



The Greenville Concert Band Presents

# Songs of Angels



Concerts Sponsored by Musical Innovations

December 16, 2023, at 2:00 pm  
White Oak Baptist Church  
Gymnasium  
41 White Oak Road  
Greenville, SC

December 17, 2023, at 2:00 pm  
Cannon Centre  
204 Cannon Street  
Greer, SC

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



This project is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Join us for these upcoming events:

**Tuesday, December 19:** "Melodies Under the Mistletoe", an evening filled with heartwarming joyful melodies and sounds of the season. This fundraising concert for Hartworks Theatrics promises an intimate and cozy setting led by Upstate theatre veteran Neel Patrick Edwards and featuring some of the best singers in the Upstate! An evening of carols you won't want to miss!

Get your tickets here : <https://hartworkstheatrics.ludus.com/index.php>

**January/February:** The Classic play "A Raisin in the Sun" comes to the Simpsonville Arts Center opening January 26th and running through February 4th. Tickets are available at [www.clarknesbittsncd.com](http://www.clarknesbittsncd.com)

**February 9:** Chautauqua Historical Society presents "Pablo Picasso" 2-3:30 p.m. FREE admission.

# Classically Casual

## Orchestra Concerts

### Upcoming Events

Chamber Orchestra Concert  
Saturday Feb. 3 @ 7pm

Masterworks III  
Saturday Mar. 23 @ 7pm

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## Coming in 2024

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### **Winter concert: “Love Is...”**

- Feb. 16: Simpsonville Arts Center, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 17: Hughes Main Library, 2:00 pm

### **Spring concert: “Let the Games Begin!”**

- April 6: Hughes Main Library, 2:00 pm
- April 7: Carolina High School Auditorium, 2:30 pm

### **May concert: “The Lord of the Rings and other Tales”**

- May 17: Rodeheaver Auditorium, Bob Jones University, 7:00pm
    - Johan de Meij-Symphony No. 1: The Lord of the Rings
    - Morton Gould: Jericho Rhapsody
    - John Philip Sousa: Prince Charming
- 

The Greenville Concert Band was organized in 1972 as the Greenville Civic Band and has performed continuously since then in venues throughout Greenville and the surrounding area. We proudly present fine concert music ranging from the classics to arrangements of pop music to premiers of original works by local composers, all free of admission charge to our enthusiastic audiences.

**Check [GreenvilleConcertBand.org](http://GreenvilleConcertBand.org) for the latest schedule and concert information.**

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## SONGS OF ANGELS

Dr. Dan Turner  
Music Director and Principal Conductor

WHITE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH GYM  
41 WHITE OAK ROAD, GREENVILLE, SC  
DECEMBER 16, 2023, 2:00 PM

THE CANNON CENTRE  
204 CANNON STREET, GREER, SC  
DECEMBER 17, 2023, 2:00 PM

### ***Christmas is Here!*** .....Chris Bernotas (b. 1969)

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men.” Luke 2:13-14 KJV*

Opening our concert of Angel songs is a medley of traditional carols expressing the joy, peace, and good will of Christmas in fresh and festive ways. Included here are *Joy to the World; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; We Three Kings*; and the *Ukrainian Bell Carol*.

### ***“The Nativity” from Mosaici Bizantini***.....Franco Cesarini (b. 1961)

*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship Him.” Matthew 2:1-2*



Three Byzantine mosaics, found in churches in Palermo and Venice, Italy, inspired Swiss composer Franco Cesarini to compose a large, symphonic work on three scenes in the life of Christ: the nativity, the temple in Jerusalem, and the resurrection. These movements, though essentially classical in form but using motives of Gregorian chant, border on the rhythmic and tonal qualities of the impressionistic and are reminiscent of the music of Respighi. The subdued opening of “The Nativity” creates a mood of wonderment, as if the kings who had come bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, were for the first time casting their gaze on the Christ child. As their wonder intensifies into rejoicing, the music stirs into dramatic unison praise and adoration before returning to the subdued, gentle opening.

***Celtic Carol*** ..... Robert W. Smith (1958-2023)

The traditional melody, with roots extending back to Tudor England [1485-1603], is one the best known and most often performed carols of the season. The lyrics for this tune were written by English poet and hymn writer William Chatterton Dix in 1865. The text opens with the question “What Child Is This?” This setting draws the listener into a traditional Irish celebration that begins with a mysterious solo statement based on the first lines of the carol and ends in an exciting flurry, like that of a rustic Irish fiddler.

