



COSMIC Symphony Presents

# WINTER Daydreams

*Directed by William F. Esterling III*

Saturday, December 9, 2023 @ 3:00pm

Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center

St. Mary's College of Maryland

47855 College Dr. St. Mary's City, MD

Sunday, December 10, 2023 @ 3:00pm

Patuxent High School

12485 Southern Connector Blvd. Lusby, MD

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Donations Welcome!*



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We extend warm wishes to each of you as you are celebrating the holidays. COSMIC Symphony has much to be thankful for in 2023; specifically, the opportunity and the privilege of sharing our music with such an enthusiastic and supportive audience.

Approaching the holiday season, we pause to thank our audience and generous donors for helping 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 is successful because of the generosity and commitment of countless individuals. If you've already made a financial gift this year, we thank you. If not, I invite you to participate now by choosing one of the options on our donation page later in the program.

Many thanks to our graphics designer, Mindy Striep, for sharing her talent with us in creating posters, programs, and social media posts, to the COSMIC Symphony Board of Directors and other numerous volunteers.

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 you warm Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Musically yours,

Karen Roberts  
President, COSMIC Symphony



Welcome to "Winter Daydreams," a magical journey through the enchanting melodies that define the season. As the Music Director of the COSMIC Symphony, I am thrilled to present a program that captures the essence of winter's whimsy.

Our concert opens with Mozart's lively *Sleigh Ride* dance, setting the stage for a delightful evening. Debussy's *Rêverie* invites you into a dreamlike state, leading to Waldteufel's *Skater's Waltz*, evoking visions of a winter wonderland.

During the intermission, take a moment to reflect on your own winter daydreams, inspired by the captivating melodies you've experienced so far.

The second half features enchanting compositions, including Humperdinck's *Dream Pantomime* and Tchaikovsky's *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*. As we conclude with timeless classics like Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* and Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, let the music carry you to a place of festive joy.

Thank you for your continued support, and may this concert fill your hearts with the magic of "Winter Daydreams."

Warm regards,

Will Esterling  
Music Director COSMIC Symphony



# PROGRAM

## COSMIC Flute Choir

<i>The Sleigh Ride</i>	Leopold Mozart (1719 - 1787) arr. Judy Nishimura
<i>On a Quiet Christmas Night</i>	Franz Gruber (1787 - 1863) arr. Lisa Ochoco
<i>We Three Kings/Carol of the Bells</i>	John Hopkins (1949 -) & Mykola Leontovych (1877 - 1921) arr. Phyllis Louke
<i>Joy to the World</i>	Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748) & Lowell Mason (1792 - 1872) arr. Catherine McMichael

## COSMIC Symphony

<i>Sleigh Ride Dance</i> from <i>Three German Dances</i> , K. 605	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791)
<i>Rêverie</i>	Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918)
<i>The Skater's Waltz</i>	Charles Émile Waldteufel (1837 - 1915)

## INTERMISSION

<i>March of the Toys</i> from <i>Babes in Toyland</i>	Victor August Herbert (1859 - 1924)
<i>Dream Pantomime</i> from <i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	Engelbert Humperdinck (1854 - 1921)
<i>Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy</i> from <i>The Nutcracker</i>	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 - 1893)
<i>Trepak</i> from <i>The Nutcracker</i>	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 - 1893)
<i>White Christmas</i>	Irving Berlin (1888 - 1989)
<i>Sleigh Ride</i>	Leroy Anderson (1908 - 1975)

*This program is approximately two hours in length.*

# PROGRAM NOTES

## FLUTE CHOIR SELECTIONS

*The Sleigh Ride* was composed in 1755 by Leopold Mozart, the father and principal teacher of the very well-known Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It was originally a movement of his *Divertimento in F* for orchestra and has now been arranged for flute choir with optional percussion. *The Sleigh Ride* was one of the last pieces that Leopold wrote before dedicating his life to advancing his son's musical career.

*On a Quiet Christmas Night* is a simple arrangement of *Silent Night* combined with a melody that Lisa Ochoco herself composed. The melody from *Silent Night* and the melody composed by Ochoco are played both independently from each other and simultaneously with each other. The other flute parts form the foundation for these beautifully interwoven melodies.

*We Three Kings/Carol of the Bells* is a unique arrangement which combines, in intriguing ways, the familiar Christmas songs *We Three Kings* and *Carol of the Bells*. The piece begins with a theme from *Carol of the Bells* which is then often used as a rhythmic ostinato element that ties the two songs together. The melodies from the two pieces are alternated as well as juxtaposed throughout the piece, being played by different instruments and thereby causing changes in the texture of the piece. It is a very joyous celebration of Christmas.

