



**San Francisco Youth Chorus Presents:**

# *Winter Memories*

*A Choral Concert Celebrating the Season*

**December 9, 2023 at 4PM**

**First Unitarian Universalist Church**

**1187 Franklin Street**

**Tickets \$20.00 - Children 12 and under are free**

**Purchase tickets at**

**[www.sanfranciscoyouthchorus.org](http://www.sanfranciscoyouthchorus.org)**

# San Francisco Youth Chorus

## Winter Memories Concert

Saturday, December 9th at 4pm | First Unitarian Universalist Church, SF

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**Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening** Lowell Prescott  
**Amani Utupe** Patsy Ford Simms

SCHERZO

**Cuncti Simus** Anonymous from *Llibre Vermell*, edited by Ricardo Soto  
**Soloists:** Faith Hardin, Emily Shispinski, Ava Jalali, Cerys Cherny, Camden Carlstedt, Kai Weide Psaros

CANTANDO

**Unending Flame** Paul Carey

**Canto de Pilón** arr. Cristian Grases

**In Dulci Jubilo** arr. Russell Robinson

**The Christmas Song** Robert Wells and Mel Tormé arr. Russell Robinson

**Sisi Kushangilia** Victor C. Johnson  
**Seasons** Ola Gjeilo

CANTANDO/CAPRICCIO

**Sevivon** arr. Vicki Tucker Courtney

**If the Snow Could Sing** Amy F. Bernon

**The Fox** arr. Blake Richter and Taylor Shaeffer

**The Shepherd's Spiritual** arr. Donald Moore

**Soloists:** Penelope Marquez and Adeline Spooner

CAPRICCIO

### — INTERMISSION —

**Walking in the Air** Howard Blake

**Bidi Bom** David Eddleman

**Niño Precioso** arr. Rosephanye Powell

**Here Comes Santa Claus** Gene Autry and Oakley Haldeman

ALLEGRO

**Children Go Where I Send Thee** arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

ALLEGRO/SONATA

**Il est né le divin enfant** arr. Audrey Snyder

**Once Upon a December** arr. Audrey Snyder

**Ocho Kandelikas** Flory Jagoda arr. Alicia Shumate

SONATA

**We Need a Little Christmas** Jerry Herman arr. Roger Emerson

CAPRICCIO

**Invisible String** Taylor Swift and Aaron Dessner arr. Audrey Snyder  
**Soloists:** Ava Jalali, PJ Strauss, Peyton Death, Tabitha Davis, Maggie Van der Mei, Brianna Charpentier

CANTANDO

**The Man With a Bag** Harold Stanley, Irving Taylor, and Dudley Brooks  
arr. Roger Emerson

**Night of Silence** Daniel Kantor

**Winter Wonderland** Felix Bernand arr. Jeff Funk

ALL

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

**Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening** is an evocative piece with music by Lowell Prescott and text by poet Robert Frost. This song features beautiful imagery as the narrator rides his horse at dusk through the snowy forest.

**Amani Utupe** is a fun choral piece which features a mixture of Swahili and English text. *Amani utupe na ustawi* translates to “grant us peace, give us courage” and depicts a long and arduous journey.

**Cuncti Simus** is a chant in Latin from the *Llibre Vermell de Montserrat*, a 14th-century Spanish manuscript which contains devotional texts and songs.

**Unending Flame** is a Hanukkah piece which celebrates the joy of Hanukkah and the unending flame of the menorah which rekindles hope and burns brightly within the hearts of all who celebrate.

**Canto de Pilón** is a traditional Venezuelan song and includes eurhythmic motions and percussive sounds. Canto de Pilón is a working song traditionally sung by women who use big mortars carved out of tree trunks to grind corn and other grains.

**In Dulci Jubilo** is a traditional Christmas carol which means “in sweet rejoicing” in Latin. This 3-part arrangement by Russell Robinson is a lively rendition of the tune which dates back to the Middle Ages.

**The Christmas Song** was written in July 1945 during a blistering hot summer. This Christmas favorite has been covered by numerous artists from a wide variety of genres.

**Sisi Kushangilia** is an exuberant and energetic piece written by composer Victor C. Johnson. This song consists of 3 Swahili lines, *sisi n'goma, sisi kuimba, sisi kushangilia* (we will dance, we will sing, we will be glad).

**Seasons**, composed by Norwegian pianist and composer Oja Gjeilo, is a charming piece which explores the unique qualities of each of the four seasons.

**Sevivon** is a popular and well-known Hanukkah song. This beautiful arrangement by Vicki Tucker Courtney features dance-like rhythms and an expressive piano accompaniment.

**If the Snow Could Sing** is a festive winter piece which considers different kinds of songs the snow might sing, if it could: a simple tune, a lovely lullaby, a hearty tale, and finally, an invitation to sing along.

**The Fox**, written by Blake Richter and Taylor Shaeffer, is a fun and playful folk song which tells the story of a family of sly foxes.

**The Shepherd's Spiritual** is a gorgeous and lively gospel arrangement of the hymn Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow.

**Walking in the Air** is a song written by Howard Blake for the 1982 animated film *The Snowman*. The song relates the fleeting adventures of a young boy and a snowman who has come to life as they fly to the North Pole together.

**Bidi Bom**, arranged by David Eddleman, is a festive Hanukkah piece which celebrates the excitement of the 8 days and nights of Hanukkah.

**Niño Precioso** is a traditional Nicaraguan lullaby, arranged by Rosephanye Powell, in the style of an up-tempo Spanish dance.

**Here Comes Santa Claus** is a popular Christmas tune originally composed and sung by Gene Autry. The song was a top-10 hit on the pop and country charts and would go on to be covered numerous times in the subsequent decades.

**Children Go Where I Send Thee**, arranged by American composer Ruth Elaine Schram, is a bright and crisp gospel setting of the traditional Christmas spiritual by the same name.

**Il est né le divin enfant** is a traditional French Christmas carol published for the first time in 1862. This is a delightful and regal arrangement by Audrey Snyder which switches between English and French lyrics.

**Once Upon a December** is a hauntingly beautiful piece from the 1997 Fox Animation Studios film *Anastasia*. The piece recalls memories of a forgotten childhood.

**Ocho Kandelikas** is an exciting and catchy Hanukkah tune sung in Ladino, a language primarily spoken by Sephardic Jews from the Iberian Peninsula. This piece expresses the excitement and joy of Hanukkah as the eight candles are lit one by one.

**We Need a Little Christmas** is a popular Christmas song originating from Jerry Herman's Broadway musical *Mame*.

**Invisible String** is written by American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift. As the title suggests, the song centers on an invisible “thread of gold” that connects two soulmates and ushers them together in life.

**The Man With a Bag** is a fun and humorous Christmas tune originally made popular by Kay Starr in 1950.

**Night of Silence** is a moving Christmas song written in 1981 by American Composer, Daniel Kantor. The carol is a *quodlibet*, or partner song, which can be simultaneously sung with the Christmas carol “Silent Night.”

**Winter Wonderland** is a song written in 1934 by Felix Bernard and lyricist Richard B. Smith. The song's lyrics are about a couple enjoying a picturesque winter landscape together.

**Katie Gerber, Founder & Artistic Director.** Katie attended IU Jacobs School of Music, where she received a BM in Vocal Performance and Music Education with a Choral Music emphasis. She resided in Sydney, Australia, where she headed the Vocal Department at Stella Maris College and directed several of the school's internationally award-winning choruses. She completed her MM in Voice at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she sang the role of Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. Katie has sung professionally with a number of professional ensembles and has worked as a choral director in several schools and choruses. Katie is also the Director of SummerGATE, where she coordinates the classes and faculty, directs musical performances, and teaches music classes.

**Christopher Rhodes, Associate Conductor.** Christopher Rhodes is a classical singer, music educator, and pianist from the Bay Area. He is a classically trained bass baritone and a graduate of McGill University in Montreal, Canada, where he pursued studies in Voice and Music Education. Christopher is an avid polyglot and lifelong language learner, and he believes that languages are the key to broadening one's perspective and understanding of the world. In his free time, he likes to travel, meditate, cook, and practice bhakti yoga.

