

HEARTLAND SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA

Winter 2024 Concert Series

#MostWonderfulTime

Ryan Webber, conductor

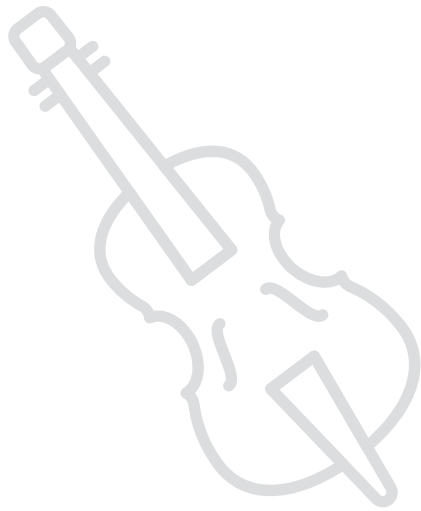
The Legacy Youth Chorale, directed by Kennedy Niska

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 7:30 PM – Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, Brainerd

Sunday, December 8, 2024, 2:30 PM – Charles D. Martin Auditorium, Little Falls

Leroy Anderson	<i>Sleigh Ride</i>	ca. 3'
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor arr. Sydney Baynes	<i>Christmas Overture</i>	ca. 5'30"
James Pierpont/John Philip Sousa arr. Robert W. Smith	<i>Jingle Bells Forever</i>	ca. 3'
remixed by Sonya Leonore Stahl	<i>Symphonukkah*</i>	ca. 7'30"
Leon Jessel arr. Ralph Ford	<i>Parade of the Wooden Soldiers</i>	ca. 2'
Kristen Anderson-Lopez/Robert Lopez arr. Bob Krogstad	<i>Music from Frozen</i>	ca. 7'
arr. Carl Strommen	<i>There's Christmas in the Air</i>	ca. 5'
Paul O'Neill arr. Andy Beck/Bob Philips	<i>Christmas Canon</i>	ca. 3'45"
John Williams/Leslie Bricusse	<i>Holiday Songs from Home Alone</i>	ca. 11'
	Somewhere in my Memory	
	Star of Bethlehem	
	Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas	

* Northern US Premiere



HEARTLAND  **SYMPHONY**
ORCHESTRA



Leroy Anderson (1908–1975)

Sleigh Ride (1948)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in New Delhi, India.
- The airlifting of goods and supplies to West Berlin began.
- President Harry Truman ended racial segregation within the U.S. Armed Forces.

What should I know about this composer?

- Anderson served in the U.S. Army starting in 1942. He was stationed both abroad in Iceland and domestically at the Pentagon.
- Anderson attended both the New England Conservatory of Music & Harvard College.

What should I know about this piece?

- The piece has become one of the most important contemporary Christmas compositions.
- Anderson paints the picture of a literal sleigh ride, with the whip cracks performed on slapstick, the trot of the horse performed on temple blocks, and the final horse whinny performed on trumpet.
- Original versions of the work written by Anderson himself exist for both orchestra and wind band.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875–1912)

Arranged by Sydney Baynes (1879–1938)

Christmas Overture (1925)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- New York City overtook London as the most populous city in the world.
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial was officially dedicated.
- The Chrysler Corporation was founded and began mass-manufacturing of automobiles.

What should I know about this composer?

- Coleridge-Taylor was born in Britain. His mother was English and his father was from Sierra Leone, who had moved to London to study

medicine. Due to his mixed-race lineage and his popularity as a composer, particularly in New York City after touring the U.S., he earned the nickname “Black Mahler.”

- Fellow English composer Edward Elgar helped promote Coleridge-Taylor’s early work, which contributed to his rise to fame as a composer.
- Coleridge-Taylor unfortunately died young at age 37 of pneumonia. It is speculated his finances were causing him great stress at the time and may have contributed to his illness and death.

What should I know about this piece?

- *Christmas Overture* consists of material and arrangements originally written by Coleridge-Taylor for a play. The final arranger, Sydney Baynes, took the material and arrangements and put them into a new setting - the version of *Christmas Overture* that exists today.
- Coleridge-Taylor is credited for the work posthumously, as it was finally arranged by Baynes in 1925 - thirteen years after Coleridge-Taylor’s death.

James Pierpont & John Philip Sousa (1822–1893 & 1854–1932)

Setting by Robert W. Smith

Jingle Bells Forever (1987)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- The Simpsons TV show first appears as shorts on the Tracey Ullman Show.
- President Ronald Reagan travels to Berlin and in a speech delivers the famous line: “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”
- The first KFC restaurant in mainland China was opened.

