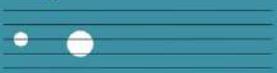


HOPEWELL VALLEY
 *Chorus*

PRESENTS

*Oh What
Fun!*

**ST. JAMES CHURCH
115 E. DELAWARE AVENUE
PENNINGTON, NJ**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022
7:30 PM**



The Hopewell Valley Chorus (HVC) provides the joy of choral music to its members, through its members and to the community.

HVC does not discriminate against its members, staff, or other person regardless of race, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or intellectual ability, national origin, ancestry or religion.

HVC is not affiliated with any of the organizations that provides us venues for performances or rehearsals, and does not endorse any political, social, religious and/or cultural ideology that such organizations may hold.

Welcome!

Happy holidays and welcome to our 2022 holiday concert, "Oh What Fun!" We are delighted to have you join us tonight and greatly appreciate St. James Church for hosting us once again in this beautiful space.

Hopewell Valley Chorus is in its 63rd year as a non-auditioned community chorus. Open to all, Chorus members learn, perform, and enjoy a wide variety of music under professional leadership in a welcoming environment. We have a wonderful team in our Artistic Director, Dr. Heather Mitchell, and Pianist/Accompanist, Stefanie Watson, who keep us "laughing all the way" during our rehearsals. Please visit our website below if you are interested in joining us for the spring 2023 season.

The holidays are a time to rekindle and celebrate the connections we hold dear, and choral music is a wonderful way to start. Our concert tonight spans many cultures, customs, and moods, but is united by the recognition that all people need and seek community and spiritual connection. Some find it in worship, some through their families and friends, or even in enjoying the simple pleasure of strolling out into falling snowflakes with someone you love. And while we often speak of joy during this season, several of our songs tonight highlight joy's lighter side, fun! Please be sure to add your voices during our sing-along section of carols.

We are extremely grateful for the continued financial support from our donors, including many individuals and area businesses. Special thanks go to the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Hopewell Harvest Fair for their generous grant awards this year. I would also like to recognize our hard-working volunteers who staff our Board of Directors and contribute in countless other ways to the Chorus's success.

Thanks again for sharing this evening with us.

Yours in music,
Scott Lundquist
Hopewell Valley Chorus President

Visit us on the web: www.hopewellvalleychorus.org
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hvchorus
Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/hvchorus
Contact us: hopewellvalleychorus@gmail.com

Oh What Fun!

Heather Mitchell, Artistic Director

Stefanie Watson, Pianist

Winter Wonderland of Snow arr. Mark Hayes

No One is Alone Stephen Sondheim, arr. John Higgins

Poem: Barter Sarah Teasdale

Reader: Tamara Gallant

Three Far-Eastern Carols arr. Malcolm Sargent

Sing, Ye Birds (Mongolian folk song)

Lullaby: A Mother Nurses her Sick Child (Korean folk song)

Nature Carol (Filipino plantation song)

Julie Buehler, conductor

White Christmas Irving Berlin, arr. Roy Ringwald

Poem: Where the Light Begins from *Circle of Grace* Jan Richardson

Reader: Kate O'Neill

Candleglow Emily Crocker

Harambee Joseph Jennings

Djembe: Stefanie Watson

Piano Solo - Deck the Halls Trad. Welsh, arr. David Pearl

Stefanie Watson

Poem: Wild Geese Mary Oliver

Reader: Cecilia Aerstin

O Holy Night Adolphe Adam, arr. Mark Andrews

Sing-along

Joy to the World and Angels We Have Heard on High

Hot Chocolate Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri, arr. Roger Emerson

Jingle Bells arr. Harry Simeone

Sleigh Bells: Cecilia Aerstin

Texts and Translations

Barter

by Sara Teasdale

Life has loveliness to sell,
All beautiful and splendid things,
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,
Soaring fire that sways and sings,
And children's faces looking up,
Holding wonder like a cup.
Life has loveliness to sell,
Music like a curve of gold,
Scent of pine trees in the rain,
Eyes that love you, arms that hold,
And for your spirit's still delight,
Holy thoughts that star the night.
Spend all you have for loveliness,
Buy it and never count the cost;
For one white singing hour of
peace,
Count many a year of strife well
lost,
And for a breath of ecstasy,
Give all you have been, or could
be.

Where the Light Begins

by Jan Richardson, from *Circle of Grace*

Perhaps it does not begin.
Perhaps it is always.
Perhaps it takes a lifetime to open
our eyes, to learn to see what has
forever shimmered in front of us
— the luminous line of the map in
the dark
the vigil flame in the house of the
heart
the love so searing we cannot keep
from singing,
from crying out in testimony and
praise.

Perhaps this day will be the
mountain over which the dawn
breaks.

Perhaps we will turn our face
toward it, toward what has been
always.

Perhaps our eyes will finally open
in ancient recognition, willingly
dazzled, illuminated at last.

Perhaps this day the light begins
in us.

