

The Hartford Chorale
A Season of Well-Reasoned Alternatives
A Musical Buffet!

Monday, January 11, 2021
7:00 p.m.

This evening's bountiful event is a compilation of concert excerpts from the past thirteen seasons. (How grateful we are for archival recordings!) For those who have been members during this span of time, a genuine trip down Memory Lane is in order (which might include some memory-jogging here and there), and for others, a chance to hear what the Chorale's musical "diet" has been over this rich period.

A separate play list will be provided, but, in summary, what we have in store is a sampler from:

- Winter Song (2007)
- The Verdi *Requiem* (2021)
- Great Music of France (2015)
- Men of the Hartford Chorale (2015)
- Mendelssohn's *Elijah* (2016)
- Meneely-Kyder's *Letter from Italy 1944* (2017)
- Christmas in the Americas (2019)

"Winter Song" takes us back to twin performances of seasonal favorites and works quite new, presented in the impressive concert hall of Manchester Community College, whose stage was decked out by Chorale members, creating a winter scene to rival a Franco Zeffirelli production. Master of Ceremonies and Narrator was the late Malcolm Morrison, then dean of the Hartt School.

The Verdi *Requiem* excerpt is from the cast-of-thousands celebration of the 50th anniversary of the building of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford, including, beyond ourselves, the New Haven Chorale and the choral forces of the Hartt School, all under the direction of Edward Bolkovac.

Ever since our presentation of "Great Music from France" we have enjoyed occasional listening to excerpts by Durufle, Poulenc, and others, and in our "buffet" we will hear another mighty-mega work by Louis Vierne.

The concert of men's voices was a rich and rare experience, with two succulent excerpts to be enjoyed on this occasion. The *Elijah* excerpts include the "big hit" movement "He Watching over Israel" and the evocative a cappella trio for children's voices which precedes it.

Letter from Italy 1944 is one of the Chorale's most impressive and highly regarded achievements. In tonight's excerpts we hear the choral forces of both the Hartford Chorale and the Greater Middletown Chorale, with Jack Pott as the vocal star.

In recent weeks and months we have dipped into our "Christmas in the Americas" concert for some listening pleasure, and others, chiefly "miniatures," remain, and we will hear a few during our evening together.

Do plan to attend this musical repast, which is open not only to members but friends of the Chorale. Come one, come all, and be warmed by great choral music on a cold winter's night.

Rick Coffey

Hartford Chorale Virtual Season 2020-2021

A Musical Buffet

Monday, January 11, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Program

Winter Song (2007)

- "Sleigh Ride" – Leroy Anderson
- "First Snow" – Reginald Unterseher (women of the Chorale)
- "Wassail Song" – arr. Donna Schultz
- "Jingle Bells" – arr. David Willcocks
- "Stopping by Woods," from *Frostiana* – Randall Thompson (men of the Chorale)
- "Velvet Shoes" – Jan Sanborn
- "The Sleigh" – Richard Kountz

Men of the Hartford Chorale (2015), Jack Pott conducting

- "Sanctus" – Byron Adams
- "Zion's Walls" – arr. Aaron Copland

Music of France (2015)

- "Kyrie eleison" from *Messe Solennelle* for choir and two organs – Louis Vierne

Verdi Requiem 2012

- Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the construction of St. Joseph Cathedral, Hartford
- Edward Bolkovak conducting the choral forces of Hartford Chorale, New Haven Chorale, and the Hartt School
- Selections
 - "Dies Irae" (excerpt)
 - "Sanctus"

Mendelssohn *Elijah* (2016):

- "Lift Thine Eyes" by Connecticut Children's Chorus
- "He, Watching over Israel" by the Chorale

Sarah Meneely-Kyder *Letter from Italy 1944* (2017)

- Selections to be announced

Christmas in the Americas (2019) – including items

- "Ya vienne" – arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
- "Shepherds Carol" – William Billings
- "Cherry Tree Carol" – arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw