



Wednesday, December 24, 2025 ♦ 8:00 pm

# Shine, O Heavenly Light

# Christmas Eve Concert

# St. Francis Choir



We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

*Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.*

*Join with us in joyfully singing the carols listed below.*

## A Child Is Born in Bethlehem

*Samuel Scheidt, edit. by David Willcocks*

## Choir II    St. Francis Choir

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia, alleluia.

And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia, alleluia.

*Benedicamus Domino\**, Alleluia, alleluia.

To thee, O Lord, be glory paid, Alleluia, alleluia.

Thou Son of Mary, mother-maid, Alleluia, alleluia.

To Holy Trinity give praise, Alleluia, alleluia.

With *Deo gracias*\*\* always, Alleluia, alleluia.

\**Let us bless the Lord*    \*\**Thanks be to God*

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*\*Let us bless the Lord. \*\*Thanks be to God.*



## Masters in This Hall

*English Traditional Carol, arr. by David Willcocks*

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today,  
brought from over sea and ever I you pray:

*Refrain:*

*Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell sing we clear!  
Holpen are all folk on earth, Born is God's Son so dear:  
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! sing we loud!  
God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud.*

Going o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow,  
heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow:

*Refrain*

Shepherds many an one sat among the sheep,  
no man spake more word than they had been asleep:

*Refrain*

Quoth I, 'Fellows mine, why this guise sit ye?  
Making but dull cheer shepherds though ye be?'

*Refrain*

'Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing,  
Thus to see ye sit, is a right strange thing':

*Refrain*

Quoth these fellows then, 'To Bethlem we go,  
To see a mighty lord lie in manger low':

*Refrain*

'How name ye this lord, shepherds?' Then said I,  
'Very God,' they said, 'Come from heaven high':

*Refrain*

This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad!  
Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad:

*Refrain*

## **Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful .....Hymnal #83, vv. 1, 3**

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;

*Refrain:*

*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

*Refrain*

## **Rocking**

*Czech Carol, arr. by David Willcocks*

*Solo: Kate Gremillion, mezzo soprano*

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir; We will lend a coat of fur,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:  
See the fur to keep you warm, Snugly round your tiny form

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep, Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,  
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:  
We will serve you all we can, Darling, darling little man.

*Choir: Lullaby, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby.*

## **The Linden Tree Carol**

*Old German Tune, arr. by Reginald Jacques*

*Solo Trio: Jill Lynch, soprano, Courtney Taylor, mezzo soprano, Susan Tsuji, tenor*

There stood in heaven a linden tree, but, tho' 'twas honey-laden,  
All angels cried, 'No bloom shall be like that of one fair maiden.'

Sped Gabriel on winged feet, and pass'd through bolted portals  
In Nazareth, a maid to greet, blest o'er all other mortals.

'Hail Mary!' Quoth the angel mild, 'Of womankind the fairest:  
The Virgin ay shalt thou be styled, A babe although thou bearest.'

'So be it!' God's handmaiden cried, 'According to thy telling.'  
Whereon the angel smartly hied up homeward to his dwelling.

This tiding fill'd his mates with glee, 'Twas passed from one to other,  
That 'twas Mary, and none but she, and God would call her Mother.

## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

*Polish Carol, arr. by David Willcocks*

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging Angels singing, Nowells ringing, tidings bringing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
  
Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new;  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow,  
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

## Carol: What Child Is This? ..... Hymnal #115, vv. 1-3

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

*Refrain:*

*This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.

*Refrain*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

*Refrain*

## Gesu bambino

Pietro A. Yon

Soloist: Jill Lynch, *soprano*

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.

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

Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.

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

## Carol: The First Noël .....Hymnal #109, vv. 1, 2

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

## I Wonder as I Wander

*Kyle Pederson*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
how Jesus the Savior had come for to die;  
for poor orn'ry people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.  
How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe  
as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn;  
It shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace  
and bids me to wonder, "Is this gift for me?" Emmanuel.  
The gift in the manger is given for all,  
the strong and heroic, the lost and the small.  
Christ bids to our stone hearts, "come soften and give,'  
And offers his own heart so others may live.  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How the light of the heavens is born in this child.  
The universe dances with glory and grace  
And I gaze in the manger and see love's face. Emmanuel.  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

## I Saw Three Ships

*English Traditional Carol, arr. by David Willcocks*

Soloists: Shelley Reece, *soprano*, Jason Francisco, *tenor*, Mathew Kellaway, *baritone*

I saw three ships come sailing in, On Christmas Day!  
And what was in those ships all three? On Christmas Day!  
Our Savior Christ and his lady, On Christmas Day!  
Pray whither sailed those ships all three? On Christmas Day!  
O, they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas Day!  
  
And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas Day!  
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing, On Christmas Day!  
And all the souls on earth shall sing, On Christmas Day!  
  
Then let us all rejoice amain! On Christmas Day!  
Then let us all rejoice amain! On Christmas Day in the morning!

**Carol: Joy to the World ..... Hymnal #100, vv. 1-2, 4**

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

Joy to the Earth! The Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.



**Dr. Mark S. Bennett**

Director of Music

**David Knight**

Organist & Pianist

**St. Francis Concert Choir**

**Soprano**

Anna Eakins, Ann Hugh, Jill Lynch, Wendy Pratt, Shelley Reece

**Alto**

Marni Burns, Suellen Eslinger, Kathleen Gremillion, Courtney Taylor,  
Debby Unoura, Susie Willigrod, Susie Zimmerman

**Tenor**

Jason Francisco, Sal Malaki, Tony Lowe, Adrian Totanes, Susan Tsuji

**Bass**

Randy Gremillion, Matthew Kellaway, Paul McGraith,  
Emmanuel Miranda, Lloyd Mistele



Merry  
Christmas

From your friends at St. Francis!