



Christine Gevert, Founding Artistic Director - 20th Anniversary Season: 2023-2024



Festive Old and New Holiday Music with an earth-conscious message

Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 4:00 pm – St. Paul's Church, Stockbridge, MA

Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 4:00 pm – Trinity Church, Lakeville, CT*

**Please join our performers for a brief reception after the 12/17 concert!*

Support for the concerts has also been provided to Crescendo from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding/support 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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Program

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585) • *O nata lux lumine* (O Light of light, by love inclined)

William Byrd (1543-1623) • *Rorate caeli* (Drop down dew, ye heavens)

Salomone Rossi (c. 1550-1630) • *Rorate caeli* (Drop down dew, ye heavens)

Attr. John Reading (c. 1645–1692) • *To stand for all creation* (*Adeste Fideles*) from Sophia Green's Carols for the Earth. With a descant by Christine Gevert

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Godfrey Finger (1655-1730) • *Sonata in C Moderato / Adagio - Andante*

William Byrd • *From Virgin's Wombe / Rejoyce, Rejoyce!*

• *Laetentur coeli* (Let the Heavens Rejoice)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), arr. William H. Cummings (1831–1915) • *Come, behold the year before us* (Hark, the herald angels) from Sophia Green's Carols for the Earth. With a descant by Christine Gevert

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Avrom Goldfaden (1840-1908) / Arr. Elliot Z. Levine (b. 1948)

• *Drey Zikh, Dreydele* (Spin, Dreydel, spin)

Elliot Z. Levine

• *Mi Ze Hidlik* (Who here has tлит these slender candles)

• *Al HaNissim* (For the miracles)

• *Lo v'chayil* (Not by might)

✪

Oliver Barton (b. 1948) • *The Carol of the Wandering Boy*

Trad. Sicilian, arr. Christoph Lahme (b. 1968) • *Yuletide, bless us* (*O sanctissima*) from Sophia Green's Carols for the Earth. With a descant by Christine Gevert

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958) • *Earth Song*

Adolphe C. Adam (1803– 1856), arr. Marshall Green • *The Crossroads* (*O holy night*) from Sophia Green's Carols for the Earth. With a descant by Christine Gevert

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Godfrey Finger • *Sonata in C Allegro / Grave – Allegro*

Trad. Scottish, Arr. William Dunbar (1460-c.1520) • *Rorate coeli desuper* With a descant by Christine Gevert
Tim Porter (b. 1948)

• *Sleep in Peace*

• *Hark, how all the Welkin rings*

Anon. English Carol, arr. Oliver Barton, John Stainer • *The first Nowell* from "A Wassail to keep out the cold"
With a descant by Christine Gevert

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The Performers

Soloists

Nadia Aguilar	Soprano
Margie O'Brien	Mezzo-soprano
Laura Evans	Alto
Randy Orzano	Counter tenor
Igor Ferreira	Tenor
Peter Perkins	Tenor
John-Arthur Miller	Bass

Instrumentalists

Christopher Belluscio	Trumpet
Tricia Van Oers	Recorder
Douglas Schmolze	Guitar
Christine Gevert	Organ

Crescendo Chorus (Section Leaders*, Vocal Ensemble[±])

Soprano

Nadia Aguilar*, Louise Brown, Donna Castaner*, Elizabeth Chamberlin, Kathy Drake[±], Emily Elliot, Terre Lefferts, Margie O'Brien*, Roberta Roll[±], Elaine Russell[±], Barbara Wolkowitz, Joy Wyatt[±]

Alto

Elisabeth Enoch, Laura Evans*, Lisa Keller, Susan Mullins, Susan Pettee[±], Mary Priestman, Mary Sullivan[±]

Tenor

Michael Chamberlin[±], Gordon Gustafson, Igor Ferreira*, Matthew Kreta*, Randy Orzano[±], Peter Perkins*, Douglas Schmolze*

Bass

Jim Barrett*, Brian Farrell[±], John-Arthur Miller*, Andy Kettler[±], Tom Schindler[±], Bruce Weinstein[±], Michael Wise[±]

Roberta Roll, Body Work

Directed by Christine Gevert



Some of Crescendo's Singers at Saint James Place, October 2023

About the Music • Texts & Translations

Ranging from the Renaissance to modern compositions, and spanning both Christian and Jewish traditions, the music on this program wants to inspire our quest for earth-stewardship, perhaps our best hope for shelter as the cold comes upon us. Our earth holds our faith and peace in its air and water, its hills and valleys. That's why it's our best comfort as the days darken.

