CHICAGO SYMPHONY PRESENTS

NINETY-SIXTH SEASON

Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at 7:30

CHANTICLEER

Tavian Cox, Luke Elmer*, Cortez Mitchell*, Bradley Sharpe, Logan Shields, Adam Brett Ward** Countertenor
Vineel Garisa Mahal*, Matthew Mazzola, Andrew Van Allsburg
Tenor
Eric Alatorre, Jared Graveley*, Matthew Knickman**
Baritone and Bass
Tim Keeler Music Director

A CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS

I.	PLAINSONG	A solis ortus cardine
	CHESNOKOV	Spasséniye Sodélal
	WERT	Gaudete in Domino

Reading: Excerpt from Music on Christmas Morning by Anne Brontë

II.	RUE	Ave regina caelorum
	PRAETORIUS	Psallite, unigenito†
	PRAETORIUS, WOODY, DISTLER	Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
	PRAETORIUS	In dulci jubilo†

III.	WILLAN	The Three Kings† (arr. Running)
	HOPKINS, JR.	We Three Kings
	TRADITIONAL LADIN	La ciantia di trëi rëisc (arr. Runggaldier)
	MENOTTI	Olives and Quinces
	RUTTER	Banquet Fugue

IV.	QUARTEL	This Endris Night†
	MASON	Joy to the World† (arr. Ward)

INTERMISSION

V. JONES	Noel: Verbum caro factum est
BIEBL	Ave Maria†
VI. TRADITIONAL ENGLISH	Sussex Carol (arr. Williams)
BERLIN	Snow (arr. Dent)
	Arrangement commissioned by Chanticleer in 2023
BRACKETT	Simple Gifts (arr. Keeler)
BALFOUR	Wyandot's Realm
TRADITIONAL APPALACHIAN	And the Trees Do Moan† (arr. Keeler)
GRUBER	Silent Night† (arr. Graveley)
VII. TRADITIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN	Medley of Christmas Spirituals† (arr. Jennings) Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow Oh, What a Pretty Little Baby Oh, Jerusalem in the Mornin'

Program subject to change

This concert is generously sponsored by The Negaunee Foundation.

Chicago Symphony acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

†These pieces have been recorded by Chanticleer.

***Jared Graveley occupies *The Eric Alatorre Chair,* given by Peggy Skornia. Luke Elmer occupies *The Ning G. Mercer Chair for the Preservation of the Chanticleer Legacy,* given by Ning and Stephen Mercer. Vineel Garisa Mahal occupies *The Tenor Chair,* given by an anonymous donor. Cortez Mitchell occupies *The Cortez Mitchell Chair,* given by James R. Meehan.**

****Tavian Cox's full-time position for Chanticleer's 2026–27 season has been generously sponsored by Anne Heinrich. Matthew Knickman's full-time position for the 2026–27 season has been generously sponsored by the Chanticleer community.**

Chicago Symphony thanks

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for generously sponsoring this performance.

We begin in a spirit of collective wonder with a fifth-century Latin hymn composed by the Christian poet Sedulius. **"A solis ortus cardine"** consists of twenty-three quatrains of iambic dimeter in which the first letter of each stanza follows the order of the alphabet (A solis, Beatus, Clausae, etc.). The first seven stanzas tell the story of Christ's birth and were used as a traditional Christmas hymn starting in the Middle Ages. We have chosen only a small number of the stanzas to perform today, and, following a long tradition of musical settings, including versions by Palestrina and Bach, we have ornamented the melody with drones and simple harmonies.

In darkness, we continue with Pavel Chesnokov's **"Spaséniye Sodélal."** Chesnokov was born in 1877 near Voskresensk, outside Moscow. He graduated from the Moscow Synodal School of Church Singing in 1895 and composed hundreds of sacred choral works during his career. "Spaséniye Sodélal," or "Salvation is Created," is his best known. Chesnokov's music often explores the lower reaches of the vocal range. "Salvation is Created" is no exception: halfway through, you'll hear our basso profundo, Eric Alatorre, sing a low B.

