

THE
Celebration
Singers



CHRISTMAS
MOVIES
MUSIC

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 • 7:00 PM
RADFORD AUDITORIUM

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Suggested Donation \$10 per person

This project is supported by a grant from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council,
HeARTS for the ARTS, and the Abilene Arts Alliance

PERSONNEL

Director, Accompanist Lora Lynn Christensen
Emcee Dr. Larry McGraw
Guest Conductor Alan Jones
Drummer Jimmie Roberts

THE CELEBRATION SINGERS

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Richard Bower | Mike Randolph |
| Jamie Breed | Robin Roberts |
| Kerrin Browning | Christianne Robertson |
| MC | Nora Beth Scholfield |
| Liz Cooke | Jennifer Shaner |
| Lora Cottle | Aaron Shipp |
| Jill D'Entremont | Shelly Smith |
| Sean D'Entremont | David Swearingen |
| Melvin Dudley | Karen Swearingen |
| Diane Jamison | Janis Thompson |
| Kathie Justice | Barry Triche |
| Becky Kirkpatrick | Jean Triche |
| Andy Ladyman | Al Watkins |
| Twila Nowell | Nicole Wiedemann |

CHILDRENS CHOIR

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Joseph: Jonas Hewitt | Angel: Katherine Wilson |
| Mary: Elly Hewitt | Angel: Janie Ruppel |
| Shepherd: John Luke Bower | Drummer Boy: Alexander Wilson |
| Magi: Amberlyn Bower | Lamb: Madelyn Wiedemann |
| Magi: Audrey Ruppel | Charlie Brown: Henry Meeks |
| Magi: Cheyenne Hamilton | Linus: Elric Justice |



MEN'S ENSEMBLE

Richard Bower
Melvin Dudley
Andy Ladyman
Mike Randolph
Aaron Shipp
David Swearingen
Barry Triche
Al Watkins

CELEBRATION LADIES

Jamie Breed
Jill D'Entremont
Diane Jamison
Robin Roberts
Janis Thompson
Jean Triche

MIXED-UP GROUP

Jamie Breed
Lora Cottle
Andy Ladyman
Twila Nowell
Robin Roberts
Aaron Shipp
David Swearingen
Karen Swearingen
Barry Triche
Jean Triche

CHARACTERS

Santa: Luke Bower
Elf: Emmaleigh Dane
Rudolph: Isaiah Cruz
Grinch: Zachary Gage
Anna: Jill D'Entremont



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Texas Music Teachers Association***

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**THE CELEBRATION SINGERS PRESENTS
"CHRISTMAS MOVIES MUSIC"**



Ring Those Christmas Bells Fisher/Levene
Come and See LeBlanc
One King Borders/Alexander/Sterling
The Little Drummer Boy Simeone/Davis/Onorati

A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Wesley/Mendelssohn
Children's Choir

Meet Me in St. Louis (1944) & Miracle on 34th Street (1994)

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas Martin/Cornell
Liz Cooke, Soloist

The Lemon Drop Kid (1951)

Silver Bells Livingston/Evans/Naylor

White Christmas (1954)

White Christmas Medley Irving Berlin

Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer (1964/1998)

Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer Johnny Marks
Silver and Gold - Mike Randolph, Soloist
A Holly Jolly Christmas
Jingle Jingle Jingle

Die Hard (1988)

Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Cahn/Styne
Winter Wonderland Smith/Bernard
Mixed-Up Group

Home Alone (1990)

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree Johnny Marks

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)

Muppet Christmas Carol Medley Williams/O'Connell
Barry & Jean Triche, Sean & Jill D'Entremont, Quartet

How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)

You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch Geisel/Hague
Men's Ensemble

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

Mele Kalikimaka Anderson/Althouse
Celebration Ladies

Love Actually (2003)

All I Want for Christmas Carey/Afanasieff
Celebration Ladies

Mean Girls (2004)

Jingle Bells Rock! Pierpont, Beal/Boothe

Elf (2003)

Baby, It's Cold Outside Frank Loesser
Andy Ladyman & Jamie Breed, Duet

Frozen (2013)