Motets from the Tudor era by **Thomas Tallis** and **William Byrd** were chosen to begin this program, because of their texts about "light", and the expectation of a savior for humanity, and the idea of righteousness coming down to us from the heavens. The simplicity and clarity of the harmony, and the complexity and density of the polyphony both underline and intensify these ideas. Salomone Rossi

The traditional Christmas carols have been reimagined by Californian musician, lyricist, and writer Sophia Green. Her words call for earth-consciousness, harmonizing familiar melodies with our connections both to one another and to nature. You are invited to sing along with some of these carols. **Sophia Green** is the publishing name for Sofia Pellegrini; Californian, arts administrator, and amateur participant in the worlds of theater and folk and classical music, most lately through California Revels. She is passionate about using organic arts and common cultural occasions (such as Christmas) to return an emotionally and spiritually engaged imagining of Nature back to the collective human imagination. We must be able to see in order to care. She has authored a collection of "**Carols for the Earth**" and is currently in the process of publishing it as a book by the same title, with illustrator Kate Woodle of New York. The carols, like our environment, are in the public domain.

A set of choral arrangements of Jewish holiday music brings alive familiar words and folk tunes celebrating the light of Hanukkah, all expertly crafted by **Elliot Z. Levine**. Levine, a founding member of The Western Wind, is a master's graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and studied composition with Robert Starer. He has been a featured soloist with the Rome Opera and Musica Sacra and is a cantorial soloist. In addition to Transcontinental Music Publications, he is published by Harold Flammer, E. Henry David, Willis, Plymouth Music, Colla Voce, and Shadow Press.

The meditative "Earth Song" by the award-winning contemporary Californian composer **Frank Ticheli** offers ethereal harmonies and encouraging lyrics for our birthplace: this earth. Ticheli is an American composer of orchestral, choral, chamber, and concert band works. He lives in Los Angeles, California, where he is a Professor Emeritus of Composition at the University of Southern California. He was the Pacific Symphony's composer-in-residence from 1991 to 1998, composing numerous works for that orchestra. A number of his works have become standards in concert band repertoire.

The Contemporary English and Scottish Carol settings by **Oliver Barton** and **Tim Porter** are reminiscent of beloved old tunes, yet also incorporate modern harmonies, following in the footsteps of Morten Lauridsen, Arvo Pärt, and Philipp Glass.

To complete our holiday celebration, we present a chamber sonata by Moravian-English virtuoso **Godfrey Finger**.



Elliot Z. Levine

Frank Ticheli

Oliver Barton

Thomas Tallis – O nata lux

This piece appeared in 'Cantiones sacrae' published by Tallis and William Byrd together in 1575. It has become one of the most popular renaissance pieces in our times. The text is an excerpt from the hymn at Lauds on the Feast of the Transfiguration.

Latin text

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.

English translation

O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.

William Byrd - Rorate caeli desuper

Nadia Aguilar, soprano, Laura Evans, alto, Igor Ferreira, tenor, and Crescendo Vocal Ensemble singers

Latin text

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum:
aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.

Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam:
avertisti captivitatem Jacob.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in
principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

English translation

Drop down ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness:
Let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.
Lord, thou hast blessed thy land:
Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As
it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Salomone Rossi - Rorate caeli desuper

Rossi was an Italian Jewish violinist and composer, a court musician of the Gonzaga rulers of Mantua. A bold innovator, he was a transitional figure between the late Italian Renaissance period and early Baroque.

Latin text

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant justum:
aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.

English translation

Drop down ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness:



William Byrd

Salomone Rossi

Thomas Tallis

To stand for all Creation

The musical setting is the melody of the traditional Latin hymn "Adeste Fideles".

