

Clerestory Christmas

SAN FRANCISCO

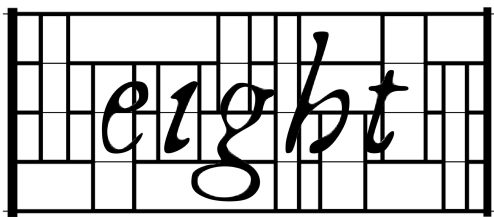
Saturday, November 30, 8:00pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

BERKELEY

Sunday, December 1, 8:00pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



CLERESTORY

2013-2014 SEASON

clerestory.org

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for *Clerestory Christmas: Americana IV!*

As you've made extraordinary efforts to rally selves, family, and friends from social gatherings and feasts of Thanksgiving to be with us, we hope you will agree that attending (and preparing!) holiday concerts is well worth the time in this busiest of seasons. Music for Christmas is almost unparalleled in its vastness, variety, and beauty. Whether it be the stark but rousing strains of American colonial songs, the serene majesty of Morten Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*, or the calypso verve of Doug Teel's arrangement of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, the music we present tonight is lovely and spirited in just the way one hopes this time of year.

You'll notice we titled this particular concert *Americana IV*. In 2007, we sang a program of all-American songs created throughout our country's history. It was hugely satisfying to the singers and quite popular with audience members, and really what could be more American than sequels? A franchise, that's what! We followed *Americana* a year later with *Voices in the American Tradition*, a collaboration with the women's trio Mayim, and then in 2011 with *Into the West*, focused particular on songs from and about the American West Coast. This fourth installment spans all of our country's history, and every region within its borders, including San Francisco (Benjamin Bachmann and Jesse Antin), the Pacific Northwest (Eric Banks from Seattle), Appalachia (John Jacob Niles), the Upper Midwest (Abbie Betinis, Jan Gilbert, Joel Martinson), the South (Southern Harmony), and a bow to the indigenous people of this continent (Cheyenne, Huron).

We have tried to weave these individually exquisite, diverse styles and provenances into a testament to the richness of America's musical heritage. That they all come together around the warmth, beauty, and hopefulness of this holiday season makes this version of Americana perhaps our favorite of all.

Thank you for your support, your gifts throughout the years, and most especially your presence to create this concert with us tonight. We wish you and yours health, Christmas cheer, beautiful singing, and the happiest of all holidays.

The Men of Clerestory

Our Next Performances:

Prayer for a Child

SAN FRANCISCO

Friday, May 9, 8:00pm

BERKELEY

Saturday, May 10, 8:00pm



Tickets and more info available at clerestory.org.

Clerestory Christmas: Americana IV

CLERESTORY

**Kevin Baum, Dan Cromeenes, Christopher Fritzsche, Ben Kazez, David Kurtenbach,
Clifton Massey, James Monios, Justin Montigne, Daniel Pickens-Jones**

Saturday, November 30, 8:00pm, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco
Sunday, December 1, 8:00pm, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley

Processional

Sing We Noel

Welcome

arr. Benjamin Bachmann

Glory in the Highest, Glory

Edward L. White

Old American Songs

Hark! The Glad Sound (Derrick)

Southern Harmony

The Morning Star

Virgil Thompson

Methinks I See and Heavenly Host

William Billings

Colonial Frontiers

Huron Carol

arr. Eleanor Daley

Wintersong

Jan Gilbert

I Wonder as I Wander

arr. John Jacob Niles and Lewis Henry Horton

Kentucky Wassail

arr. Niles/Horton

Old World Made New

Song of the Pines

Abbie Betinis

Corpus Christi Carol

arr. Benjamin Britten and Jesse Antin

There Is No Rose

Joel Martinson

American Carols

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Richard Storrs Willis

To Hear the Angels Sing

Eric Banks

We Three Kings of Orient Are

John Henry Hopkins

Star of Wonder/We Three Kings

Roche/Hopkins, arr. Joseph Jennings

The Birth of Jesus

Manger Carol

Leo Sowerby

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

Christmas on the Radio

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

arr. Doug Teel

Christmas Song

Mel Tormé, arr. Bill Gard

Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont, arr. Charles/Cromeenes

TEXTS

Sing We Noel

Music by Benjamin Bachmann

Text by Susan Cooper

Over the snowy hills the travelers go
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.
Calling to wake the sleeping town below
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.
We bring you joy upon this star
That breaks the darkness from afar
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Nearer they come, their voices clear and high
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.
Calling their promise to the frosty sky
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

