



O Come, All Ye Faithful (arr. by Benton)

Angels We Have Heard on High (arr. by Young)

Silent Night (arr. by Hobson)

Joy to the World (arr. by Rutter)

Messiah

Overture

Comfort ye, my people
Marcus Lawrence, tenor

Every valley shall be exalted
Andrew Peck, tenor

And the glory of the Lord
(Chorus)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive...
O thou that tellest good tidings
Naomi Spinelli, mezzo-soprano

O thou that tellest good tidings
(Chorus)

Intermission

For unto us a child is born
(Chorus)

There were shepherds abiding...
And lo! The angel came upon them...
And the angel said unto them...
And suddenly there was with them...
Hana Jung, soprano

Glory to God
(Chorus)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion
Rebecca Pearce, soprano

Then shall the eyes of the blind
He shall feed His flock

BrieAnne Welch Prestwich, soprano
Michele Detwiler, mezzo-soprano

I know that my Redeemer liveth
Christi Amonson, soprano

Behold, I tell you a mystery...
The trumpet shall sound
Anders Tobiason, baritone

Hallelujah
(Chorus)

Sewett Auditorium at The College of Idaho

December 17th, 6pm



Soloists

Soprano

Christi Amonson
Hana Jung
Rebecca Pearce
BrieAnne Welch Prestwich

Mezzo-soprano

Michele Detwiler
Naomi Spinelli

Tenor

Marcus Lawrence
Andrew Peck

Baritone

Anders Tobiason



Conductor, Nick Harker

Flute/Piccolo

* Heidi Blessing
Holly Anderson

Trombone

* Ben Blessing
Julie Kessler
Becky Cook

Viola

* Melanie Henry
Madelynn Vanderveen
Sabrina Mead
Sam Nasman

Oboe

* Christina Yarnot
Kiran Spees

Tuba

Cora Sower

Cello

* Rebecca Groeblichhoff
Menny Williams
Charlie Wall
Melinda Georgeson
Emalee Leishman
Faith Brown

Clarinet

* Nanci Marquess
Michael Harria

Percussion

* Gracen White
Moses Banford

Bassoon

* Tina Lambert
Ida Larsen

Violin 1

** Katy Green
Katie Ingram
Michelle Hogg
Nancy Cuoio
Jennifer Dunn

Bass

* Kyle Lambert
Abby Salmond
Chayleigh Christensen
Vinnie Valverde

French Horn

* Robin Baker
Jennifer Brickey
Linda Yordy
Jennie Ficks

Violin 2

* Chelsea Sanchez Holmes
Charlot Salmond
Mckeely Barrand
Melissa Langley
Sarah Shishido
Kylie Waggoner
Ryan Driscoll
Noah Noonan
Anastasia Stanciu

Pianist

Julia Ganske

Organist

Alison Lewis

**** concert master**
*** section leader**



Special thanks to all our
Volunteers,
our Volunteer Choir, and
rehearsal pianist Alison Lewis!



Artists



Soprano, Christi Amonson serves the College of Idaho as a professor of voice and director of opera and music theatre. An active soprano soloist, Christi has sung with orchestras and opera companies in the US, Italy, China, Brazil and Mexico. She was a winner of the Liederkrantz & National Classical Singer competitions, and a regional finalist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Regional and national opera performances include *Rosalinda*, *The Mother (Amahl & the Night Visitors)*, *Donna Anna*, *Adina*, *Zerlina*, *Nannetta*, *Gilda*, *Oscar*, *Despina*, *Monica*, *Yum Yum* and *Adele*. As a recitalist, Christi enjoys premiering new music compositions, and she is devoted to researching and performing lesser-known art song repertoire. She is a member of NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) and NOA (National Opera Association) and she writes the Music Major Minute column for *Classical Singer Magazine*.

Amonson earned her DMA in voice and theatre at the University of Arizona, MM in voice at the Manhattan School of Music and her BM Music Education at the University of Idaho. While in Arizona, she founded an opera company that performed semi-staged operas with the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra. She has since served as opera director for Troy and Augusta universities and a teaching artist for the summer Festival de Ópera de San Luis Potosí in Mexico. Christi lives in Star with her husband, their three daughters and two Shih-Tsus, aka the honorary "Yotes". (sponsor: Keely Electric)



Soprano, Rebecca Pearce, of Rebecca Pearce & the Eklectics, and Whiskey Tango Band, has also performed as lead singer for The BTown Hitmen, as well as the Trials and Tribulations Blues Band, where she is featured on the *Idaho Ladies Sing the Blues* CD by The Boise Blues Society. Pearce was classically trained in Italy with the Bel Canto technique and is currently a resident company member of Opera Idaho, and a previous member of Opera Elect. She was the guest soloist for the 2023 Governor's Inauguration, as well as the 2023, 2019, and 2017 Boise Hymns of Thanksgiving. She has placed in the nation's

top 20 in the National/International Classical Singer Vocal Competition in Classical Division Emerging Pro and top 20 for Emerging Pro Musical Theater Division. She is also a classically trained actress by the Utah Shakespearean company, and has performed and vocally directed in theater companies throughout the western United States for over 20 years. She works as an actress in film, a voice-over artist, and casting director. She lives in Boise with her husband of 23 years and 4 children, where she runs her voice and piano studio. She has led church choir, children's choir, community music groups, and volunteers in schools and communities teaching music and the arts.

