

# York County Choral Society

WITH THE

Elementary Honors Choir  
of Rock Hill Schools

PRESENTS

*Hodie*

BY Z. RANDALL STROOPE

&

*Carols* OF THE *Season*

BY MENDELSSOHN, RUTTER, FORREST,  
AND MACMILLAN

Sunday, December 3, 2023

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## GREETINGS FROM OUR YCCS PRESIDENT

Good afternoon, Friends and Patrons of York County Choral Society (YCCS),

We are honored that you have joined us this glorious Sunday afternoon to share in a wonderful musical experience – *Hodie* and Carols of the Season! On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for sharing this holiday season together. Our creative program includes solo pipe organ selections, the pure sounds of a cappella singing, the distinctly beautiful sound of children’s voices, glorious congregational carol singing, and thrilling full choir selections with orchestral accompaniment.

Today’s performance is historically significant, as we warmly welcome Co-Artistic Directors Elizabeth Mixon and Randy Imler in their inaugural concert, serving as only the third directorship in 41 seasons. Founded in 1981-82 by Drs. David Lowry and Shirley Fishburne, YCCS continues our distinguished history as one of the most successful and long-standing performance groups in our area.

Thank you all for your attendance, volunteerism, support, and financial gifts as we provide opportunities to enhance the quality of life for dedicated volunteer singers and our greater community through performances of beautiful and challenging music of the masters. We invite each concert attendee to a holiday reception immediately following the concert in Westminster Hall.

To learn more about this uniquely successful organization, please visit our website for future performance information, patron levels, auditions for singers and more.

[yorkcountychoralsociety.org](http://yorkcountychoralsociety.org)

With warmest regards and great appreciation to our musicians, supporters, and volunteers,

Kimberly Lee  
President, York County Choral Society

# YORK COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

David A. White, *Honorary Chairman*

Elizabeth Mixon & Randy Imler, *Co-Artistic Directors/Conductors*

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## Prior Artistic Direction

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## A Letter from the Directors

Patrons, Supporters, Members, and Friends of York County Choral Society:

Welcome! We are excited you are here to enjoy the artistry of these fine instrumental and choral musicians. Today's concert is a musical journey through the joy and miracle of Christmas, and our desire is that you will greet the season with us by singing heartily during our joint carols, "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Joy to the World," and "Festival First Nowell." Additionally, we welcome our young friends from the Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools. As you will hear, this is a talented group of students, and we are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to sing with them.

Over its 40+ year history, the York County Choral Society (YCCS) has become an artistic and musical anchor of our community. We are privileged and honored to serve as the new Co-Artistic Directors and are learning quickly that the bonds of friendship and music-making extend well beyond the rehearsal and concert hall. Even while perfecting the smallest of musical details, YCCS members—new and old—enjoy the time spent together in rehearsals and performances. This is one motivated group of people!

This year, we have asked members of the Society to "first and foremost, be servants of the music." We hope that this dedication and commitment to music-making at a very high level is evident throughout the concert. We are thankful to work with such a talented and committed group, and we encourage those who might be interested in singing with YCCS to contact either of us ([yorkcountychoralsociety.org](http://yorkcountychoralsociety.org)) before spring auditions on January 2, 2024.

The YCCS Board of Directors has been extremely supportive of our work, and we appreciate the Board's leadership under President Kim Lee. We are already looking forward to the spring semester, which will be dedicated entirely to American choral music.

Thank you again for your patronage, sponsorship, and support, and we hope you enjoy *Hodie* and the Carols of the Season. From our families to yours, we hope and pray for joy and peace throughout this wonderful season, and we wish you all a very merry Christmas!

Elizabeth Mixon and Randy Imler



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# York County Choral Society Program

## Prelude

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685 – 1750)

“Carillon de Westminster” from *24 pieces de fantasia*, Opus 54, No. 6

Louis Vierne  
(1870 – 1937)

Dr. Shirley Fishburne, *organ*

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## Part I

“Weinachten” from *Sechs Sprüche*, Opus 79, No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809 – 1847)

*Froblocket, ihr Völker auf Erden, und preiset Gott!  
Der Heiland is erschienen, den der Herr verheißen.  
Er hat seine Gerechtigkeit der Welt offenbaret. Halleluja!*

Rejoice, ye people of the earth, and praise God!  
The redeemer is come, whom the Lord has promised.  
He has revealed his justice to the world. Hallelujah!