*Sing along: please join us for the **first and third verses (bolded)**, in either version of the lyrics!*

New Lyrics: Carols for the Earth by Sophia Green

1, O come, all ye faithful, fearful yet courageous!
O come, we as one brave-hearted our fate must face!
Come we together, resolute through peril,
to stand for all Creation... Earth's hope to hold!

2. Grow, trees and bushes, flowers, grasses, rushes!
Grow from rich soil to keep Earth breathing anew!
Your fruits do feed us, your deep roots so need us
to stand for all Creation... Earth's hope to hold!

3. Blow, breath of Heaven, wind of transformation!
Blow away all currents stifling Life's precious air!
Breathe through our body, Breath of Life and Spirit
to stand for all Creation... Earth's hope to hold!

Traditional Lyrics (audience choice for sing-along)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him... Christ, the Lord!

2. God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created;
O come, let us adore Him... Christ, the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him... Christ, the Lord!



Godfrey Finger - Sonata in C Moderato / Adagio – Andante

Finger, was a Moravian Baroque composer. He was also a virtuoso on the viol, and many of his compositions were for the instrument. He also wrote operas. Finger was born in Olomouc, modern-day Czech Republic, and worked for the court of James II of England before becoming a freelance composer. The fact that Finger owned a copy of the musical score of the work *Chelys* by the Flemish composer Carolus Hacquart suggests that the two composers may have worked together in England.

After a contest in London to set William Congreve's *The Judgement of Paris* as an opera, in which Finger came in fourth place, he left England and moved to Germany. He died in Mannheim. (*From: Wikipedia*)

William Byrd - From Virgin's wombe / Rejoyce, rejoyce!

1589 in Songs of Sundry Natures (No. 29, chorus as No. 18)

Laura Evans, alto, and high voices of Crescendo Vocal Ensemble

From Virgin's wombe this day did spring
The precious seed that saved man,
This day let man rejoyce and sweetly sing
Since on this day salvacion first began,
This day dyd Christ man's soule from death remove
With glorious saints to dwell in heaven above.
Rejoyce, rejoyce, with hart and voice,
In Christ his birth this day rejoyce.

This day to man came pledge of perfect peace,
This day to man came love and unities,
This day man's grieffe began for to surcease,
This day dyd man receive a remedie
For each offence and every deadly sinne
With guilty hart that earst he wandred in.
Rejoyce, rejoyce, with hart and voice,
In Christ his birth this day rejoyce.

William Byrd - Laetentur coeli

Nadia Aguilar, soprano, Laura Evans, alto, Randy Orzano, counter tenor, Crescendo Chorus

Latin text

Laetentur coeli et exultet terra,
jubilate montes laudem,
quia Dominus noster veniet
et pauperum suorum miserebitur.
Orietur in diebus tuis justitia
et abundantia pacis,
et pauperum suorum miserebitur.

English translation

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad,
sing forth praise, O mountains,
for our Lord will come
and will take pity on his poors.
There shall arise in your days righteousness
and an abundance of peace,
and he shall take pity on his poors.

Come, behold the year before us from *Carols for the Earth*

The melody for this song was composed by Felix Mendelssohn as *Vaterland, in deinen Gauen* to lyrics by Adolf Eduard Pröhl, as part of the larger opus, *Festgesäng zum Gutenbergfest, WoO 9*. English speakers recognize it as *Hark! the herald angels sing*.

(Note by Sophia Green)

*Sing along: please join us for the **first and third verses** (bolded), in either version of the lyrics!*

New Lyrics: 'Carols for the Earth' by Sophia Green

**1. Come, behold the year before us,
gathered here with neighbors good!
Sing we all in common chorus,
filled with love and gratitude!
Thankful for the Earth we rise,
for her soil, her seas, her skies,
creatures all with whom we dwell;
for All that Is, we love God well!
Hail the new year joyful sing!
God's love for all Creation bring!**

2. Long the work we have before us,
short our time to meet Earth's need!
Faith and Courage shall restore us,
strengthen us in aim and deed!
For all life on Earth we fight,
sacrifice for what is right,
wasteful living, sloth and greed;
take but enough, and all else cede!
Hail the new year joyful sing!
God's love for all Creation bring!

