



LOCAL TALENT · UNIVERSAL APPEAL

# COSMIC Christmas Concert

*Directed by Will Esterling*

With music from  
Tchaikovsky's *The  
Nutcracker Suite* and other  
Christmas classics

Saturday, December 10 at 3:00 PM  
Patuxent Presbyterian Church  
California, MD

Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 PM  
St. John Vianney Family Life Center  
Prince Frederick, MD



# JOIN US AFTER THE SHOW!

Stop by The Green Turtle after the concert on **SATURDAY**, 12/10, and 20% of the proceeds from your meal will be donated to COSMIC!

**NOTE: You must give a PRINTED copy of the flyer to your server for COSMIC to receive the contribution! Find it in your program!**



**23415 Three Notch Rd. California, MD 20619**

Stop by Outback Steakhouse after the concert on **SUNDAY**, 12/11, and 10% of the proceeds from your meal will be donated to COSMIC!

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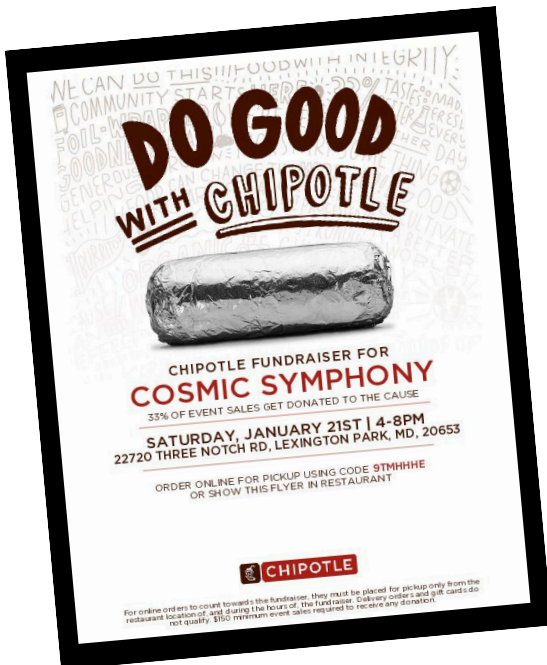
# CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER

Grab something to eat at Chipotle in Lexington Park on Saturday 1/21 and show our flyer (physical or on a mobile device) for 33% of your meal's proceeds to get donated to COSMIC!

Find the poster on our social media pages or on our website at [www.cosmicsymphony.org](http://www.cosmicsymphony.org)



22720 Three Notch Rd,  
Lexington Park, MD  
20653



Christmas is one of the most joyous times of the year, filled with festivities with friends and family. We extend warm wishes to each of you as you are celebrating the holidays. The end of the year is upon us, whether we're ready or not! COSMIC Symphony has much to be thankful for in 2022 as we emerge from two years of the darkness of COVID into the 'light' of this holiday season. We are thankful for our new Music Director, Will Esterling, and many new players and are grateful for the opportunity and the privilege of sharing our music with you. We look forward to what the future will bring.

Approaching the holiday season, we pause for reflection to thank our audience and generous donors for helping to support COSMIC Symphony's mission of bringing quality classical music to the Southern Maryland region. All of us rely upon friends and family for support, and at no time of year is this more apparent than the holidays. COSMIC has attained success because of the generosity and commitment of countless individuals who care about our mission, all through the year. If you've already made a financial gift this year, we thank you. If not, I invite you to participate now by visiting our PayPal Giving Fund at: <https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/2312658>.

Thank you once again for your enthusiasm and support for COSMIC Symphony—we are ever so grateful for you. I hope you will complete our audience survey as it will help us provide demographic information to grant and corporate applications. We look forward to your thoughts and suggestions. Many thanks to our graphic designer, Mindy Striep, for sharing her talent with us in creating posters, programs, and social media posts.

Enjoy the performance and be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Instagram. Please continue to spread the word about COSMIC Symphony, Southern Maryland's only community orchestra!

May you find yourself surrounded by family, friends, and beautiful music this holiday season. The Board of Directors and I wish warm Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year to the COSMIC Symphony family.

Best wishes,



*Karen L. Roberts*



President,  
COSMIC Symphony  
Board of Directors

# MUSIC DIRECTOR:

## *Will Esterling*

Will Esterling is excited to take on the position of Music Director at the COSMIC Symphony. Will is an advocate for music as both a performer and educator. As a conductor, Will serves as the assistant conductor at the New Orchestra of Washington (NOW) and the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras (MCYO). As an educator, Will is an adjunct professor at American University and serves as the Wind & Brass Department Chair at Levine Music. As a trombonist, Will serves as a musician in the 287th Army Band of the Delaware National Guard.



## UPCOMING CONCERT DATES

**Family/Young Artist Competition Winner**

*March 11th & 12th, 2023*

**Finale Pops Concert**

*May 6th & 7th, 2023*

Please take a moment to complete a brief survey to help us with grant applications, community outreach, program planning, and more!