***The Many Moods of Christmas, Suite 2*** ..... Robert Russell Bennett & Russell Shaw  
Arr. R. Mark Rogers

In the mid-1940’s, just after WWII, dynamic young choral conductor Robert Shaw, in collaboration with renowned choral arranger Alice Parker, selected and arranged two dozen carols from various cultures for unaccompanied chorus. The Robert Shaw Chorale was subsequently formed to record them for RCA Victor, and they became an instant success. Encouraged by the success, Shaw and Parker arranged and recorded another two dozen carols, again to great popularity. Their successes, plus a recording by noted contralto Marion Anderson, convinced RCA to commission distinguished composer Robert Russell Bennett to select and arrange eighteen of the thirty-six Shaw/Parker carols for large orchestra, chorus, organ, harp, and lute. The result: four marvelous suites titled *The Many Moods of Christmas*, with Robert Shaw conducting his chorale and the RCA Victor Orchestra. The wind band has long envied the orchestral world because these suites were unavailable until 2019, when this suite was transcribed by Mark Rogers. Included in the band set are the carols *Joy to the World*, *Pastoral Symphony* from Handel’s *MESSIAH*, *Away in a Manger*, *The March of the Three Kings*, and *Fum, Fum, Fum!*

Note by Albert Petrak

***Let the Bells Ring***..... Robert Buckley (b. 1946)

Four notes...that is all it is...four simple pitches. Yet the tune that is created by those four notes is memorable, nearly unending, and is now ubiquitous at Christmas. The melody has its roots in the shadowed, ancient times of the Baltic tribes. Before the Ukrainian tribe converted to Christianity in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century, the chant was part of the winter songs sung to celebrate the change in season. Gradually it became associated with Christmas and with Ukrainian culture. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Composer Mykola Leontovych arranged the chant into a four-voice choral work that was taken on world tour in 1916 and became wildly popular. Following the Russian occupation of Ukraine in 1920, performance of the four-note tune was outlawed and Leontovych was murdered by a Russian agent. The words now used were penned in 1936 by American composer Peter Wilhousky.

***God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*** ..... Traditional  
Arr. Roger Cichy (b. 1956)

The composer of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” is unknown. There is record of its being sung within the Christian Church since the early 15th century. The hymn was first put into print for the general public when William B. Sandy included a version of it in his publication *Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern* (1833). It was subsequently added to various hymnals and carol books. In 1843 Charles Dickens included the song in his popular novel *A Christmas Carol*. Everybody's favorite villain, Ebenezer Scrooge, showed a depth of his sad self in this paragraph from Dickens classic: “At the first sound of ‘God bless you merry, gentlemen, May nothing you dismay!’ Scrooge seized the ruler with such energy of action that the singer fled in terror, leaving the keyhole to the fog and even more congenial frost.” This carol is also known as “Tidings of Comfort and Joy,” the phrase that ends each stanza of the lyrics. It is an affirmation of the joy of His birth and the power to release us all “from Satan’s power” that He offers.

**“Trepak” from *The Nutcracker Suite* ..... Peter I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)**  
Arr. Robert Longfield

*The Nutcracker* ballet is the most often performed ballet in the world—a community of any size will have multiple performances by professional, amateur, or children’s ballet troupes. (Greenville alone has fourteen performances listed!) It has been mounted worldwide each Christmas since its premiere in 1892, and it contains some of Tchaikovsky’s most recognizable and popular melodies. This short dance, the trepak, was conceived as one of the “character dances” in the ballet, and Tchaikovsky gave it the tempo marking of *molto vivace – prestissimo*, which means ‘very lively—as fast as possible,’ a tempo that perhaps describes some of the panic and rushing about that the Christmas season brings to us.

***Toboggan*.....JaRod Hall (b. 1991)**

Snow is rare and usually not too deep in most of the South, so Southerners may have only story-book knowledge of the terrifying thrill one gets from riding the long, narrow sled down the steepest, longest hill in the neighborhood. Snowfall generates excitement and the children congregate at the favorite hill. Each toboggan run starts expectantly, slowly, perhaps even peacefully before gaining speed as the riders careen gleefully down the slope. Composer, band director, and tubist JaRod Hall gives us a musical afternoon of chills, spills, thrills, and laughter.

