

a collection of VCS favorites

# WITH ONE VOICE

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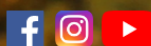
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# With One Voice, We Sing!

## a collection of VCS favorites

### **"The Awakening" arr. Joseph M. Martin**

"The Awakening" by Joseph Martin (b. 1959), tells the powerful and visceral tale of a person dreaming about a world without music. After awakening, the dreamer rejoices in the wonder and power that is music. Composer Joseph Martin drew upon personal experience in his composing of this piece. Martin grew up in a violent inner-city school. His only solace, particularly in junior high school, was music, made especially meaningful after connecting with music teacher Doris Clark. Her room provided a sanctuary for Martin and many of the students that was truly unique. She challenged and inspired them to constantly set and achieve new goals and supported them in any way that she could. Sadly, during Martin's first year in junior high school, Clark was brutally murdered. "The Awakening", written in 1995, was Martin's chronicle of his journey of healing and a celebration of the teacher who inspired him and so many others.

### **"We Are Made For Music" arr. Joseph M. Martin**

"We Are Made For Music" was written by composer Joe Martin, a native of North Carolina. Martin is well known as a solo pianist and featured artist with numerous symphony orchestras throughout the United States and Mexico. "We Are Made For Music" is majestic and moving, both in lyric and song. Martin captures the idea that everything resounds with music including the earth and those who inhabit it. A glorious piano accompaniment only adds to the beauty of the splendid choral composition.

### **"Al Shlosa D'varim" arr. Joseph M. Martin**

*Soloist: Allison Deratzian & Kathleen Siddall*

"Al Shlosa D'varim" is a lyrical setting of the popular maxim for Pirkei Avot (Jewish morality laws). The text translated means: *The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace.* Using the universal language of music, this piece conveys this important and universal theme through its beautiful simplicity. Allan Naplan is an award winning composer whose choral works have been performed worldwide. It is an interesting fact that Naplan's work "An American Anthem" (2001) was chosen as the inaugural wake-up song for the NASA astronauts on the Space Shuttle Columbia.

### **"Christmas Bells" arr. Drew Collins**

"Christmas Bells" is composer Drew Collins setting of the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) poem "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." During the Civil War, Longfellow's seventeen year old son, Charles, snuck away from home to join the union army. A few months later, Charles was shot in battle and gravely injured. His father traveled to Washington, D.C. to bring Charley home to Boston to recover. Longfellow penned the poem on Christmas Day, 1863, as he sat nursing his son back to health. The poem was first published in February, 1865, in the magazine "Our Young Folks." Drew Collins has captured the vibrant mood of this timeless holiday classic with a pulsating four hand piano accompaniment. Collins is a choral conductor, composer and educator who is Director of Choral Activities for Central Connecticut State University.

## **"And the Glory of the Lord" arr. George Frideric Handel**

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) was born in Halle, Germany and became famous as a composer of operas, oratorios, anthems, and organ concertos. Handel left Germany for Great Britain in 1712, and it was here that he wrote his most famous music. In the 1730's he turned to the English oratorio in response to changes in public taste. An oratorio is a dramatic but un-staged telling of a Biblical or religious story. "The Messiah", is a reflection on Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Handel completed the work in twenty-four days. "The Messiah" is divided into three sections. "And the Glory of the Lord" is from the first section which begins with prophecies by Isaiah and others and then moves to the annunciation of the shepherds.

## **"Sleep, Holy Babe" arr. Thomas Keesecker**

*Flute: Bella Laco*

American composer Thomas Keesecker has been a church musician his entire professional career working in both Lutheran and Catholic settings. Keesecker grew up in Germany and Northern Virginia. He is currently the Director of Music at St. Margaret Catholic Church in Bel Air, Maryland. His composition "Sleep, Holy Babe" is a lullaby that incorporates a soothing original melody and is moving in its simplicity and in the text which quietly conveys the singer's awe of the sleeping Christ child.