Do You Want to Build a Snowman? Lopez/Lopez
Jill D'Entremont, Soloist & Sean D'Entremont, Pianist

Elf (2003)

Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson
Let There be Peace on Earth Miller/Jackson





Lora Lynn Christensen Our Director & Accompanist

Lora Lynn Christensen is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and owner of an independent piano studio of more than 30 years in

Abilene. She has been an adjunct faculty member at McMurry University since 2011, teaching piano and accompanying vocal students. She is the Past State President of Texas Federation of Music Clubs, has served on the board of Opera in the Ozarks and is a member of the Abilene Music Teachers Association (Texas Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association) and the Harmony Club (TFMC). She is also a founding member of the Abilene Opera Association.

Lora Lynn currently serves on the boards of Harmony Family Services and the Celebration Singers. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Abilene, is an SAI patroness, and is the pianist at St. James United Methodist Church. Fun facts: she also plays the accordion, the McMurry Carillon and the Kiwanis Club of Abilene historic McMurry calliope.

Lora Lynn has served as the accompanist for the Celebration Singers since 1999, and she became the Director of the Celebration Singers in the fall of 2024.



A Note from our Director

Nearly thirty years ago Dr. J. G. Martin, upon his retirement as a beloved and successful music professor at Hardin-Simmons University, established a community choir. His aim was to keep choral music alive and accessible to all the community. He wanted the great old standards to be remembered, patriotic music to be sung loud and proud, and newer choral music presented to music lovers of all ages. On a shoestring budget and sometimes borrowed music, the Celebration Singers began presenting two programs each year to the public at no charge. This was important to J. G. He also established the Celebration Ladies and incorporated a men's ensemble in every show.

Upon falling ill, he asked Betty Ann Blackburn to step up as Director of the Celebration Singers. For many years she has led the group, incorporating more choreography, costuming, a mixed ensemble, children and moving the performances to the historic Paramount Theater. Audiences have grown and been generous with their exit donations as the Chorus's repertoire embraced more genres of music. Always supported by an active board, stage decorations became a larger part of the show as did a narrative script. We continue to thank Dr. Larry McGraw, emcee extraordinaire, who contributes his brand of humor and his much-appreciated ability to make awkward transitions seem planned.

Now Celebration Singers starts a new era. We may move around to different venues in Abilene (like the boll weevil, we are "just lookin' for a home") while downtown repairs get finished. We ask that you, our fans, followers, patrons and family members, find us wherever we are performing and sit back and enjoy the talents of many singers of all ages and from every walk of life. We welcome new members as we would like to grow our numbers. We hope to entertain, inspire a little bit and make you glad you came.

Yours in Music,
Lora Lynn Christensen, NCTM

MUSIC NOTES

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

In the animated film *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, the Peanuts gang comes together to sing “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” in celebration of the true meaning of Christmas. The song captures the joy of Christ’s birth and helps Charlie Brown find the holiday spirit he’s been missing in all the commercial chaos.

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” comes from the classic movie *Meet Me in St. Louis*, where Judy Garland sang about the bittersweet feelings that come with the holidays. It’s a beautiful reminder to hold onto our memories while looking forward to brighter times ahead. The song was used again in the 1994 remake of *Miracle on 34th Street*, a heartwarming story celebrating the magic of Christmas and the joy of believing.

“Silver Bells”

“Silver Bells” was written specifically for the 1951 comedy *The Lemon Drop Kid*. The song is about the joy of giving and spending time with loved ones during Christmas and was inspired by the bells used by sidewalk Santa Clauses and Salvation Army solicitors on New York City street corners.

“White Christmas”

Although the song “White Christmas” is generally associated with the ultimate holiday movie of the same name, the song was originally penned for the musical *Holiday Inn* in 1942 and became an instant success. The lyrics paint the dreamy picture of an ideal holiday spent with loved ones in a magical winter wonderland.

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”

“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” has been a favorite animated special since its original release in 1964. This catchy tune tells the tale of Rudolph, the little reindeer who overcomes being different to save Christmas, and reminds us all about acceptance and the true spirit of the season.

“Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!”

You might be surprised to find “Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!” in the 1988 action film *Die Hard*, but it adds a fun holiday twist to the movie, proving that Christmas cheer can pop up in the most unexpected places!

“Muppet Christmas Carol Medley”

The *Muppet Christmas Carol* (1992) brings the favorite Muppet characters together in a fun retelling of the classic story. With a mix of humor and heart, this medley captures the true spirit of Christmas, showing the importance of kindness, friendship, and being together during the holidays.

“You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch”

This song was originally written and composed for the 1966 animated special *Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and gets us into the Grinch’s head as he transforms from Christmas hater to holiday lover. The 2000 movie brought the song back into the spotlight, reminding us that even the grouchiest can change their ways with a little kindness.

“Mele Kalikimaka”

You can hear this simple Hawaiian tune in the 1989 film *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation 2*, where it sets a fun vibe for the characters’ vacation misadventures. It’s all about mixing Christmas spirit with a sunny paradise, making it a feel-good favorite during the holidays!

“All I Want for Christmas”

From the 2003 romantic comedy Love Actually, this Mariah Carey hit captures the idea that the holidays are better when you spend them with people who love you and reminds us that the best Christmas gifts are not the items we receive but the people we care about.

“Jingle Bells Rock!”

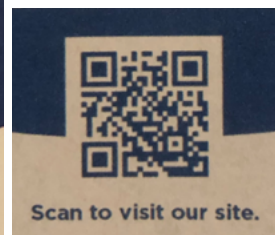
This fun song pops up during a holiday talent show scene in Mean Girls (2004). It's a catchy twist on the classic Christmas tunes, bringing lots of laughs and festive cheer.

“Baby, It's Cold Outside”

This duet between Buddy and Jovie brings a playful romance to the 2003 movie, Elf. It's all about the cozy feelings that come with falling in love during Christmas and adds to the warm vibe of the holidays.

“Do You Want to Build a Snowman?”

From the Award Winning Disney 2013 animated film Frozen, “Do You Want to Build a Snowman?” is a reminder of the fun times between sisters Anna and Elsa as kids. While it's not a typical Christmas song, it captures the love of family and the longing for togetherness which makes it a great addition to the holiday season.



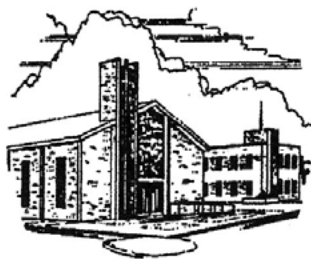


Alan Jones
Guest Conductor

A native of Albany, Texas, Alan Jones graduated from Hardin-Simmons University (1990) and Logsdon Seminary (HSU, 2014). A Music Educator for 23 years, Alan currently teaches K-5 Music at Dyess Elementary, has taught in an adjunct capacity at McMurry University, and is the Choir Director at St. James UMC. Alan is married to Shari, and they have one son and daughter-in-law, Griffin and Maddie.

SPECIAL THANKS

Musicians Assistant Lily Justice
Children's Choir Wrangler Carrie Bower
Music Notes Kerrin Browning
Producer Nicole Wiedemann
Costumes..... Karen Swearingen
Choreography MC, Lora Cottle, Jill D'Entremont
Production Assistant/Publicity David Swearingen
Art Director Jill D'Entremont
Music Library Jean Triche



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Kairos Outside is a 2½ day Christian Weekend designed to demonstrate God's grace and love through Christian support for women who have been impacted by incarceration. On Saturday evening we have a service called Walking in Love. The Christian community gathers before the service for prayer and hears a short witness from a previous guest about the impact that Kairos Outside had on her life. After this the Christian community gathers outside the chapel to form a candlelit pathway that the team and guests will walk through while the community together sings a song titled "You Are Loved". We would love for you to join us for this very special time to show our guests support and love from the community.



**Kairos Prison Ministry
International**

*Changing Hearts
Transforming Lives
Impacting the World*

KAIROS INSIDE

Our Mission

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

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