We bring you love, the faithful light
Of dawn that comes to end the night
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Sing then and join them as they go their way
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.
Crossing the world with greetings for this day
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel
We bring you peace to cherish long
And let tomorrow hear our song
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Glory in the Highest, Glory

Music by Edward L. White

Text by John Cadwood

Glory in the highest, glory be to God most high.
Peace on earth, good will from heaven,
Reaching far as man is found.
Souls redeemed and sins forgiven,
Lord, our golden harps shall sound.
Hark! what mean those holy voices...
Sweetly sounding through the skies,
Christ is born, the great anointed...

Heav'n and earth his praises sing,
Lo! the angelic host rejoices...
Heav'nly hallelujahs rise.
Oh! receive whom God appointed...
For your prophet, priest and king,
Listen to the wondrous story,
Glory be to God on high.
Hallelujah, Amen!

Hark! The Glad Sound

Tune: Derrick

Southern Harmony #199

Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.
On him, the Spirit largely poured,
Exerts his sacred fire;
Wisdom and might, and zeal and love
His holy breast inspire.

He comes, the prisoner to release,
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes, from thickest films of vice
To clear the mental ray,
And on the eyes oppressed with night
To pour celestial day.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
The wounded bleeding soul to cure,
And, with the treasures of his grace,
To enrich the humble poor.
Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.

TEXTS

The Morning Star

Music by Virgil Thompson

Text Unknown

How splendid shines the morning star,
God's gracious light from darkness far,
The root of Jesse blessed.

Sweetly, friendly,
O thou handsome, precious ransom,
Full of graces, set and kept in heav'nly places.

Thou David's son of Jacob's stem,
My bridegroom, king and wond'rous Lamb,
Thou hast my heart possessed.

Methinks I See an Heavenly Host

Music (Shiloh) by William Billings

Text from Suffolk Harmony, 1786

Me thinks I see an Heav'nly Host
of angels on the Wing;
me thinks I hear their cheerful notes,
so merrily they sing.

The master of the inn refused
A more commodious place;
Ungen'rous soul of savage mould
And destitute of grace.

Let all your fears be banished hence,
glad tidings I proclaim;
for there is a Saviour born today
and Jesus is his name.

Exult ye oxen, low for joy,
ye tenants of the stall;
Pay your obeisance;
on your knees unanimously fall.

Lay down your crooks and quit your flocks,
to Bethlehem repair;
and let your wandering steps be squared
By yonder shining star.

The Royal Guest you entertain
is not of common birth,
But second in the Great I Am,
The God of Heav'n and earth.

Seek not in Courts or Palaces;
Nor Royal curtains draw;
But search the Stable,
see your God extended on the straw,

Then suddenly a Heav'nly Host
around the shepherds throng,
exulting in the Three-fold God,
and thus addressed their song.

Then learn from hence, ye rural swains,
the meekness of your God,
who left the boundless realms of joy,
to ransom you with blood.

To God the Father, Christ the Son,
And Holy Ghost accord
The first and last,
Eternal praise afford.