*Joy to the World* was not originally written to be a Christmas carol. It was a poem penned by the English minister and writer, Isaac Watts, whose words were inspired by Psalm 98 of the Bible. This poem was first published in 1719 in Watts' collection of hymns and spiritual songs entitled *The Psalms of David*. The melody most widely paired with this poem is "Antioch" which is often attributed to George Frideric Handel or Lowell Mason. The reality is that this melody had been around in England for several years before Mason published it in the United States of America in 1848, but Mason was the first to pair it with Watts' text. It is interesting to note that the first four notes of the hymn *Joy to the World* are the same as the first four notes of Handel's chorus *Lift Up Your Heads*, which is part of *Messiah*, and the third line of the hymn can be found in Handel's *Comfort Ye*, also part of *Messiah*. It is known that Mason was a great admirer and scholar of Handel's music so there has been much speculation as to how much influence *Messiah* had on *Joy to the World*.

# PROGRAM NOTES

## *SLEIGH RIDE DANCE*

*Sleigh Ride Dance* composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791) is the third in a set of three compositions written in the late 1700s, entitled *Three German Dances*. Prior to the entrance of the sleigh bells that emphasize the title of the dance, there is a series of repeating phrases that pass between the trumpets, woodwinds, and violins. The topography of the dynamics throughout the piece create the feeling of a sleigh ride, as they rise and fall like a sleigh would over snow. These phrases are followed by a post horn solo that provides a clear and peaceful atmosphere to the piece. *Sleigh Ride* was composed in 1791, the last year of Mozart's life, which is said to be one of Mozart's most productive years.



## *RÊVERIE*

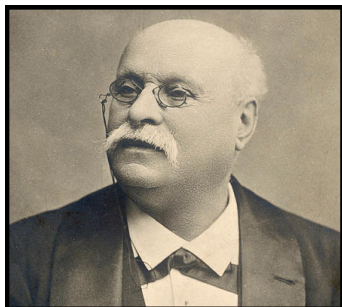


Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918) is believed to have written *Rêverie* between 1880 and 1884 when he was a student at the *Conservatoire de Paris*, but was greatly displeased when his publisher Eugene Fromont published it in 1890. In an angry letter to Fromont he wrote, "I regret very much your decision to publish *Rêverie*. I wrote it in a hurry years ago, purely for material considerations. It is a work of no consequence, and I frankly consider it to be no good!" In spite of Debussy's opinions of his early work, it went on to become both a critical and commercial success and is credited with slightly influencing jazz harmonies decades later.

# PROGRAM NOTES

## ***THE SKATER'S WALTZ***

*The Skater's Waltz*, or *Les Patineurs*, was composed by Émile Waldteufel (1837 - 1915) in 1882. The piece is inspired by a skating rink (*cercie des patineurs*) at the Bois de Boulogne in Paris, France. The introduction to the waltz calls to mind the poise of a skater, and the rapid runs paint a picture of a wintry atmosphere. The piece is Waldteufel's most recognized, and has been used in countless movies, television shows, and video games.



## ***MARCH OF THE TOYS FROM BABES IN TOYLAND***

*March of the Toys* comes from the second act of Victor Herbert's (1859 - 1924) operetta *Babes in Toyland*. It wove together various characters from Mother Goose nursery rhymes into a musical extravaganza that opened in New York in 1903. It ran for 192 performances and inspired many other "fairytale shows" over the next decade.

## ***DREAM PANTOMIME FROM HANSEL AND GRETEL***

Engelbert Humperdinck (1854 - 1921) is best known for his composition of the opera *Hansel and Gretel*, which he published in 1893. He first composed four songs to accompany a puppet show being put on by his nieces at home, and later composed a complete orchestration in 1891, with the opera premiering in December 1893. *Hansel and Gretel* was the Royal Opera House of London's first complete opera broadcast over the radio in 1923, and eight years later, it was the first opera transmitted live from the Metropolitan Opera in New York.



# PROGRAM NOTES

## *DANCE OF THE SUGAR PLUM FAIRY & TREPAK*

### *FROM THE NUTCRACKER*

*The Nutcracker*, composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 - 1893), is a two-act classical ballet set on Christmas Eve at the foot of a Christmas tree in a child's imagination. *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*, from the second act of *The Nutcracker*, is meant to sound like "drops of water shooting from a fountain," at the request of the ballet's choreographer. This led Tchaikovsky to utilize the newly-invented celesta, which he kept relatively secret, not wanting other Russian composers to beat him to using the new instrument.