**Jihye Kim, Piano.** Korean pianist Jihye Kim began her piano studies at the age of five, having attended Yewon School and Seoul Arts High School. She pursued her undergraduate studies at Ewha Womans University. Jihye continued her musical journey at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, completing a Master of Music in Piano Performance. Jihye has a string of competition wins, including first prizes from the Jeonju International Competition. Aside from solo work, she is an enthusiastic piano instructor, operating her own private studio, SF Pianoforte in Mission Bay.

**Charlie Wadley, Piano.** Charlie, age 14, is in 9th grade. He began studying piano before the age of six, and he has sung with SFYC since its inception in 2015. At Lowell High School, he plays clarinet in Symphonic Band and takes every opportunity to play piano in Jazz Band. Outside of school, he especially enjoys math, learning languages, coding, as well as singing and playing piano accompaniment for SFYC.

**Mark Abbott, Percussion.** Mark is a Bay Area native who has been performing professionally since his teens. Cutting his teeth with popular San Francisco band Box Set, he has shared stages and studios with some of the Bay Area's biggest artists and producers. Among his many current projects, he is the co-creator, drummer, and production director for "Stroll Down Penny Lane," a multimedia celebration of the life and music of Paul McCartney. He has performed numerous times with SFYC, and he is proud and excited to be a part of it.

**Tricia Cronin, Choreography.** Tricia started her career in NYC as a professional dancer, having trained in classical, jazz, and contemporary dance. She has since made a name for herself in the Bay Area as a highly sought after dance instructor and choreographer and has worked at world-renowned artistic organizations including American Conservatory Theater, The Nueva School Department of Music, and Cantabile Youth Singers in Los Altos. Tricia teaches at Burke School. After working for National Geographic for years as a professional photographer, she is excited to start her own photography school, traveling the world with novice photographers and helping them capture beauty in the world around them. Tricia has worked with SFYC as its choreographer and dance instructor since its inception.

**Scott Thompson, Cello.** Scott Thompson is a performer and educator based in the East Bay. With fifteen years of teaching experience, and many years of studying with fine cello teachers—including Jennifer Culp, Ron Leonard and Irene Sharp—Scott works with people of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels. Along with teaching and performing, Scott plays cello bedside for people at the end of their life. Scott also teaches Physical Education and is the founder of the Oaklantis Swim School in Oakland—a program that provides swim lessons for underserved youth in Oakland.

**Andrea Gutierrez, Flute.** Andrea Gutierrez is a Colombian-American composer and flutist from Fairfield, California. As a composer, she particularly enjoys writing electroacoustic/electronic works. As a performer, she frequently collaborates with various chamber ensembles in the Bay Area and is currently a fellow for Chamber Music Silicon Valley. She received her A.A. in Performance from Napa Valley College, studying under Jennifer Hunt, and a B.M. in Composition at San Jose State where she studied with composer Dr. Christopher Luna-Mega and flutist Dr. Ray Furuta.

**Caleb Rose, Clarinet.** Caleb Rose is a clarinetist and educator based in San Francisco, California who has a wide range of musical interests from orchestral performance to new music and improvisation. He has performed as principal clarinetist with the San Francisco Conservatory Orchestra and has had the opportunity to play at SFJAZZ, accompanying Ambrose Akinmusire and Terri Lyne Carrington in ensembles. He is also co-founder of the SF-based chamber collective, The Bridge Music Collective.

**Christian Poppelreiter, Guitar and Mandolin.** Christian is a mandolinist from San Francisco, California. Presenting a range of styles from bluegrass to jazz, his playing focuses on both traditional and modern elements of improvisational music. Over the last decade Christian has played in numerous acoustic ensembles around the Bay Area including Cool Pistol String Band and Mukeskiner Stomp, featuring his mandolin driven arrangements of the music of the Grateful Dead. With experience singing in a full adult mixed choir, Christian also enjoys vocal performance, also arranging harmony parts for his musical projects.