What should I know about this composer?

- While melodies, themes, and other material were originally composed by James Pierpont and John Philip Sousa, composer Robert W. Smith takes the two pieces and merges them into one.
- Robert W. Smith is considered a legend within the concert band world, only being contested by very few others. He has written and arranged over a hundred pieces for concert band, and a very large number of them are cherished by music educators.

What should I know about this piece?

- *Jingle Bells Forever* is composed of musical material from both *Jingle Bells* and *Stars and Stripes Forever*, creating a Christmas march. While the *Jingle Bells* theme is very obvious, listen for all of the little bits and pieces of *Stars and Stripes Forever*, both in the upper melodic voices and in some of the runs of the low brass and strings.
- Besides the pieces mentioned above, try and pick up some references to other holiday melodies and march snippets!

Sonya Leonore Stahl (1981–present)

Symphonukkah (2023)

Symphonukkah is a tour through many of our old favorites, scored in a new orchestration that reflects both our traditions and my sense of fairyland whimsy. It began its life as a 50-second Rock of Ages prologue I wrote in 2018 to accompany a holiday medley we rented that didn’t include this most central of Chanukah melodies (for me, anyway), but I have truly enjoyed continuing that first flourish. I also included some melodies that aren’t usually explored in a Chanukah medley—listen for the clarinet intoning the blessing over lighting the menorah, as well as Eliezar Mordecai Gerovitsch’s melody for the weekly hymn “Adon Olam” (the final words of which are “The Lord is with me; I will not fear”.) For me, the most fun part about writing this piece was exploring the potential of each of these tunes I’ve known from childhood—what if a music box, what if antiphonal brass, what if a sleigh ride? What if, as Figment said on the old version of the Disney Journey into Imagination ride, “A rainbow... I’ll use that—to paint with!”

Symphonukkah was commissioned by a consortium of The Gainesville Orchestra, Volusia Community Arts, Mid America Freedom Band, and Gainesville Orchestra supporters Cherie and Jack Fine, Ira Gessner, Stuart and Chara Cohn, Rebecca and David Micha, Edward and Toby Hunter, Roz and Izzy Shever, and Vera Rabino.

A concert band version of the finale section was premiered by Lee Hartman and the Mid America Freedom Band, and is also available.

**program notes for Symphonukkah written by Sonya Leonore Stahl*

Leon Jessel (1871–1942)

Arranged by Ralph Ford

Parade of the Wooden Soldiers (1897)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- The first Boston Marathon was held with 15 contestants competing.
- The first electric bicycle was invented.
- John Philip Sousa and his band perform *The Stars and Stripes Forever* for the first time.

What should I know about this composer?

- Jessel was a German composer and was known for writing Operettas and light Classical music.
- As he was a Jew by birth, Jessel's work was heavily suppressed upon Hitler's rise to power in 1930's Germany. Jessel himself was captured and murdered by the Gestapo at the age of 70. All of this happened despite him converting to Christianity early in his life.

What should I know about this piece?

- This piece is also widely known as *The Parade of the Tin Soldiers*.
- *Parade of the Wooden Soldiers* is currently Jessel's most prolific work in the modern era.
- Originally, this work was written for piano, but was later orchestrated by Jessel himself.

Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez

(1972–present & 1975–present)

Arranged by Bob Krogstad

Music from Frozen (2013)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- Pope Benedict XVI voluntarily resigned from his position, being the first pope to resign in centuries.
- Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, died at age 95.
- Edward Snowden leaked information stating that the United States government was conducting mass-surveillance of the general population for certain information through the National Security Agency.

What should I know about this composer?

- The husband and wife duo have both worked on several Disney movies including *Frozen*, *Frozen II*, and *Coco*. Both are signed with Disney Publishing.
- Both Kristen and Robert Lopez have also worked on musicals, children's programming, and other smaller productions.

What should I know about this piece?

- *Frozen* is based off of the Hans Christian Andersen story, "The Snow Queen," which was originally published in 1844.
- The film grossed over 1.2 billion dollars, and was the 5th best selling film of all time immediately after ending its run in theaters. It is now only 23rd on the best selling list of all time.

Various Composers

Arranged by Carl Strommen (1939–present)

There's Christmas in the Air (2007)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- Bob Barker hosts his final episode of "The Price is Right."
- Queen Elizabeth II became the oldest reigning British Monarch, surpassing the record set by Queen Victoria.
- The Apple iPhone is released in the United States.

What should I know about this composer?

- Strommen is not a run-of-the-mill arranger, as he has written and arranged likely hundreds of pieces for instrumental and vocal ensembles. Many of those works are educational and his name is one of the most well-known among music educators.

