



A BEL CANTO CHRISTMAS

Songs of the Season

December 14 / 2pm



*Waverly-Shell Rock
Community Schools*

High School Chamber Choir



GALLAGHER
BLUEDORN



Jesse Cosby Community Collective Choir — Sharrie Wright, Director

Waverly-Shell Rock Chamber Choir — Greta Nelson, Director

Bel Canto Cedar Valley — Alice Reid Pruisner, Director

Jesse Cosby Community Choir

Oh Holy Night

Michael McElroy & Broadway Inspirational Voices

Oh Come Emmanuel

Joseph Joubert & Michael McElroy

Soloist: Timina Micou

Now Behold the Lamb

Kirk Franklin

Soloist: Tanara Wade

Featuring: True Talent Dance

Mary Did You Know

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child

Dr. Charles Hayes & Cosmopolitan Choir

Sharrie Wright, Director

Min. Victor Evans, Keyboardist

Min. Willie Rockett, Bass

Dennis Brown, Drumset

Community Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Verse 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!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him;

 O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Verse 2:

The highest, most holy; Light of light eternal;

 Born of a virgin, A mortal he comes;

Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

Refrain:

Verse 3:

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

 Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Refrain:

Verse 4:

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;

 Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain:

Waverly-Shell Rock Chamber Choir

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel Ero Cras (I Will Come)

18th-century Latin hymn; 9th-century origin

Michael John Trotta (1978)

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Carol

Lyrics by Marilyn Keith & Alan Bergman

Arr. Norman Luboff

Owen Neuendorf, Pianist

Sleigh Ride

Words by Mitchell Parish

Music by Leroy Anderson

Arr. Hawley Ades

Greta Nelson, Director
Mollie Muntefering, Pianist

Community Song

Jingle Bells

Verse 1:

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,

 O'er the fields we go laughing all the way.

 Bells on bobtails ring making spirits bright,

What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight!

 Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh, hey!

 Jingle bells, jingle bells jingle all the way,

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh

 A day or two ago I thought I'd take a ride,

And soon Miss Fanny Bright was seated by my side.

The horse was lean and lank misfortune seemed his lot,

 We got into a drifted bank and then we got upsot!

 Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh, hey!

 Jingle bells, jingle bells jingle all the way,

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh!

Piano Duet

Bethany Brooks and Denise Hull

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

arr. Phillip Keveren

WSR Chamber Choir and Bel Canto Cedar Valley

Alice Pruisner, Director

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French Carol

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Piano Duet

Bethany Brooks and Denise Hull

Christmas Medley

By Adolphe Charles Adam, James Pierpont, Joe
Beal, James Boothe, and Franz Gruber

arr. Kyunghoon Kim

Bel Canto Cedar Valley

Alice Reid Pruisner – Director

Bethany Brooks – Pianist

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Words and Music by Eddie Pola and George Wyle

arr. Mark Hayes

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

Childhood Christmas Favorites

Arranged by Jamey Ray

Amanda Bridges-Kramme, Soprano

Mitchell Stover, Tenor

Sparklejollytwinklejingley

From the Broadway musical Elf

Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Music by Matthew Sklar

arr. Andy Beck

Soloist - Mason Sealock

Intrumentalists

Abby Mott, Flute - Carla Ramsey, Clarinet - Jay Ramsey,

Tenor Sax - Ethan Jacobsen, Trumpet 1 - Leo Stineman,

Trumpet 2 - Ben Stineman, Trombone - Mac Brandt, Bass

Guitar - Megan Drinovsky, Drum set

Community Song

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly
peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the
sight

Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is
born!

Silent night, holy night. Song of God, love's pure
light.

Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Combined Choirs

Joy to the World

arr. Michael McElroy, Joseph Joubert, and Buryl Red

Bethany Brooks, Piano

Mac Brandt, Bass Guitar

Megan Drinovsky, Drum set

Alice Reid Pruisner, Director

Jesse Cosby Community Collective

Soprano

Debra Hodges Harmon
JoAnn Wright
Tanara Wade
Ginger Shirley
Caroline Shirley
Kaliah Porter
Tereasa Montomery
Daphine Bevel

Alto

Josette Bates
Sherrie Jones
Marilyn Rogers
Carolyn Galloway
Demetria Campbell
Ebony Anderson
Debra Sallis
Tierra Starks
Anne Davis

Tenor

Dr. Beverly Middleton
Smith
Valerie Norman
Sylvia Anderson
Toyja Scott
Sherly Jones
Cynthia Smith Balark

Director

Sharrie Wright

True Talent Dance

Director: Tashshay Williams

Co-Director: Tierra Starks

Assistant Coaches: Brooklyn Cooper, Larya
Pratchett, Marshay Polk, Saran Diop

Dancers:

Eternity Alexander

Dasiya Briner

Reign Campbell

Caylee Deese

Amira Gilley

Nevaeh Neville

DeOnna O'Neal

Deriana Phillip

Te'Yahji Phillips

Deleyah Small

Aubrey Smith

Camari Starks

Chacen Starks

Breonna Walker

Waverly-Shell Rock Chamber Choir

Soprano:

