

SANTA BARBARA
MASTER CHORALE

THE LIGHT SO SHINES

*The Santa Barbara Master Chorale and Chamber Orchestra
with Dr. David Lozano Torres, Conductor
and Heather Levin-White, Collaborative Pianist*

PROGRAM

- I Saw Three Ships* Traditional English Carol
Arr. John Frederick Hudson
- Snow Angel*..... Sarah Quartel
- Deck the Halls*..... Traditional English Carol
Arr. Mark Hayes
- Hodie* Gregorian Chant
Arr. J. Edmund Hughes
- Gloria in Excelsis Deo* Arr. Mark Hayes
- Sussex Carol* Traditional English Carol
Arr. Neil Harmon
- O Come, Emmanuel* Traditional English Carol
Arr. Elaine Hagenberg
- In Terra Pax*..... Gerald Finzi

INTERMISSION

- Mary, Did You Know?* Craig Courtney
- Il est Né le Divin Enfant*..... Anonymous
- Silent Night* Traditional English Carol
Arr. Molly Ijames
- Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*..... Traditional English Carol
Arr. Dan Forrest
- It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*..... Arr. Hawley Ades
- All is Quiet*..... Arr. Josh Sparkman
- We Believe* Arr. Ryan Nowlin
- Angels We Have Heard on High*..... Traditional English Carol
Arr. Mack Wilberg

THE LIGHT SO SHINES

The Light So Shines invites you into an evening where story, music, and imagination come together to illuminate the heart of the Christmas season. Tonight, you'll journey alongside Ellie and her friend Clara as they step into a lively family celebration—filled with laughter, memories, and the traditions that shape this time of year. Through heartfelt narration and thoughtfully staged moments, Clara discovers how the light of hope can break through even the heaviest of circumstances.

Woven throughout the story are cherished carols and stirring choral works performed by the Santa Barbara Master Chorale and orchestra. From the sparkle of *I Saw Three Ships* and the tender beauty of *Snow Angel* to the powerful proclamation of *In Terra Pax*, each piece moves the story forward. The evening culminates in a triumphant finale featuring *We Believe* and *Angels We Have Heard on High*, sending the message—and the season—soaring with joy and celebration.

We are grateful that you are here with us tonight. As the lights rise, the story unfolds, and the harmonies surround you, we hope you feel the warmth, wonder, and joy that inspired this production. May *The Light So Shines* brighten your evening and your Christmas season.

Santa Barbara Master Chorale

May this donated program ad be a challenge to others to match it with a \$500 donation —Anonymous

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HAPPY NEW YEAR SANTA BARBARA MASTER CHORALE

TEXT & TRANSLATIONS

Snow Angel

*I went to my window one bright winter's morn and
gazed at the new fallen snow.*

*The world overtaken by flurries of white had set my
surroundings aglow.*

*I looked to the heavens seeking the source of this
wonderland newly appeared.*

*When there I spied a snow angel holding the flakes
and spreading them near.*

*She sang: "Even though the snow may blow, there's
not a wind can stop my music.*

For I know that winter shelters life."

*On silver blue wingtips she soared through the air
ensuring the flow'rs were warm.*

*She knew that her snowflakes would blanket the
earth and keep all its friends safe from harm.*

*I thought for a moment she must be a dream, this
angel with silvery wings.*

*But then I discovered she was heaven sent as her
icy lips opened to sing.*

*She sang: "even though the wind may blow there's
not a wind can stop my music.*

For I know that winter shelters life."

*When she knew that the flow'rs were asleep she
beat her wings faster to go.*

*But soon, looking back on the work she had done,
She let herself fall to the snow.*

*I saw for a moment the smile on her face 'fore she
launched herself back in the air.*

I'm sure there are many snow angels in heav'n,

But now I have one down here.

*I sing: "Even though the snow may blow there's not
a wind can stop my music.*

For I know that winter shelters life!

Hodie (sung in Latin)

Today Christ is born. Glory to God in the highest.

*Today the Savior appeared, today on earth the
angels sing. Glory to God in the highest.*

*Today the righteous rejoice, saying Alleluia. Glory
to God in the highest.*

TEXT & TRANSLATIONS (CONTINUED)

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace to people of good will.

