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Sing Me to Winter

*A concert of Christmas and winter pieces
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Friday, December 12, 2014, 8 PM

**Enola Emmanuel United Methodist Church
22 Salt Road, Enola, PA**

Saturday, December 13, 2014, 7 PM

**Community United Methodist Church
16th and Bridge Streets, New Cumberland, PA**

Sunday, December 14, 2014, 3 PM

**Shepherdstown United Methodist Church
1934 South York Street, Mechanicsburg, PA**

Directed by Alissa Plant

Accompanied by Harold Plant on piano and organ,

Robin Plant on bassoon and Anne Nye on horn

*For more information visit cumberlandsingers.org,
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Thank you for your support!

Coming up in 2015..

- Hockey game—Come hear us sing the national anthem at the Hershey Bears hockey game on Saturday, March 28, at 7 PM. This is also a fundraiser for us, so if you purchase your tickets through the Cumberland Singers, part of the amount paid will be returned to our organization.
- Spring concerts—April 17, 18 and 19. An eclectic mix of classical and pops, selected from Cumberland Singers favorites throughout the years.
- Cumberland Singers Coffeehouse—Saturday, May 16. Coffee, desserts and singing! See our website this spring for details.

Please check our website or facebook page often for information about upcoming events. We hope to see you again soon!

CumberlandSingers.org

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Director

Alissa Plant has been performing and teaching music in the Central PA area for over 16 years. She has her degree in elementary education from Messiah College, and she teaches private voice and piano lessons at her home studio in Elizabethtown. She has taught and directed singers of all ages, from young children to senior citizens.



Accompanist

Harold (Skip) Plant has played piano, pipe organ and electronic keyboards professionally for more than forty years. He studied choral composition and vocal music at Utah State University, then pursued a career as a television producer/director with many nationally-distributed performance specials, documentaries, and series on PBS. He is a composer, arranger and performer, and his work experience includes many years as a recording studio chief engineer.

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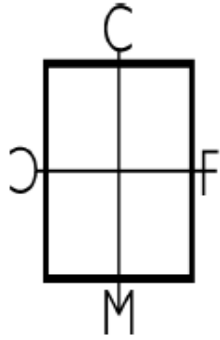
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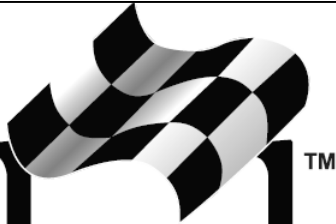
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A Mother's Carol

Lyrics by Clay Zambo

Her breath returned after pain of birth,
She awkwardly rests him on her knee.
An angel told her of peace on earth;
This new mother's song could only be,
"Magnificat! Magnificat anima mea Dominum!
On wings of praise my soul flies free."



A mother's carol, a baby's cry; what sorrow and joy they both express.
If she had known how her son would die, would Mary have said so firm a yes?

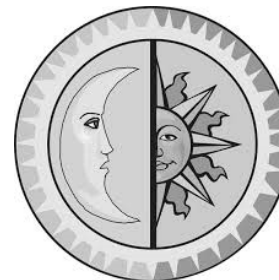
For each of us comes a time of choice, to answer the call or turn away.
And if today you may hear that voice, may you find the grace to boldly say,
"Magnificat! Magnificat anima mea Dominum!
May peace be born through me today."

Winter Solstice Carol

Lyrics by Giles Swayne

Now, at the dead end of the year, the nights are long, the days are cold.
We cry for help, but who will hear?
The sky is dumb, our gods are tired, tired and old.

The world spins 'round its dying star, poisoned by folly, by fear and greed.
And in our darkest hour of need we dream sweet dreams,
Sweet dreams of rescue from afar.



But now the old year is reborn; the withered tree
springs new and green.

A baby's laughter greets the dawn.
Today love's oldest miracle is seen.

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Alleluia!



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About the Cumberland Singers

The Cumberland Singers are a non-auditioned community choir, performing each December and spring in various musical styles, including classical, popular, Broadway, jazz, folk, multi-cultural and holiday. We have been enjoying and celebrating music for over thirty years—our original 25 singers first performed on June 19, 1976.

We welcome all singers of any range and ability. The only requirements for joining us are a love of singing, ability to match pitch/carry a tune, willingness to practice and learn parts, and a time commitment to weekly rehearsals and seasonal concerts. The ability to read music is desirable but not required.

The choir rehearses for the holiday concerts from September to December and for the spring concerts from January to April. Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:15 PM at the Mechanicsburg Middle School.

To help cover our music, staffing and other expenses, singers pay dues at the beginning of each season and are also asked to participate in fundraising activities throughout the season.

We welcome your participation in the Cumberland Singers as a singer or volunteer. Speak with one of us today for more information, or contact us any time at cumberlandsingers@gmail.com.



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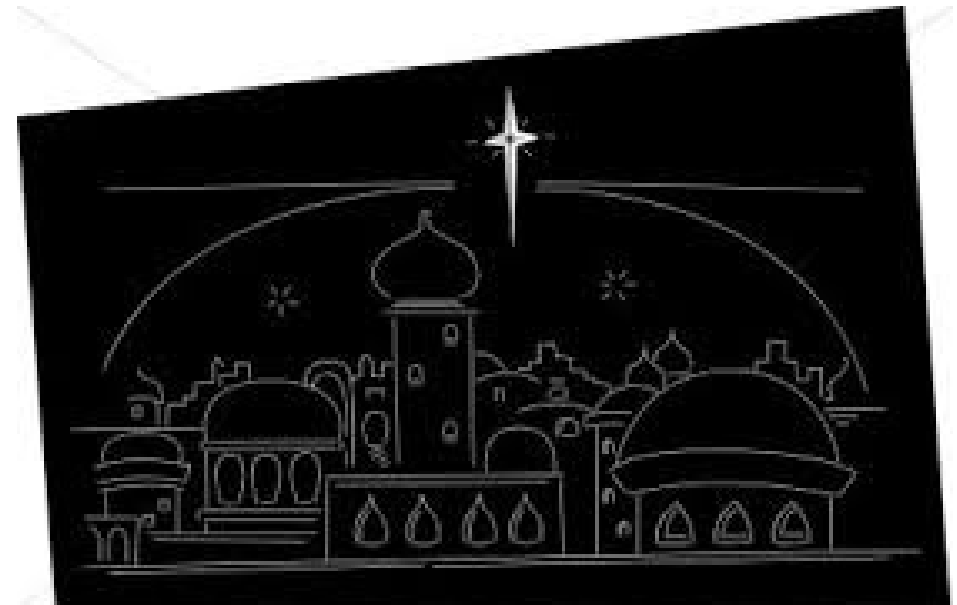
Now at the dead end of the year,
The nights are long; the days are cold.
The sky is dumb; our gods are tired and old.

But look again and see...

The old year is reborn, the withered tree springs new and green.
A baby's laughter greets the dawn.
Today love's oldest miracle is seen.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(from The Winter Solstice Carol by William Beckstrand)



An ad to celebrate the magic of the season

From the Bass Section:

Jim Brommer

Daniel Fisher

Ed Bittner

Dave Feath

Donald Coldren

Jim Morris

Nathan Crowther

Terry Shope

Jonathan Evans

John Succa



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The Cumberland Singers

Sopranos

Julie Beam
Lindsey Ciarrocca
Kim Hollich
Stephanie Hoot
Laura Huggins
Andrea Marchetti
Miriam McMechen
Lennie Nyman
Marcia Oxenreider
Jenna Raniowski
Emily Reed
Susan Rhone
Janée Robinson
Carol Rupp
Amber Shearer
LaDonna Tarpley
Roxann Todt
Karen Vittone

Altos

Cathy Brommer
Kaila Evans
Trevaesa Fisher
Cathy Frey
Susan Gilius
Sandy Gilleo
Sharon Heiner
Margaret Hope
Anmarie Jezorski
Tammy Life
Sandra Loyer
Andrea McKenna
Tina Moyer
Becky Noll
Marion Roth-Hintz
Linda Schlosser
Tina Stauffer

Tenors

Bob Fake
Frank Fisher
Ron Flory
Steve Keefer
Tom Longenecker
Wayne Noss

Basses

Ed Bittner
Jim Brommer
Donald Coldren
Nathan Crowther
Jonathan Evans
Dave Feath
Daniel Fisher
Jim Morris
Terry Shope
John Succa



The Cumberland Singers are grateful to the following people for sponsoring these concert pieces:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel—Sandra Loyer
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming—Ted and Becky Petroski
Winter's Heart—Andrea McKenna
Winter Carnival—Janée Robinson
Enniscorthy Carol—Harold Plant

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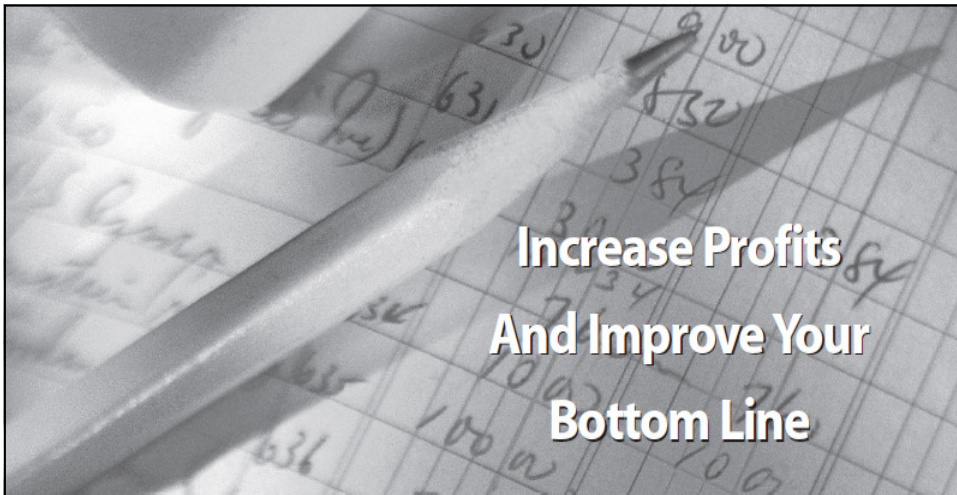


