



An OCS Christmas *Festival*

December 22, 2024
First United Methodist Church of Orlando
7 pm

Dear Choir Members, Families, and Supporters,

As we gather in the spirit of the season, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for making our Christmas program so meaningful and memorable.

To our talented singers: your voices are the heart of this celebration. Thank you for your dedication, passion, and the joy you bring to every performance. You truly embody the magic of this festive season.

To the families: your steadfast support and encouragement light the way for our singers. Thank you for your belief in our mission and for fostering the gifts that make this program possible.

And to our incredible workers and volunteers: your behind-the-scenes efforts ensure that everything comes together seamlessly. From organizing to decorating, your contributions fill our program with the warmth and wonder of Christmas.

Together, we create something extraordinary—a celebration that spreads the joy, love, and hope of this special season. Thank you for being an essential part of our choir family.

Wishing you all a joyous and harmonious Christmas season!

With warmest holiday regards,

Dr. Jeffery Redding





**MEET OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DR. JEFFERY B. REDDING**

JEFFERY REDDING, THE 2019 GRAMMY MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT, IS THE DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA (UCF). DR. REDDING IS FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE GARDEN COMMUNITY CHOIR AND VOCI DEL CUORE (VOICES OF THE HEART) IN WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA. DR. REDDING IS ALSO

THE EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE ORLANDO CHORAL SOCIETY, FOUNDED IN 2019. HE ALSO SERVES AS THE DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS FOR TUSKAWILLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

NATIONALLY, DR. REDDING IS IN DEMAND AS A GUEST CONDUCTOR AND CLINICIAN. IN 2014, DR. REDDING WAS THE ONLY AMERICAN ADJUDICATOR AT THE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL, VERONA, ITALY. ADDITIONALLY, HE CONDUCTED AT THE TAISM FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS IN MUSCAT, OMAN. HE WAS THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR LIMERICK SINGS INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL IN LIMERICK, IRELAND IN 2018, WHERE ORLANDO CHORAL SOCIETY PARTICIPATED.

DR. REDDING HAS BEEN FEATURED AS GUEST CONDUCTOR AT CARNEGIE HALL, ALICE TULLY HALL, KENNEDY CENTER, AND ORCHESTRA HALL ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. HE WAS ALSO HONORED TO GIVE THE PRESTIGIOUS TEDx TALK.

HE IS ALSO ONE OF THE CONDUCTORS FOR WALT DISNEY WORLD'S CANDLELIGHT PROCESSIONAL AT EPCOT. IN 2022, HE HAD THE HONOR OF CONDUCTING DISNEY'S HARMONIOUS LIVE!, WHICH AIRED ON DISNEY +.

Meet our Collaborative Pianist



Dr. Terrance Lane

Dr. Lane Terrance L. Lane is a choral director and collaborative artist with extensive experience in various musical styles. Currently, he serves as the music director at Central Christian Church and collaborates with the Orlando Choral Society. Dr. Lane has guest conducted for the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park and the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

With over 20 years in music education, he has taught chorus, piano, and music theory across multiple educational levels. Previously, he was the Director of Choral Studies and Co-Director of Opera Workshop at Bethune-Cookman University, leading choirs on national and international tours. He earned a Bachelor's in Music Education from Florida A&M University, pursued graduate studies at Florida State University, and holds an MBA and a Doctor of Education from the University of Phoenix.

Dr. Lane has collaborated with distinguished artists and won awards, including the Young Artist Award at the Tourgee DeBose Piano Competition. He participated as a collaborative artist in President Obama's final Holiday Celebration at the White House and recently presented at international conferences in Oxford and Madrid.

Active as a choral clinician and adjudicator, Dr. Lane's ensembles consistently achieve superior ratings. He is affiliated with several professional organizations, including the American Choral Directors Association.



"Joy to the World"
arr. by Mack Wilberg

"Joy to the World" is one of the most beloved Christmas carols, recognized for its jubilant melody and timeless message of hope and celebration. Written in 1719 by Isaac Watts, the lyrics are inspired by Psalm 98, calling on all creation to rejoice in the coming of the Lord.