**3. Life and joy yet lie before us,
as do loss and grief and pain!
Light of Life shines in dark forest
when our hearts dare love again!
Open hearts and minds to see
one with Nature all are we,
human, beast, or flow'ring tree,
air, water, earth of God all be!
Hail the new year joyful sing!
God's love for all Creation bring!**

Traditional Lyrics

**1. Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king!"**

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king!"

**3. Hail the heaven-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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king!"**



Avrom Goldfaden / Arr. Elliot Z. Levine - Drey Zikh, Dreydele

Avrom Goldfaden, is consired to be the founder of the Yiddish musical theater. A musically illiterate tunesmith, Goldfaden brought the music of the Eastern European ghetto to the stages of Europe and America. The children's song, Drey Zikh Dreydele, is actually a tune from Goldfaden's operetta, *Bar Kochba*, with new words by Chane Mlotek/William Zukof.

Nadia Aguilar, soprano, Margie O'Brien, mezzo-soprano, Laura Evans, alto, Igor Ferreira and Peter Perkins, tenors, John Arthur Miller, bass, Crescendo Chorus, Tricia van Oers, recorder, Doug Schmolze, guitar

Yiddish

Drey zikh un drey zikh un drey zikh shoyrn, dreydele,
Frey zikh, du yingele, frey zikh, du meydele,
Tants in a ringele, tants in a redele.
Es is shoyrn Chanukah do, shoyrn do.

Eyns, tsvey, dray, eyns tsvey dray, tants in a redele.
Eyns, tsvey, dray, eyns tsvey dray, yingele, meydele.
Eyns, tsvey, dray, eyns tsvey dray, zikh shoyrn, dreydele.
Es is shoyrn Chanukah do, shoyrn do!

English

Spin yourself, spin yourself, spin like a little dreydl,
Be happy little boy, Be happy little girl,
Dance in a little circle, dance in a little circle.
It is Hannukah time now.

One, two, three; One, two, three Dance in a little circle?
One, two, three; One, two, three Little boy, little girl
One, two, three; One, two, three Spin like a dreydl
It is Hannukah time now.

English text

Whirling and turning upon the table
Happy boy, happy girl, spin your dreydl
Dance in a circle now fast as you're able
Let's have some Hannukah fun, bom bom.
One, two, three; One, two, three Dance in a circle
One, two, three; One, two, three Little boy, little girl
One, two, three; One, two, three Spin like a dreydl
Let's have some Hannukah fun, bom, bom!

Elliot Z. Levine (arr.) - Mi Ze Hidlik

Nadia Aguilar, soprano, Margaret O'Brien, mezzo soprano, Laura Evans, alto

Hebrew text

Mi zeh hidlik neirot dakim kakochavim barom?
Yod'im gam tinokot rakim ki Chanuka hayom.

Kol neir aliz, kol neir chaviv doleik, romeiz, notzeitz
Hatinokot omdim saviv V'lasimchah ein keitz!

English translation

Who has lit these slender candles twinkling like stars in the night?
Come, children, let us gaze upon them, this is the Festival of Light.

Every candle burns, each candle glints, each happy candle sings.
Come, children, let us feel the unending joy this happy holiday.

Elliot Z. Levine (arr.) - Al HaNissim (For the miracles)

Hebrew text

Al hanissim, v'al hapurkan, v'al hag'vurot
v'al hat'tshuot v'al hamilchamot s
h'asita lavoteinu bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.
Bimei Matityahu ben Yochanan
Kohen Gadol hashmonai uvanav
K'sheamdah malchut Yavan al am'cha Yisrael
L'hashkicham toratecha
Ul'ha'aviram meichukei retzonecha
V'atah b'rachamecha harabim
Amad'talahem b'et tzaratam.

English translation

(We thank you) For the miracles, and for the deliverance,
and for the mighty acts, and for the acts of salvation that You
performed for our ancestors in those days, at this time of year;
In the days of Mattathias the son of Yochanan,
the High Priest, the Hasmonean and his sons,
when the Greek Empire sought to force Your people Israel
to abandon Your Torah
and to deviate from Your chosen laws and practices,
You in Your great mercy stood with them
in their hour of distress ...

Translated by Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

Elliot Z. Levine - Lo v'chayil (Not by might)

Hebrew text

Lo v'chayil v'lo v'choach
ki im b'ruchi amar Adonai tz'vaot.

