

BELLA LUMINA CHOIR PRESENTS



Winter SOLSTICE

MICHELLE GEHRZ, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JEFFREY PATRY, ACCOMPANIST

SATURDAY, DEC. 18 • 7 pm

Gethsemane Lutheran Church | 715 Minnetonka Mills Road, Hopkins

SUNDAY, DEC. 19 • 3 pm

First Lutheran Church | 1555 40th Ave. NE, Columbia Heights



Bella
Lumina

spreading light, hope & joy
through song

BELLALUMINACHOIR.ORG

*Bella Lumina
Concert Roster*

Helen Arneson

Grace Barry

Ruth Campbell

Gay Gonnerman

Kathy Grindeland

Monica Healy

Kate Johnston

Barb Kern-Pieh

Tanya Kirschenman

Susan Lach

Diane LaMere

Jan Lillemo

Julie Lindstrom

Doreen Lorentz

Jessi McKinnon

Joan Nelson

Kay Netland

Jean Olson

Sandy Olson

Ellen Junko Sandoval

Cynthia Scherer

Cindy Stauffer

Julie Stauffer

Judy Sunderland

Shari Tivy

Virve Van Sloun

Nancy Verba

Heidi Vickerman

Beth VonEschen

From darkness...

Worry. Isolation. Pandemic. Division. Stress. Anxiety. Loss.

Come Unto Me | Karen Marroli

Soloists: Gay Gonnerman, Tanya Kirschenman, Barb Kern-Pieh, Doreen Lorentz

Where the Light Begins | Susan LaBarr

Light My Light | Connor J. Koppin

Snow Angel | Sarah Quartel

Solstice Carol | Kim Baryluk

Soloist: Kathy Grindeland

Solstice Song | Jan Garrett

Greensleeves | arr. Cathy and David Mokelbust

Handbell tree soloist: Krista Riedel

Carol of the Bells | Mykola Leontovich / arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Ring Out! | Jennaya Robison

In Dulci Jubilo | arr. Matthew Culloton

Trio: Helen Arneson, Doreen Lorentz, Sandy Olson

Silent Night | Pinkzebra

To light...

Hope. Community. Stability. Understanding. Love. Celebration. Joy.

Michelle Gehrz, Artistic Director | Jeffrey Patry, Accompanist

Andrea Glass, cello

Krista Riedel, handbell tree soloist

Sarah Wright, violin

Come Unto Me

TEXT: MATTHEW 11: 28-30

Come unto me, and I will give you rest.
For my yoke is easy, my burden is light.
All you weary come. I am your rest.

Where the Light Begins

TEXT BY JAN RICHARDSON

Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.
Perhaps it takes a lifetime
to open our eyes,
to learn to see—
the luminous line
of the map in the dark
the vigil flame in the house
of the heart
the love so searing
we can't keep from singing,
from crying out.
Perhaps this day
the light begins.
We are where the light begins.
Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.

Light My Light

TEXT BY RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Light, my light, the world-filling light,
the eye-kissing light, heart-sweetening light!

Ah, the light dances at the center of my life.
The light strikes the chords of my love,
the sky opens, the wind runs wild, laughter
passes over the earth.

The butterflies spread their sails on the sea
of light. Lilies and jasmines surge up on the
wave of light.

The light is shattered into gold on every
cloud, it scatters gems in profusion. Mirth
spreads from leaf to leaf, and gladness with-
out measure.

The heaven's river has drowned its banks and
the flood of joy is abroad. Light, my light.

Snow Angel

I went to my window one bright winter's
morn and gazed at the new fallen snow.
The world overtaken by flurries of white had
set my surroundings aglow.
I looked to the heavens seeking the source of
this wonderland newly appeared.
When there I spied a snow angel holding the
flakes and spreading them near.
She sang: "Even though the snow may blow,
there's not a wind can stop my music.
For I know that winter shelters life."

On silver blue wingtips she soared through
the air ensuring the flow'rs were warm.

She knew that her snowflakes would
blanket the earth and keep all its friends
safe from harm.

I thought for a moment she must be a dream,
this angel with silvery wings.
But then I discovered she was heaven sent as
her icy lips opened to sing.

She sang: "even though the wind may blow
there's not a wind can stop my music.
For I know that winter shelters life."

When she knew that the flow'rs were
asleep she beat her wings faster to go.
But soon, looking back on the work she
had done,
She let herself fall to the snow.

I saw for a moment the smile on her face
'fore she launched herself back in the air.
I'm sure there are many snow angels
in heav'n,
But now I have one down here.