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Orchestra**

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# COSMIC Flute Choir

*Led by Linda Henry*

Catherine McMichael

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Catherine McMichael

*Good King Wenceslas*

Catherine McMichael

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette,  
Isabella*

Amy Rice-Young  
Blumenthal

*The Twelve + Days of Christmas*

# COSMIC Symphony

## *Christmas Concert*

*Music Director: Will Esterling*

Leroy Anderson

*A Christmas Festival*

Ralph Vaughn Williams

*Fantasia on Greensleeves*

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

*The Nutcracker Suite*

Tom Kennedy

*Christmas Carols*

Leroy Anderson

*Sleigh Ride*



*As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode and turn off all cellular phones and electronic watch alarms. Any photography or recording devices are strictly prohibited during these performances.*

# COSMIC ORCHESTRA

## First Violin

David Kung\*\*\*  
Kaitlin Rose\*\*  
Allison Frere  
Marcia Van Gemert

Jane Liang  
Ginny Norris  
Pierre Petitjean  
Samantha Waby

## Second Violin

Carolyn Graessle\*  
Mia Cassetta  
Jerry Mobley  
Alan Newhouse  
Gianna Heisey  
Maria Heisey

## Viola

Holly Gutierrez\*  
Kori Olszewski  
Mindy Striep  
Alison Treglia

## Cello

Philip Hopko\*  
Stephanie Gleason  
Kathleen Hiner

## Double Bass

Bill Hones\*  
Patty Lafferty

## Flute

Linda Henry\*  
Christa Benner  
Carrie Cooper

## Piccolo

Carrie Cooper

## Clarinet

Tony Avak\*  
David Schug  
Michael Sullivan  
Richard Stattel  
Greg Wallace

## Bass Clarinet

Tony Avak

## Bassoon

Ben Henry\*  
Rebecca Moore  
Kevin Stevens\*

## Oboe

Tom Anderson  
Michael Waby

## Keyboard

## Trumpet

David Roan\*  
Leigh DePiazza  
Ross Thompson

## Trombone

Richard Stattel  
Greg Wallace

## Tuba

Joshua Lewis

## Percussion

Kevin Stevens\*  
Tom Anderson  
Michael Waby

## Keyboard

Tom Anderson

\*\*\* denotes Concertmaster

\*\*denotes Assistant Concertmaster

\* denotes Principal



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## English Horn

Janet Gross

## French Horn

Steven Woods\*  
Stefie Bartley  
Skylar Schirtzinger  
Nicole Thompson



# COSMIC FLUTE CHOIR

## Piccolo

Carrie Cooper  
Nicole Thompson

## Alto Flute

Linda Henry

## Bass Flute

Christa Benner

## C Flute

Carrie Cooper  
Linda Henry  
Debbie  
Patterson  
Holly Thompson  
Nicole Thompson  
Nathalie Yi  
Gina Yingling



## PROGRAM NOTES

**Angels We Have Heard on High** is a Christmas carol which is sung to the French noel tune "Gloria", that is believed to date from the eighteenth century. This carol is well-known for its chorus, *Gloria in excelsis Deo*, in which the "o" sound in "Gloria" is sustained through cascading phrases in which human voices are trying to imitate what angels were expressing that night when Christ was born. The text for this carol is found in Luke 2: 1-20 in the Bible where the shepherds, who are in the fields outside of Bethlehem, see and hear a multitude of angels singing and praising the newborn child.

**Good King Wenceslas** is a Christmas carol whose lyrics were written in 1853 by English hymn writer John Mason Neale and they are set to the melody of the 13th century spring carol "Tempus adest floridum". This carol tells the story of a Bohemian duke (he was posthumously awarded the title of king) who went on a journey in the harsh winter weather to provide food and wood to a poor peasant man who was in need. The good King took his page with him to bless this peasant man and, in the process, the page was also blessed through the King's generosity. This story took place on the Feast of Stephen which is December 26, the second day of Christmas, and is based on the life of Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia, who lived from 907 - 935 AD.

**Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella** is a French Christmas carol which dates back to the seventeenth century. Originally, this song was intended to be dance music for the nobility rather than a song to be sung at Christmas time. The story is about two women who have found baby Jesus and his mother Mary in a stable. The women are so excited that they run off to tell the nearby villagers to come see the newborn child. The people arriving to see the child are encouraged to keep quiet so that the baby can sleep.

**The Twelve + Days of Christmas** is based on *The Twelve Days of Christmas* with small sections of other Christmas carols and songs added in to the main piece. The version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* that is most well-known today was written by English composer Frederic Austin in 1909. The song is an example of a cumulative song which means that each verse contains text which is added to all of the previous verses' texts so that each verse gets longer and longer until the twelfth day is reached. All of the verses describe different gifts that were given by "my true love".