Speaking of Eric, we are thrilled to welcome him back for our Christmas tour this year. Eric sang in Chanticleer for twenty-eight years, defining the ensemble's sound with his singularly low voice and defining the ensemble's look with his signature mustache. Chanticleer is currently searching for a new low bass to join us for the 2027–28 season. More information about auditions can be found on our website. In the meantime, Eric has agreed to dust off his tails for a victory lap. We all feel incredibly lucky to work with him one more time.

Our candlelit procession concludes with Giaches de Wert's **"Gaudete in Domino,"** an introit for the third Sunday of Advent. This quick, florid motet transitions us from meditation to celebration. Born in Flanders, Wert was taken to Italy as a boy to be a singer. He spent the remainder of his life in that country working for the influential Este and Gonzaga families. He is best known for his madrigals, of which he composed over 200. His sacred motets, like "Gaudete in Domino," feature many of the flourishes for which the more secular madrigal style is known.

Pierre de la Rue belongs to a much earlier generation of Franco-Flemish composers. La Rue's compositional style is much more reserved than the later, madrigalian music of Giaches de Wert. Like the music of Josquin des Prez, La Rue's warm and inviting **"Ave regina caelorum"** features frequent points of imitation and many moments where the four-voice texture thins to transparent duets. Another striking feature of La Rue's music is its exceptionally low vocal writing. His requiem, for instance, features many low B-flats, which are incredibly rare in Renaissance vocal music.

No one celebrates Christmas quite like the German Renaissance composer Michael Praetorius. His settings of carols such as **"Psallite, unigenito," "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,"** and **"In dulci jubilo"** remain some of the most popular holiday hymns to this day. We sing the first verse of "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" with Praetorius's original harmonization. For verse two, we feature a setting arranged for us by the contemporary American bass-baritone and composer Jonathan Woody. Verse three comes from the twentieth-century German composer Hugo Distler.

Our next set centers on the journey of the three kings. Healey Willan's **"The Three Kings"** describes the arrival of the magi, with a trio of soloists representing the three kings and capturing their wonder and awe. We pair the classic hymn **"We Three Kings"** by John Henry Hopkins, Jr., with **"La ciantia de trëi rëisc,"** a traditional retelling of the story of the three kings from the northern Italian region of Val Gardena with words in Ladin (pronounced la-deen). Ladin is a Rhaeto-Romance language spoken mainly in the Dolomite mountains of northern Italy and in southern Tyrol. Traditionally, altar boys would sing this song from door to door dressed as the three kings, collecting money for the needy. Today, a local chorus called Sasslong performs the carol annually at Christmastime, going from house to house. Chanticleer was first introduced to this carol by Samuel Runggaldier after a concert on tour in Val Gardena. Samuel graciously shared his arrangement and translation with us.

The next two numbers act as charming reimaginings of what might have happened the day *after* the three kings arrived. **"Olives and Quinces"** is an excerpt from Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, the first opera composed for TV, which premiered on NBC on December 24, 1951. *Amahl and the Night Visitors* tells the story of the three kings who, in the middle of their journey to Bethlehem, arrive at the home of a poor widow and her child, Amahl. "Olives and Quinces" is a list of the humble—but delicious—gifts that the shepherds offer the kings.

The **"Banquet Fugue"** comes from John Rutter's retelling of the 1898 short story *The Reluctant Dragon* by Kenneth Grahame. *The Reluctant Dragon* reimagines the "fierce and fiery" dragon as a misunderstood poet. Rutter's version, which was commissioned by the King's Singers in 1978, takes place "nearly" at Christmas and features a rambunctious and celebratory feast set to the music of the "Banquet Fugue."

We conclude the first half of our program with two songs from our latest Christmas album, *Joy to the World*. The album begins with Adam Brett Ward's arrangement of **"Joy to the World,"** which showcases all the beautiful simplicity and complexity that *A Chanticleer Christmas* has to offer, combining the timelessness of this familiar hymn with lush, modern twelve-part harmony. **"This Endris Night"** is a setting of a fifteenth-century English carol text by the contemporary Canadian composer Sarah Quartel. While written in 2019, Quartel's melody feels timeless. A prolific and celebrated choral composer, Sarah Quartel has been commissioned by the American Choral Directors Association, the National Children's Chorus of the United States of America, and New Dublin Voices, among others. This coming summer, Chanticleer will premiere a new work by Quartel as part of our inaugural Choral Art program at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Canada. Choral Art is our new nine-day summer intensive program for pre-professional young artists dedicated to the craft of a cappella vocal chamber music. Application information can be found on our website.