*Trepak* is one of the several ethnic dances based on the traditional Ukrainian folk dance of the same name. Most often, *Trepak* is considered as the 'Russian dance' and is arguably the most popular dance of the ballet. *Trepak* can be heard widely in popular culture, such as in the Disney film *Fantasia* and in the video game *Tetris*.





# PROGRAM NOTES

## *WHITE CHRISTMAS*

Though the music of Irving Berlin (1888 - 1989) forms a large part of the Great American Songbook, his most famous composition is *White Christmas*, which was introduced in the 1942 film *Holiday Inn*, where it was sung by Bing Crosby. *White Christmas* is the most-recorded Christmas song in history, with over 500 recorded versions of the song existing across several different languages. Some of the most notable covers of the song include recordings by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, The Supremes, Lady Gaga, Bette Midler, and Michael Bublé.



## *SLEIGH RIDE*

Leroy Anderson (1908 - 1975) composed one of his most famous works, *Sleigh Ride*, in 1946. Contrary to what one might think, Anderson wrote this festive holiday tune during a July heat wave! The original composition contained no lyrics, but the well-known tales of wintertime activities were added in 1950 by Mitchell Parish. The orchestral version of *Sleigh Ride* was first recorded in 1949 by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra. It was a hit record on RCA Victor Red Seal, and has become one of the orchestra's signature songs. The 45 rpm version was originally issued on red vinyl.



# MUSIC DIRECTOR:

## *William Esterling III*

Will Esterling, a native of Wilmington, Delaware, is a passionate and dedicated music director, educator, and trombonist who has spent his life immersed in the world of music. His journey from a supportive musical upbringing to becoming the Music Director of the COSMIC Symphony is a testament to his unwavering commitment to the art of music.

Born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, Will Esterling was fortunate to grow up in a household that encouraged and celebrated music. His journey as a musician began in the fourth grade when he picked up the trombone. This early connection to music sparked a lifelong passion that would define his career.

Will's educational journey led him to pursue music at a higher level. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Music from Ithaca College, where he majored in Music Education and Trombone Performance.

His dedication to his craft didn't stop there, as he continued his studies and achieved a Master's degree in Conducting from the Catholic University of America.

Throughout his career, Will Esterling has held several key roles in the world of music. He served as the assistant conductor to the New Orchestra of Washington (NOW), contributing to the orchestra's artistic vision and musical excellence. Additionally, he brought his talents and expertise to the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra (MCRYO) as their assistant conductor.

As the Pep Band Director at American University, Will's leadership and musical direction added an electrifying dimension to campus life. He also assumed the role of Coordinator for the Winds Department at the Levine Community Music School, where he guided and inspired young musicians to reach their full potential.

Currently, Will serves as a trombonist with the 287th Army Band of the Delaware National Guard, where he continues to share his musical talents and dedication to service. His educational journey brought him to Tyler Elementary in SE Washington, DC, where he teaches music, shaping the next generation of musicians.

Will Esterling's life is defined by his mission to serve people through music, both as an educator and performer. His commitment to music education and his passion for performing have touched the lives of many, making him a respected figure in the musical community.



Will's journey has been enriched by the guidance of notable mentors, including Marin Alsop, Murry Sidlin, James Ross, and Simeone Tartaglione. These influential figures have helped shape his understanding of music and conducting.

An advocate for modern music and progressive programming, Will Esterling is dedicated to expanding the horizons of musical exploration and ensuring that the art form continues to evolve.

Will Esterling's journey from a supportive home in Delaware to the role of Music Director of the COSMIC Symphony is a testament to his unwavering dedication, musical prowess, and passion for educating and inspiring others through music. His life's work is a harmonious fusion of artistic expression and community service, making him a dynamic force in the world of music.