Alexandria Barber
Adali Borglum
Maris Carlson
Amalia Djoumessi
Brooklyn Hoffman
Alexandria Johnson
Lilyin Luck
Lily Myrmo
Kate Nelson
Kylie Schmitz
Autumn Sorenson
Olivea Westendorf
Evie Whitinger

Alto:

Emma Anhalt
Addie Backer
Leah Cuvelier
Rhett Dahlquist
Campbell Dolash
Jillian Eckerman
Cora Hennings
Genevieve Power
Caroline Robles
Sophia Steemer
Jami Zahrt

Tenor:

Keaton Anderson
Adam Anhalt
Evan Donat
Oliver Gibson
Beckett Hunzelman
Braden Knight
McCoy McIlravy
Rylan Reingardt
Elliot Schneiderman

Bass:

Kale Borwig
Anthony Feldhake
Warren Gaede
Matthew Hommowun
James Lockie
Isaiah Marzen
Owen Neuendorf
Ethan Rupp
Fred Yang

Bel Canto Cedar Valley

Soprano:

Sara Blessing
Hann Boecker
Amanda Bridges-Kramme
Patty Foster
Jennifer Jacobsen
Lucinda Lear
Kayla Mahler
Elizabeth Nelson
Tiffany Peterson
Rasmussen
Meg Stineman
Ellen Waterman
Kelsey Williams

Tenor:

Bill Atkins
Sam Bergan
Joseph Gutzman
Darwin Johnson
James Mossman
Noah Reardon
Matt Rector
Mason Sealock
Mitchell Stover
Dan Veenstra
Devin Wipperman

Alto:

Christine Anderson
Kim Camarata
Melanie Drake
Kim Erisman
Kate Hahn
Alexis Klug
Jess Lieb
Megan Lien
Kennedy Mossman
Calista Webber
Sarah Rueber
Robin Souhrada
Natalie Takes Preston

Bass:

Jonathan Bridges
Alex Chittenden
Joel Haack
Brook Jacobsen
Chris Knudson
Kevin Lam
Noah McLaughlin
Erik Norquest
Ryan Occeña
Micah Pruisner
Noah Rouw
Ben Stineman
Ashton Veenstra

Director – Sharrie Wright

Sharrie (Jordan) Wright migrated to Waterloo with her family when her father, the late Rev. L. J. Jordan was elected Pastor of Union Missionary Baptist Church. Sharrie was very young at the time so, though not born here, she has been raised and nurtured by the village of Waterloo, IA. Sharrie comes from a singing family. The “Jordanheirs” have been known to spread the love of God around the midwest since the early 50’s.

Sharrie began teaching, directing and playing for her first choir at age 11 at Union Baptist Church. She has been involved in the music ministry for over 60 years serving in various churches as the Minister of Music, musician, director and soloist. She has served in that capacity as well in the Iowa Missionary Educational Baptist Convention as well as the Eastern District Association.

Sharrie earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Upper Iowa University and a Masters of Arts in Education Administration from the University of Northern Iowa. She served in the Waterloo Community School District for 42 years. She began as a para educator, an elementary teacher then a Family Support Worker. Her last 24 years have been in administration spending 4 years at elementary, 4 years at middle school and the remainder at the high school level.

Sharrie is currently serving at the Antioch Baptist Church under the Pastoral leadership of Rev. Charles Daniel. She considers herself a servant and lives a “God 1st” life according to Matthew 6:33. Her favorite scripture however comes from Romans 8: 38-39. (38) “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) nor height nor depth nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.”

She is married to Charles Wright, and has 1 son Darrian Jordan, and 1 grandson, Dallas Jordan.

Director – Greta Nelson

Greta Nelson is a passionate music educator currently serving as the choral director at Waverly-Shell Rock High School in Waverly, Iowa. A 2019 magna cum laude graduate of Wartburg College, she earned her Bachelor's in Music Education under the mentorship of Dr. Lee Nelson and Dr. Nicki Toliver. In 2023, Nelson was honored with the Iowa Choral Directors Association's Outstanding Emerging Choral Director Award. Now in her seventh year of teaching, Nelson has developed a reputation for building strong, vibrant choral programs that emphasize both musical excellence and a lifelong joy of singing.

Outside the classroom, Nelson serves as Dean of Students and Assistant Conductor for the Concordia Choir Camp—formerly the Minnesota All-State Lutheran Choir—held each summer at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she works alongside Dr. Michael Culloton and Dr. Stephanie Tubiolo. She is also the former director of the Fort Dodge Choral Society, where she enjoyed two meaningful years of high-level music-making with singers of all ages.

Director – Alice Reid Pruisner

Alice Reid Pruisner is the Founder and Artistic Director of Bel Canto Cedar Valley. She graduated with honors from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL with an undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education and from The University of Northern Iowa with a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting. Ms. Pruisner has experience conducting choirs of all ages, and is especially passionate about community building and outreach. Ms. Pruisner lives in Cedar Falls with her husband, two daughters, and 2 mini dachshunds.