Tamsin Jones's rollicking and rocking **"Noel: Verbum caro factum est"** launches us into the second half of the concert. Jones studied music at Newcastle University and earned her PhD at the University of Birmingham. She is a freelance composer and organist whose works have been performed by the BBC Singers, Chamber Choir Ireland, the Wells Cathedral Choir, and the choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, among others. The chorus of "Noel: Verbum caro factum est," which sets an anonymous fifteenth-century English carol text, feels as though it was lifted straight from the Middle Ages.

Franz Biebl's **"Ave Maria"** has become synonymous with Chanticleer. Every Christmas season, we look forward to sharing this gem with our audiences around the country. Biebl's setting is actually a version of the "Angelus," a Catholic devotional prayer, which tells the story of the Annunciation and Incarnation. The TTBB arrangement we sing in these concerts, as well as two other editions for SATB chorus, are published by Hinshaw Music as part of the Chanticleer Choral Series.

The remainder of our program features a collection of traditional and contemporary Christmas and holiday songs, some well-known and some brand-new. In 1904 Ralph Vaughan Williams transcribed the **"Sussex Carol"** after hearing it sung by a Mrs. Verrall of Monk's Gate, in Sussex, England. Jared Graveley's arrangement of Franz Xaver Gruber's **"Silent Night"** is at once familiar and new. Graveley's signature harmonies and the setting's simple texture capture a spirit of quiet wonder.

Between these two pieces is a set of songs with American origins. **"Snow"** comes from the 1954 Bing Crosby film *White Christmas*. Cedric Dent, a former member of the ten-time Grammy Award–winning a cappella ensemble Take 6, has put his distinctive flair on the song for us. **"Simple Gifts"** is a famous Shaker tune brought to prominence by Aaron Copland in the music for Martha Graham's 1944 ballet, *Appalachian Spring*. While not explicitly a Christmas song, its message of acceptance and affirmation carries the holiday spirit. **"And the Trees Do Moan"** is listed as a traditional Appalachian Christmas tune, though its origins remain unknown. The text offers a haunting connection between Christmas trees and the wood of Christ's cross.

COMMENTS

"Wyandot's Realm" is a resetting of the popular North American tune "The Huron Carol," which was originally composed by Jean de Brébeuf, a seventeenth-century French Jesuit missionary, to help convert the indigenous people of southern Ontario. Brébeuf used the native Wyandot language to describe the birth of Jesus and set his text to the French folk song "Une jeune pucelle." While the carol remains a favorite of American and Canadian audiences to this day, its origin as a colonial tool of proselytization requires interrogation. Cree composer Andrew Balfour tackles this task in his resetting of the melody in "Wyandot's Realm." Balfour writes, "Wyandot is the accurate name of the great First Nation tribe of Eastern Canada that the French called the 'Huron,' a title that the Wyandot people felt was derogatory. The Wyandot were one of the greatest of the North American First Nations, [spanning] most of what is now Quebec and the eastern part of the U.S." Balfour's contemporary arrangement of this song reclaims the melody's history by honoring Wyandot culture and recentering the Wyandot people.

Finally, *A Chanticleer Christmas* always concludes with a **"Christmas Spiritual Medley"** arranged by our music director emeritus, Joseph H. Jennings. In 2014 Jennings was the first recipient of Chorus America's Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award, acknowledging his contribution to the African American choral tradition. His twenty-five-year tenure with Chanticleer as singer and music director transformed the group, and his gospel and spiritual arrangements became part of Chanticleer's identity. We are honored to maintain and continue that legacy today. *C*

PLAINSONG

A solis ortus cardine

A solis ortus cardine
ad usque terrae limitem,
Christum canamus Principem,
natum Maria Virgine.

