

# masterworks *Matters*

MASTERWORKS CHORALE • TOLEDO, OHIO • NOVEMBER 2018

*masterworks chorale's christmas concerts*

## *Roses* and many other wonders of nature

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu,  
For in this rose contained was  
heaven and earth in little space.

— Traditional English text set for choir by Guy Forbes

Sweet in the forest, soft in thy branches,  
Safe in the darkness, Mary serene  
Seeks a strong shelter to cradle her infant,  
Wood birds are singing Christ Evergreen.

— "Christ Evergreen," words by Philip E. Burnham,  
set for choir by Robert J. Powell

... a wonderland of snow ...

It's lovely weather for a  
sleigh ride together with you!

— "Sleigh Ride," words by Mitchell Parish, music  
by Leroy Anderson, arranged by Hawley Ades

## *and heav'n & nature sing*

Snow, starlight, the running of the deer, and roses. The Chorale's 47th season theme, *Wonders of Nature*, resonates throughout our Christmas program, entitled *And Heav'n & Nature Sing*. In one set of pieces, we'll contemplate roses and their mystical association with Mary. Another grouping evokes the world in winter, from the woods, "lovely, dark and deep" in Randall Thompson's setting of verse by Robert Frost, to the "wintery fairyland" of Leroy Anderson's joyous "Sleigh Ride." In yet another set, John Rutter's "Christmas Lullaby" will be complemented by Eric Whitacre's "Sleep." And there are trees: Robert J. Powell's "Christ Evergreen" and Stanford Scriven's "Jesus Christ the Appletree." Join us as we usher in the Christmas season joyfully and thoughtfully with this program of songs, readings, and audience carols. December 1 and 2, details on page 4.





*“from whitacre’s ‘sleep’ to anderson’s ‘sleigh ride,’ there is a wealth of wonderful music I want to share with you!”*

Tim Cloeter,  
Artistic Director

## *from the director six christmas concerts and i still haven’t run out of music I enjoy*

For most of my career I’ve created concerts in university settings in which the opportunity to present Christmas repertoire was rare. Sure, I could take my choirs caroling for fun, and I’ve produced wintertime “madrigal dinners” that included some holiday carols, and once I even produced a Christmas CD with a university choir as a fundraiser, but it never quite made sense to carry that repertoire onto the concert stage. So when I was appointed to lead the Masterworks Chorale in 2013, and the season included a “Christmas Concert,” I was like a kid in a candy store! So much beautiful and meaningful music from which to choose, and the opportunity to explore themes of new birth, and motherhood, and winter solstice, and joyful proclamation, and humble adoration.

Now I’m in the middle of preparing the sixth Christmas Concert I’ve planned with the Masterworks Chorale, and I still haven’t run out of engaging music that I personally enjoy. In fact, this may be one of my favorite programs because of the variety of styles and moods, and

because I’ve discovered some new settings of texts and tunes I have long cherished. For instance, in “Christ the Appletree” Stanford Scriven sets the text I have long appreciated to a beautiful new tune that he adroitly fashions to echo early American hymnody; Howard Helvey’s new setting of the well-known text and tune “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” makes use of exquisite counterpoint; and Stephen Paulus contributes a striking new version of “The Holly and the Ivy” with a tune that is practically the opposite in character of the carol most of us know, and an accompaniment consisting of piano and oboe. Which reminds me of yet another reason I so enjoy this program: the outstanding oboist, Nermis Miseses, will join us again this year!

The fact that I’m enjoying every rehearsal moves me to urge you to join us this December. From Whitacre’s “Sleep” to Rutter’s “Rejoice and Sing,” and from Courtney’s “Herself a Rose” to Anderson’s “Sleigh Ride,” there is a wealth of wonderful music I want to share with you!

## *nine new members bring energy and commitment to the chorale*

This year welcomes nine new members to Masterworks Chorale, bringing new energy and promise to choral music in our community.

