



Christmas Overture

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor arr. Sydney Baynes (1879-1938)

Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky

Selections from *The Nutcracker*, Op. 71 Ouverture March Chocolate (Spanish Dance) Tea (Chinese Dance) Pas de Deux

Symph-Hanukkah

arr. Peter Jaffe (b. 1975)

(1840 - 1893)

Divinum Mysterium, A Christmas Medley (Of the Father's Love Begotten, O Little Town of Bethlehem (St. Louis), Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, O Little Town of Bethlehem (Forest Green), Good King Wenceslas, Joy to the World) arr. Dr. Paul Kenwood Cappers (b. 1946)

Concert Suite from The Polar Express

arr. Jerry Brubaker (b. 1946)



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Conducted by Dr. David A. Gordon

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Viola

Andrew Dowd Peggy Furman *Hennigan Kearns Kyle Marcum Gretchen Mortimore-Thill

Cello

*Liz Alexander Paul Cappers Caryn Crye Pronda Few Stephanie Hoffman John Mooney Todd St. Amand

String Bass

Jana Ġiliberto Uno Torres

Harp Renee Dib

Tessa Jackson

7lute

Christine Brillon Nena Harris Shelly Johnson Elizabeth Jordan *Elaina Palada

Clarinet

*Heather Gering Amy Ramesh Rebekah Watterson

Оьоє Annesha Dib *Donna Swahlan

Bassoon *Michele Jean-Jumeau *Anne Manseau

> *Tuba* Elyssa Roger

Trumpet

Josh Cherry *Ken Nodes Joe Polsgrove Traci Quinn

French Horn

James Brown Peggy Chapman *Gail Clarke Paula Dilanchian Jill Wyse

Trombone/Baritone

Larry Farr *Timothy Lowe Glenn Luetkemeier Jennifer Samson

Percussion

Joshua Lowe *Chris Miller Xander Nodes Kyle Rodgers

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Christmas Overture

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, arr. Sydney Baynes

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was a British composer and conductor born in London in 1875. He was the son of a West African father and English mother, He studied

at the Royal College of Music before dying at the age of only 37. His Christmas Overture appeared posthumously in 1925, arranged by Sydney Baynes. The Overture features: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. It is believed to have been put together from incidental music Coleridge-Taylor wrote for a children's play called The Forest of Wild Thyme.



Selections from *The Nutcracker*, Op. 71 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

For many people, The Nutcracker is a holiday staple. Premiering in 1892, the ballet portrays an epic battle between mischievous mice, courageous cookies—and of course a nutcracker—all

set to Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score. After Clara (the story's young heroine) helps the nutcracker defeat the mouse king, the two travel to the Land of Sweets to celebrate their victory. SCO's musical selections present an abbreviated retelling of the plot complete with the Spanish Chocolate Dance, the Chinese Tea Dance, the iconic Pas de Deux and more.



Symph-Hanukkah

A relatively new offering in the canon of orchestral holiday music, Symph-Hanukkah was premiered by the Stockton Symphony in 2018 with the arranger, Peter Jaffe, conducting.

The medley features many recognizable Hanukkah songs (including Rock of Ages, Who Can Retell, Hanukkah Beautiful Holiday, Blessing Over the Hanukkah Lights, The Dreidel Song and more) cast in an array of different styles. The piece culminates in a thrilling "blaze of glory" that combines the melody of O Hanukkah with the accompaniment of Saint-Saëns Bacchanale.



Divinum Mysterium, A Christmas Medley arr. Dr. Paul Kenwood Cappers

SCO cellist Dr. Paul Kenwood Cappers composed Divinum Mysterium, A Christmas Medley, in 2016. It is an arrangement of several Christmas-themed melodies, with

original countermelodies and other musical ideas written by the composer. The piece opens with various solo instruments voicing the Divinum Mysterium plainchant tune of the title, which dates back to the 10th century. In the mid-18th century John Neale and Henry Baker wrote the English text (Of the Father's love begotten 'ere the worlds began to be) by which it is know today. Incidentally, another of the melodies in the medley, Good King Wenceslas, also possesses an English text by Mr. Neale.

Dr. Cappers has composed many choral and instrumental pieces, available through the online publisher Sheet Music Press. He taught in the public schools and at the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music, serving as Assistant Professor of Music Education, director of The Greater Hartford Youth Chorale, and member of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Cappers' most recent position was director of the Wompatuck Senior Orchestra in the Boston area.



Concert Suite from The Polar Express

arr. Jerry Brubaker

The movie The Polar Express was released in 2004 and is based on a 1985 book of the same name. Set on Christmas eve, the movie tells the story of a young boy who sees a mysterious train

bound for the North Pole stop outside his window and how he is invited aboard by its conductor. He joins other children as they embark on a journey to visit Santa Claus, who is preparing for Christmas. This concert suite arranged by Jerry Brubaker includes "Believe," "The Polar Express," "When Christmas Comes to Town," and "Spirit of the Season."

Program notes written by Dr. David Gordon, Dr. Paul Cappers, and Donna Swahlan

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Thank you to our community partners who support us and SCO violinist, Emily Duke, for designing our program!





Stateline Orchestra thanks the Barnhardt Foundation for their generous donation and support in honor of David Gordon & Elaina Palada.