# ***SLEIGH RIDE***

## **GUEST CONDUCTORS**

***Congratulations to our silent auction winners!***



### **Dec. 09 - Scott Colvin**

*Scott Colvin is excited for the opportunity to conduct the phenomenal COSMIC Symphony orchestra! He is an alumnus of the Great Mills High School Marching Band and Concert Band, and the West Virginia University "Pride of West Virginia" marching band. Scott has always worked to instill a love of and appreciation for music in his children and now grandson.*



### **Dec. 10 - Amanda Connelley**

*"I wanted to guest conduct just because it seemed like such a fun way to support the orchestra. I have next to no musical talent but playing music is so important to my partner who plays percussion in the orchestra and this seemed like a great way to do something musical together while supporting him and the other amazingly talented musicians involved!"*

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## **COSMIC FLUTE CHOIR**

### **Piccolo**

Carrie Cooper

### **Alto Flute**

Linda Henry

### **Bass Flute**

Christa Benner

### **Contrabass Flute**

Patty Lafferty

### **Percussion**

Tom Anderson

### **C Flute**

Jennifer Anderson

Carrie Cooper

Sara Espinosa

Faith Mason

Macy McCombs

Kristen Moore

Debbie Patterson

Nicole Thompson

Julie Tracy

# COSMIC SYMPHONY

## **First Violins**

David Kung, concertmaster  
Kaitlin Rose, asst. concertmaster  
Allison Frere  
Marcia Van Gemert  
Jane Liang  
Ginny Norris  
Darren Sakai  
Sam Waby

## **Second Violins**

Carolyn Graessle, principal  
Diana Chan  
Jerry Mobley  
Alan Newhouse  
Pierre Petitjean  
Jacqueline Sickle

## **Violas**

Holly Gutierrez, principal  
Heidi Mickey  
Kori Olszewski  
Aarav Sharma

## **Cellos**

Stephanie Gleason, principal  
Innes Borstel  
Kathleen Hiner  
Leroy Mrozowski

## **Basses**

Kasey Ferm, principal  
Patricia Lafferty

## **Flutes**

Linda Henry, principal  
Christa Benner  
Carrie Cooper

## **Oboes**

Janet Gross, principal  
Alexandra Jernakoff

## **Clarinets**

Tony Avak, principal  
David Schug  
Michael Sullivan

## **Bassoons**

Benjamin Henry, principal  
Rebecca Moore

## **Horns**

Steve Woods, principal  
Stefie Bartley  
Skylar Schirtzinger  
Nicole Thompson

## **Trumpets**

David Roan, principal  
Leigh DePiazza  
Ross Thompson

## **Trombones**

Tyler Hutchinson, principal

## **Tubas**

Rob Benner, principal  
Joe Price

## **Percussion**

Blaine Becker, principal  
Tom Anderson  
Michael Waby

## **Keyboard**

Tom Anderson, principal

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*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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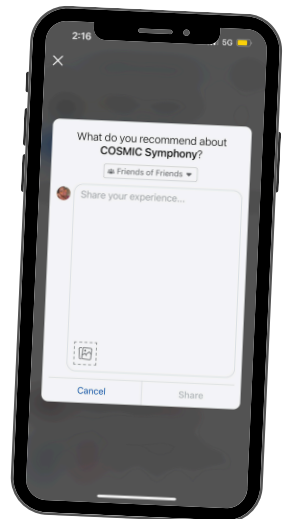
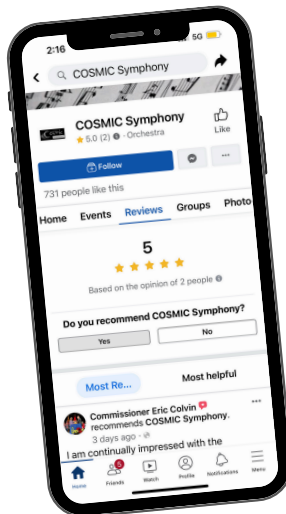
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Featuring COSMIC Young Artist Competition Winners

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Mar. 2, 2024, 3:00pm - SMCM Dodge PAC, St. Mary's City, MD

Mar. 3, 2024, 3:00p, - Southern High School, Harwood, MD\*

*\*NOTE: Tickets required for concert on March 3, 2024  
and will be available at the door and by advance purchase for \$30.*

*Concert hosted by the South County Concert Association.*

*Ticket purchase information available at  
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## *SEASON FINALE*

May 4 2024, 3:00pm - SMCM Dodge PAC, St. Mary's City, MD

May 5, 2024, 3:00pm, - Patuxent High School, Lusby, MD



**COSMIC SYMPHONY PRESENTS**

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*Directed by William F. Esterling III*

*Featuring Young Artist Competition Winners  
Alexander Wu & Esther Bonney  
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*Saturday, March 02, 2024 - 3:00 PM*

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*Sunday, March 03, 2024 - 3:00 PM*

*Southern High School  
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**TICKETS REQUIRED**