English translation

Not by might, nor by power,
but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Oliver Barton - The Carol of the wandering boy

Oliver Barton was born in 1948 in Cheltenham, England, and taught maths and music for about 12 years, after which he changed course to becoming a technical author in the computer industry. He's sung in lots of choirs and suchlike all his life and had only occasionally written the odd piece until some 30 years ago when he took over conducting The Henbury Singers, a 35-strong non-audition choir in Bristol, England. Then he realised that writing his own pieces avoided copyright, performing rights issues and the cost of buying music, which, since the choir couldn't very well refuse to sing what he'd written, proved an irresistible inspiration for composition! He now lives in Abergavenny in Wales, and thanks to impaired hearing, does very little music, but writes fiction.

Knocking on my door in cold December comes a little boy,
He is very small and looks so hungry. How can I enjoy
All the things that life's bestowed upon me while that child's alone?
I must take him to my heart and give that little boy a home.

[Lyrics by Cath Carmichael]

Yuletide, bless us from *Carols for the Earth*

This carol is sung to the melody of the anonymously composed Latin hymn *O Sanctissima (Traditional)*, which is popularly known in German speaking countries as *O du fröhliche (Christoph Lahme)* with lyrics by Johannes Daniel Falk. (Note by Sophia Green)

*Sing along: please join us • HIGH VOICES for the first verse, • LOW VOICES for the second verse,
• ALL for the third verse in either version of the lyrics!*

New Lyrics: 'Carols for the Earth' by Sophia Green

(HIGH): **1. Dark night turn to morning, night to day transforming. Yuletide, bless us with light and joy!
Darkness take the wintry world, 'til the Sun his light unfurl.
Courage find you, Peace pursue, o Humankind!**

(LOW): **2. Dark night turn to morning, night to day transforming. Yuletide, bless us with light and joy!
Human sin our Earth reveals, Grace for her to us appeals.
Courage find you, Peace pursue, o Humankind!**

(ALL): **3. Dark night turn to morning, night to day transforming. Yuletide, bless us with light and joy!
Love's consideration for all of Earth's Creation!
Courage find you, Peace pursue, o Humankind!**

Traditional text

(HIGH): **1. Oh, how joyfully; oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its grace divine.
Grace again is beaming; Christ the world redeeming.
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!**

(LOW): **2. Oh, how joyfully; oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its grace divine.
Peace on earth is reigning, Christ our peace regaining,
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!**

(ALL): **3. Oh, how joyfully; oh, how merrily
Christmas comes with its life divine.
Angels high in glory chant the Christmas story.
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!**

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958) - Earth Song

Sing, Be, Live, See. This dark stormy hour, the wind, it stirs.

The scorched earth cries out in vain: Oh war and power, you blind and blur. The torn heart cries out in pain.
But music and singing have been my refuge. And music and singing shall be my light.

A light of song, shining strong: Alleluia! Through darkness, pain, and strife, I'll Sing, Be, Live, See... Peace.

[Text by Frank Ticheli]

The Crossroads from *Carols for the Earth*

The melody of this carol is shared with that of "Cantique de Noël" by the Frenchman Adolphe-Charles Adam with lyrics from the poem "Minuit, chrétiens" by Placide Cappeau. In 1855, it was translated to English as "O Holy Night" by the American Unitarian minister, John Sullivan Dwight. This setting is inspired by the composer's original harmonies.

New Lyrics: 'Carols for the Earth' by Sophia Green

Swift falls the light, below the far horizon,
and so the sun leaves the world and the year.
Long looms the night, with fear and worry rising
'til we appear bound by love to take part!
The spark of hope our hearts do keep and carry
for all of life on Earth we love so dearly!
Kneel, touch the ground! Look 'round, we're at the Crossroads!
The choice we must make, for the righteous road to take!
All Earth's life awaits, all Earth's life awaits!

Traditional text

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Godfrey Finger - Sonata in C *Allegro / Grave – Allegro*

Trad. Scottish Carol, arr. William Dunbar - Rorate coeli desuper!