Beatus auctor saeculi
servile corpus induit,
ut carne carnem liberans
non perderet quod condidit.

Foeno iacere pertulit,
praesepe non abhorruit;
parvoque lacte pastus est
per quem nec ales esurit.

Gaudet chorus caelestium
et angeli canunt Deum,
palamque fit pastoribus
Pastor, Creator omnium.

Iesu, tibi sit gloria,
qui natus es de virgine,
cum Patre et almo Spiritu,
in sempiterna saecula. Amen.

From where the sun rises
to the ends of the earth,
let us sing of Christ the Prince,
born of the Virgin Mary.

The blessed Creator of the world
put on a servant's body,
so that, liberating the flesh through taking flesh,
He would not lose what He had made.

He consented to lie in the hay;
He did not shrink from the manger;
and with little milk He was fed,
who does not allow even the birds to hunger.

The heavenly chorus rejoices,
and the angels sing God's praise,
and to the shepherds is now made known
the Shepherd who is the Creator of all.

Jesus, to you be glory,
who are born of a virgin,
with the Father and the loving Spirit,
for eternal ages. Amen.

Translation by Matthew Swithinbank

PAVEL CHESNOKOV

Born October 24, 1877; Voskresensk, near Moscow, Russia
Died March 14, 1944; Moscow, Russia

Spasénive Sodélal

Spasénive sodélal yesí posredé zemlí,
Bózhe.
Allilúiya, allilúiya, allilúiya!

Salvation is created in the midst of the earth,
O God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GIACHES DE WERT

Born 1535; Flanders, Belgium
Died May 6, 1596; Mantua, Italy

Gaudete in Domino

Gaudete in Domino semper;
iterum dico, gaudete!

Rejoice in the Lord always;
and again I say, rejoice!

Reading: Excerpt from Music on Christmas Morning by Anne Brontë

Music I love—but never strain
could kindle raptures so divine,
so grief assuage, so conquer pain,
and rouse this pensive heart of mine—
as that we hear on Christmas morn,
upon the wintry breezes borne.

Though Darkness still her empire keep,
and hours must pass, ere morning break;
from troubled dreams, or slumbers deep,
that music KINDLY bids us wake:
it calls us, with an angel's voice,
to wake, and worship, and rejoice.

PIERRE DE LA RUE

Born ca. 1452; Flanders, Belgium
Died November 20, 1518; Courtrai (now Kortrijk), Belgium

Ave regina caelorum

Ave regina coelorum.
Ave domina angelorum,
salve, radix sancta,
ex qua mundo lux est orta:

Hail, queen of heaven.
Hail, lady of angels,
hail, holy root
from whom unto the world a light has arisen:

Gaude virgo gloriosa,
super omnes speciosa.
Vale, o valde decora,
et pro nobis Christum exora.

Rejoice, glorious virgin,
lovely beyond all others.
Farewell, most beautiful maiden,
and pray for us to Christ.

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS

Born ca. February 15, 1571; Creuzburg an der Werra, near Eisenach, Germany
Died February 15, 1621; Wolfenbüttel, Germany

Psallite, unigenito

Psallite, unigenito,
Christo Dei Filio,
redemptori Domino,
puerulo jacenti in praesepio.

Sing your psalms to Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
sing your psalms to the Redeemer,
the little boy lying in a manger.

Ein kleines Kindelein liegt in dem Krippelein;
alle liebe Engelein dienen dem Kindelein,
und singen ihm fein.

A small child lies in the manger;
all the blessed angels serve Him
and sing to Him.

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS (verse 1)

JONATHAN WOODY (verse 2)
Born October 1983; Upper Marlboro, Maryland

HUGO DISTLER (verse 3)
Born June 24, 1908; Nuremberg, Germany
Died November 1, 1942; Berlin, Germany

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen, von Jesse kam die Art.