TEXTS

Huron Carol

Traditional French Canadian carol, arranged by Eleanor Daley

Text by Jean de Brébeuf, translated by Jesse Edgar Middleton

'Twas in the moon of wintertime
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born.
In excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapp'd His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless Infant there.
The chiefs from far before Him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

Wintersong

Music by Jan Gilbert

Text by Lance Henson

they walked into a north wind
bitten by despair and frozen rain
each of them
looking back
throwing their hearts toward us

it was a whiskey dream
the medicine was a scattered light
I could not reach you
you were standing all around
without a face

worn thin of dreams
the cold air arrives
we light the old fires
who will speak for us
cedar scent all around

little fingernail said it
now we remember
we remember

TEXTS

I Wonder as I Wander

Music arranged by John Jacob Niles and Lewis Henry Horton

Traditional Appalachian, collected by J. J. Niles

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.

For poor on'ry people like you and like I...

I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

Kentucky Wassail

Music arranged by John Jacob Niles and Lewis Henry Horton

Traditional American, collected by J. J. Niles

Wassail, wassail all over the town!
Our cup is white and our ale is brown.
Our cup is made from the old oak tree
And our ale hit is made in Kentucky,
So it's joy be to you and a jolly wassail!

To nibble on a cheese and a toast by the fire,
So it's joy be to you and a jolly wassail!

O good man and good wife, are you within?
Pray lift the latch and let us in.
We see you-sitting at the boot o' the fire,
Not a-thinkin' of us in the mud and mire,
So it's joy be to you and a jolly wassail!

There was an old maid and she lived in a house,
And she had for a pet a tiny wee mouse.
O, the house had a stove and the house was warm,
And a little bit o' liquor won't do no harm!
So it's joy be to you and a jolly wassail!

O, where is the servant with the silly little pin
To open the latch and let us in?
For here in the draught hit is our desire

Oh a man in York drank his sack from a pail,
But all we ask is a wee wassail!
O, husband and wife, alack, we part.
God bless this house from the bottom of our heart!
So it's joy be to you and a jolly wassail!

Song of the Pines

Music and text by Abbie Betinis

Night, and the world asleep,
All the silver pines are still,
Here the moonlit earth lies bleak and chill,
Mirabile Mysterium, a child is born...
Now, a celestial song,
Shiv'ring down from lofty cones,
Drops, bough by bending bough in whisper'd tones:
Mirabile Mysterium a child is born...
Blow! You Great North-wind,
Carry this song of long ago, And on your way redeem us
all in snow,

Mirabile Mysterium, a child is born...

Lo! How immortal hymns
Fall from the lips of waken'd souls,
Hail! A-rise and greet the babe the choir extolls,
Mirabile Mysterium, a child is born...

Night, and the world asleep,
But for the song of the snowy pine,
O! Yet here is God'sown evidence divine,
Mirabile Mysterium, a child is born.

TEXTS

Corpus Christi Carol

Music by Benjamin Britten, arranged by Jesse Antin

Text - Anonymous

He bare him up, he bare him down,
He bare him into an orchard brown.

Lully, lullay, lully, lullay
The falcon hath born my make away.

In that orchard there was an hall,
It was hanged with purple and pall.
And in that hall there was a bed,

It was hanged with gold so red.

In that bed there lieth a knight,
His woundes bleeding day and night.
By that bedside kneeleth a may,
And she weepeth both night and day.

And by that bedside there standeth a stone,
Corpus Christi written thereon.

There Is No Rose

Music by Joel Martinson

Text - Anonymous 15th Century

There is no rose of such vertu
As is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.
For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in litel space,
Res miranda. [Marvelous thing.]
By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,

Pares forma. [Of equal form.]

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gaudeamus. [Let us rejoice.]

Leave we all this werldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;

Transeamus. [Let us go across.]

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Music by Richard Storrs Willis

Text by Edmund Sears

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

For lo!, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

TEXTS

To Hear the Angels Sing

Music by Eric Banks

Text by Edmund Sears, from the Gloria of the Mass, and by Eric Banks

The choral carol:

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious king,"
The world in solemn stillness lay...