## Personent Hodie

Piæ Cantiones, 1582  
Setting by Lara Hoggard  
(1915 – 2007)

*Personent hodie voces puerulae, laudantes iucunde qui nobis est natus,  
summo Deo datus, et de vir, vir, vir et de virgineo ventre procreatus.  
In mundo nascitur, pannis involvitur praesepi ponitur stabulo brutorum,  
rector supernorum. Perdidit, dit, dit, perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.  
Magi tres venerunt, munera offerunt, parvulum inquirunt, stellulam sequendo,  
ipsum adorando, aurum, thus, thus, thus, aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.  
Omnes clericuli, periter pueri, cantent ut angeli: advenisti mundo, laudes tibi fundo.  
Ideo, o, o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Let resound today the voices of children, joyfully praising Him who is born to us,  
given by most high God and conceived in a virginal womb.  
He was born into the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger  
in a stable for animals, the master of the heavens. The prince of Hell has lost his  
spoils.  
Three Magi came, they were bearing gifts, and sought the little one, following a star,  
to worship him, and offer him gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
Let all the junior clerics and also the boys sing like angels: “You have come to the  
world, I pour out praises to you. Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”



## Welcome and Acknowledgements

Ms. Kimberly Lee  
President, York County Choral Society

### “There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth” from *Christus*, Opus 97

Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a scepter from Israel rise up,  
and dash in pieces princes and nations.

\*How brightly beams the morning star! With sudden radiance from a far with light  
and comfort glowing! Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'er flowing!

\* “*Wie Schön Leuchtet*,” P. Nicolai (1556-1608)

### Tomorrow shall be my dancing day, Opus 75, No. 2

John Gardner  
(1917 – 2011)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance  
to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance;  
thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor this was my chance,  
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.*

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance:  
*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love; This have I done for my true love.*  
*For my true love.*



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**O Radiant Dawn**, from *The Strathclyde Motets*

James MacMillan  
(b. 1959)

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:  
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:  
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.

**Rejoice and be merry**

John Rutter  
(b. 1945)

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, 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,  
his praises we'll sing.

And when they were come, they their treasures 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!

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## Part II

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

GLORIA, French Carol  
arr. William Atwood  
(b. 1979)

*AUDIENCE and CHOIR, standing:*

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Glo-ria—in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria—in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song.  
Glo-ria—in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria—in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Glo-ria—in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria—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.  
Glo-ria—in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria—in excelsis Deo.

### **Hand Me Down My Silver Trumpet**

*Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools*

Joy Webb  
(1932 – 2023)

Well I've never been to heaven but I've been told,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Gabriel;  
The gates are made of pearl, and the streets are made of gold,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Lord.

Oh hand me down, oh hand me down,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Gabriel.  
Send it down, hand it down, any old way just get it down!  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Lord.

If religion were a thing that money could buy,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Gabriel;  
The rich would live and the poor would die,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Lord.

Oh hand me down, oh hand me down,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Gabriel.  
Send it down, hand it down, any old way just get it down!  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Lord.

Well now if you want a silver trumpet like mine,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Gabriel;  
You'd better learn to play it in plenty of time,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Lord.

Oh hand me down, oh hand me down,  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Gabriel.  
Send it down, hand it down, any old way just get it down!  
Hand me down my silver trumpet, Lord.

### **In the Dark of December**

*Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools*

Lon Beery  
(b. 1958)

\*I heard a bird sing in the dark of December.  
A magical thing and sweet to remember.

“We are nearer to Spring than we were in December,”  
I heard a bird sing in the dark of December.

*\*"I Heard a Bird Sing," O. Herford (1860-1935)*

## Joy to the World

ANTIOCH/G. F. Handel  
arr. David Cherwien  
(b. 1957)

### *AUDIENCE and CHOIR, standing:*

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 earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

### *CHOIR ALONE:*

No more let sins 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.  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

### *AUDIENCE AND CHOIR:*

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!

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## Part III

### **Hodie (This Day), second edition**

Z. Randall Stroope  
(b. 1953)

I.  
Ring out! Ring out you crystal spheres!  
Ring out! Bless at once our human ears!  
And with your ninefold harmony, Hodie!

