



Christmas WITH THE Cherokee Chorus

With Special Guest Performances by
Creekland Middle School 7th Grade Chorus (1 pm)
and Mill Creek Middle School 7th Grade Chorus (4 pm)

Season Sponsored by
Sylvia Teasley and The Teasley Foundation
Lou Knight
Robert and Anne Rhome



December 13, 2025 • 1 pm & 4 pm

Christmas WITH THE Cherokee Chorale

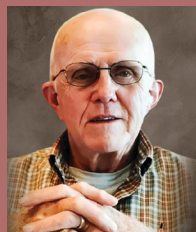
PROGRAM NOTES

By Steven Sheeley

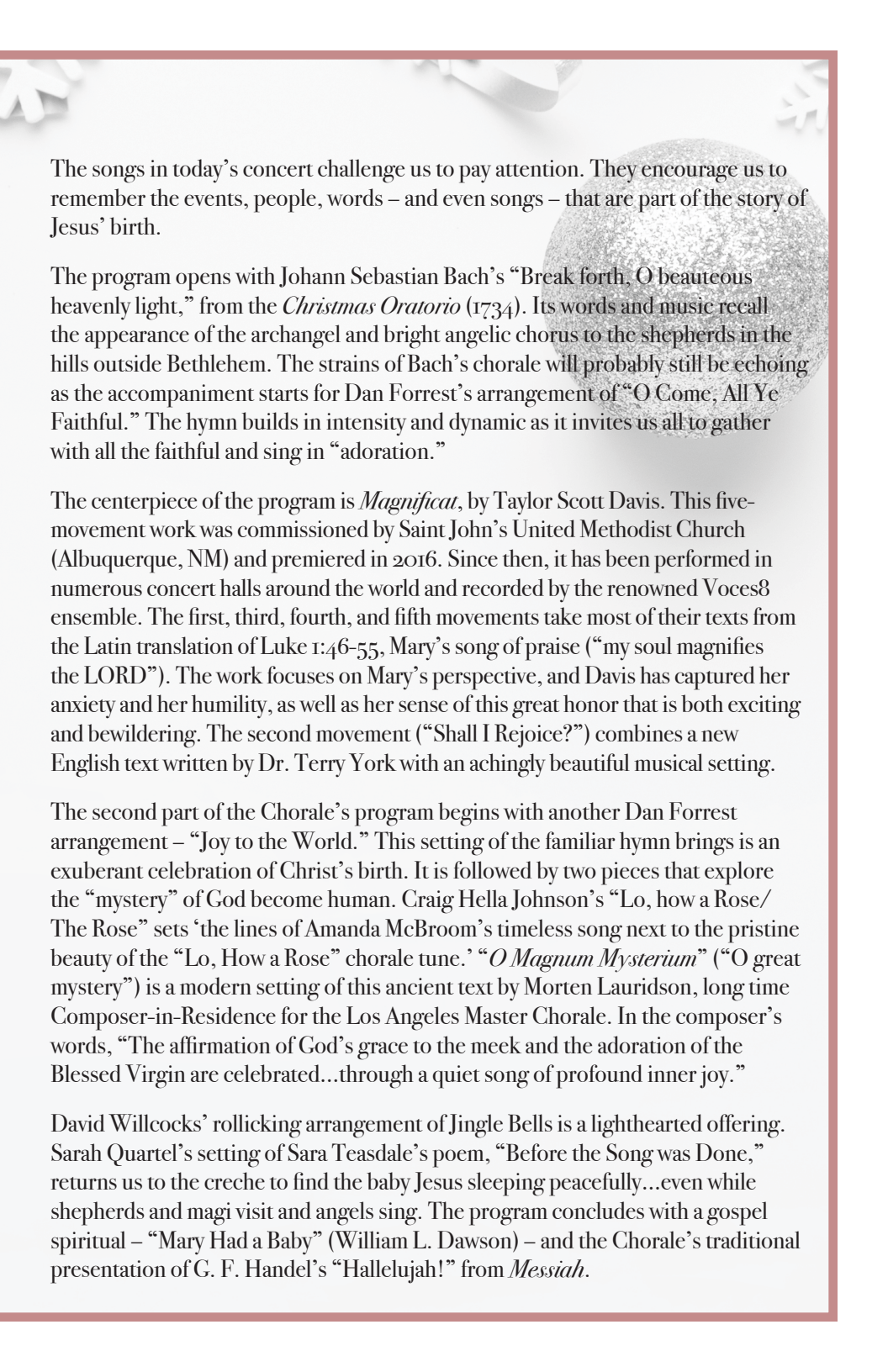
The Seasons of Advent and Christmas are filled with music. Familiar hymns and songs fill us with “comfort and joy” this time of year. The music of Christmas is all around us, and that is a marvelous thing...unless the music becomes merely background “noise,” and we forget to listen.