The song of the angels:

Gloria in excelsis Deo
"Glory to God in the highest,
Et in terra pax
And peace on earth;
Hominibus bonae voluntatis
To men of good will,
Regis caelorum omnibus gratiosi,
From heaven's all-gracious king,"
Angeli cantabant.
The angels sang.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Music and text by John Henry Hopkins

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship him God on high.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Star of Wonder/We Three Kings

Music by Terre Roche and J. H. Hopkins, arranged by Joseph Jennings

Text by Terre Roche and J. H. Hopkins

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

I am just a lonely shepherd
Watching from a distant hill
Why do you appear to me
Star of wonder, star of wonder

Star of Wonder in the heavens
Are you just a shining star
Or should I follow you tonight
Star of wonder, star of wonder

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Star of wonder, shining bright

TEXTS

Manger Carol

Music by Leo Sowerby

Text by Winfred Douglas

Here betwixt ass and oxen mild,
Sleep, sleep, sleep my little child.
Angels from on high hover in the sky
keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here in the crib, secure from harms,
Sleep, sleep, in your mother's arms.
Angels from on high hover in the sky
keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here betwixt rose and lily white,
Sleep, sleep, sleep my son tonight.
Angels from on high hover in the sky
keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

On this fair night of holy joy,
Sleep, sleep, sleep my little boy.
Angels from on high hover in the sky
keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

O Magnum Mysterium

Music by Morten Lauridsen

Text - Fourth of the nine responsories for Matins of Christmas Day

*O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum,
Ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
Jacentem in praesepe!
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 a
manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
Was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Traditional English carol, arranged by Doug Teel

We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring for you and your kin,
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Now bring us some figgy pudding
and bring some out here.

We won't go until we get some
so bring some out here!

TEXTS

Christmas Song

Music by Mel Tormé, arranged by Bill Gard

Text by Bob Wells

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
Jack Frost nipping at your nose
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir
And folks dressed up like Eskimos

Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe
Help to make the season bright
Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow
Will find it hard to sleep tonight

They know that Santa's on his way
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh
And every mother's child is gonna spy
To see if reindeer really know how to fly

And so I'm offering this simple phrase
To kids from one to ninety-two
Although it's been said many times
Many ways, Merry Christmas to you


Jingle Bells

Music and text by James Lord Pierpont, arranged by Ray Charles and Dan Cromeenes

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtail 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.
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way;
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.

There's no mopin' when you're in an open sleigh,
Ev'ryone's so gay,
Laughing ha, ha, ha, all the way.
Dashing thru the flashing snow,
Temp'ature is ten below,
How the bells do pring, pring, pring...
Oh what fun oh what play.
Oh what fun it is to ride
O'er the hill and coun-try-side
In a one horse open sleigh. Jingle bells!



**SONOMA
Bach**


PRESENTS

**CIRCA 1600
CHAMBER CHOIR**

Robert Worth, director

AN EARLY MUSIC CHRISTMAS

MYSTERY AND JUBILATION



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 8 PM
St. Vincent's Catholic Church, 35 Liberty St, Petaluma

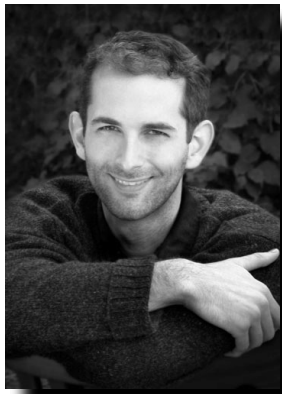
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 4 PM
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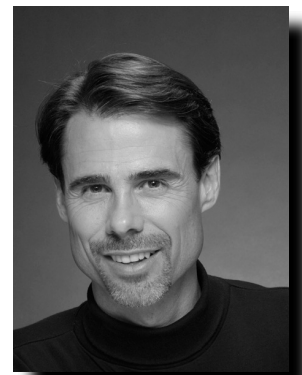
ARTISTS

KEVIN BAUM, tenor, currently sings with the choir of men and boys at Grace Cathedral; he is also a cantor at St. Ignatius Catholic Church. Kevin is an auxiliary member of both the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale and the San Francisco Orchestra Chorus, and he sings many solo and small ensemble concerts throughout the Bay Area. Ensembles Kevin has performed with include Schola Adventus, Pacific Collegium, Artists' Vocal Ensemble (AVE,) the Sanford Dole Ensemble and the San Francisco Lyric Chorus. He is a sixteen-year veteran of the ensemble Chanticleer.