Tinniant argent'ae, *Let the silver (bells) ring,*  
Concinant numerose, *Let them play together in time,*  
Sun, moon, planets all, Ring out!  
Ring out you crystal spheres! Ring out!  
Bless at once our human ears!  
With your ninefold harmony, Hodie! This day! Hodie!

II.  
Hodie Christus natus est: *This day, Christ is born:*  
Hodie Salvator apparuit, *This day a Saviour has appeared,*  
Hodie in terra canunt angeli, *This day on earth the angels sing,*  
Laetantur archangeli. *The archangels rejoice.*

III.  
Alleluia! Hodie exultant justi dicentes: *Alleluia! Today the righteous rejoice saying:*  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! *Glory to God in the highest!*  
\*“Wake, awake for night is flying,”  
All the watchers on the heights are crying;  
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”  
Alleluia! Gloria!

\*Alleluia! Therefore will we, eternally,  
Sing hymns of joyous praise to Thee!  
Alleluia!

Hodie! Exultant *justi dicentes Gloria! Today the righteous rejoice saying Gloria!*  
Gloria! Hodie! Gloria! Amen!  
Gloria! Alleluia! Amen!

*“Wachet auf,” P. Nicolai*

## **Festival First Nowell**

THE FIRST NOWELL  
arr. Dan Forrest  
(b. 1978)

### ***AUDIENCE AND CHOIR, standing:***

The first Nowell the angels 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.

### ***CHOIR ALONE:***

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them 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.

### ***AUDIENCE AND CHOIR:***

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord  
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and with His blood mankind hath  
bought:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

## **Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King**

SPIRITUAL  
arr. Moses Hogan  
(1957 – 2003)

What will we call that pretty little baby? Baby born in Bethlehem.  
What will we call that pretty little baby? Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Where was He born, this pretty little baby? Down in a lowly manger.  
Where His birth was in a stable. Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Born this night, the Son of Mary. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace.  
Glory to the newborn King. Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.

Children, go and tell it on the mountain, Lord, over the hills and ev'rywhere.  
Why don't you go tell it on the mountain, Lord, that Jesus Christ is born.

See the newborn baby. Go and tell it on the mountain, Lord, over the hills and  
ev'rywhere.  
Why don't you go tell it on the mountain, Lord, that Jesus Christ is born.

Glory, glory, glory, to the newborn King.  
All praise to the newborn King, we're singin' all praise to the newborn King.  
Over hill and mountain, we're singin' over hill and mountain.  
Hail, the new King. We're singin' hail the new King.  
We're singin' glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.

Soloist: Tyler Lewis, *tenor*

# Program Notes

## Prelude

**“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”** (Awake, the voice is calling us) is a Lutheran hymn written in 1598 by Philipp Nicolai. This hymn tune has been utilized by many different composers as source material for organ partitas, fantasias, chorale preludes, cantatas, and even symphonic overtures. The tune also will be heard later in the concert when the Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools joins the Choral Society in the third movement of *Hodie* by Z. Randall Stroope. Johann Sebastian Bach’s chorale prelude, BWV 645, is a transcription of the fourth movement of his cantata of the same name, BWV 140. This chorale prelude is one of the six *Schübler Chorales* (BWV 645-650), published in 1747.

**“Carillon de Westminster”** is from *24 pieces de fantasia*, Opus 54, No. 6., by French composer and organist, Louis Vierne. This piece was composed in 1927 based upon an improvisation on the bells of Westminster Palace. The bells of B, E, F#, and G# ring in various patterns on the quarter hour, and these variations are heard in increasing intensity throughout this exciting and virtuosic work.

## Part I

**“Weinachten”** (Christmas), from Felix Mendelssohn’s *Sechs Sprüche*, is the first in a set of six anthems which were composed for liturgical use. Each piece is relatively short, and “Weinachten” shines with eight intertwined a cappella voice parts. The harmonies throughout this piece are quintessential Mendelssohn, and the cascading “Hallelujahs” reflect the permeating and endless joy of Christmas.