Und hat ein Blümlein bracht mitten im kalten
Winter, wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Das Röslein, das ich meine, davon Jesaia sagt,
ist Maria die reine, die uns das Blümlein bracht'.
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat,
hat sie ein Kind geboren
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Das Blümelein so kleine,
das duftet uns so süss,
mit seinem hellen Scheine
vertreibt's die Finsternis:
wahr' Mensch und wahrer Gott,
hilft uns aus allem Leide,
rettet von Sünd und Tod.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old
have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of
winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to men a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS

In dulci jubilo

In dulci jubilo,
nun singet und seid froh!
Unsers Herzens Wonne liegt
in praesepio,
und leuchtet als die Sonne
Matris in gremio,
Alpha es et O!

O Jesu parvule
nach dir ist mir so weh!
Tröst' mir mein Gemüte
O puer optime
durch alle deine Güte
O Princeps gloriae.
Trahe me post te!

[In quiet joy],
let us our homage show!
Our heart's joy reclineth
[in a manger],
and like a bright star shineth
[in the mother's lap]
[Thou art Alpha and Omega!]

[O tiny Jesus],
I yearn for Thee alway!
Comfort my heart's blindness,
[O best of boys],
with all Thy loving kindness,
[O Prince of glory]
[draw me unto thee!]

HEALEY WILLAN
Born October 12, 1880; London, England
Died February 16, 1968; Toronto, Canada

The Three Kings (Arranged by Joseph Running)

"Who knocks tonight so late? " the weary porter said.
Three kings stood at the gate, each with a crown on head.
The serving man bowed down; the inn was full, he knew.
Said he, "In all this town is no fit place for you."

A light in the manger lit; there lay the mother meek.
This place is fit. Here is the rest we seek. Come, come.
They loosed their latchet strings, so stood they all unshod,
"Come in, come in, ye kings, and kiss the feet of God."

JOHN HENRY HOPKINS, JR.
Born October 28, 1820; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Died August 14, 1891; Hudson, New York

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

TRADITIONAL LADIN

La ciantia di trëi rëisc (Arranged by Samuel Runggaldier)

Halleluia!

L'ie nuët a Bethlemme;
l' rua i trëi rëisc;
i va do la stëila nfin chi la vëisc.
Dalonc dal Oriente caprò,
dal rë dl ciel iesi tlo.

Dan crinia se jenodli y adora Gejú,
ti porta si cuer y vel doni deplù.

Cun duta legrëza y amor,
chësc pil ië nosc redentor!

Rë Kasper ti porta sciche an rë propi or
y Melchior ti dona ncëns y si amor
y Baltasar uel ti scinché
la mira ch'l a ulù ti purté.

Y sën bon cristiani ons finà de cianté;
tlo ncëns y ncë creida per ji a scumenté.
ncunfertëve, degun va plu perdú,
ajach nosc rëdentor ie nascù!

Alleluia!

It is nighttime in Bethlehem;
the three kings are coming;
they follow the star as long as they see it.
From the distant Orient
to the King of the sky, they are here.

They kneel before the crib and worship Jesus,
bringing their hearts as gifts to equal
their presents.
They all rejoice with love and happiness;
this small child is our Redeemer!

King Casper brings gold to the tiny King
and Melchior brings incense and love;
and Baldasar wants to give to the baby
the precious myrrh that he brought.

And now, my good Christians, we finish our song;
here is some chalk and incense for you.
Rejoice, for nobody will be lost,
because our Redeemer is born!

GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

Born July 7, 1911; Cadegliano-Viconago, Italy
Died February 1, 2007; Principality of Monaco

Olives and Quinces

Olives and quinces, apples and raisins,
nutmeg and myrtle, medlars and chestnuts,
this is all we shepherds can offer you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you kindly.
Thank, thank you, thank you kindly, too.

Citrons and lemons, musk and pomegranates,
goat cheese and walnuts, figs and cucumbers,
this is all we shepherds can offer you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you kindly.
Thank you, thank you, thank you kindly, too.

Hazelnuts and camomile, mignonettes and laurel,
honeycombs and cinnamon, thyme, mint, and garlic,
this is all we shepherds can offer you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you kindly.
Thank you, thank you, thank you kindly, too.