TRIBUTE TO BILL TEASLEY

A benevolent person is a supernatural being who is kind, generous, and has a disposition to do good for others. There is no doubt that Bill Teasley was that person. I first met him in 1971, the same time as my first year of teaching and my marriage to my new wife Sharon. During that year, Sharon and I rented Bill and Sylvia's furnished garage apartment. It was the beginning of a life long admiration of a fellow teacher, husband and father. Bill was a brilliant teacher, a wonderful husband and a loving father to his one year old daughter Betsy. I observed and learned from Bill in so many different aspects of life. Bill became a personal life long friend and a supporter of the Chorale from its inception. In the beginning we made small donation requests. Bill's contribution was always one of the largest. And later, as we became more bold and would give our audience the opportunity to “Sponsor” a concert with much larger contributions, Bill was the very first person to meet our challenge and he has done so every year since. Bill and Sylvia Teasley are the single largest individual supporters over the history of the Chorale. We express our deepest gratitude to them both for their unwavering support and presence through the years.



Don Stafford
Chorale Co-Founder



The songs in today's concert challenge us to pay attention. They encourage us to remember the events, people, words – and even songs – that are part of the story of Jesus' birth.

The program opens with Johann Sebastian Bach's "Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light," from the *Christmas Oratorio* (1734). Its words and music recall the appearance of the archangel and bright angelic chorus to the shepherds in the hills outside Bethlehem. The strains of Bach's chorale will probably still be echoing as the accompaniment starts for Dan Forrest's arrangement of "O Come, All Ye Faithful." The hymn builds in intensity and dynamic as it invites us all to gather with all the faithful and sing in "adoration."

The centerpiece of the program is *Magnificat*, by Taylor Scott Davis. This five-movement work was commissioned by Saint John's United Methodist Church (Albuquerque, NM) and premiered in 2016. Since then, it has been performed in numerous concert halls around the world and recorded by the renowned Voces8 ensemble. The first, third, fourth, and fifth movements take most of their texts from the Latin translation of Luke 1:46-55, Mary's song of praise ("my soul magnifies the LORD"). The work focuses on Mary's perspective, and Davis has captured her anxiety and her humility, as well as her sense of this great honor that is both exciting and bewildering. The second movement ("Shall I Rejoice?") combines a new English text written by Dr. Terry York with an achingly beautiful musical setting.

The second part of the Chorale's program begins with another Dan Forrest arrangement – "Joy to the World." This setting of the familiar hymn brings is an exuberant celebration of Christ's birth. It is followed by two pieces that explore the "mystery" of God become human. Craig Hella Johnson's "Lo, how a Rose/ The Rose" sets 'the lines of Amanda McBroom's timeless song next to the pristine beauty of the "Lo, How a Rose" chorale tune.' "O Magnum Mysterium" ("O great mystery") is a modern setting of this ancient text by Morten Lauridson, long time Composer-in-Residence for the Los Angeles Master Chorale. In the composer's words, "The affirmation of God's grace to the meek and the adoration of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated...through a quiet song of profound inner joy."

David Willcocks' rollicking arrangement of Jingle Bells is a lighthearted offering. Sarah Quartel's setting of Sara Teasdale's poem, "Before the Song was Done," returns us to the creche to find the baby Jesus sleeping peacefully...even while shepherds and magi visit and angels sing. The program concludes with a gospel spiritual – "Mary Had a Baby" (William L. Dawson) – and the Chorale's traditional presentation of G. F. Handel's "Hallelujah!" from *Messiah*.



Scott L. Martin

*Principal Conductor &
Artistic Director of the Cherokee Chorale*

Scott L. Martin is the artistic director and principal conductor of The Cherokee Chorale, located in Cherokee County, GA. Additionally, Scott is the choral teacher at Creekview High School in Canton, GA, and co-founder of Orpheus Men's Ensemble of Georgia, a choir comprised of music teachers and church musicians



that share the conducting throughout the group. Currently in his 28th year of teaching, Scott holds music degrees from The University of Georgia and Shorter College, where he was a voice student of John Ramsaur, a conducting student of John Ratledge, and a NATS winner. As a clinician, Scott regularly conducts honor choirs around Georgia and is an adjudicator for the GMEA Choral Performance Evaluation. Choirs under his direction have been selected to perform for multiple Georgia Music Educator's Association conferences as well as state and regional American Choral Directors Association conferences. Professional memberships include the National Association for Music Education, Georgia Music Educator's Association, and the American Choral Director's Association, where he is the past GA ACDA Repertoire and Resources Chair for high school choirs. Scott is also the immediate past GMEA State Choral Chair, and was recently named the 2025 GMEA Music Educator of the Year. In June of 2026 Scott will be making his Carnegie Hall conducting debut performing Elaine Hagenburg's "Illuminare" with members of The Cherokee Chorale. Scott is married to Laura Burgess Martin, who is choral director at Creekland Middle School and immediate past president of GA ACDA. They reside in Canton with their children Joseph, Emily, and Gracie.