**Personent Hodie** is an adaptation of a sacred song of the same name as published in *Piae Cantiones* by compiler Jacobus Finno in 1582. In this twenty-first century arrangement by Lara Hoggard, the Christmas story proceeds from the Savior’s birth in the manger, to the offering of gifts to the Christ-child by three Magi, and finally to songs of praise from the heavenly host and people on earth alike, finishing with a resounding “Glory to God in the highest.”

**“There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth”** is a movement from Mendelssohn’s unfinished oratorio, *Christus*, Opus 97. The work was published posthumously and first performed in 1852. The first part of this well-loved staple of choral literature is based on Old Testament text from Numbers 24:17, “a star shall come out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel,” and Psalm 2:9, “You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces.” The concluding portion of the movement consists of a sixteenth-century chorale by Philipp Nicolai, “Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern,” or “How brightly shines the Morning Star.”

**Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day** utilizes the text of an English carol which

has been set by many composers, including Holst, Stravinsky, Rutter, and Willcocks. Gardner's arrangement includes the first four verses of the carol and focuses on Jesus' life from birth through baptism. The text speaks in the voice of Jesus, who repeatedly calls followers to "his dance" as his "true love." This piece is strophic in form, and the multi-meter verses are set to a playful and rhythmic accompaniment reflecting the ebullient and sometimes humorous text.

**O Radiant Dawn** was written in 2007 by Scottish composer James MacMillan. This piece is a setting of a sixth-century communion antiphon for December 21. The antiphon is, in turn, a combination of text from Luke 1:78-79, which is Zechariah's prophesy about Jesus after the birth of John the Baptist – "the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death" – and Isaiah 9:2 – "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." It is interesting to note that the antiphon, which is sung on the shortest day of the year, prepares for the "Splendour of Eternal Light." This lush and evocative a cappella setting concludes with a contemplative and repeated "Amen."

**Rejoice and be merry**, also known as "Gallery Carol," is a 2004 composition by English composer John Rutter. The piece includes brass, percussion, and organ and utilizes the rhythmic device of hemiola, or three beats into two, on the text "his praises, his praises we'll sing." The rollicking melody embodies the good cheer of the season, and the piece finishes with a resounding "Rejoice!"

## Part II

**Angels We Have Heard on High** is derived from an eighteenth-century French carol, "Les anges dans nos compagnes." In 1862 the melody was adapted by English Bishop James Chadwick, and today the tune is commonly known as GLORIA. This setting, by William Atwood, features an introduction with dialogue between upper and lower brass, which is then joined by the organ and voices of the choir and audience.

**Hand Me Down My Silver Trumpet** is a delightful piece and an excellent tool for teaching two-part harmony to young singers due to the call and response nature of the refrain. Call and response is a compositional technique that utilizes two phrases in a conversational back-and-forth style. This playful tune was written by Joy Webb, an officer in the Salvation Army, and, in addition to the next selection, is performed for us today by the Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools.

**In the Dark of December** is based on Oliver Herford's "I Heard a Bird Sing," a brief poem with text reminding us that in the dark, wintry days of December, we are approaching spring. This is a text of hope. Utilizing Herford's poem, composer and vocal music educator Lon Beery wrote a lovely, flowing tune for two-part treble voices, piano, and flute utilizing the Dorian mode, a scale very similar to minor but with a raised sixth.

**Joy to the World** is one of the most popular and enduring of Christmas carols. The text was written by Isaac Watts, and the tune was adapted by Lowell Mason from a melody by George Frideric Handel. This arrangement, by American composer, conductor, and organist David Cherwein, modulates to the dominant on the third verse and returns to the tonic key with descanting voices on the final verse. The audience is encouraged to join the singing on verses 1, 2, and 4.

### Part III

**Hodie (This Day)** expresses the rejoicing of the angels on the day of Christ's birth through approximately 15 minutes of dynamic music featuring organ, brass, percussion, and choir. Composer Z. Randall Stroope wrote this second edition of the work in three untitled movements. Whereas the first and third movements are full of soaring resonances and energetic, rhythmic vitality, the second movement is gentler and more contemplative, creating a peaceful contrast to what precedes and follows it. Using English and Latin, Stroope made the composition's text macaronic – written in two languages. To further combine historical and contemporary, he incorporated texts based on poetry and liturgy. The text of the first movement is built on a short fragment of a 1629 poem, "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity," written by English poet John Milton. In the second and third movements, Stroope used text from the liturgy of the vesper service for Christmas day. Finally, what Stroope called the "diamond in the crown" of the work is the familiar "Wake, awake for Night is Flying" text of Philipp Nicolai's "Wachet auf," found in the third movement and heard earlier in the organ prelude to this concert. The York County Choral Society is thrilled to have the Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools join us for the last movement of this vibrant, joyful work.