DAN CROMEENES, countertenor, is a versatile musician who has performed professionally as a countertenor soloist, choral singer, and accompanist. Originally from southern California, he studied piano and voice at Biola University. He received his Master's degree in accompanying at East Carolina University, where he made his countertenor solo debut with Capella Antiqua. After returning to Biola as Staff Accompanist for a few years, he joined Chanticleer for their 2005-06 season, singing concerts across Europe, Japan, and the United States. Dan continues to perform throughout the San Francisco Bay area both as accompanist and singer. He has played for Santa Clara University, West Bay Opera, Livermore Valley Opera, BASOTI, Santa Clara Chorale, Lamplighters Music Theatre, and has worked as a freelance accompanist and coach. As a singer he has performed with various ensembles, including American Bach Soloists, Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, Clerestory, Pacific Collegium, Sanford Dole Ensemble, San Francisco Renaissance Voices, and Grace Cathedral Choir of Men & Boys. As a soloist he has performed Handel's Messiah, Israel in Egypt, and Vivaldi's Gloria with the Santa Clara Chorale; Handel's Dixit Dominus with Marin Baroque; Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 with Bach Collegium San Diego; Handel's Te Deum in A Major with San Francisco Lyric Chorus; Bach's Johannes-Passion with Bay Area Classical Harmonies (BACH); new editions of Alessandro Scarlatti's works with Arcadiana; and early music recitals on SCU's Faculty Recital Series and at St. Dominic's Catholic Church. When not onstage or behind a piano, Dan can usually be found either on a hike in the mountains or at home baking gourmet goodies.

CHRIS FRITZSCHE, soprano, is a native of Santa Rosa. His first stage experience came at the tender age of two, when he was first dragged (literally) across the stage as a child's teddy bear in the 1967 Santa Rosa Junior College Summer stock production of Peter Pan. Flush with such early "success", he took up the guitar at age seven and immersed himself in music of the Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, James Taylor, and John Denver, among others. He discovered the joys of choral singing in high school and went on to study voice in college as a tenor. Several leading musical theatre and opera roles later, he graduated with a degree in music, and was about to get a real estate license (in order to satisfy his Capricorn need for financial security) when someone informed him that the falsetto voice he had only ever used in jest could actually be put to use on the concert stage. This led him to join the men's ensemble Chanticleer as a soprano for the next 11 years, performing in many of the world's greatest concert halls and singing on well over a dozen recordings, two of which won Grammy Awards. Having retired from the road in 2003, he has since expanded his solo and ensemble career, appearing with various groups and artists in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. He served on the vocal faculty at his alma mater, Sonoma State University, from 2004 to 2009. He continues to teach vocal classes and performs regularly with the Sonoma Bach early music organization. He is currently the Music Director for the Center for Spiritual Living in Santa Rosa.



ARTISTS



Baritone BEN KAZEZ won awards as an app creator before emerging as a versatile soloist, performing solo repertoire from the baroque to the twentieth century with “gold standard” (New York Times) pianist Martin Katz, American Bach Soloists, baroque violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock, Juilliard violinist Robert Mealy, and world-renowned bass-baritone Max van Egmond. He has also sung at Trinity Episcopal Church, Temple Emanu-El, St Matthew’s Lutheran, Cathedral of Christ the Light (Oakland), and Temple Beth El (Omaha). In the 2013–2014 season Ben performs Zoroastro in Handel’s Orlando, appears as soloist with the San Francisco City Chorus, Masterworks Chorale, Valley Concert Chorale, and Soli Deo Gloria, and is thrilled to be making his debut in Clerestory. Ben studies voice with Sheri Greenawald (San Francisco Opera) and enjoys travel, hiking, and hand-rolled Italian pasta.