New members include: Lindsay Andrews, soprano; Daniel Baumgartner, tenor; Patrick Bowman, bass; Dani DeMeo, soprano; John Gibson, bass; Kate Hennicken, alto; Jennifer Parker, alto; Christian Richeson, tenor; and Ellie Routt, alto.

The arrival of these talented singers is largely the result of encouragement by Masterworks veterans. The energy they have already brought to practice in preparation for the holiday performance has been exciting.

They were all attracted to Masterworks for similar reasons: challenge, connectedness, and fulfillment.

“I came to a number of Masterworks concerts and was blown away by the sound, and really wanted to be part of that commitment to music making,” says Ellie Routt.

“After college, I began my real-world journey as a teacher,” says Daniel Baumgartner. “But I felt a strong pull to sing in a community choral group,

and was lucky enough to find Masterworks.”  
Kate Hennicken, says, “I was looking for new

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musical challenges. Singing with a talented and supportive group of singers gives me a tremendous sense of fulfillment.”

Jennifer Parker, agrees and adds, “It’s live tracking – you can’t go into the editing studio and alter the sound. But there is a marvelous

sense of flow when you are fifty people singing as one.”

“Choral music offers a sense of togetherness that you don’t find in some other types of music,” says John Gibson. “You have to listen and be more mindful of what everyone around you is singing.”

In addition to finding singing in a choral group personally rewarding, these new members understand the importance of choral music in the community.

“Choral music is all about the community,” says Gibson. “First, there is the community of singers, and then there are the people who are lifted by the performance.”

The new members also appreciate the mission of the Masterworks Chorale: “Connecting lives through choral music.”

“People today do so many things via technology, and in many ways that can be very isolating,” says Routt. “With choral music you can really touch lives and bring the community together in so many ways; it is very meaningful.”

— Tim Langhorst

## *chorale bass: jim witter family man, naturalist, educator, humanitarian, musician*



*Bass Jim Witter*

Jim Witter is so enthusiastic telling me about his life that he makes little progress on his chocolate Danish. We've decided to meet at the coffee shop instead of at his home because "my home can be a bit" (he hesitates) "chaotic at times." Understandable. He and his wife, Britton, have two kids, Ethan, 5, and Natalie, 2.

So Jim is a family man and a singer in the Chorale. But he's also a humanitarian and a professional naturalist educator.

Reaching out to others is one of Jim's core values, surely passed on to him by his parents, both social workers. Born in Toledo, he went to public schools until the 9th grade and then entered St John's Jesuit High

School, which is known for its emphasis on service and social justice. He graduated 15 years ago.

Jim is all about reaching out. In his work as Program Coordinator of Wood County Parks, Jim is currently involved in training Certified Volunteer Naturalists. When he does presentations out in the community, he pitches them to people with a wide range of interests. At schools, for example, he integrates art. He wants people to experience nature in all ways, seeing, smelling, touching.

Jim is an active member of Sylvania United Church of Christ. He serves on the church's outreach board and is currently trying to connect with other organizations to help with the opioid epidemic. After our interview, Jim

was off to St. John's, where he was going to help make up food packs for needy people.

Jim was involved in vocal music all four years at St. John's. Then he went to the College of Wooster, where he sang in the school's vocal groups. In getting to know the other singers, he realized that they all had diverse interests, and this impressed him. A few were music majors, but some were history majors, or English majors, or even biology majors, like him. He began developing an interest in the connectedness between these interests, how they complement each other both in society and in the well-rounded individual.

### *a toledo native, jim is all about reaching out to others*

While at the College of Wooster he met Britton. She is also a Toledo native, but they did not know each

other here. In 2008, Jim followed Britton, by then his fiancée, back to Toledo where she had a job, and they were married soon thereafter. After a few years of working various jobs, Jim was hired as a naturalist for Wood County Parks in 2011. He was promoted to his current job in 2014.