**CANTANDO** Madeline Blair, Aurora Buenviaje, Camden Carlstedt, Tate Carlstedt, Brianna Charpentier, Cerys Cherny, Madison Chow, Hannah Chung, Tabitha Davis, Siena de la Jara-Burke, Peyton Death, Claire Downey-Chiko, Tamaya Gardella, Lillet Gustavson, Faith Hardin, Kieran Healy, Ava Jalali, Nicholas Kenny, Madeline Laipply, Natalie Long, Dante Megill, Esther Morrison, Alan Pappas, Amelia Rahmani, Evelina Rahmani, Jacob Sastra, Emma Sheets, Emily Shispinski, Sadie Shispinski, PJ Strauss, November Tom, Maggie Van der Mei, Charlie Wadley, Ada Weide Psaros, Kai Weide Psaros, Ione Young

**CAPRICCIO** Sarah Andrews-Cordes, Charlie Au Yeung, Anya Biswas, Josephine Blair, Cara Bondoc, Sunny Chambliss, Sabina Cherny, Audrey Chu, Coco Conroy, Madeline Dai, Julianna Dombrique, Mia Felson, Emily Freschl, Charlotte Gaertner, Asha Gokhale, Gabby Guan, Aurelie Herlambang, Kalin Houghton, Audrey Kitses, Emmy Liu-Halbert, Adele Makaranka, Penelope Marquez, Kassy Mei, Ella Newby, Elle O'Leary, Radha Parikh-Rayman, Isabella Phan, Yael Schindler, Lilavati Shah, Adeline Spooner, Hazel Turnbaugh, Scarlett Vena, Sofia Won

**ALLEGRO** Veda Bartels, JB Bartenwerfer, Nikhil Biswas, Stella Bordoli-Brown, Jaya Brough, Jasper Cady den Broeder, Sequoia Campbell, Eve Carter, Shannon Charpentier, Max Cieplinski, Brynn Fowler, Luna Guerrero, Tyler Lee, Finn MacDonald, Isobel Mackey, Kai Mankiewicz, Sophia Pappas, Caroline Ruhrmund, Hanna Sasaki, Della Senechko, Mia Simmons, Corinna Tamres, Emma Tihon, Lily Tihon, Linh Tran, Anaia Udoh, Lesley Zhang, Lydia Zhang

**SONATA** Emma Anglim-Edelman, Neal Arul, Natasha Baker, Chanya Blatman, Tai Blatman, Gabrielle Booth, Flora Brinkmann, Ada Consalus, Paloma De La Cruz, Stella Del Monte, Kairav Donde, Shailen Donde, Isabelle Egdal, Aurora Eisenmann, Grace Gage, Emma Guan, Alyssa Hawkins, Helen Heilig, Saira Jha, Matilda Laponis, Vivian Lee, Khai Limburg, Paulina Makaranka, Allegra Miscia, Jaelyn Mui, Kailani Niwa, Margot Reed, Thalia Ross Krah, Francis Roy, Rachel Savick, Shoshana Schindler, Olivia Soni, Ada Strand, Padmakshi Upadhyaya, Zoya Walsh, Mila Whitehead, Timothy Xie

**SCHERZO** Shaira Ashvin, Calia Basilio, Axel Besson, Cory Besson, Leo Buenviaje, Maya Chambers, Talia Chambers, Ashley Console, Ava Deely, Marielle Dupuis, Sutton Ellis, Kylie Felson, Emma Gentry, Akash Gokhale, Kai Hiller, Sophie Holder, Madelyn Huang, Naomi Kawaichi, Evelyn Kelley, Ada Levy, Vivienne Lewis, Angela Li, Sophia Lim, Hebe Lu, Katlyn Lum, Pippa MacDonald, Evelyn McDonald, Eleanor Richmond, Anna Saalfeld, Teo Sener, Momo Shah, Naia Tihon, Imogen Turnbaugh, Netra Venkat, Maxwell Wang, Cora Youngren

*A special thank you to our Sound Technician, Jonathan Silk.*

**Registration for our Winter/Spring 2024 Season is NOW OPEN! Sign up: [sfyouthchorus.org](https://sfyouthchorus.org) | 415-629-8540**



*SFYC Winter Memories Concert 2022. Photo by Tricia Cronin.*