Rorate coeli desuper!
Heavens, distil your balmy showers;
For now is risen the bright Daystar,
From the rose Mary, flower of flowers:
The clear Sun, whom no cloud devours,
Surmounting Phoebus in the east,
Is comen of His heav'nly towers,
Et nobis puer natus est.

Sing, heaven imperial, most of height,
Regions of air make harmony,
All fish in flood and fowl of flight,
Be mirthful and make melody;
All Gloria in excelsis cry,
Heaven, earth, sea, man, bird and beast;
He that is crowned above the sky
Pro nobis puer natus est.

Tim Porter - Sleep in Peace

Most of Tim Porter's works are operas or music dramas, which were first performed by the Celtic Opera Group and the Green Branch Opera Group between 1967 and 1986, usually touring round the West Country in England. He also wrote a number of choral pieces, including several carols. The two carols presented today were written early, during his time as a student at Dartington College, England. Since 1986, he has lectured on music and medieval history and buildings to groups in England.

Sleep from the isles of summer sun attend you.
Sleep of the grey and crooning wind defend you:
White seagulls round your bed,
Crying above your head,
Till all your fears are fled,
What are they saying?
Run like the wave,
Flow like the air.
Sleep in peace. Sleep in peace.

Peace from the heart of Mary Virgin find you.
Peace from the touch of mantled Brigit bind you:
Peace of the quiet earth
Guarded the Christchild's birth
You on the restless firth
Soon will be sleeping.
Run like the wave,
Flow like the air.
Sleep in peace. Sleep in peace. [words: Hebridean]

Tim Porter - Hark, how all the Welkin rings

Ding dong, ding dong.
Hark, how all the welkin rings,
"Glory to the King of kings;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
universal nature say,
"Christ the Lord is born today!"

Come, Desire of nations, come,
fix in us thy humble home;
rise, the woman's conquering Seed,
bruise in us the serpent's head.

Now display thy saving power,
ruined nature now restore;
now in mystic union join
thine to ours, and ours to thine.
Ding dong, ding dong: Hark all the welkin ringing!

Oliver Barton / John Stainer – The first Nowell

Sing along: HIGH AND LOW VOICES, please join us for the first and third verses, and LOW VOICES for the fourth verse. (bolded)

**1. The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where 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.**

2. They look'd in the sky and saw a bright star
shining there in the east beyond them so far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

**3. This star drew nigh to the north-west:
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**4. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
who hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

[English traditional]

About the Performers



Nadia Aguilar is a **soprano** born in Torreon, Mexico. Ms. Aguilar started her voice studies at the School of Music and Dance in Monterrey, Mexico. She has a bachelor's degree in music from The Hartt School and a master's degree from the University of Connecticut. Her operatic roles include *Elle* in Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine*, *Euridice* in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Mrs. Fiorentino* in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*, *The Queen of the Night* in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, *Rosina* in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Gretel* in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Musetta* in Puccini's *La Boheme*. Nadia has a broad oratorio repertoire, including Handel's *Messiah*, Faure's *Requiem*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Magnificat*.

Nadia is a current DMA student at the University of Connecticut, where she holds a Teaching Assistantship. She is currently an adjunct professor at University of Hartford's Hartt School, where she teaches English, Italian, and French IPA & diction, voice, and acting technique. She also oversees the Opera Studio at the University of Connecticut. Ms. Aguilar is dedicated to spreading the joy of Latin American music with her group *Romance Tropical*, where she is one of the lead singers. She is committed to creating opportunities for aspiring young singers, which motivated her to join the board of directors of the non-profit organization *Opera Connecticut*, where she holds the title of Associate Artistic Director.



Alto **Laura Evans** has sung in mixed ensembles throughout the tri-state region as section leader and soloist. The groups include CONCORA, Composers Choir, Crescendo, Hartford Chorale and New Haven Oratorio Choir. A cantor for area churches, she is currently at Valley Presbyterian Church in Brookfield, CT. She is a founding member of the ensemble *earlybird*, whose favorite concert venue is a former railroad tunnel in Washington, Connecticut.



