



Winner of Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award
Christine Gevert, Founding Artistic Director

Crescendo presents: Holiday Concert: Resonet In Laudibus – Resounding Joyful Praises

The award-winning music organization Crescendo will present a holiday concert with Renaissance and Baroque music for chorus and brass on December 10 in Stockbridge, MA and on December 11 in Lakeville, CT. The Crescendo Chorus and soloists will collaborate with The Berkshire Brass in this festive program. An outdoor light show by Joe Wheaton will add a special multi-sensory experience to the Stockbridge performance.

This program features some of the most festive music for the holiday season in settings by Italian and German Renaissance and Baroque composers. From delicately soft and soothing, angelical melodies to powerful and dramatic echo choirs, this program is all about music on which some of today's beloved Christmas carols are based. Some of the popular melodies that originated in medieval times, and are still popular today are: "In dulci jubilo" (Sweet rejoicing), "Resonet in laudibus" (Resounding joyful praises), and "Puer natus in Bethlehem" (A Child is born in Bethlehem). Some of the familiar chorales from the *Christmas Oratorio* by the great Johann Sebastian Bach, are an expression of joyful expectation, and the celebration of Christ's incarnation – a love story between God and humanity. The energetic and festive chorus "Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe" (Glory to God), also from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, is an exuberant celebration of the angelical message, delivered by virtuously intertwining vocal lines. In contrast to all of this stands a special piece by the Venetian late Renaissance composer Giovanni Gabrieli, his eight-voice motet "O magnum mysterium" (O great mystery). In a quiet way it expresses a sense of awe and reverence in the face of the great mystery of the Christ child's birth. All this is tied together by instrumental fanfares and interludes for brass and organ by composers such as Michael Praetorius, Jacob Handl, Andreas Hammerschmidt, Johann Hermann Schein, Giovanni Bassano, and others.

The December 10 performance in Stockbridge, MA will include an outdoor light show by the Berkshire-based artist Joe Wheaton. The light show is inspired by the live performance, and will feature imagery from the historic St. Paul's church, and a video feed of the performance. This multi-sensory experience with Wheaton's kaleidoscope-like joyous illuminations will be complemented by a pop-up hot beverage and food event outside the Red Lion Inn. The outdoor light show will be free to all, and has been underwritten by anonymous donors of the town of Stockbridge. In case of bad weather the light show will not take place. St. Paul's church is asking for donations to the Lee Food Pantry, PO Box 335, Lee, MA 01238-0335.

The performers are Crescendo Chorus, with solo soprano Jordan Rose Lee, The Berkshire Brass: Peter Bellino and Brian Kanner, trumpets, and David Wampler and William Carr, trombones, conducted by Crescendo's Founding Artistic Director Christine Gevert from the organ.

Performances are on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 6 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 29 Main St, Stockbridge, MA, and December 11, 2022 at 4pm at Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lakeville, CT. Tickets are \$40 general admission, \$75 premium (preferential seating), and \$10 for youth under 18 years. For more information, our Covid prevention policy, and tickets, please visit Crescendo's website: www.crescendomusic.org.

Founded by Artistic Director Christine Gevert and local supporters, Crescendo offers an ongoing program of music performance and education for the communities of Connecticut's Northwest Corner, the Berkshires and the Mid-Hudson Valley. With the participation of international performers and teachers as well as non-professionals, Crescendo's choral and instrumental concerts, its lectures and workshops reach audiences of all ages and levels of experience.

These performances are underwritten by Stephen Ketterer and Ignacio Ramirez of Sharon, CT. Support has also been provided to Crescendo from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church Stockbridge, Massachusetts

For immediate release.

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