## **"Sure on this Shining Night" arr. Morten Lauridsen**

Composer Morten Lauridsen's "Nocturnes" is a work comprised of four different pieces which address aspects of the common theme of "Night." It premiered at the ACDA Los Angeles National Convention in February, 2005, sung by the Donald Brinegar Singers with Lauridsen himself at the piano. "Sure On This Shining Night" is the third piece in the work. It is a lyrical, beautiful setting of James Agee's well known love poem.

## **"Fum, Fum, Fum" arr. John D and Phillis Miller**

"Fum, Fum, Fum" is a traditional Catalan Christmas carol. It is thought to have originated in the sixteenth or seventeenth century. The word "fum" means "smoke" in Catalan, and may simply refer to the smoke rising from a chimney as seen from afar, or, as indicated in the "New Oxford Book of Carols", "may be an imitation of the sound of a drum (or perhaps the strumming of a guitar.)" Another source reports that the "fum, fum, fum" is an onomatopoeia imitating the noise of a rocking cradle. Whatever it's intended meaning this familiar carol has been delighting listeners and singers alike for centuries and tonight's lively version by John D. and Phillis Miller will surely continue this tradition.

## **"Angels Singin' Glory" arr. Andy Beck**

"Angels Singin' Glory!" is a delightful holiday piece by American composer Andy Beck. The piece opens and closes with a lively a cappella original Christmas spiritual. A lovely chorale based on the words to the familiar "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" comprises the middle of the piece. Beck has composed the piece in a traditional style but with a contemporary flair.

## **"Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow" arr. Mary Hayes**

"Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" was written by composer Jule Styne and lyricist Sammy Cahn. Styne, who emigrated from London to America as a child, was first introduced to Cahn by a movie producer and the pair's relationship began. During the mid 1940's they became one of the most successful teams in the business. Stars such as Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and Dean Martin gained the upper reaches of the Hit Parade by recording songs written by the two. Although "Let It Snow" is most often sung at Christmas time, the song is not actually about Christmas at all, but is a love song about poor weather allowing the singer to prolong a sweet winter tryst. American composer and arranger Mark Hayes has breathed new life into this long time favorite beginning with a bright introduction that leads into a jazz waltz and dances into an ending reminiscent of a Hollywood movie musical.

## **"I Wish You Christmas" arr. John Rutter**

British composer John Rutter is widely regarded as the most prolific writer of choral/vocal music in the United Kingdom, if not the world. Rutter was born in London in 1945 and studied music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he wrote his first compositions. "I Wish You Christmas" is an uplifting original Christmas carol, which demonstrates Rutter's gift for writing engaging and memorable tunes. The melody weaves between different voices and scorings, while the lovely piano accompaniment complements the vocal lines with luscious harmonies. The piece was written for the 2006 Festival to celebrate the 80th birthday of Queen Elizabeth.

## **"I Am But a Small Voice" arr. John Coates, Jr.**

"I Am but a Small Voice" was written by British singer-songwriter Roger Whittaker in 1980 with words by Odina Batnag. Whittaker was born in Nairobi to English parents in 1936. His music is an eclectic mix of folk and popular songs. He is best known for his baritone singing voice and trademark whistling ability as well as his guitar skills. In conjunction with his first American tour in 1980, Whittaker launched a major international song writing competition called "Children Helping Children" from the United Nations in New York through UNESCO. Children from all over the world were asked to submit lyrics and poems on the subject of promoting peace and understanding. Whittaker would put the best entry to music and record it. The contest attracted over one million entries from fifty-seven countries. The winner was a thirteen year old girl from Manila in the Philippines who was flown to New York and introduced to a huge audience at Whittaker's Radio City Music Hall Concert. Her entry, "I Am But A Small Voice," was performed for the first time at this concert. It has since been released worldwide with all proceeds raised by sales being donated to UNESCO's education for the handicapped children's program.