Margaret O'Brien, mezzo soprano, has a BA in Music and French from Hamilton College, and a MA in Music Therapy from New York University. She teaches private voice and piano lessons at the Kent School, in Kent, CT. She studied voice with Nancy Wertsch and Cheryl Bensman Rowe. She has performed as soloist with the Sherman Chamber Ensemble and the Kent Singers. While living in New York City, she was a member of the professional choir at St. Bartholomew's Church and at St. Michael's Church. She is a frequent soloist at St. Andrew's Church in Kent, CT and has performed in recital for the St. Andrew's Music in the Nave series.



Brazilian-born tenor and pianist **Igor Ferreira** received his master's degree in Piano Performance from the University of Hartford, under tutelage of Prof. David Westfall and Prof. Frederic Chiu. As a pianist, he performed in many international venues and festivals. He has been featured in the TV ALMG live recorded show *Segunda Musical*. As a lyrical tenor, Mr. Ferreira was recently a soloist with the Manchester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, and with the Hartt Symphony Orchestra and Hartt Choirs directed by David Trecekking. Additionally, he has performed in the Hartt Chamber Chorale as the tenor section leader. For seven years, he was a tenured member of the Coral Lírico de Minas Gerais (CLMG), which is the top-tiered professional statal opera choir of Minas Gerais. He performed in many operatic super-productions including *Carmen*, *Lucia de Lammermoor*, *Porgy and Bess*, *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Der Fligender Höllander*, *Norma*, *Pagliacci*, *L'Elisir d'amore* and more. He performed with this choir at the inaugural concert of the Sala Minas Gerais, that houses the Orquestra Filarmônica de Minas Gerais. He was part of the A Canção das Iluminuras, an early-music ensemble, and also of the Octeto da Fundação de Educação Artística, a male voice octect. Mr. Ferreira served as faculty at The Hartt School (University of Hartford), and currently teaches at the Suzuki Music Schools (Westport). He continues his studies with Benjamin Rauch.



Recorder player **Tricia van Oers** graduated with high honors in 1998 from the Conservatory of her native city Rotterdam with a Teacher's and Performer's Degree. She did graduate work at Indiana University's Early Music Institute, where she received a Performer Diploma with high achievement in Early Music Performance. She then worked making and testing recorders at the world-renowned Von Huene Workshop in Boston.

Her activities include performances with *Concert Royal* (NYC), *Early Music New York* (Fred Renz dir.), *Trinity Baroque Orchestra*, *Cantata Singers* (Boston), the *Crescendo* Period Instrument Orchestra, the *Choral Arts Society* of Philadelphia. She has performed as a guest soloist with the *Bethlehem Bach Festival Orchestra*, *Tempesta di Mare*, *Musica Sacra*, the *Chamber Music Society of Central VA*, *Amor Artis*. As a founding member of the Rotterdam-based recorder ensemble *Scarabee* she recorded at the Great Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles, France. Ms. van Oers is a professional gardener and teaches recorder privately.



Early brass instrument specialist **Chris Belluscio's** insatiable passion for original instruments has led to performances on Baroque trumpet, keyed trumpet, keyed bugle, English slide trumpet, demilune, early orchestral valve trumpets and an ever-expanding array of wild and wonderful things. He has worked with a wide variety of ensembles including Teatro Nuovo, The Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Baroque, The Boston Camerata, The Arcadia Players, Emmanuel Music, The Coates Brass Band and the Newbury Cornet Band. He has given demos, lectures and masterclasses on modern and historical brass performance throughout the country including the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, The Metropolitan Museum in New York, The Sigal Music Museum and numerous colleges and institutions. Christopher holds degrees from Boston University, The Hartt School, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



Tenor and guitarist, **Douglas Schmolze**, studied guitar and composition at the Berklee School of Music, classical guitar with Alexander Bellow and voice with Virginia Berry, Michael Diesen-Barrow, Diane Ingraham Barnes and Frank Kelley.

Douglas Schmolze has sung with the Pro Art Choral, Lorien Ensemble, Berkshire Bach Singers, Berkshire Choral Festival, Berkshire Opera, Crescendo, and Cantilena Chamber Choir. He is the tenor section leader at the First Congregational Church in Stockbridge, Massachusetts and with the Crescendo Chorus of Lime Rock, Connecticut. He sings regularly in churches as a choir member and as a soloist. His repertoire includes art songs as diverse as those from the Brazilian Portuguese to German Lieder. Those of Schubert are his favorites.