***Midnight Sleighride*, from *Lieutenant Kije Suite* ..... Serge Prokofiev (1891-1953)**  
Arr. Tom Wallace

In 1953, Eddie Sauter and Bill Finegan, two highly creative and unique jazz band leaders and arrangers, wrote a holiday work for their big band based on Russian composer Serge Prokofiev's familiar “Troika” from *Lieutenant Kije*. Sauter and Finegan were known for their humor and for experimentation with sounds, including such playful additions as those created by kazoos, ratchets, glockenspiels, chimes, and an array of bells. Sauter occasionally joined in performing on a toy trumpet, and Finegan joked that his most effective solo with the band consisted of chest-thumping sounds, to model horses’ hooves, which he provided for the band's rendition of *Midnight Sleighride*. Tom Wallace’s setting of the Sauter-Finegan chart retains all the wit and charm of the original and features delightful high woodwind and low brass effects. This is pure holiday fun!

Thank you Musical Innovations for sponsoring this concert!



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*Merry  
Christmas*

From  
The Greenville Concert Band

## Performers of The Greenville Concert Band

### **Piccolo:**

Carri Burgess

### **Flute:**

Amanda Sherman  
Raechel Frederickson  
Terry Davidson  
KerriAnn Freeland  
Holly Wallace  
Grante Shurtleff  
Guthrie Gullion  
Jen Weaver  
Renee Blackwelder  
Betty McIntosh  
Bonnie Forrest

### **Oboe:**

Linda VonderHaar

### **Bassoon:**

Larry Kramer  
Nancy Criss  
Tracey Miller

### **E♭ Clarinet:**

Vasia Tolbert

### **B♭ Clarinet:**

Robert Chest  
Bill Lee  
Josh Recinos  
Vasia Tolbert  
Nancy William  
Kathrin Albinski  
Carol Buccellato  
Patti Brown  
Michelle Rockafellow  
Kerry Deese  
Tom Roche  
Kathy Woods  
Kathi Reeder  
Marge Hafer

### **Bass Clarinet:**

Mike Criss

### **Alto Saxophone:**

Stan Widener  
Mackenzie Eck  
Andy Balent  
Kristine Infante  
Sam Liaw

### **Tenor Saxophone:**

Iain Kinnon  
Stan Morris

### **Baritone Saxophone:**

Will Kozik

### **Horn:**

Joy O'Connor  
Rebecca Steffoff  
Kristopher Johnston  
Lance Hafer  
Caleb Weberg  
Jake Sheridan  
Karen Wilson  
Cherice Dacosta

### **Trumpet:**

Jeremy Duhig  
Jason Steffoff  
Teri Rushing  
Mark Tilley  
Brian Moore  
Tim Turner  
Jeffrey Maddox  
Isaac Hoxit  
Winona Brackett  
David VanDenBerg  
Steve Wilson  
Michael McGarry, Sr.

### **Trombone:**

Robert Oakman  
Fred Hall  
Jon Nottingham  
Keith Shields

### **Bass Trombone:**

Lee Eernisse  
Nicholas Rich

### **Euphonium:**

Emma Waters  
Taylor Davis  
Lauren Copeland  
David Zitzman  
Pete Buccellato  
Jim Knudsen

### **Tuba:**

Dean Millare  
Jim Wilson  
John Cofer  
Matt Dill  
Kyle Neds  
Randy Leedy

### **Percussion:**

Laura Bradshaw-Day  
Richard Nelson  
Brandon Blackburn  
Greg Day  
Guthrie Gullion  
Matthew Myers  
Claudette Thomas  
Jeff Vandenberg

### **Keyboard:**

Jim Knudsen



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The Greenville Concert Band makes its home at the **Gustafson Fine Arts Center at Bob Jones University** and is honored to be named a Community Ensemble in Residence of the Bob Jones University Division of Music.



*This program is funded in part by the Metropolitan Arts Council, which receives support from the City of Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, Michelin North America, Inc, SEW Eurodrive, and the South Carolina Arts Commission.*

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