### **Support the Arts!**

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Valley Choral Society relies heavily on the financial support of businesses, corporations and individuals to sustain the offerings of the choir to both singers and audience. Through generous gifts we are able to continue to bring quality choral music to the Upper Perkiomen Valley and surrounding areas.

You can make a difference! All donations are tax-deductible and support the general operating fund of the choir.

## **Andrew Lutz-Long** *Artistic Director*

# **Music Team**

Andrew Lutz-Long is Director of Music Ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasio, PA since July 2007. He arrived at Trinity after graduating from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA with a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a concentration in church music and administration. While at LVC, Drew reorganized and directed a Chapel Choir that sang at traditional Chapel services and appeared in local tours in the region. He also served as a drum major to the Lebanon Valley College Marching Band in 2005.

At Trinity, Drew oversees the choir programs for each age level, directs the hand-bell choir, and oversees the Trinity Concert Series, a music outreach of the congregation. The Trinity Chancel Choir regularly leads worship during the program year, and the additional groups participate on a rotating schedule. The youngest choir program was recently shifted to include all students participating in the Sunday School program. The full-time staff of Trinity also offer monthly "chapel time" programs for the 100 children cared for as part of the TLC Child Care Center, housed in Trinity's walls year-round, caring for children from infancy through kindergarten.

In 2009, Drew was invited to join the staff of the Valley Choral Society, Pennsburg, PA, as Assistant Director and serve as an accompanist. He served this role working with Patricia Conrad as Artistic Director until the summer of 2018 when Drew was offered the directorship.

Since fall of 2015, Drew serves as Chapel Organist at Muhlenberg College in Egner Chapel. In this role, he helps plan worship for the Christian community gathering weekly on Sundays, and assists at other special campus events especially concerts involving organ accompaniment. Drew is also a part of the Worship Team for the Southeastern PA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, helping to plan specific worship events in the Synod as well as playing piano and organ during those services.

## **Mary Beth Penjoke** *Assistant Director*

Mary Beth Penjoke holds a Masters degree in Education from Cabrini University, a Bachelors degree in Music Education from Lebanon Valley College, and a Level 1 Orff Teaching certificate from the University of the Arts. She is a music teacher for the Penridge Area School District where the music staff has been recognized as a "best community for music education" for three consecutive years by NAMM, a national music organization. Since 2008, she has taught instrumental, vocal, and general music classes to students in grades K-8 at various elementary and middle schools in the district. In addition to her teaching duties, she has directed the elementary honors band, initiated a summer band program, and is a 2018 recipient of a Penridge Community Education Foundation grant.

Penjoke is a member of the Dutch Country Players (DCP) in Montgomery County where she was last seen as Joy, the lead in the regional premiere of Sean Grennan's "The Tin Woman." Other prominent roles include Janet McKenzie in "Witness for the Prosecution" and Joan Daly in "The Snowball." At DCP she has served as an assistant director and a vocal coach for various Family Theatre productions including "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." For the last three summers, she has served as a co-director for Camp Bravo at the Doylestown Conservatory of Music, directing, choreographing and staging "Aladdin Jr", "Suessical the Musical Jr" and "Broadway Now."

## **Sue Ellen Echard** *Accompanist*

Sue Ellen Echard, MM, BS, BMus, is Choir Master and Organist at Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, Harleysville, PA serving there for 17 years. Over her career she has worked as choral director, workshop leader, Kindermusik® teacher, recitalist and teacher of organ and piano. She has been a member of the Philadelphia AGO for over 30 years and was recently elected to the executive committee of the Philadelphia Chapter. She specializes in choir and community building and was recruited early in the founding of Church of Holy Spirit to build music, arts and youth programs. The intention of growing this new parish was focused on well done music and liturgy through use of the Royal School of Church Music resources. Under her leadership, the choirs have grown to over 60 youth and adult participants in singing, instrumental and handbell choirs. The church continues to grow and thrive. In recent years, Sue Ellen led choral residencies at Bristol Winchester and Lincoln Cathedrals in England and is currently preparing for a residency at Exeter in 2022. Sue Ellen has served on the music staff of Bel Canto Children's Chorus and the Royal School of Church Music at the King's College Course in Wilkes-Barre.