Douglas Schmolze is also a Certified Music Practitioner, trained in the Music for Healing and Transition Program. MHTP provides live music at the bedside for patients in hospital and Hospice. His repertoire of music for elders includes guitar music from Spain and Latin America as well as classics from the American songbook: Harold Arlen, Cole Porter, Rogers and Hammerstein, etc.



Christine Gevert, conductor, holds a master's degree in organ and early music performance from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater, Hamburg, Germany. After earning a bachelor's degree in music theory from the Conservatorio Nacional de Chile, she studied choral and orchestral conducting in Berlin and harpsichord in London. She has taught at the Berliner Kirchen-musikschule, the Universidad de Chile, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile.

Ms. Gevert has performed in Europe, South America, and the U.S., appearing at the Washington Early Music Festival, the Berkshire Choral Festival, the Fringe concerts of the Boston Early Music Festival, and the Amherst Early Music Festival, the Early Music Festival in Narol, Poland, the Auditorium Wanda Landowska in Paris, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She also performed at the International Festival of American Renaissance & Baroque Music at the Chiquitan Missions in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

She has recorded for Carpe Diem and Alerce. She has led master classes and workshops in early music, harpsichord, and baroque vocal technique at music festivals in Germany, Chile and the U.S., and has taught historic keyboards at the Berlin Church Music School in Germany, and locally at Bard College at Simon's Rock. She has authored and published more than eighty historical basso continuo realizations with the Swiss music publisher, Amadeus Verlag. The founder and artistic director of Crescendo and her own baroque ensemble Les Inégales, Christine is currently music director at Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock, CT.

Crescendo and its programming

Crescendo is a national-award-winning music performance organization. Now in its 20th season, Crescendo has presented concerts year-round in northwestern Connecticut, the Berkshires, and the mid-Hudson Valley of New York. The organization is based at Trinity Church Lime Rock in Lakeville, CT.

Founder and Artistic Director, Christine Gevert, is celebrated for her innovative approach to programming and performance. Crescendo's audiences are often rewarded with programs of rarely-heard and newly discovered works. Often Ms. Gevert uses original manuscripts to make her own performing editions for chorus, soloists and orchestra because there are no existing published editions. Frequently our programs feature early and contemporary music works alongside each other, creating a contrast for the listener. Eight new works have been commissioned for our chorus and vocal ensemble. Crescendo has presented ten U.S. premieres.

Crescendo's innovative programming relies on a local base of dedicated and talented auditioned amateurs and professionals who make up the Crescendo Chorus and Crescendo Vocal Ensemble. Crescendo has its own Period Instrument Orchestra and Andean Ensemble, comprised of professionals from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington DC and Hartford. These instrumentalists and the internationally recognized soloists who regularly collaborate with Crescendo bring the performances to a level comparable to the best ensembles in the country. Instrumental music ensembles and concerts with vocal soloists have been part of Crescendo's programs since the beginning. Some of the performers have been: Julianne Baird (Philadelphia) soprano, Nicholas Tamagna (Oldenburg, Germany) countertenor, Peter Sykes (Boston) and Władysław Kłosiewicz (Warsaw, Poland), harpsichord, Chris Bellsucio (Boston), natural trumpet, Tricia van Oers, recorder, *I Fagiolini* Renaissance Vocal Ensemble (London, UK), L'Orchestre de Chambre Francaise (Paris, France), Peter Lexx (Montreal) baroque violin, Duo Alturas (Hartford) charango, viola and guitar, and Duo Les Inégales, traverso and harpsichord.

We are strongly committed to educational outreach—to our own singers, our audiences and local students. Talented local high school singers and young musicians are coached by Ms. Gevert as part of our "Young Artist Program", and often play a part in our performances. She and members of the chorus visit local schools to work with students.

Artistic Director Christine Gevert is celebrated for her innovative approach to programming and performance: In 2014 Crescendo won the prestigious Chorus America / ASCAP Alice Parker Award. Today's programming reflects some of the diversity and scope of music that Crescendo is known for.



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Our innovative programming and historically-informed performance practices distinguish us from many music organizations, and we are dedicated to educational outreach—to amateur and professional singers, audiences and students.

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