

## PROGRAM NOTES

The holiday season is meant to be a time of joy, and the Symphony of the Kootenays is especially delighted to be celebrating with music again this year. Tonight's program features how composers both old and new used a variety of ways to evoke the spirit of the season through the power of music.

Some holiday music is older than you might think. **Coventry Carol** dates to at least late Renaissance times in Britain, although its modern popularity can be traced to the BBC Radio's Christmas broadcast of 1940, where it was performed in the ruins of the Coventry Cathedral.

The opposite seems to be true of **Carol of the Bells**. While there does seem to be an ancient similar tune, it was written in 1918 for a Ukrainian choir. After the Russian revolution, it fell out of favour in Ukraine only to be revived in the USA by the chief arranger for the NBC Symphony, whose new English lyrics were broadcast nationwide during the depression. The resulting popularity continues to this day.

Many holiday tunes have become popular in different places from where they were written. **Cantique du Noel** was written by **Adolphe Adam** in a French tradition, but almost immediately became popular in English as *O Holy Night*. **Chip Davis** is known for his exuberant arrangements for Mannheim Steamroller, but his version of this tune is one of his more calm, reflective works. **Silent Night** was originally written to be a simple carol able to be sung in a damaged Austrian church without a working organ, but is now beloved around the world. This arrangement by **Nick Raspa** features the entire orchestra.

Many composers of the Baroque era looked to the Christmas story for inspiration. **Handel's Messiah** has been a big hit since its first performance in Dublin in 1742. Its dramatic opening informs the audience of the serious and dramatic nature of what is to follow. **Bach's Christmas Oratorio** finds a quite different, pastoral mood. This is the opening interlude of the 2nd part of a longer work. Giuseppe Torelli was an Italian composer a generation older than Vivaldi. He is not so well known today, but he played a key role in inventing our idea of the solo concerto. His **Christmas Concerto** features both a small group of soloists set against the rest of the strings, as well as several solo violin lines, especially in the Largo movement.

While in England carols were usually sung, in baroque France they were often performed instrumentally, often on organ. **Charpentier's Noels sur les Instruments** was written for strings and recorders, and performed as instrumental selections during his Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve. We are performing these tonight in a new version featuring our wind players.

Christmas stories often involve magic and children, so it is no surprise that **Humperdinck's** opera version of **Hansel & Gretel** is often performed in December. The orchestral prelude's fairytale quality works well on its own. One of its main melodies is taken from the *Evening Prayer* duet from Act II, performed memorably at the SOTK February 2020 concert by Cranbrook's own **Amanda Weatherall** and **Caitlyn McCaughey**. That was our last before the pandemic pause in performances.

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THE SYMPHONY OF THE KOOTENAYS  
presents:

## Rejoice!

Conductor: **Jeff Faragher**

November 27, 2021  
Key City Theatre, Cranbrook, BC.



### First Violin

Cvetozar Vutev  
Concertmaster  
Eva Toncheva  
Shee Ling  
Margot Scullen  
Brigit Knecht  
Dave Nathanael

### Second Violin

Eileen Kosasih  
Spring Burke  
Karri Quan  
Brie Hurlbert  
Shelly Groves  
Penny Long

### Viola

Martine denBok  
Miranda Hughes  
Osmond Chiu

### Cello

Anne Scott  
Liz Tremblay  
Sophia Smith  
Garron Stuart\*

### Double Bass

Rob Fahie  
Ross Lemon

### Flute

Catherine MacKinnon  
Ruth Langevin

### Oboe

Aidan Dugan  
Paula Nieckar

### Clarinet

Barb Hume  
\* student

### Bassoon

Jonathan Gresl  
Ruth Sawatsky

### Horn

Tom Staples  
Dale Green

### Trumpet

Tim Bullen

### Trombone

Keith Todd

### Timpani

Robin Clegg

### Percussion

Sven Heyde

### Keyboard

Tim Plait

### PROGRAM NOTES CONTINUED:

We end the concert with recent exuberant holiday music featuring the entire orchestra. **Lucas Richman** has a busy career as a conductor and his **Christmas Ornaments Overture** effectively features all our players while going through several favourite carols. **Delwyn Case** always loved the Leroy Anderson's classic *Sleigh Ride* and **Rocket Sleigh** is his idea of a modern version.

*"I wanted to evoke the idea of Santa leaving behind his reindeer-powered vehicle for a modern, rocket-fueled version, and to write it so that it sounded like movie music in order to create an image"* - D. Case

We are very glad to once again begin the holiday season with you and look forward to a music-filled 2022!

Notes by Jonathan Gresl

Special thanks to our Rejoice concert sponsors:



Check out SOTK's **Reconnection videos** beautifully recorded this summer around Cranbrook and Kimberly. Our **Green Room** interviews are there too. All on our YouTube Channel: search for Symphony of the Kootenays at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com),



**Symphony on the Mountain** returns **July 9 and 10, 2022!** Join us at Kimberley Alpine Resort. Tickets available now via [www.symphonyonthemountain.com](http://www.symphonyonthemountain.com)

**LIVE-STREAM**

All SOTK concerts are now being live-streamed. Purchase access for just \$20 and enjoy the concert at home for a month



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Visit the KCT Box Office

*A Note from your Events Committee:*

The **Events Committee** is thrilled to welcome you and our orchestra back to the Key City Theatre once again! **Arne Sahlén** generously warmed up the foyer with his joyful Christmas piano music as you entered through the doors tonight. We hope you enjoyed our *Hansel & Gretel* theme, featuring gingerbread Cookies from **Max's Place**. These were offered to the first 100 patrons, adding a touch of spice and excitement to the atmosphere of celebration. Please support your Symphony of the Kootenays by purchasing **Sweet Gestures Chocolate Notes**, available in the foyer at our information table.

Your **Events Committee**: Corrinne de Zoete (Chair), Shirley Hansen, Lisa Barnes, Lorraine Butler, Anne Beurskens, Alison Facey, Terry Lynn Jeffers and Suzanne Kennedy.



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**\*\*\* Program \*\*\***

1. **Messiah, Overture.** HWV 56. G.F. Handel (1685-1759).
2. **Concerto grosso in G minor, "Christmas".** Op.8 No.6. G. Torelli (1658-1709).  
i. Grave iii. Largo ii. Vivace iv. Vivace
3. **Fantasia on Greensleeves.** R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).
4. **Coventry Carol.** Trad. English. Arr. L. Richman.
5. **Carol of the Bells.** M. Leontovych (1977-1921).
6. **Six Noël's sur les Instruments.** M-A. Carpentier (1643-1704).
7. **Christmas Oratorio, Sinfonia.** BWV 248. J.S. Bach (1685-1750).
8. **Hansel and Gretel, Prelude.** E. Humperdinck (1854-1921)
9. **Cantique de Noël.** A. Adam. (1803-1856). Arr. C. Davis.
10. **Rocket Sleigh.** D. Case. (b. 1974)
11. **Silent Night Variations.** F. Gruber (1787-1863) Arr. N. Raspa.
12. **Christmas Ornaments Overture.** L. Richman (b. 1964).

**UPCOMING CONCERTS:**

Cranbrook Tickets at [keycitytheatre.com](http://keycitytheatre.com)

**Replay: A Night at the Movies.**

Saturday January 29, Key City Theatre, Cranbrook.

Warm your winter's night with music from movies old and new



Spanish  
Fiesta

*¡Spanish Fiesta!*

Saturday April 23, Key City Theatre, Cranbrook

Sunday April 24, Prince Charles Theatre, Creston

Celebrate Spain with *La Sinfonia de los Kootenays*. ¡Olé!