**Festival First Nowell** is composer Dan Forrest's setting of the familiar seventeenth-century English carol "The First Nowell" and was commissioned by Westminster Choir College for the 2013 Readings and Carols service in Princeton Chapel. Though neither the author of the carol's text nor the source of the tune is definitive, the carol first appeared with nine stanzas in the second edition of Davis Gilbert's *Ancient Christmas Carols* in 1823. In 1833, it appeared with an altered text in William Sandys' *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern*, and in 1871, John Stainer published the modern arrangement of the carol with which audiences are familiar. The text of this beautiful carol is based on the Gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus found in Matthew 2 and Luke 2. The Choral Society invites the audience to join the singing of verses 1 and 3 of this stunning arrangement.

**Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King** is an a cappella composition that conveys the wonder of Jesus' birth in a humble manger followed by the joyful proclamation of this good news. Composer and arranger Moses Hogan based this piece on the spiritual "Go Tell It on the Mountain" but added his own text and music both to set the scene at the beginning of the piece and to incorporate his trademark style of rhythmic and melodic layering toward the end. York County Choral Society tenor Tyler Lewis is our soloist for this energetic, jubilant spiritual.



# York County Choral Society Personnel

*\*denotes founding member*

**Soprano:** Cathy Baker, Ann Barrett, Katie Britton, Meghan Nicole Caldwell, Monica Hale Danneman, Susan Stone Floyd, Mary Ann Helton\*, Cassie Hinson, Jeanie James, Harriet Jaworowski, Jill J. Marshall, Lauren Mobley, Allison Odom, Marlie Southern, Gwendolyn Trott, Victoria Watson, Wendy Wingard-Gay

**Alto:** Marilyn Anthony, Samantha Bradner, Jennifer Buck, Kathryn Byar, Linda Caines, Amy Cassidy, Erin Clegg, Kendall Farnum, Magan Forte, Kimberly Lee, Laura Jean McBurney, Constance McQuinn, Nancy Meyer, Jeanne A. Musgrove, Sangwon Sohn, Erica Wearing

**Tenor:** John Arant\*, Bradley Brown, David Caines, Jeff Culp\*, Chris Fischesser\*, George Klaeren, Tyler Lewis, James D. Welsh MD, Ed West

**Bass/Baritone:** Paul E. Broome, Page Connelly\*, Albert Grathwol, Nemiah Flippin, Will Kiblinger, Linwood Little, Ben Mixon, Drew Robinson, Dr. Donald Rogers\*, Clay Summers, Harry Tune, Carrot Williams

## Instrumentalists for YCCS

**Organ:** Shirley Fishburne

**Piano:** Zinori Broñola

**Trumpets:** Michael Casey, Olivia Clifton, Courtney Wyatt, Marissa Youngs

**Trombones/Tuba:** Jason Holden, Sarita Maxwell, Aaron Milner, Will Shillington

**Percussion:** Rebecca Guzewicz, Cory High

|   |  |
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# Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools

## Personnel

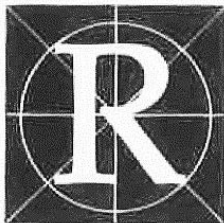
Julia McCallum, director  
Susan Stewart, assistant director  
Inga Carey, choir secretary  
Kenton Simon, pianist  
Ella Mack, flute

## Children

Liam Bernard  
Vivian Blakeney  
Ava Burgess  
Talyn Caldwell  
Joselyn Carmona  
Maleah Cole  
Jonah Curtis  
Calisi Davidson  
Naomi Dixon  
Giana Durham  
Sophia Elias  
Charlotte Fernandez  
Beckett Flora  
Adeline Garson  
Audrey Graham  
Benjamin Hayes  
Alexa Hernandez  
Elizabeth Hingle  
Lily Hopkins