The music is often attributed to George Frideric Handel, though its precise origins remain uncertain. The carol's joyous character and triumphant energy have made it a favorite during the holiday season. Unlike many other Christmas songs, "Joy to the World" doesn't focus on the Nativity but rather celebrates Christ's reign over Earth, making it a hymn of universal rejoicing and praise.

Through its powerful melody and uplifting words, this piece captures the essence of the Christmas spirit, inviting everyone to join in proclaiming "Joy to the World!"

"Gloria"
arr. by Paul Basler
Soloist: Jordan Perez

"Gloria" is a timeless choral masterpiece that has captivated audiences for centuries. The text originates from the Latin hymn "Gloria in excelsis Deo," a part of the traditional Catholic Mass, which translates to "Glory to God in the highest." This hymn of praise celebrates the joy and peace brought to the world through the birth of Christ, making it a beloved staple in Christmas and sacred music repertoire.

"Deck the Halls"

arr. by Mack Wilberg

"Deck the Halls" is a festive favorite that has delighted audiences for centuries with its lively melody and cheerful lyrics. The tune originates from a 16th-century Welsh carol called *Nos Galan* (a New Year's Eve song), while the familiar English lyrics were penned in the 19th century by Scottish musician Thomas Oliphant.

The song captures the spirit of holiday merriment with its iconic refrain, "Fa la la la, la la la," and vivid imagery of decorating for the season. It invites singers and listeners alike to celebrate the joys of Christmas with music, laughter, and good cheer.

With its combination of a timeless melody and universal message of festive happiness, "Deck the Halls" remains an enduring part of Christmas traditions, spreading warmth and joy to all who hear it.

"Rejoice" From Handel's Messiah

Soloist: Mary Kelly Reimel

"Rejoice Greatly" is one of the most beloved soprano arias from George Frideric Handel's Messiah, a masterpiece that has become a cornerstone of choral and sacred music repertoire. Premiered in 1742, Messiah is an oratorio that tells the story of Christ's life, from prophecy to resurrection, blending profound spirituality with exquisite musicality.

This aria, drawn from the Old Testament prophecy in Zechariah 9:9-10, exclaims the joy and anticipation of the coming of the Messiah: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee." The piece features vibrant, melismatic passages that reflect the boundless exuberance of the text, paired with moments of lyrical beauty and reverence.

Performed tonight by the gifted soprano Mary Kelly Reimel, "Rejoice Greatly" captures the triumphant and joyous spirit of the Advent season, offering a moment of radiant celebration in Handel's timeless oratorio.

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

arr. by Dan Forest

"Angels We Have Heard on High" is a cherished Christmas carol known for its jubilant melody and the soaring "Gloria in excelsis Deo" refrain. The song's origins trace back to a traditional French carol, Les Anges dans nos campagnes, which was first published in the 18th century. Its English adaptation, created by Bishop James Chadwick in 1862, brought the carol to a wider audience.

The lyrics recount the Nativity story from the Gospel of Luke, where angels announce the birth of Christ to shepherds in the fields. The exuberant melody and cascading "Gloria" lines evoke the awe and wonder of the angelic proclamation, inviting all to join in the celebration of Christ's arrival.

Through its timeless beauty and universal message of peace and joy, "Angels We Have Heard on High" remains a beloved part of Christmas traditions worldwide.

Hallelujah Chorus

-G.F. Handel

The Hallelujah Chorus is one of the most iconic and celebrated pieces of music in history, serving as the climactic conclusion to Part II of George Frideric Handel's Messiah. Composed in 1741 and first performed in Dublin in 1742, Handel's Messiah is an oratorio that tells the story of Christ's birth, passion, resurrection, and ultimate triumph.

The text for the Hallelujah Chorus is drawn from the Book of Revelation, proclaiming the sovereignty and eternal reign of God: "Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth... The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever."

Tradition holds that King George II was so moved during its London premiere that he stood, inspiring the enduring custom of audiences rising during its performance.

The Hallelujah Chorus is a celebration of divine glory, a musical expression of jubilant praise that continues to inspire and unite audiences around the world during the Christmas season and beyond.

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