

Epworth United Methodist Church
Valleyview at Central, Toledo

TV Broadcast of Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 21 at 10 p.m.
Christmas Day at 7:30 p.m.
WGTE-TV

Radio Broadcast of Christmas Concert

Christmas Day at 2 p.m. on WGTE-FM, 91.3

Our Classics Concert

From Darkness into Light

Saturday, March 24 at 8 p.m.
Hope Lutheran Church
Toledo

Cabaret Night Fundraiser

Time & place TBA

Our Collage Concert

Opposites Attract

Saturday, June 2 at 8 p.m.
The Valentine Theatre, Toledo

Chorale's Christmas Concert to be Broadcast on WGTE-TV

Radiant Midnight, the Chorale's thoughtful, joyful Christmas program of songs, readings, and audience carols, will be broadcast on WGTE-TV on Thursday, December 21 at 10 p.m. and repeated on Christmas Day at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets and Other Details

See our season brochure for details on a season subscription. Tickets for our December and March concerts: Closer up: \$25, Farther back: \$20, Students: \$12. All seating is reserved. The June 3 *Collage Concert* is \$5 more per ticket. Order by phone at (419) 242-2787 or just [click here](#). This link will take you to the Valentine Theatre ticket office, which is handling tickets for all our concerts, regardless of venue.

Disabilities



If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please advise the Chorale's business office at (419) 742-2775 at least two weeks before the concert. For TYY/TDD use Ohio Relay Service 1 (800) 750-0750.



Find us on Facebook

Masterworks Chorale of Toledo

www.masterworkstoledo.com