Take them, eat them, you are welcome.
Take them, eat them, you are welcome, too!

JOHN RUTTER
Born September 24, 1945; London, England

Banquet Fugue

Guzzle, guzzle, guzzle, munch, munch,
gobble, gobble, chomp,
pass the salt, and the pepper,
and the mustard, and vinegar, and the bread.

There's a fly in my soup!
(Slurp, slurp, slurp, slurp.)
There's a fly in my soup!
(Slurp, slurp, slurp, slurp.)
Well, it won't drink much, Sir!
Fetch the doctor, I'm feeling rather strange.

Guzzle, guzzle, guzzle, munch, munch,
gobble, gobble, chomp!

SARAH QUARTEL
Born 1982; Chatham-Kent, Ontario, Canada

This Endris Night

This endris night I saw a sight,
a star as bright as day,
and ever among, a maiden sung,
"Lully, by by, lullay."

This lovely lady sat and sang,
and to her child did say,
"My son, my brother, father dear,
why liest thou thus in hay?

My sweetest bird, 'tis thus required,
though thou be King veray,
but nevertheless, I will not cease to sing,
'By by, lullay.'"

The child then spake whilst she did sing,
and to his mother did say,
"Yea, I am known as heaven-King,
in crib though I be laid.

For angels bright down on me light;
thou knowest 'tis no nay.
And for that sight thou may delight to sing,
'By by, lullay.'"

"Now sweet son, since it is so,
that all is at Thy will,
I pray Thee grant to me a boon,
If it be right and skill.

That child or man, who will or can,
be merry on my day,
to bliss them bring, and I shall sing,
'Lully, by by, lullay.'"

LOWELL MASON

Born January 8, 1792; Medfield, Massachusetts
Died August 11, 1872; Orange, New Jersey

Joy to the World (Arranged by Adam Brett Ward)

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 heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
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, wonders, of His love.

TAMSIN JONES
Born 1972

Noel: Verbum caro factum est

Noel!
This night there is a child y-born
that sprang out of Jesse's thorn;
we must sing and say thereforn:
Verbum caro factum est.

Jesus is the childes name,
and Mary mild is his dame;
all sorrow is turned to game:
Verbum caro factum est.

It fell upon the high midnight:
the stars they shone both fair and bright;
the angels sang with all their might:
Verbum caro factum est.

Now kneel we down on our knee,
and pray we to the Trinity
our help, our succour for to be:
Verbum caro factum est.
Noel!

FRANZ BIEBL
Born September 1, 1906; Pursruck, Germany
Died October 2, 2001; Munich, Germany

Ave Maria

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus.

Maria dixit: "Ecce ancilla Domini;
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum."

Et verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus.
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

The angel of the Lord made his annunciation to Mary,
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Mary said, "Behold the servant of the Lord;
let it be unto me according to Your word."

And the Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, pray for us
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH

Sussex Carol (Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore! Amen!"

IRVING BERLIN

Born May 11, 1888; maybe Tolochin, Belarus
Died September 22, 1989; New York City

Snow (Arranged by Cedric Dent)

Snow!

It won't be long before
we'll all be there with snow.
I want to wash my hands,
my face, and hair with snow.

Snow!

I long to clear a path
and lift a spade of snow.
Oh, to see a great big man
entirely made of snow.

Where it's snowing, all winter through,
that's where I want to be.
Snowball throwing, that's what I'll do;
how I'm longing to ski.
Snow!

Those glist'ning houses
that seem to be built of snow.
Oh, to see a mountain
covered with a quilt of snow.

What is Christmas with no snow,
no white Christmas with no snow.
Snow!

It won't be long before
we'll all be there with snow.

I'll soon be there with snow;
I'll wash my hair with snow,
and with a spade of snow,
I'll build a man of snow.

I'd love to stay up with ya,
but I recommend a little shuteye.
Go to sleep and dream of snow.

Where it's snowing, that's for me;
snowball throwing, that's where I'll be.
Wash my hands, my face, and hair.
longing to be there.
It won't be long before we get to go,
and when we sleep,
gonna dream of snow.

Let it snow!