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Christmas WITH THE Cherokee Chorale

Cherokee Chorale

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light Johann Sebastian Bach
Joy To The Worldarr. Dan Forrest
Magnificat (*scan QR code below for translations*) Taylor Scott Davis

Special Guest Performances

1:00—Creekland Middle School 7th Grade Chorus
Laura B. Martin, Director

African Noel Victor C. Johnson
Torah Orah arr. Brant Adam
Krista Berezo - Clarinet
Peace On This Silent Night Cristi Cary Miller
Theme From Elf John Debney/arr. Daniel Grassi

4:00—Mill Creek Middle School 7th Grade Chorus
Allison Baccala, Ph.D., Director

Christmas Time is Here arr. David Pugh
Carol of the Bells arr. Riccardo Spina
Bidi Bom David Eddleman
Sweet Silent Night Andy Beck
Christmas in Three Minutes arr. Mark Weston

Cherokee Chorale

O Come, All Ye Faithfularr. Dan Forrest
O Magnum Mysterium Morten Lauridsen
Lo, How a Rose/The RoseCraig Hella Johnson
Before the Song Was Done Sarah Quartel
Jingle Bells Wilcocks
Mary Had a Baby William Dawson
Hallelujah Chorus Handel



SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR
MAGNIFICAT TRANSLATIONS



Cherokee Performance

Scott L. Martin, Pr

Soprano I

Paige George
Kori Giallanza
Susan Gooch
Melanie Johnson
Julia Lotti
Camden Pruitt
Judith Rathbone
Emily Sweat
Erin Sweat

Soprano II

Theresa Angst
Brenda Baker
Robin Brazelton
Julie Burton
Sydney Caughman
Sarah Donehoo
Joyce Green
April Harris
Debbie Harris
Joan Hill
Gena Hood
Martha Kirby
Lauren Massey
Susan May
Suellen Reitz
Kaye Rogers
Christine Scholeck
Glynda Smith
Jonnia W. Smith
Elisa Street
Jean Tafoya
Christine Tindall
Nicole VanOstrand
Debbie Weeks

Alto I

Valerie Brumbelow
Beverly Cagle
Vicki Collett
Ana Crawford
Barbara Dorn
Betty Frady
Sandra Greene
Beverly Henrich
Beth Holt
Trudy Hughes
Ann Jahl
Linda Lokey
Alex Murray
Jessica Pamperin
Rhonda Patterson
Jacqueline Poston
Loretta Smith
Sharon Strevel
Sarah Thorne
Sherri Wilson

Chorale Musicians

Principal Conductor

Alto II

Suzanne Brooks
Glenda Crumbley
Amy Deihl
Elizabeth Ellis
Jane Gunter
Carolyn Jones
Lou Knight
Emily Lemcke
Julie Machak
Kathy McKissick
Christina Mond
Ann Murphine
Shelby Orange
Robyn Price
Anne Rhome
Amy Rowe
Kelly Skinner
Virginia Spivey

Tenor I

Dick Burrell
Justin Davis
David Engleman
Rick Harris
Don Stafford
David Stahl
Jaime Merino
John Pawlenko
Brian Smith
Don Stafford
David Stahl
Darrell Truitt

Tenor II

Joe DiBernardo
Felton Dunn
Brad Ellis
Ken Fuhr
Lawrence Gruszecki
Brett Hatch
Stephen Kean
Bob Rhome
Al Smith
Andrew Squires

Baritone

Charles Claiborne
Harry Davis
Jerry Erbe
Chuck Foster
Jesse Hood
Bob Markle
Michael Mueller
Tom Probst
Daniel Sweet
Brian Wallace

Bass

Charlie Cleneay
Ulysses Corbett
Al Irvine
Mike Ishmael
Ian Johnson
Rod Kirby
Chuck Lokey
Marty Pinion
Steven Sheeley