# PROGRAM NOTES

## LEROY ANDERSON

Leroy Anderson (June 29, 1908 – May 18, 1975) was an American composer of short, light concert pieces, many of which were introduced by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler. John Williams described him as "one of the great American masters of light orchestral music."



In a 1961 interview with Dick Bertel of WTIC Radio, Hartford, Connecticut, Leroy Anderson answers a question as to what he was trying to accomplish when writing "A Christmas Festival": "Well, I was trying to write a Christmas festival! You see, there are all types of things that have been written for various occasions and in this particular case I was working at the time for the Boston Pops and they wanted to record a special concert number, using Christmas songs, carols and other Christmas music, for recordings. So Arthur Fiedler [conductor of the Pops] asked me to do a concert overture, and this is how it came about. I selected the ones that were the most popular and best known, then I took them and tried to give instrumental treatment to them; in other words, it's not a medley; that isn't what we wanted to do here, certainly what I didn't want to do. I rather took the themes and built, you might say, a concert overture, around the Christmas songs. They're not just carols because in this we end with "Jingle Bells." That is, of course, a secular song; it's not a carol, but it's associated so much with the gaiety and spirit of Christmas that you certainly couldn't leave it out."

"Sleigh Ride" is a light orchestra standard composed by Leroy Anderson. The composer had formed the original idea for the piece during a heat wave in July 1946, and he finished the work in February 1948. The original recordings were instrumental versions. The lyrics, about riding in a sleigh and other fun wintertime activities, were written by Mitchell Parish in 1950. Anderson also made arrangements for wind band and piano.

The orchestral version was first recorded in 1949 by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra. "Sleigh Ride" was a hit record on RCA Victor Red Seal, and has become one of the orchestra's signature songs. The 45rpm version was originally issued on red vinyl.

# PROGRAM NOTES

## VAUGHN WILLIAMS

Ralph Vaughan Williams, (12 October 1872 – 26 August 1958) was an English composer. His works include operas, ballets, chamber music, secular and religious vocal pieces and orchestral compositions including nine symphonies, written over sixty years. Strongly influenced by Tudor music and English folk-song, his output marked a decisive break in British music from its German-dominated style of the 19th century.



Vaughan Williams was born to a well-to-do family with strong moral views and a progressive social life. Throughout his life he sought to be of service to his fellow citizens, and believed in making music as available as possible to everybody. He wrote many works for amateur and student performance. He was musically a late developer, not finding his true voice until his late thirties.

Vaughan Williams is among the best-known British symphonists, noted for his very wide range of moods, from stormy and impassioned to tranquil, from mysterious to exuberant. Among the most familiar of his other concert works are "Fantasia on a Theme" by Thomas Tallis (1910) and "The Lark Ascending" (1914). His vocal works include hymns, folk-song arrangements and large-scale choral pieces.

"Greensleeves" is a traditional English folk song. A broadside ballad by the name "A Newe Northen Dittye of ye Ladye Greene Slevs" was registered by Richard Jones at the London Stationer's Company in September 1580, and the tune is found in several late-16th-century and early-17th-century sources, such as Ballet's MS Lute Book and Het Luitboek van Thysius, as well as various manuscripts preserved in the Seeley Historical Library in the University of Cambridge.

Fantasia on Greensleeves was arranged in 1934 for string orchestra and harp by Ralph Greaves from Vaughan Williams's treatment of folk tunes in his 1924 opera *Sir John in Love*.

# PROGRAM NOTES

## TCHAIKOVSKY

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (May 1840 – 6 November 1893) was a Russian composer of the Romantic period. He was the first Russian composer whose music would make a lasting impression internationally. He wrote some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in the current classical repertoire, including the ballets *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*, the 1812 Overture, his First Piano Concerto, Violin Concerto, the *Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy*, several symphonies, and the opera *Eugene Onegin*.



The Suite No. 1 is what is commonly referred to as *The Nutcracker Suite*, and has been instrumental in sparking a love of music in many children down the years. The real wonder of this music is not that it should appeal to children as such, but that it appeals to the fabled child in all of us. Tchaikovsky transports us to Christmas past when the very air seemed to tingle and sparkle, and the chill world seemed to glow in luminous expectancy. Although a reminder is scarcely necessary, here is a brief resume of the movements: *Miniature Overture* – skips delicately, the atmosphere of innocence heightened by omitting bass instruments; *March* – an exciting profusion of fanfares and spiraling strings; *Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy* – the perfect application of the newly-invented celesta; *Trepak* – a fast and furious Ukrainian folk-dance, spinning ever more dizzily; *Arabian Dance* – slow, sinuous, exotic; *Dance of the Mirlitons* – sweet, soaring flutes; *Pas de Deux* – the prince romances the Sugar Plum Fairy; *Waltz of the Flowers* – brimming with grace and elegance, Tchaikovsky's most inspired foray into the form of the French Valse.

# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



*This award was made possible in part by a grant from the St. Mary's County Arts Council, and the Maryland State Arts Council.*



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