What should I know about this piece?

- Many contemporary Christmas classics are featured in the piece, including *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, *Have Yourself a Very Merry Christmas*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, and *Frosty the Snowman*.

Johann Pachelbel & Paul O’Neil (1653–1706 & 1956–2017)

Arranged by Andy Beck

Christmas Canon (1998)

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- The 1998 Winter Olympics were held in Japan.
- The first American-made component of the International Space Station was launched into orbit.
- In Europe, nineteen nations agree to ban the cloning of human beings.

What should I know about this composer?

- Johann Pachelbel’s most prolific piece is *Canon in D*, which *Christmas Canon* is almost entirely based upon.
- Paul O’Neil was the founder of the popular holiday group, Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

What should I know about this piece?

- *Christmas Canon* is a remix created by Trans-Siberian Orchestra’s Paul O’Neil. O’Neil, while remaining very faithful to the original *Canon in D*, adds vocal parts to enhance the piece and give it the Christmas flare it possesses.
- In 2011, *Christmas Canon* placed 9th on the Holiday 100 chart.

Music by John Williams (1932–present)

Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse (1931–2021)

Holiday Songs from Home Alone (original film release 1990)

I. Somewhere in my Memory

II. Star of Bethlehem

III. Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas

What was happening in the world when this piece premiered?

- East and West Germany reunified after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.
- The Hubble Space Telescope was launched.
- The first known web page was created.

What should I know about this composer?

- John Williams is the most popular living classical composer due to his work for many blockbuster films such as *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Jurassic Park*, *Jaws*, *Superman*, and of course *Home Alone*.
- William’s first credited film composition was debuted in 1952 in a tourism video for the Canadian Province of Newfoundland. His latest credited work is from 2023 for *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*.
- In 2022, Williams announced that he would be retiring from film composition after the last of his works were completed and released, but he has since stated that if it was “right,” he would consider working on another film score.

What should I know about this piece?

- Filming for *Home Alone* was completed in just under three months in Chicago.
- *Home Alone* was the number one selling movie at the box office for twelve weeks in a row upon its release.

Program notes written by Tristen Heller



◆ SONYA LEONORE STAHL ◆

Sonya Leonore Stahl (1981) is a violinist with the Gainesville Orchestra and Ocala Symphony Orchestra, and was the state fiddle champion at the Florida Folk Festival in 2011. She studied with Janna Lower and Paul Richards at the University of Florida, and her compositions center love, nature, faith, and fairy-tales.

Her “Solutions” was performed both by the Professors’ Choir at the 2022 Southeast Trombone Symposium and the Cramer Choir at the 2023 International Trombone Festival, and her “Song of the Rose” appears on Dr. Jemmie Robertson’s *Red Dragonfly* album. In 2023 she was awarded one of the prizes in the Silent Voices Festival out of Bemidji State University, and in 2024 the Edinburgh University Brass Band selected her “Piltown Man” winner of their composition contest.

She previously spent two decades working with fruits and vegetables, both in scientific research and wholesale logistics, and was the winner of the Florida State Horticultural Society’s Best Paper for her 2021 review of bamboo shoot freshness. Find her musical compositions on YouTube at the channel “I eat too many clementines.”



◆ CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG ◆

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven,
and nature sing.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Silent Night

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.

◆ HEARTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL ◆

Operations Director – Navasha Kieffer | Orchestra Manager – Fran Dosh
 Music Librarian – Alicia Cebulla

HSO is always in need of additional string players and sometimes other instruments.
 If interested in joining please contact heartlandssymphony@gmail.com.

VIOLIN 1

Leslie Zander, Concertmaster..... Brainerd
 Tamara Bottge..... St. Cloud
 Samantha Lake..... Little Falls
 Sandy Larson..... Brainerd
 Jill Lee..... Crosby
 Paul Sandberg..... Brainerd

VIOLIN 2

Claire Rud, Principal..... Brainerd
 Micah Biermaier..... Fort Ripley
 Peggy Rutman..... Nisswa
 Jamie Sunder..... Little Falls
 Louise Washburn..... Brainerd

VIOLA

Tracie Becker..... Deerwood
 Alicia Cebulla..... Pierz
 Kylie Laman..... Brainerd
 Ammy Lin..... Baxter
 Ethan Sunder..... Little Falls
 Tim Swanson..... Baxter

CELLO

Jenna Hanson..... Brainerd
 Jane Huppler..... Onamia
 Taisha Linder..... Pillager
 Robin Myers..... Brainerd
 Rebecca Nelson..... Cushing
 Micah Rock..... Bemidji