Lily Huddleston  
Joselys Hurtado  
Lillian Jackson  
Sydney Jackson  
Lily Jenkinson  
Cadence Kingsbury  
Kendall Kirkland  
Bayleigh Knight  
Haddijatou Konateh  
Bryson Kruysman  
Ivy Kutz  
Raelynn LaFontsee  
Jasper LaMonica  
Journey Loveless  
Silas McAllister  
Myles McCoy  
Harmony Moore  
Peyton Morris  
Aubrey Nicholson

Laryn Odle  
Addie Odum  
Hayden Pruett  
Wrynn Reeves  
Pearl Rhoad  
Kendall Sema  
Alexa Shepard  
Karter Simon  
Maggie Smith  
Cameron Stamley  
Lola Steele  
Na'Riah Stockard  
Autumn Stevens  
Jasmine-Ruth Sudie  
Adams  
Keragan Thomas  
Sophia Uribe  
Eden Williamson  
Zoe West



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## Musical Staff & Featured Performers

### Elizabeth Mixon, Co-Artistic Director/Conductor

Mrs. Elizabeth Mixon was appointed Co-Artistic Director and Conductor of the York County Choral Society in August 2023. She served as an educator in the South Carolina public school system for 31 years with 18 of those years in choral music education and 13 years in leadership and test administration.



Following one year of elementary teaching and eight at the middle school level, Elizabeth joined the faculty of Northwestern High School where she served as the Visual and Performing Arts Department chairman from 2002-2007. Under her direction from 1999-2008, the Northwestern High School Troubadours of Rock Hill ranked first in six of the South Carolina Music Educators Association (SCMEA) AAAA yearly festivals and, by audition, regularly placed numerous students into the South Carolina All State Choirs. In addition to their popular Winter and Spring multi-evening concerts and yearly performance trips, Troubadours served as a demonstration choir for the 2004 American Choral Directors Association Convention (Nashville, TN) and a 2007 guest choir for the SCMEA convention (Charleston, SC). In the 2003-2004 school year, Elizabeth guided the process to Northwestern High School being named a 2004 National Grammy Signature School of Excellence in the Arts.

A South Carolina lowcountry native and resident of Rock Hill, SC, since 1988, Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from Furman University (Greenville, SC), a Master of Music Degree in Choral Conducting from the Eastman School of Music (Rochester, NY), and a Master of Arts in Teaching in Music Education degree from Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC). She studied voice with Ms. Gail Schoonmaker, Dr. Trudy Fuller, and Dr. Carol Allred and conducting with Dr. Bigham Vick, Jr., and Mr. Donald Neuen, both of whom she credits as being instru-

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mental in building her technique and leadership skills as well as her understanding of ensemble growth and development. Elizabeth has served as clinician for the South Carolina Music Educators Association SSA clinic, the Rock Hill School District Middle School Honors Choir, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of SC and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' Festival by the Sea. Staying true to her roots, she is an active church musician at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Associate Reformed. She and her husband, Ben, have two adult daughters, both of whom live in Rock Hill.

### **Randy Imler, Co-Artistic Director/Conductor**

An active musician for more than 35 years, Dr. Randy Imler has served as Director of Music at Ebenezer Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) Church in Rock Hill, Steele Creek Presbyterian (PC-USA) Church in Charlotte, and St. Stephen's Lutheran (ELCA) Church in Lexington, SC. Randy was an adjunct professor of music at Winthrop University from 2007-2014, conducting the Collegiate Choir and Jazz Voices. He was elected to the Winthrop Board of Trustees in 2014 and works as Executive Director of the Catawba Regional Council of Governments, a regional planning and economic development organization.



Randy holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music degrees from Winthrop University, where he studied with Jerry Helton, Donald Rogers, and Robert Edgerton. He earned Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees (conducting) from the University of South Carolina, where he studied with Larry Wyatt and David O'Shields. While at USC, he won first place in the 2007 USC Graduate School Competition, Performing Arts Category, with a performance of choral arrangements derived from William Walker's *Southern Harmony*.

Randy has prepared choirs for major works including the combined USC choirs for performance of Mozart's *Davidde Penitente* (K. 469) with the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra. While at Winthrop he prepared and conducted the Collegiate Choir and University Orchestra in Faure's *Requiem in d minor* (Op. 48). Under his direction, the Winthrop Jazz Voices were a featured ensemble at multiple SC Allstate Choral Festivals. Church choirs under his leadership have been included in the Presbyterian Church-USA National General Assembly and the Billy Graham crusades. Randy also has served as a clinician of York County honors choirs and as an adjudicator of choirs at the Carowinds Festival of Music.