DAVID KURTENBACH, tenor, is engaged regularly with leading Early Music and contemporary music ensembles throughout the Bay Area and North America. A soloist with Apollo’s Fire, Volti, Artists’ Vocal Ensemble (AVE), Clerestory, Oakland East Bay Symphony and Chorus, Schola Cantorum, and Pacific Mozart Ensemble, he also performs with Philharmonia Baroque and American Bach Soloists. Equally passionate about choral music, historical performance, world premieres, and sacred liturgy, David has performed with a wide variety of influential musicians, including Marion Verbruggen, Helmuth Rilling, Meredith Monk, Dave Brubeck, Andy Williams, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. His performances have been heard at Tanglewood, Ojai, Oregon Bach Festival, and Berkeley Early Music Exhibition, as well as on commercial recordings for Innova/Naxos, Koch International, Soli Deo Gloria, and Tonehammer. David has over a decade of experience conducting opera, recently completing his appointment as Chorus Master of Opera San Jose. He currently works at Grace Cathedral teaching voice and music theory to choirboys and clergy, singing twice weekly with the Choir of Men and Boys.



CLIFTON MASSEY, countertenor, is known to audiences in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond for his stylish interpretations of a wide range of musical styles. Praised by San Francisco Classical Voice for “gloriously rounded tone and a measure of heft often missing in proponents of his voice type” and the “standout soloist of the evening” on multiple occasions, his singing has taken him to many festivals and venues including the Concertgebou in Amsterdam, Tanglewood, Ravinia Festival, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tokyo Opera City, and the Early Music festivals of Toronto, Berkeley, Bloomington IN and even Kalamazoo! A proponent of high level ensemble singing, Clifton performs frequently with Ensemble viii (Austin), Spire Ensemble (Kansas City), Luminous Voices (Calgary), Clerestory, American Bach Soloists and Magnificat Baroque. Recently he was a semi-finalist for the Oratorio Society of New York Vocal Competition. As an educator, Clifton teaches with the award winning Piedmont Choirs, directing advanced young singers from several high schools in the SF Bay Area. He feels that instilling in youth a shared love of our musical history is integral to educating the whole person, and essential for building bridges to the larger world beyond the classroom walls. Clifton maintains a private vocal studio in the Temescal neighborhood of Oakland, and can often be found on stage as a collaborative pianist with area choirs and vocal soloists.

JAMES NICHOLAS MONIOS, bass, enjoys a varied musical career as a performer and teacher. A native of Long Beach, California, Jim studied piano, contrabass, and voice while earning a Master of Arts degree in historical musicology. Since moving to San Francisco in 1991, Jim has performed with many of the finest ensembles in the Bay Area, including San Francisco Opera Chorus, Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, American Bach Soloists, and San Francisco Choral Artists, and he has appeared as soloist with San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco City Concert Opera, Soli Deo Gloria, and Magnificat. He has been bass soloist at Temple Sherith-Israel and several San Francisco churches, including Church of the Advent, where he also served as Associate Director of Music. He began working with Piedmont Children’s Choir in 1994 and has continued teaching and conducting in private schools ever since, while maintaining a private piano studio in San Francisco.