I sing: "Even though the snow may blow
there's not a wind can stop my music.
For I know that winter shelters life!"

Solstice Carol

A fire is burning
The long night draws near
All who need comfort
Are welcomed by here
We'll dance 'neath the stars
And toast the past year
For the spirit of solstice
Is still living here
We'll count all our blessings
While the Mother lays down
With snow as her blanket
Covering the ground
Thanks to the Mother
For the life that she brings
She'll waken to warm us
Again in the spring
The poor and the hungry
The sick and the lost
These are our children
No matter the cost
Come by the fire
The harvest to share
For the spirit of solstice
Is still living here.

Solstice Song

Deep in the darkest winter night, here with
my candle burning.

Cozy and warm inside the light now that the
year is turning.

What does the future hold in store, where has
our journey brought us?

How can we learn from what's gone before,
what has experience taught us?

Heart of Creation, Lover of shadow and light,
Sing us the songs of a billion stars silently all
through the night.

Friendship will light the darkest hours, true
love will hold the vision.

Peace and goodwill on earth is ours, let it be
our decision.

Heart of Creation, Lover of shadow and light,
Sing us the songs of a billion stars silently all
through the night.

Deep in the darkest winter night, here with
my candle burning.

Cozy and warm inside the light now that the
year is turning.

Feel how the year is turning.

Carol of the Bells

Hark how the bells
Sweet silver bells
All seem to say
Throw cares away
Christmas is here
Bringing good cheer
To young and old
Meek and the bold
Ding-dong, ding-dong
That is the song
With joyful ring
All caroling
One seems to hear
Words of good cheer
From everywhere
Filling the air
Oh, how they pound
Raising their sound
O'er hill and dale
Telling their tale
Gaily they ring
While people sing
Songs of good cheer
Christmas is here
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas
On, on they send
On without end
Their joyful tone
To every home
Ding-dong, ding-dong

Ring Out!

Ring out! and Shout! Alleluia!
Hodie Christus natus est, Alleluia.
Ring out! and Shout! Alleluia!

In Dulci Jubilo

In dulci jubilo,
In sweet joy,
Let us our homage show,
Our heart's joy reclineth
In praesepio,
In a manger,
And like a bright star shineth,
Matris in gremio.
In your mother's lap.
Alpha es et O.
Beginning and ending.
O Jesu parvule!
O infant Jesus!
I yearn for thee always!
Hear me, I beseech thee,
O Puer optime!
O best of boys!
My pray'r let it reach thee,
O Princeps gloriae;
O Prince of Glory;
Trahe me post te.
Draw me after you.
O Patris caritas!
O love of the Father!
O Nati lenitas!
O mercy of the Son!
Deeply were we stained,
Per nostra crimina;
Through our sins;
But thou hast for us gained
Coelorum gaudia!
The joys of heaven!
O that we were there!
Ubi sunt gaudia,
Where are joys,
Where, if they be not there?
There are angels singing
Nova cantica!
New songs!
And there the bells are ringing
In regis curia
In the King's courts
O that we were there,
In dulci jubilo!
In sweet joy!

Silent Night

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



Bella Lumina
spreading light, hope & joy
through song



Special appreciation to the Minnesota Family Law Firm of
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as our official **MUSIC SPONSOR** for this season.

Thank you to...

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Mark Fideldy, Rob Reid, and GLC musicians
for sharing their lovely space for rehearsal and this concert.

First Lutheran Church and Jeffrey Patry, for sharing their lovely sanctuary for concerts.

Jeffrey Patry and Jessi McKinnon for assisting with sectional rehearsals.

Audio Recording: Nicholas Benson and Walter Boyd

Illustration and graphic design: Julie Lindstrom Design

To all those who supported our fall fundraisers! We are grateful.



Photo: Jim Ameson

MISSION

*Bella Lumina spreads light, hope, and joy through the power of song.
We present repertoire of high artistic quality that delivers a powerful message
through illuminating texts and inspirational arrangements
showcasing the extraordinary beauty of treble voices.*

Upcoming Events

April 4-9: CARNEGIE HALL

20 Bella Lumina Singers will participate in joining a 200-voice massed choir at Carnegie Hall, New York City to sing the Carnegie premiere of composer Andrea Ramsey's *Suffrage Cantata*.

Sunday, May 1 at 3 PM: WESTONKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Bella Lumina will combine with Mound-Westonka High School treble singers and conductor Kelly Newell to present an unforgettable concert celebrating WOMEN – *Forward into Light: Lifting as We Climb*.