How does a busy couple, both with full-time jobs outside the home, balance work, family, and self? "It's tiring, but we try to balance as best we can."

Balance is the key. "You need to take care of yourself if you're going to take care of your family," he says. In 2009, Jim joined the Chorale. Singing helps him maintain the balance. While singing, he feels in a "different head space, very focused — focused in a way that is lacking in today's society."

We of the Chorale are so glad that one way this cheerful, generous, well-rounded man takes care of himself is by singing with us. — Tom Sheehan

### *one singer's playlist inspired by our christmas concert's theme*

'Tis the season to enjoy music of all kinds. Pop and poetry, classic and contemporary choral music. All about the theme of the Chorale's Christmas Concerts: "And Heav'n and Nature Sing." Just

[click here](#)

to go to [tinyurl.com/PlaylistFall2018](http://tinyurl.com/PlaylistFall2018)

to hear the playlist, which was compiled by Chorale bass Tim Langhorst. Listen straight through or put the playlist on shuffle. Enjoy. Don't have a Spotify account? It's easy to sign-up, and there's a free version. Just go to [spotify.com/WW](http://spotify.com/WW)

You can hear the Chorale's previous three "Singer's Choice" playlists by changing Fall2018 to Fall2017, Winter2018, and

## *outreach to youth: two interns to sing christmas concert*



*Two interns have been rehearsing with the Chorale all fall and will sing in our Christmas Concerts. From the left, they are Mahaska Stiegler, soprano, 8th grader at Toledo School for the Arts and Morganne Hull, soprano, junior at TSA. [Click here](#) to read more about these talented young women. If you know a young singer who might be interested in a Chorale internship, please use the same link to learn more about the program, which is now in its 21st year.*



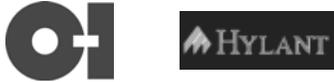
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# Masterworks Chorale

connecting lives through choral music



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

A preview our December 1 & 2 Christmas Concert *And Heav'n & Nature Sing* • A profile of one of our basses, Jim Witter • A report on the Chorale's nine (!) new members and what motivated them to audition • An introduction to our three talented interns • The latest Singer's Choice playlist on Spotify • An inspiring message from our Artistic Director, Tim Cloeter

## Mark Your Calendar and Join Us!

**Heralding the Tree Lighting at the Toledo Zoo**  
Friday, November 23 around 5:30 p.m.

**Our Christmas Concerts**  
**And Heav'n & Nature Sing**  
Saturday, December 1 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, December 2 at 4 p.m.  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
Valleyview at Central, Toledo

**Radio Broadcast of Christmas Concert**  
Christmas Day at 2 p.m. on WGTE-FM, 91.3

**Our Classics Concert**  
**Birdsong at the Lake**  
Saturday, March 23 at 8 p.m.  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Toledo

**Cabaret Night Fundraiser**  
Tuesday, April 30, 6 p.m.  
Carranor Hunt & Polo Club  
Perrysburg

**Our Collage Concert**  
**Flora & Fauna**  
Sunday, June 2 at 3 p.m.  
Franciscan Center at Lourdes University,  
Sylvania

## Chorale's 2017 Christmas Concert to be Rebroadcast on WGTE-TV

*Radiant Midnight*, the Chorale's 2017 thoughtful, joyful Christmas program of songs, readings, and audience carols, will be broadcast on WGTE-TV on Saturday, December 22 at 3:30 p.m.

## Tickets and Other Details

Ticket prices: Closer up: \$25, Farther back: \$20, Students: \$12. All seating is reserved. Order by phone at (419) 242-2787 or [click here](#) to go to the Valentine Theatre, whose ticket office is handling tickets for all our concerts, regardless of venue.

### Group Discount

We now offer a 20% discount for group sales (eight or more tickets to a concert). This offer is available only through the Chorale office at (419) 742-2775 or from Chorale members.

## 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.



Masterworks Chorale of Toledo

[www.masterworkstoledo.com](http://www.masterworkstoledo.com)