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Program

Today's program was inspired by a song entitled *The Christians and the Pagans* by folk singer/songwriter, Dar Williams. It is a mix of Christmas and Solstice music, with a bit of exploration into how the two relate and overlap.

Joy to the World.....Isaac Watts/Gordon Young
 These famous lyrics of Isaac Watts actually only represent the second part of his original text; the first half told of Christ's return at the end of the ages, while this text heralds his birth. The version we sing today uses a new (1981) tune in 6/8 meter instead of the more well-known *Antioch* tune.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel.....Arr. Jeff Torres
 Both the melody and the text of this Advent piece have rich history, though they originated separately. The Latin text, *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*, dates back to 1710 Germany, and the tune is believed to have originated in 15th-century France.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Arr. Bradley Nelson
 In this 15th-century German carol, the "rose" that is mentioned has historically symbolized either Mary or Jesus, depending upon which perspective was dominant at the time, Catholic or Protestant.



O Magnum Mysterium.....Alissa Plant
 This setting of a traditional Latin text was written specifically for this concert program as a preamble to *A Mother's Carol*.
 Translation: *O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!*

A Mother's Carol.....Clay Zambo/Scott Ethier
 Poet and playwright Clay Zambo describes this text as, "an utterly human perspective of the Christmas story." Imagine an unsure, young mother with a new baby. Imagine being asked to accept an unexpected call in life. Do you answer the call or turn away?

Program

Winter's Heart.....Mark Hayes
The original words and music by one of our favorite modern composers paint a picture of spring preparing itself to burst forth after the cold winter. The winter solstice (or midwinter) is the shortest day and longest night of the year, after which we gradually see more daylight each day until the summer solstice.

Winter Solstice Carol.....Giles Swayne/William Beckstrand
Choir One tells a story of despair to hope, winter to spring, death to life. Note the unsettling dissonance throughout. Each verse leads into much more consonant singing as Choir Two, from afar, sings the traditional Latin text, *Hodie christus natus est*...
Translation: *Today Christ is born, today the Savior appeared. Today on earth the angels sing and rejoice. Today the righteous rejoice saying, "Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!"*

~Intermission~

Sing Me to Winter.....Janie Gardner Cunningham/Julie Gardner Bray
Enjoy this lighthearted, jazzy piece with winter imagery of ice and cold, birds in migration and waiting for spring.
Solo: Kim Hollich

Winter Carnival.....Arr. Linda Spevacek
Here we have a Danish folk dance. Presumably, the clapping and stomping are to keep us warm!

Enniscorthy Carol (Wexford)
.....Arr. Emil Alwyn
A traditional telling of the Christmas carol set to the unique and beautiful melody of a 17th century Irish carol.

Carol of the Bells.....Peter Wilhousky/Mykola Leontovich
This very well-known carol originated as a Ukrainian New Year's carol and was sung in 1919 by the Ukrainian Republican A Cappella Choir on a goodwill tour through Europe and the United States.



Program

A Sussex Christmas Tree
..... Arr. Penny Rodriguez
The traditional "O Tannenbaum" text is set to the Sussex carol tune. The history of the Christmas tree is somewhat murky and sometimes debated, but it is generally agreed that the tree, with its evergreen nature, has been used for centuries by pagans and Christians alike to represent the idea of eternal life.



Deck the Halls (Variations).....Arr. John Purifoy
The word "variations" is key here. Listen for the changes in meter, tempo and harmonies.

Freedom Come.....Ben Allaway
Freedom Come is the final movement of a larger work, entitled *The Bandari: Inside These Walls*. The work was inspired by an African tribal tradition of meeting together as a community and using songs to air grievances and negotiate settlements. Singing can be a medium for social change, sharing of differences and commonalities, and increased cooperation and understanding. While the word *bandari* in modern Swahili refers to a port for ships, an older meaning of the word depicts a neutral and safe place for gathering. We hope that our choir space is just that—a place where people of varying world views gather to enjoy music of various traditions and styles.

Solos: Anmarie Jezorski, Bob Fake, Laura Huggins, Steve Keefer

The Lord Bless You and Keep You.....John Rutter

Thank you for attending our concert and sharing the beauty of the Christmas and winter season with us! Please join us for a reception after the program. Happy Holidays to all!