(sponsor: Chris & Julie Corley)



Before moving to the Treasure Valley, **soprano** BrieAnne Welch Prestwich served as a resident artist with Cappella Antiqua at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento, CA and was also a member of the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera chorus. Mrs. Prestwich has performed Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Santa Rosa Symphonic Chorus and the Tuscia Opera Festival in Viterbo, Italy. She has also performed as the soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Camellia Symphony. In 2008, she performed Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* as well as First Lady and Papagena in a televised production of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* with the Tuscia Opera Festival in Rome. Other roles include *Donna Anna* and *Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni)*, *Pamina (Die Zauberflöte)*, *Adele* and *Ida (Die Fledermaus)*, *Drusilla (L'incoronazione di Poppea)*, *Anne Page (The Merry Wives of Windsor)* and *Dorabella (Così fan tutte)*. Most recently, Prestwich sang the *Contessa (Le nozze di Figaro)* and reprised *Stabat Mater* both with Gemma Arts, as well as attended the Narnia Festival debuting in the world premiere of Jake Landau's *Aeterna* as Juno. (sponsor: Six Points Justice Solutions)



Mezzo-soprano, Michele Detwiler has sung over thirty roles with regional companies on the West Coast, favoring Mahler, Strauss, Bel Canto and French repertoire. Critics have described her instrument as "amber-voiced", "a velvety mezzo soprano voice with excellent range", with performances being cited as "riveting" and holding "center stage commandingly".

Since moving to Idaho, she has performed nearly a dozen characters with Opera Idaho, most recently as Jade Boucher in *Dead Man Walking*. Last season, she reprised Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*), *Dorabella (Così fan tutte)*, and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with Gemma Arts, returned to the Narnia Festival in Italy leading the Emerging Artist Program, as well as sang the roles *Flora/ Annina (La traviata)* with MidAtlantic

Opera. Additionally, she reprised her role of Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*) in her Opera Mississippi debut. She will be making her Opera Modesto debut next month as Anne Bale in *Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Fallen Giant*.

In addition, the mezzo has sung with Opera San Jose, Sacramento Opera, Livermore Valley Opera, Taconic Opera, West Bay Opera, Inland Northwest Opera, the Boise Philharmonic and Master Chorale, the Idaho State-Civic Symphony, Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, Auburn Symphony, Boise Baroque and Symphony Silicon Valley.

Her concert credits include soloist in Haydn's *Creation*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen/Des Knaben Winderhorn/2nd Symphony*, Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, Herzogenberg's *Die Geburt Christi*, Einhorn's *Voices of Light*, Anna in *The King & I*, and her favorite Old Lady in Bernstein's *Candide Suite*, as well as numerous Bach cantatas.

Managed by Randsman Artists' Management, Mrs. Detwiler studies with Andrea DelGiudice in New York City.



Mezzo-soprano, Naomi Spinelli completed a Masters of Music in 2015 from Lee University in Tennessee. She has participated in Opera Idaho's productions of *Manon*, *La bohème*, *Carmen*, *The Merry Widow*, *Rusalka*, and *Le nozze di Figaro*. As part of the Narni International Vocal Arts Program the past two seasons, she sang the second Sorella Cercatrice (*Suor Angelica*) and Jake Landau's *Pieta*, the second witch in *Dido and Aeneas*, covering the role of Sorceress, and a Warrior in Jake Landau's *& Aeterna*. Additionally, she has performed with Gemma Arts as Marcellina (*Le nozze di Figaro*), and Third Daughter for Opera Elect's *The Rabbis' Advice* as well as the title role of *Peter Prickles*. She currently studies with Andrea DelGiudice in New York.

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Tenor, Andrew Peck returns to Idaho after completing coursework for a Doctorate of Musical Arts Degree from Arizona State University. From 2010-2014, he was a full-time/adjunct professor of Voice at Brigham Young University-Idaho, and from 2012-2014, Andrew was Artist-in-Residence at Opera Idaho. With Opera Idaho, the tenor has sung the roles of Sam (*Susannah*), Dr. Caius (*Falstaff*), Steve (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Alfred

(*Die Fledermaus*), and most recently, Howard (*Dead Man Walking*). Last spring, Peck performed the tenor solo in Beethoven's *9th Symphony* with the BYU-Idaho Symphony & Chorus both in Rexbutg and at the Salt Lake Tabernacle. He has frequently performed throughout the southern U.S. and holds a Master's Degree from the University of Houston (2009) and a Bachelor of Musical Arts degree from BYU-Idaho (2007). Other roles include: Hoffmann (*The Tales of Hoffmann*) with Opera in the Ozarks, Casey (*The Grapes of Wrath*) with the University of Houston, *Rigoletto's* Duke in a joint cover program through ASU and Arizona Opera, and Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) with Idaho Falls Opera Theatre. Having completed his dissertation on the creation of James DeMars' *Guadalupe*, in which he sang the premiere, Dr. Peck now teaches music at Renaissance High School and the Idaho Fine Arts Academy.