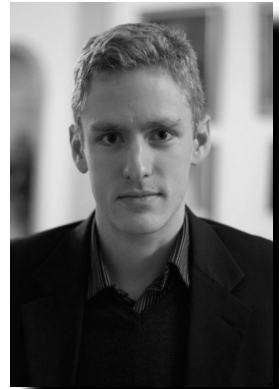


ARTISTS



JUSTIN MONTIGNE, countertenor, is originally from Des Moines, Iowa, where he was forced off the piano bench after a dismal accompanying stint into the middle school choir. After this fortuitous switch, he went on to receive his Bachelor's in music from Drake University in Des Moines, and his Master's and DMA in vocal performance from the University of Minnesota. An active teacher as well as performer, Justin taught voice for the University of Minnesota and toured Minnesota and the upper Midwest, performing with many ensembles including the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra, Western Plains Opera, and the Des Moines Symphony. Justin then moved to San Francisco and sang alto for three years with the acclaimed male vocal ensemble, Chanticleer, performing a wide variety of works with the group in venues around the United States and the world. He has sung with the Minnesota Opera, the Oregon Bach Festival, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Volti, Seraphic Fire, Conspirare, and other ensembles. Justin teaches voice at the San Francisco Girls Chorus, and is a registered yoga teacher, specializing in yoga for singers. When not warbling, teaching, or practicing yoga poses, Justin enjoys time at home with the other three J's—his husband Joe and their two pooches, Jasmine and Jorge.

DANIEL PICKENS-JONES, baritone, is excited to be singing his first concerts with Clerestory. A specialist in antique and sacred music, Daniel has performed with American Bach Soloists, Artists' Vocal Ensemble, San Francisco Schola Cantorum and the Eastman Collegium Musicum, directed by Paul O'Dette. As a recitalist, chorister and choral director, Daniel has also been a proponent of new music, premiering a number of works by living composers. Daniel was raised in the Bay Area and cut his musical teeth as a boy chorister at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. He went on to study international affairs at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN and vocal performance at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he performed with the Eastman Opera Theatre and founded and directed the choral chamber ensemble Apeiron. Daniel lives in San Francisco and divides his time between the music and tech worlds.



young women's
Schorus
OF SAN FRANCISCO
Susan McMane, Artistic Director

GIFTS OF THE SEASON
Spirit, Peace & Joy!

Saturday, December 14, 8:00 pm
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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Tickets: \$10-\$28
www.ywcp.org

The poster features a dark background with a pattern of small white stars and larger, glowing spiral patterns. In the bottom right corner, there is an illustration of several wrapped gifts with white ribbons.

ARTISTS

ABOUT CLERESTORY

Clerestory is named for cathedral windows that let in daylight; the group tells the “clear story” of music through sophisticated performances grounded in decades of experience singing together.

Clerestory’s singers, from countertenor to bass, are veterans of San Francisco’s finest professional vocal groups, including Chanticleer, Philharmonia Baroque, American Bach Soloists, and others. Since its founding in 2006, Clerestory has performed across the Bay Area, including regular concerts in San Francisco, Berkeley, Marin, and Palo Alto, along with appearances in Sonoma, Santa Cruz, and Lodi. The ensemble has been featured on National Public Radio and on San Francisco’s KDFC. Clerestory’s concert recordings are available for free listening or download at www.clerestory.org/recordings. The ensemble’s 2010 debut studio-recorded release, *Night Draws Near*, explores life, death, and mysticism in music inspired by the temporally and thematically close celebrations of Halloween, All Soul’s Day, and *El Día de los Muertos*. Writing about the CD, critic Jason Serinus noted the “exceptional sincerity and beauty of the singing.”

Clerestory is a tax-exempt non-profit organization with a mission of providing high quality performances to local audiences at affordable prices. Our Tax ID is 26-1238191. Donations are always welcome and may be made online at www.clerestory.org/how-you-can-help. Donations may also be made by check (payable to Clerestory) and mailed to:

Clerestory
601 Van Ness Avenue Suite E, #224
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www.clerestory.org

If you work for one of the many companies that supports the arts through a matching gifts program, you may be able to double or even triple your contribution to Clerestory. Most often all you need to do is fill out a matching gifts form available through your company's human resources department and mail it to us at the address above—we'll do the rest. If you have questions about corporate matching gifts, please write to us at info@clerestory.org and we'll be happy to help you maximize your contribution. Thank you.



THANK YOU

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