STRING BASS

Gunnar Kuehl, Principal..... Baxter
 Val Buchmeier..... St. Michael
 Don Neu..... Freeport
 Elsie Predmore..... Brainerd

PICCOLO

Kyle Brown..... Brainerd

FLUTE

Lauren Nickisch, Principal..... Pequot Lakes
 Lisa Winter..... Wadena

OBOE

Amy Kessler, Principal..... Merrifield
 Kaarin Hanske..... Baxter

ENGLISH HORN

Kaarin Hanske..... Baxter

CLARINET

Katie Brimhall..... Brainerd
 Cathy Dens..... Brainerd
 Max Sommers..... Baxter

BASS CLARINET

Katie Brimhall..... Brainerd

BASSOON

Miriam Webber, Principal..... Bemidji
 Martin J. Van Klompenberg..... Moorhead
 Brian Sterriker..... Staples

CONTRABASSOON

Martin J. Van Klompenberg..... Moorhead

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Max Sommers..... Baxter

FRENCH HORN

Jen Mickels..... Baxter
 Marilyn Quist..... Nisswa
 Becky Stadem..... Brainerd
 Lisa Sater..... Grand Marais

TRUMPET

Chris Fogderud, Principal..... Brainerd
 Nick Bunio..... Staples
 Gary Taylor..... Deerwood

TROMBONE

Tristen Heller, Principal..... Remer
 Todd Peterson..... Little Falls

BASS TROMBONE

Steven K. Anderson..... Merrifield

TUBA

Doug Durant, Principal..... Brainerd

TIMPANI

Stacy Podoll-Erdal..... Brainerd

PERCUSSION

Cody Ewald..... Baxter
 Eoin O'Connell..... Brainerd

◆ LEGACY YOUTH CHORALE ◆

Under the Direction of Kennedy Niska

Jude Anderson..... Brainerd	Remy Monical..... Pequot Lakes
Abbey Baierl..... Aitkin	Paige Morris..... Baxter
Zoey Baierl..... Aitkin	Nora Nadeau..... Brainerd
Alayna Borchartd..... Brainerd	Eden Novak..... Brainerd
Emma Conn..... Aitkin	Thomas Ostrowski..... Deerwood
Evangeline Conner..... Brainerd	Gabriella Owen..... Aitkin
Beckett Craine..... Ironton	Evelyn Paulbeck..... Pequot Lakes
Eleanor Davis..... Brainerd	Dylan Pikula..... Brainerd
Aren DeVries..... Brainerd	Ben Porter..... Crosslake
Ruby Dirkes..... Baxter	Beau Prince..... Brainerd
Arah Halbersma..... Baxter	Willa Prince..... Brainerd
Ireland Heap..... Brainerd	Hope Reitnauer..... Breezy Point
Allison Hecker..... Pequot Lakes	Taryn Rosenberg..... Brainerd
Devany Hermanson..... Lake Shore	Gustin Sjostrand..... Brainerd
Katelyn Herold..... Baxter	Seth Sjostrand..... Brainerd
Elizabeth Houle..... Baxter	Emily Smith..... Brainerd
Kadlin Kevelin..... Backus	Kaylee Stange..... Deerwood
Kami Knollenberg..... Brainerd	Tyler Thiein..... Deerwood
Irie Kronstedt..... Ironton	Gwendolyn Voller..... Deerwood
Prudence LeClaire-Horning..... Brainerd	Irene Wagner..... Aitkin
Maura Lundeen..... Brainerd	Selma Wenstrand..... Brainerd
Brylee Martin..... Brainerd	Courtnei Winch..... Baxter
Amelia Mauro..... Baxter	Liam Wonders..... Brainerd
Kai McGuire..... Breezy Point	Lily Wonders..... Brainerd
Kylee Miner..... Onamia	Nora Wonders..... Brainerd

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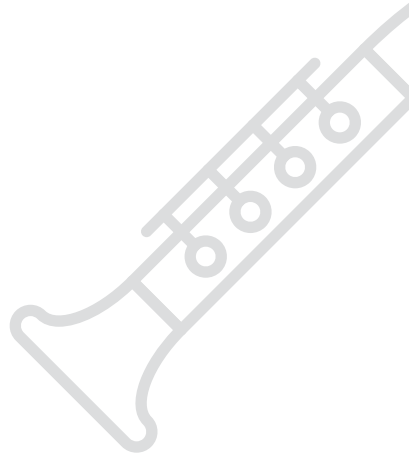
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Diane, Marilyn, and the spirit of Ken
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O R C H E S T R A

Heartland Symphony Orchestra

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