(sponsor: Barbara Norgrove)



Baritone Anders Tobiason holds Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral Degrees in Music as well as a Masters in Library and Information Science. He is currently a faculty librarian/assistant professor at Boise State University where he is liaison to the Music Department. He has sung chorus and as Lillas Pastia in Opera Idaho's *Carmen*, and Second Prison Guard in *Dead Man Walking*. Additionally, the baritone debuted as Bartolo in Gemma Arts' *Le nozze di Figaro* both in Boise and Rexburg. For the past 10 years, Anders has been a member of the Portland Opera where he sang in the chorus as well as performed numerous small roles. Highlights include the Captain in *Eugene Onegin* and Paco a Muleteer in *Man of La Mancha*. While completing his degrees in Madison, WI, he sang numerous roles the University Opera including Masetto in *Don Giovanni*. He also sang the role of Maximillian in *Candide* with Four Seasons Theater. He is excited to be singing with this wonderful group and to be part of the classical singing scene in Boise.

(sponsor: Chris & Julie Corley)

Feature Artists



Soprano, Hana Jung graduated from Suwon University and studied classical voice in Mal Maison, Cachan, and Creteil Conservatoire in France. She has sung the roles of Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* and Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*. The soprano has also performed with Opera Idaho in their productions of *Carmen*, *Dead Man Walking* and *Macbeth*. As a member of Opera Idaho's Resident Company, she debuted as the First Tree Fairy in last spring's *Rusalka*. In addition, Jung has performed with

Incheon Opera, Besseto Opera, Yangju City Choir, and Pocheon City Choir. Most recently she sang a recital titled *Memories Once Forgotten*, highlighting the story and music of the Korean culture. (sponsor: Max & RoseMarie Bearden)



Tenor, Marcus Lawrence returned to classical voice in 2022 after a 20-year hiatus. He is the President of the Opera Idaho Resident Company, sings with Critical Mass Vocal Artists, and has performed in *Die Zauberflöte* (2001), *Macbeth* (2023), and *An American Dream* (2023). A former Oregon Music Laurels Scholarship winner, Lawrence has sung with the Oregon Bach Festival, Bel Canto Opera

Northwest, and the internationally recognized University of Oregon a cappella group, *On The Rocks*. He resides in Boise with his partner and their combined seven children. (sponsor: Chris & Julie Corley)



Conductor Nick Harker, Orchestra Director at Idaho Arts Charter School and one of the co-founders and Music Director of the Canyon County Symphony, is an innovative and flexible conductor with a decade of experience in professional, community, and educational ensemble conducting. He has not only conducted in an orchestral setting, but also in the opera and ballet pits, as well as recording and film studios. He recently led the Keene State College Chamber Orchestra in New Hampshire and is currently teaching at the prestigious Idaho Arts Charter School. He has also held conducting positions with the Salt Lake Symphony, Utah Philharmonic, Utah Philharmonia, West Jordan Symphony, and the Evanston Civic Orchestra. He has worked regularly as a clinician and guest conductor with public schools across Idaho, New Hampshire, and Utah. As a violinist he has performed with the Salt Lake Symphony, Idaho Falls Symphony, West Jordan Symphony, and the Utah Philharmonic.

Growing up in a musical family, he developed a love of music from an early age. He obtained his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Utah where he studied primarily with Dr. Robert Baldwin, and his Masters in Music in Orchestral Conducting at Brigham Young University, studying primarily under Kory Katseanes and Dr. Don Peterson. As an undergraduate at Brigham Young University-Idaho, he studied violin under Dr. Dallin Hansen and earned an undergraduate degree in music education. Some of his other mentors include Jeffery Meyer, John Nardolillo, Thomas Heuser, Roger Kalia, Mark Gibson, and Kenneth Kiesler.

He is married to his wonderful wife and has two young boys. He also enjoys composing, playing basketball, and skiing.





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intimate concert event

Opera by the River

*public concert partnering with
Star Parks, Art, & Beautification Committee*

Emotion in Motion: Winterreise

Schubert's staged song cycle

Messiah Sing-a-Long

*Community-building concert co-hosted by
Canyon County Symphony*

2024 Projects

Memories Once Forgotten

Sunday, January 14th

Par Terre Winery – Garden City

Gemma Arts Music Festival

June 30-July 14th

Opera by the River

Saturday, August 17th

Messiah Sing-a-Long

date TBA

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