

The Annual Advent Concert with Choirs and Orchestra
December 10 at 4 p.m.

The Advent Concert and reception will be Sunday, December 10th 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, once again, that the Galletly Scholars will be singing the entire Advent Concert. This is a huge accomplishment!

The Adult Choir, Soloists, and Galletly Scholars will be featured in choral works from the 16th to the 21st centuries. The concert will begin with a procession to the beautiful 16th century motet *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, composed by Giovanni Pierluigi Palestrina, and featuring our soloists, Anastasia Swope, Alicia Luick, Gregory Hostetler, and Anthony Alberti. The text and chant date back to the 11th century. Palestrina based his four-part motet on the original chant, taking the single line and creating beautiful harmonies and a rich tapestry of counterpoint that weaves the four parts.

The choir will join the soloists in a work written by the Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. Composed nearly 500 years later, in 2010, *Northern Lights* makes a wonderful connection to the timeless beauty of chant in a completely contemporary setting. The music was inspired by the awe and beauty of the Northern Lights. The Junior and Youth Choirs and chamber orchestra will join the Galletly Scholars, Senior Choir, and soloists in Bob Chilcott's *Wenceslas*. Bob Chilcott was formerly a member of The King's Singers before launching a successful career as a choral composer. Composed in 2014 and performed in its entirety, *Wenceslas* recalls the 10th century Czech legend that will feature Baritone Anthony Alberti as the *Good King Wenceslas* and Mezzo-Soprano Alicia Luick as the *Page*. The music is delightfully colorful in both its choral and instrumental scoring, lyrical solos, and with a message of kindness and gratitude that are especially poignant this season.

The concert will include beloved arrangements for the congregation, chorus, and orchestra from David Willcocks of The King's College Choir. The finale of that group will feature Mack Wilberg's towering arrangement of *Angels We Have Heard On High*. The concert will conclude with John Rutter's *All Bells in Paradise*, composed in 2012 for King's College, Cambridge. There will also be a final a cappella work, titled *I am Changed*, by Will Todd, which was composed in 2016 and premiered at Westminster Cathedral.