Accompanist

Linda McKenzie





MIDDLE SCHOOL

CREEKLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE CHORUS

Laura B. Martin, Director

Aria Ammon	Naomi Grebenyuk	Kennedy Phillips
Arden Baker	Ashlyn Head	Benjamin Pollard
Shirin Bala	Laylaa Hernandez	Gabriel Pollard
Mitchell Bales	Kjera Hetrick	Charlotte Potts
Norah Bertoglio	Skye Hewell	Levi Price
Joshua Bibeau	Conrad Hinton	Mariangel Ramirez Arias
Natalie Biggs	Hadley Holcombe	Bob Ravenscraft
Liana Bressette	Harper Holcombe	Blakely Reynolds
Nora Brookshire	Kayla Horace	Zaiden Rivera
Natalie Browning	Lacey Horgan	Tyson Rivers
Lily Buchanan	Emma Kelly	Charlie Ross
Ella Cabana	Evelyn Kimber	Caroline Ruble
Jasmine Caride	Lila Kissel	Emma Schilling
Cecilia Castner	Emma Langley	Eli Seipel-Owen
Rose Chandler	Carina Lorey	Elly Simpson
Emma Cheshire	Jasper Marrs	Scarlett Smith
Alaina Clare	Emily Martin	Ruby Stonebridge
Presley Cole	Eli McKinnon	Noelle Sweeten
Sofia Davila-Reyes	Jordan Mirelez	Madelyn Tallant
Attlie Hope Davis	Addison Mobley	Kaci Tosh
Marlowe Denkinger	Zoe Moore	Charlotte Truchan
Evan Dhungana	Gabriel Norton	Ansley Tyler
Charlie DiGregorio	Krish Ogoti	Avery Ware
Arianna Dobson	Lia Ogoti	Caitlyn West
Ariel Ebanks	Henry Oh	Audrey Whitfield
Zoey Ewald	Agnes Palermo	Avalynn Whitten
Azalee Felix	Hayla Penton	Madelyn Wiese
Cara France	Angelica Perez	Addie Wilbanks
Juliette Giannini	Lauren Perez	Sophia Wilson
Will Gilbert	Natalie Perez	Savannah Wood
Maria Gomez Duarte	Rory Pfennig	Tristan Ziemann

CHORUS ROSTERS



MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE CHORUS

Allison Baccala, Ph.D., Director

Austin Andre
Sofia Arispe
Sophia Asay
Delaney Bach
Lillian Baggett
Caroline Barnhill
Flora Beers
Emmy Benes
Alexandra Bolte
Elaina Campbell
Chloe Currier
Peyton Davidson
Charlotte Davis
Cristina Delao
Lily Downer
Emmanuel Fanimokun
Caroline Field
Rency Figueroa Villasana
Claire Goodman
Zoe Haffner
Amerie Henderson
Westin Jankovich
Hannah Kampman
Yathika Karthana
Deryck Keel
Mariam Keita
Asher Kirk
Avalyn Labrecque
LaylaRae Loff
Mia Martoncik
Juliette McCauley

Amber Moore
Anna Naish
Abigail Norris
Brianna Panyard
Miliani Patel
Elizabeth Payne
Michelle Peralta
Maya Perez
Addison Quinn

Laura Rodallega Garzon
Myles Smith
Anna Thommock
Gabriella Torres
Annalee Trombley
Travis Turner
Felicia Untung
Seeeya Uppal
Abby Veinot

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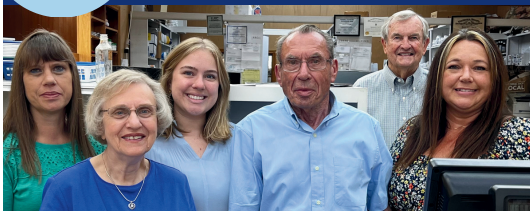
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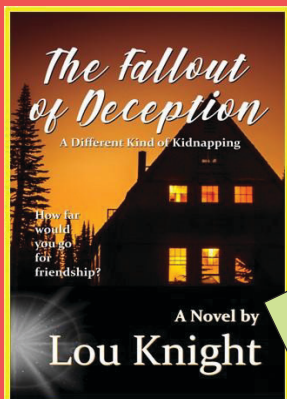
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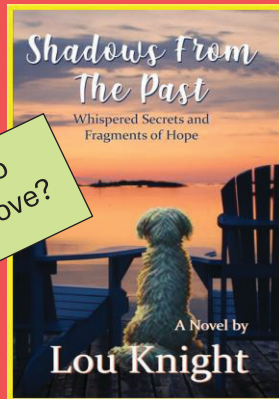
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in paperback and eBook.



Lou Knight is a proud member of the Cherokee Choral.

The Cherokee Chorale

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