JOSEPH BRACKETT

Born May 6, 1797; Cumberland, Maine
Died July 4, 1882; New Gloucester, Maine

Simple Gifts (Arranged by Tim Keeler)

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight
'till by turning, turning we come round right.

ANDREW BALFOUR
Born 1967; Fisher River Cree Nation, Manitoba, Canada

Wyandot's Realm

Manitou, Manitou | Wyandot | Deo
Eh-sten-nyah-yan deh tson-weh
Eesus a ha-ton-ny-ah
On nah-wah teh wah-do-kee non-wah
dah ska wa-en tak.
En non-sh-yen sk-wah tree ho-tat non-wa-knee-yon rah-shat torah
Eesus A-ha-ton-ny-ah
In excelsis Gloria!

Mysterious being | Tribe | God
Have courage, you who are humans.
Jesus, He is born.
Behold, the spirit who had us as prisoners,
domestic animals, has fled.
Do not listen to it, as it corrupts our minds, the spirit of our thoughts.
Jesus is born.
Glory in the highest!

TRADITIONAL APPALACHIAN

And the Trees Do Moan (Arranged by Tim Keeler)

In the valley of Judea,
cold and wint'ry blown,
Christ was born one frosty morning,
and the trees do moan.

Darkened skies and men a-stumbling;
high above them shone
one bright star a-moving eastward,
where the trees do moan.

Herod and the ruling Romans
stately sat upon the throne;
sent the soldiers out a-looking,
and the trees do moan,
and the trees do moan.

Mary took her little baby,
set out all alone;
down in Egypt land they tarried,
where the trees do moan.

Jesus then became a carpenter,
worked with wood and stone;
nails He drove and crossarms fashioned,
and the trees do moan.

There, one day while in the forest black,
one tree He picked for His own,
Christmas tree, an evergreen one,
and the trees do moan,
and the trees do moan.

FRANZ XAVER GRUBER

Born November 25, 1787; Hochburg-Ach, Austria
Died June 7, 1863; Hallein, Austria

Silent Night (Arranged by Jared Graveley)

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.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

TRADITIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN

Medley of Christmas Spirituals (Arranged by Joseph H. Jennings)

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
There's a star in the East on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
It'll lead to the place where Christ was born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
Leave your sheep and leave your lambs.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!
Leave your ewes and leave your rams.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow!

Oh, What a Pretty Little Baby

Oh, what a pretty little baby: Jesus.
The government shall be upon His shoulder.
Oh, what a pretty little baby: Jesus.
Oh, come let us adore Him: Jesus.

Oh, Jerusalem in the Mornin'

Mary, Mary, what's the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
I said, my poor Mary, what's the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

Oh Joseph, Joseph, what is the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
Well now Joseph, Joseph, what's the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

Night is chilly, what's the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
The night is chilly, what is the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

I hear the oxen bawlin', I hear the lambs a-squallin'.
I'm singin' Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
I hear the cattle lowin', and the rooster crowin',
singin' Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

Mary, Mary, what's the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

I'm singin' oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
Oh, well now, little baby Jesus born in a stable,
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

I'm singin' oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
Oh, well now, little baby Jesus lyin' in a manger,
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

Mary baby born today, wrapped in swadlin' clothes,
laid him in a manger, Lord that's how the story goes.

Shepherds bidin' in the fields, watchin' o'er their sheep,
angels singing loud and clear woke them from their sleep.

I'm singin' oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
Oh, well now, little baby Jesus born in a stable,
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Wise men saw the shinin' star, shinin' in the east,
came on camels from afar bringin' gifts to the Prince of Peace.

I'm singin' oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
Oh, well now, little baby Jesus born in a stable,
little baby Jesus lyin' in a manger,
little baby Jesus born to be our Savior.
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

See the stars a-glowin', their luster showin'.
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
I see the moon in crescent, phosphorescent.
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

Mary, Mary what is the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!
Mary, Mary what is the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

I see the
doves a-cooin'
cows a-mooin'
asses braying'
horses neighin'
goats a-bleatin'
birds a-tweetin'
geese a-squawkin'
parrots talkin'
mice a-prancin'
Lupie dancin'
heav'nly choir
singin' higher.

Mary, Mary,
Joseph, Joseph,
little baby Jesus,
what is the matter?
Oh, Jerusalem in the mornin'!

Chanticleer



The Grammy Award–winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer, led by Music Director Tim Keeler, is known around the world for its eclectic repertoire, pure blend, accurate intonation, and dazzling virtuosity. Founded in San Francisco in 1978 by singer and musicologist Louis Botto, Chanticleer quickly took its place as one of the most prolific recording and touring ensembles in the world, an "orchestra of voices" performing thousands of live concerts and selling more than one million recordings.

Rooted in the Renaissance, Chanticleer's repertoire has expanded to include a wide range of classical, gospel, jazz, and popular music. With a deep commitment to the commissioning of new compositions and arrangements, Chanticleer foregrounds American repertoire and a distinctively American sound, complementing the group's signature diversity in terms of membership and genre. The ensemble has dedicated much of its vast recording catalog to these commissions, garnering Grammy awards for its recordings of Sir John Tavener's *Lamentations & Praises* and the ambitious collection of commissioned works titled *Colors of Love*. Chanticleer's 2002 album *Our American Journey* was inducted into the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in 2025. Chanticleer is the recipient of Chorus America's Dale Warland Commission Award and the Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. The group's music director emeritus, Joseph H. Jennings, received the Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award for his contribution to the African American choral tradition during his twenty-five-year tenure as both singer and music director.

Chanticleer—named for the "clear-singing" rooster in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*—was named Ensemble of the Year by *Musical America* in 2008 and inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. The group's award-winning education programs were recognized with the 2010 Chorus America Education Outreach Award and have engaged tens of thousands of students since the ensemble began.

Chanticleer is a non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board of trustees, administered by a professional staff with a full-time professional ensemble. In addition to the many individual contributors to Chanticleer, the board of trustees thanks the following Foundations, Corporations, and Government Agencies for their exceptional support: San Francisco Grants for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bob A Ross Foundation Inc, Dunard Fund USA, E. Nakamichi Foundation, Mid Atlantic Arts, Negaunee Foundation, and the Owsley Brown III Philanthropic Foundation, Inc.

Tim Keeler Music Director



Tim Keeler sang as a countertenor with Chanticleer during its 2017–18 season before returning as music director in 2020. During his tenure, he has overseen the creation of four studio albums and commissioned dozens of new compositions and arrangements. Each year, he curates innovative and compelling programs that explore both the contemporary relevance of early music and the enduring vitality of new music. Under his direction, Chanticleer has been praised for its blend, pure intonation, and tender expressiveness. When on tour, Keeler and the ensemble lead education and outreach events at colleges and high schools across the country, reaching hundreds of students each year.

Before moving to San Francisco, Keeler built a career as a conductor, singer, and educator.

Photo by Scott Saraceno

In addition to Chanticleer, he has performed with New York Polyphony, the Clarion Choir, the Choir of Trinity Wall Street, TENET, and Ekmeles. As an educator, he directed the University of Maryland Men's Chorus, served as director of choirs at the Special Music School High School in Manhattan, and worked closely with the Young People's Chorus of New York City as both a vocal coach and satellite school conductor. He also served as choral conductor for Juilliard's Summer Performing Arts program, a two-week intensive in Geneva, Switzerland. Keeler is currently chorus director at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and holds degrees from Princeton University, the University of Cambridge, University of Michigan, and University of Maryland.

CHANTICLEER ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
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Colby Smith Patron Services Manager / Development and Marketing Associate
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Matthew Mazzola Assistant Music Director

Artist Management: Opus 3 Artists, Ltd.
Founder: Louis Botto (1951–1997)
Music Director Emeritus: Joseph H. Jennings

chanticleer.org

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ELECTRONIC DEVICES
Before the concert begins, mobile phones and other electronic devices must be turned off or set to silent mode. Please limit distractions and refrain from photography, audio and video recording, and using illuminated screens during the music.



Photo by Stephen K. Mack









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