



Featuring
St. Elizabeth's Adult and Youth Choirs
with
Chamber Orchestra
performing
exciting and beautiful music of the
Christmas Season
Traditional, Classical, and Contemporary
Carol Singing for Everyone!

Sunday, December 9, 4:00 p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Church
169 Fairmount Road, Ridgewood
Admission is Free

Candlelight Hors d'oeuvres Reception following the Concert

The Annual Advent Concert with Choirs and Orchestra

The Advent Concert and reception will be Sunday, December 9th at 4:00 pm. We offer this highlight of the choral season as a gift to our community—it is a free concert. We cordially invite you, your family, and friends to attend. Children who are comfortable sitting and listening to music for an hour are welcome. This year's program will illuminate the Christmas story with wonderful arrangements of familiar carols as well as beautiful choral works accompanied by an outstanding chamber orchestra. The concert will be without intermission and will run around one hour in length. There will be a wonderful reception following the concert.

Youth Choirs, too! We are very pleased to include members of the Junior and Youth Choirs in select works with the Adult Choir, Galletly Scholars, and Chamber Orchestra. Catherine Hostetler has done an outstanding job developing the program and preparing the youth choirs. I am pleased and deeply proud to announce, that the Galletly Scholars will be singing the entire Advent Concert and will have a featured role throughout the concert.

The Adult Choir, Soloists, and Galletly Scholars will be featured in choral works from the 12th to the 21st centuries. The concert will begin with a procession to the beautiful and haunting 12th century Antiphon, *O frondens virga*, composed by Hildegarde von Bingen, and featuring our soloists, Anastasia Swope, Alicia Luick, Gregory Hostetler, and Anthony Alberti. Hildegarde von Bingen (1098-1179) was a German Benedictine abbess. What distinguished her was an extraordinary range of talent. She was a composer, poet, writer and philosopher. Her writing often depicted her visions, which she claimed to have experienced from the time she was three years old and throughout her adult life. Hildegarde von Bingen remains one of the most important and prolific composers of the Middle Ages and has enjoyed a resurgence of interest in her music in the last thirty years.

The choir will join the soloists in a work written by the Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. Composed over 900 years later, in 2017, *Ave Generosa* makes a wonderful connection to the timeless beauty of chant in a completely contemporary setting. The text is by Hildegarde von Bingen, who inspired Ola Gjeilo to compose the piece in a manner in which he pays homage to her compositional gifts and colorful text. The chamber orchestra will then join the choir in a setting of the 14th century Irish carol, *Angelus ad virginem*.

Other featured works include a widely acknowledged seasonal favorite, *Mary, Did You Know?*, followed by *The Shepherds Sing* (2012), by the celebrated UK composer, Bob Chilcott who was formerly a member of the Kings Singers. Felix Mendelssohn's richly orchestrated and inspiring anthem, *There shall a star come out of Jacob* is the featured classical work on the program. The anthem comes from an oratorio titled *Christus*, which was premiered in 1852, but was published posthumously.

In the concluding section of the program, the Junior and Youth choristers will join the Senior Choir and Galletly Scholars singing, *Ding dong! Merrily on high* and Donald Fraser's, *This Christmastide* (*Jessye's Carol*), which was composed in 1988 in honor of the soprano, Jessye Norman who premiered the work.

The concert will include beloved arrangements for the congregation, chorus, and orchestra from David Willcocks of The King's College Choir. The featured carols include *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. The finale of that group will feature Mack Wilberg's towering arrangements of *Joy to the World* and *Deck the hall*, both written for the Morman Tabernacle Choir.

Garah Landes
Organist and Choirmaster