Jesse Cosby Community Collective

Located in the heart of Waterloo, the Jesse Cosby Center has been dedicated to keeping and enhancing the quality of life for neighborhood families. For over 50 years, the center has provided senior services with an adult day center, meals on wheels, The center also provides services for the disabled, the sick, shut-ins, the homeless, and low-income households in crisis by providing connections to financial assistance programs and services. The current Jesse Cosby Center programs are under the leadership of Debra Hodges-Harmon Executive Director.

Mr. Jesse Cosby, the center founder, was born in 1907 in Jefferson County, Alabama. He always had a passion for music, and as a shoeshine in Alabama, he was known as the "kid with the musical cloth." Because of segregation he was not able to study music formally, but instead studied under tutors who recognized his ability. Using his musical talents and square-dance-calling skills, Jesse Cosby was responsible for creating some of Cedar Valley's first racially integrated social venues, bringing the community together in a radical way. In 1950, his efforts were recognized at the National White House Conference on Children and Youth in Washington, D.C. It was here that he began organizing a traveling choir that traveled and performed throughout Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota.

In the past the Jesse Cosby Community choir was born from Jesse Cosby's legacy and his love of music. The current choir is a continuation of the past choir, Mr. Jesse Cosby's dream continues. The present day Jesse Cosby Community Collective Choir was created from a conversation and request to create a gospel choir for the soul purpose to perform in the Bel Canto "Songs of the Season", 2023 performance. Creators Debra Hodges Harmon and Josette Bates, under the direction of Mrs. Sharrie Wright, amateur and professional musicians from across the Cedar Valley and various church communities were invited to come together. The beautiful sounds of the Jesse Cosby Community Collective Choir has united some of the best and most amazing voices and singers from the Cedar Valley to share the gospel of music. The mission statement of the Jesse Cosby Center "Dedicated to keeping and enhancing the quality of life for our neighborhood families-through stewardship of resources and shared responsibility" the JCCCC is just another way to continue to bring the community together through music.

Waverly-Shell Rock Chamber Choir

The Waverly Shell Rock Chamber Choir is an auditioned ensemble that meets daily. This ensemble consists of Seniors, Junior and Sophomores. In the past, the Chamber Choir has performed with Bel Canto Cedar Valley, The Metropolitan Chorale and the Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra.

Members of this ensemble have participated in the All State Chorus, and many students dedicate their time to the musical, jazz choir, honor festivals and small group contest. The Chamber Choir consistently receives Division I ratings at the Iowa State Large Group Contest.

Bel Canto Cedar Valley

Bel Canto Cedar Valley is a premiere auditioned-based chamber choir serving communities throughout the Cedar Valley. Its mission is to contribute to the cultural enrichment of the communities it serves by promoting quality choral music, exploring vast and varied choral repertoire, and encouraging music as a life-long passion.

BCCV was founded in 2012, and has joyfully spent the last 13 years forging musical ties throughout the Cedar Valley with local composers, instrumentalists, venues, and other performing groups including the WCF Symphony Orchestra, the Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra, the Metropolitan Chorale, and public-school choirs from Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Aplington-Parkersburg, Hudson, Grundy Center, and Waverly-Shell Rock, to name a few.

Bel Canto Cedar Valley's members come from a wide array of backgrounds and professions and we are thrilled to bring the spirit of community music to the Gallagher stage along with the Jesse Cosby Community Collective and the Waverly-Shell Rock Chamber Choir. To find out more about BCCV or how you can be involved, please go to our website at belcantocedarvalley.org.

Waverly-Shell Rock Chamber Choir

Veni, Veni Emmanuel ERO CRAS (I Will Come) Translation

Veni, veni Emmanuel! Captivum solve Israel! Qui gemit in exsilio, Privatus dei filio.	O come, o come, the "I am" that is with us Break the bond of the captive people! Who mourn in exile Derived of the incarnation of the Father.
Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel Nascetur pro te, Israel.	Rejoice! Rejoice! The great "I Am" Will be born for you.
Veni, veni, rex gentium, Veni, redemptor omnium, Ut salvas tuos famulos Peccati sibi conscos	O come, gatherer of all nations, Come to make all whole, To save your servants From their separateness
Veni, veni O oriens, Solare nos adveniens, Noctis depelle Dirasque mortis tenebras	O Come though light of life (morningstar) To shine on us by your coming Dispel the clouds of night Drive away the shadow of death

Bel Canto Cedar Valley

O Magnum Mysterium Translation

O magnum Mysterium, eat admirable sacramentum ut animalis viderent Dominum natum, jacentum in praesepio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum, Alleluia!	O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in their manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!
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Thank You!

We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals:

The Max and Helen Guernsey Charitable Foundation
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St. John's American Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
Waverly-Shell Rock Community Schools
East High School Music Department
Jesse Cosby Center

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