Wild Geese

by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your
knees

For a hundred miles through the
desert, repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal
of your body
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I
will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear
pebbles of the rain

are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep
trees,

the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in
the clean blue air,
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how
lonely,

the world offers itself to your
imagination,

calls to you like the wild geese,
harsh and exciting — over and
over announcing your place
in the family of things.

Texts and Translations (continued)

Harambee – Call to Unity

Harambee

The call to unity and collective work/struggle – to pull together. It is always said in sets of seven to honor and to recall the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Umoja (Unity)

To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-determination)

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

To build and maintain our community together and make our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose)

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity)

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith)

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our leaders, our teachers and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Sing Along

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and
nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and
grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Sing Along (continued)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Hopewell Valley Chorus Members

Soprano

Teresa Bloomberg
Kendra Brito
Nyah Charles
Colleen Courtney
Gretchen Eberhart
Tamara Gallant
Gayle Holtzman
Inger Magnusson
Melissa Mitchell
Christina Rowntree
Terry Trubiano
Renée Warias
Joanne Wynne

Alto

Carole Allison
Ellen Bacon-Parrinello
Karen Bolmer
Megan Bonomo
Julie Buehler
Pat Carr
Joanne Eagle
Kathleen Gafgen
Laurel Goodell
Betty Harris
Claire Hooks
Sonya Legg
Ellen Longo
Nancy Mattek
Joshua McCord
Valerie Nelson
Christine Piatek
Elaine Pollak
Lisa Ridge
LuAnn Wood

Tenor

Cecilia Aerstin
Donna Doyle
Scott Lundquist
Kate O'Neill
Sandy Stein

Bass

David Azer
Juan Carlos del
Castillo
Tim Ridge

Biographies

Heather Mitchell, Artistic Director

Heather Mitchell was appointed artistic director of the Hopewell Valley Chorus in the summer of 2015. She also serves as Assistant Director of Choirs at The College of New Jersey, and Associate Conductor/Director of Operations of the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia. Heather made her Carnegie Hall debut conducting the Schumann Requiem, Op. 148 with the New York City Chamber Orchestra and Masterwork Festival Chorus that included many members of the Hopewell Valley Chorus. She founded and serves as artistic director of a new, professional choir, FIVE LINES, which specializes in performing music that is rarely or never heard. She was the author of "A Reconsideration of the Performance of the Chorales in J.S. Bach's Passio secundum Johannem, BWV 245," the featured article in the American Choral Directors Association's (ACDA) Choral Journal, April 2017. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in both choral and orchestral conducting from the University of Arizona and a Master of Music degree from St. Cloud State University, in Minnesota. Heather earned the Emerging Conducting Award from the Minnesota Chorale and has received Outstanding Conductor and Achievement in Choral Music awards. She has been a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for various honor choirs, festivals, and ensembles across the country. Outside of music, she is a photographer, a hiker, and tries to bake everything.

Stefanie Watson, Pianist

Stefanie has been the pianist with Hopewell Valley Chorus since 2013. She is also an adjunct professor in the Music Department and staff pianist at The College of New Jersey, and works with many choirs, including TCNJ choirs, Princeton Girlchoir and many NJ school and honor choirs. Stefanie is also the Director of Music Ministry at Alexandria First Presbyterian Church in Milford, NJ and maintains a private piano and vocal coaching/collaboration studio. Stefanie serves as Administrative Manager for the Chamber Music Conference and has attended many esteemed summer programs as a pianist, including SongFest, LiedAustria, and the Chautauqua Institution Piano Program. She holds a Bachelors degree in Piano Performance from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a Masters degree in Collaborative Piano from Rutgers University. When she's not sitting on a piano or organ bench, Stefanie enjoys knitting, spinning yarn, and laughing at her three long-hair cats, Kalahari, Cinnamon, and Dahlia.

Biographies (continued)

Julie Buehler, Choral Conducting Scholar

Julie Buehler was recently appointed as the Choral Conducting Scholar for the Hopewell Valley Chorus where she also sings as an alto. Additionally, she served the Board of Directors as Secretary from 2018-2022 after joining the chorus in 2017. Since May of 2020, she has studied conducting with Dr. Heather Mitchell and first conducted the chorus in December 2021 with her own arrangement of "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella." In Spring of 2022 she was the Conducting Apprentice of the Bucks County Community College Concert Choir. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Puget Sound, a Masters in Education from the University of Houston, and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music at The College of New Jersey. She lives in Frenchtown, New Jersey with her family.

Chorus Officers

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Secretary.....	Ellen Longo
Public Relations/Scholarship.....	Donna Doyle
Treasurer.....	Terry Trubiano
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Special thanks:

St. James Church
Melissa Paloti

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Maestro	\$1,000
Benefactor	\$500 - \$999
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Supporter	\$100 - \$249
Friend	\$50 - \$99
Contributor	\$25 - \$49

We are a non-profit organization, so your gift is tax deductible. Send your donation to:

Hopewell Valley Chorus
P.O. Box 93
Pennington, NJ 08534

If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive notice of our concerts and rehearsals, please fill in this form and mail it to the above address, or leave it at the will-call ticket table.

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This program is made possible, in part, by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of County Commissioners, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