Randy and his wife, Tracy, live in Tega Cay, SC. They have three adult children and enjoy spending time with family, on Lake Wylie, and at the beach.

## **Zinorl Broñoia, Accompanist**

Mr. Broñoia is currently an instructor/accompanist of various courses in Winthrop's Dept. of Theatre and Dance, an accompanist for the Winthrop Chorale, and serves as the Director of Music at Epworth United Methodist Church and Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Rock Hill, SC and the Lifenotes Band Director at St Philip Neri Catholic Church in Fort Mill, SC for their contemporary mass. He earned an MM in piano performance (Winthrop University) and a BA in piano performance from the Bulgarian State Academy of Music. He is a native of Manila, Philippines, and throughout his young adult years has won prestigious awards and distinctions both nationally and internationally as a solo pianist. His achievements include winning first prize at the 1981 National Music Competitions for Young Artists and the 1990 International Piano Competition for Young Pianists held in Marsala, Sicily, Italy. Mr. Broñoia also is the recipient of the 1990 Young Achievers' Award in Music which was awarded to him by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts in Manila, and he was featured as a guest artist on Philippine radio/television on many occasions. He was discovered by then-First Lady of the Philippines, Imelda Marcos, was invited frequently to perform at the presidential palace, and in 1982 he was invited to be part of her delegation (as a solo artist) to Russia, Morocco, and the United States. His other performances abroad include concerts in Bulgaria, Poland, and Italy, where he was featured both by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Embassy in Rome. After completing his master's degree in 2005 at Winthrop, he has continually played an active part in the life of the university and the surrounding communities through performance in solo/collaborative music, accompanying statewide festivals (both in choral music and dance and for Charlotte Ballet) and has directed/accompanied several musical theater productions at Winthrop University and for the Rock Hill Community Theater.




### Dr. Shirley Fishburne

With the help of many talented and faithful singers, Shirley Fishburne and David Lowry founded the York County Choral Society over forty years ago. Shirley is excited about the new leadership of the group and is honored to be the organist for today's program. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in organ performance from Winthrop University and also holds an Ed.D. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Fishburne taught music at Winthrop for 17 years, in addition to teaching at other area colleges and schools, and she also has served several churches in Rock Hill as organist and choirmaster. She and her husband, Coty, have been devoted supporters of YCCS. After his death, Shirley moved to the Philadelphia area to be near one of their daughters and her family. Philadelphia is where she lives, but Rock Hill will always be home.

### Tyler Lewis

Tyler Lewis, tenor, holds a bachelor's degree in music and master's degrees in business administration and music (choral conducting) from Winthrop University. While at Winthrop, Lewis was a member of the Winthrop Chorale and the Winthrop Chamber Singers, and he participated in the university's opera productions. Lewis also conducts and plays organ, and he has served as an organist at Ebenezer ARP Church in Rock Hill since 2017. He also is employed as a Commercial Lending Officer and Brownfields Program Manager at the Catawba Regional Council of Governments. Active in the community and as a soloist, Tyler recently presented a solo recital for the Rock Hill Music Club, and he serves on the Board of the York County Choral Society.



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## The Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools

The Elementary Honors Choir of Rock Hill Schools has been in existence for almost thirty years. The choir is composed of fifty-six fourth- and fifth-grade students auditioned from every elementary school in the district. Students rehearse once a week and in a typical year will present at least one concert each semester. The goal of the choir is to develop each students' musicianship skills, to provide enrichment opportunities outside of their regular weekly music class instruction, and to encourage students to pursue further musical study after elementary school.

## Special Thanks from YCCS

The York County Choral Society extends appreciation to Suzanne Ringer, Director of Music at Oakland Baptist Church, and Oakland's staff, who generously host our rehearsals each week. In addition, we thank Kristen Wunderlich, Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Westminster's staff for their willingness to host our concert today. A sincere thank you also to volunteers who are assisting today with concert operations and the holiday reception, including high school members of Voices of Carolina Choir and members of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



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