Sue Ellen's career has been broad and comprehensive serving churches in the Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, Reformed and Evangelical traditions. She holds a Bachelor of Science in theology and Bachelor of Music in Church Music from Cairn University and a Master of Sacred Music Degree from Westminster Choir College where she studied organ with Eugene Roan and choral conducting with Allen Crowell and Andrew Megill. She completed further studies in choral conducting at the Choral Institute at Oxford in 2017 and 2019.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Valley Choral Society is to produce outstanding music both in rehearsal and performance. In order to achieve our mission, we will:

- Challenge and educate
- Entertain and inspire
- Foster discipline and respect
- Develop growth in musicianship
- Encourage diversity and unity
- Share in the joy of music

### Officers

President: Alexis Cuff  
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Monica Strawbridge  
Christopher Lutz-Long

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## ABOUT THE CHOIR

Originally known as the Choral Arts Society of the Upper Perkiomen Valley, Valley Choral Society (VCS) was founded in 1983 by Richard F. Lampe. It was formed as a community choir composed of singers from the Upper Perkiomen Valley however, as the enthusiasm grew for a community music program, membership continued to expand to its now multi-county composition including Montgomery, Bucks, Lehigh and Berks Counties.

Presenting major concerts in the late fall and spring, VCS performs a wide variety of music – from John Rutter’s Requiem to Broadway show tunes, from classical sacred music to well-loved music from the 1940s, from classic Christmas carols to the Beatles, from composers from past centuries to contemporary composers – all to the delight of appreciative audiences.

In addition to its major concerts, VCS has always had a rich history of community outreach that continues to expand with performances at community day events such as Quakertown Alive or Relay for Life, retirement communities throughout the area, and the annual “Make Music Upper Perk” event. Outside of the area, Valley Choral Society has most recently toured to Washington DC (2014) and New York City (2012); in keeping with our mission statement, other opportunities to perform are welcome as scheduling allows.



## SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, January 18:** Sing with us! VCS rehearsals resume for our spring semester at Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasie, at 7PM.

**May 14 & 15:** Spring Concerts! Stay up-to-date via email, Facebook, or Instagram for more information!



# CHOIR MEMBERS

## Soprano I

Linda Camana  
Alexis Cuff  
Allison Deratzian  
Paige Kolodziejski  
Darcy McConahy  
Virginia Servas  
Patti Spanier  
Monica Strawbridge  
Donna Taggart  
Jere-Jean Wehmeyer  
Barbara Zucker

## Soprano II

Kathleen Boyle-Giannini  
Dana Caporaletti  
Molly Faust  
Annette Raynes  
Kathleen Siddall  
Julie Swan  
Angela Vaughn

## Alto I

Yvonne Caputo  
Lindee Fitting  
Terry Hughley  
Sandy Hummel  
Ann Kolb  
Cheryl Kulp  
Vickie Long  
Patricia McCully  
Donna Snyder  
Linda Wood

## Alto II

Betsy Berret  
Barbara Cleland  
Paula Dreiling  
Barbara Lampe  
Selena Lavonier  
Emma Lewis

## Tenor I

Debra Ferretti  
Christopher Lutz-Long  
Kirk Walters

## Tenor II

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David Williams

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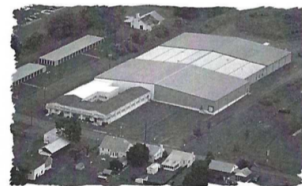
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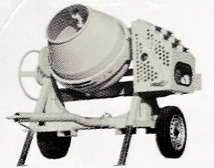
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