In Terra Pax

*A frosty Christmas eve When the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone Where westward falls the hill
And from many a village In the water'd valley
Distant music reached me Peals of bells were ringing
The constellated sounds Ran sprinkling on earth's floor
As the dark vault above With stars was spangled o'er*

*Then sped my thoughts to keep That first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching By their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields And marveling could not tell
Whether it were angels Or the bright stars singing*

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord
came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them,
and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,*

*Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall
be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David a Sav-
iour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall
find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly
host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace, good will toward men.*

*But to me heard afar it was starry music
Angels' song, comforting as the comfort of Christ
When he spake tenderly to his sorrowful flock:
The old words came to me by the riches of time
Mellow'd and transfigured as I stood on the hill
Heark'ning in the aspect of th' eternal silence.*

And on earth peace, good will toward men.

TEXT & TRANSLATIONS (CONTINUED)

Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Will give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God?
Mary, did you know?
Oo, Mary, did you know?

The blind will see
The deaf will hear;
The dead will live again!
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Is the Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
That your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations?
Did you know
That your baby boy
Was heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping Child you're holdin'
Is the Great I Am!

TEXT & TRANSLATIONS (CONTINUED)

Il est né le divin enfant (sung in French)

*He is born the divine Christ child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding.
He is born the divine Christ child,
Sing with Joy, for he has arrived!*

*For more than four thousand years,
Prophets have foretold His coming,
Through the ages prophets told
of this child we now behold.*

*He is born the divine Christ child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding.
He is born the divine Christ child,
Sing with Joy, for he has arrived!*

*Child of beauty! Child of grace!
Pure and perfect, Infant holy!
Child of beauty! Child of grace!
Heaven lights His holy face!*

*He is born the divine Christ child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding.
He is born the divine Christ child,
Sing with Joy, for he has arrived!*

*In a stable there He lay,
Only a manger for a cradle,
In a stable there He lay,
Sleeps our Heav'nly King today!*

*He is born the divine Christ child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding.
He is born the divine Christ child,
Sing with Joy, for he has arrived!*

*He is born the divine Christ child,
Sing with Joy, for he has arrived!*

*Jesus, Lord! Almighty King!
Gift your light and grant us peace.*

*He is born the divine Christ child,
Oboes play; set bagpipes sounding.
He is born the divine Christ child,
Sing with Joy, for he has arrived!*

TEXT & TRANSLATIONS (CONTINUED)

All Is Quiet

*All is quiet, all is still,
Sleep, my child, and fear no ill,
Win'try winds blow chill and drear,
Lullaby, my baby dear,
Win'try winds blow chill and drear,
Lullaby, my baby dear.*

*Let your little eyelids close,
softly as the falling snow.
While today drifts from your sight,
all is calm this winter night
All is calm this winter night,
while today drifts from your sight.*

*When tomorrow has begun,
and the snow yields to the sun,
My love will still be here.
Rest, my child, my baby dear.*

*All is quiet, all is still,
Sleep, my child, and fear no ill,
Win'try winds blow chill and drear,
Lullaby, my baby dear,
Win'try winds blow chill and drear,
Lullaby, my baby dear.*

*Lullaby, Lullaby,
Lullaby, my baby dear.*

We Believe

*We believe in the wonder of giving.
We believe in the joy of thanksgiving.
Together to say
Merry Christmas to you!*

*We believe we are here for a reason:
Shining light, sharing love of the season!
Hear the bells ring!
Together we sing
Merry Christmas to you!*

*We believe in the wonder of giving.
We believe in the joy of thanksgiving.
Join in our song
All season long.
Merry Christmas to you!*

PROGRAM NOTES

I Saw Three Ships

Dating back to the 17th century, this traditional English carol heralds the arrival of three ships on Christmas Day. They could represent the three camels of the Maji (ships of the desert), or relics brought to Cologne Cathedral in the 12th century. Though largely symbolic, the song's connection to the Nativity and the bringing of gifts has resonated over the centuries.

Snow Angel

In Sarah Quartel's five-part composition, themes of love, rebirth, and beauty are explored from the perspective of children and their guardian angels. The haunting notes of a cello resonate throughout this contemplative work, richly endowed with expressive, dynamic storytelling and emotional depth.

Deck the Halls

The lyrics for this carol, which originated in Wales, were taken from a poem by Thomas Oliphant in 1862. Joyful and infectious, this song often inspires a lively round of caroling to evoke the spirit of the season.

Hodie

Gregorian chant, arranged by J. Edmund Hughes. "*Hodie Christus natus est. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*" The Latin text is ancient but the message is timeless and enduring: Today Christ is born. Glory to God in the highest.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

This contemporary classical work, which debuted in 2002, incorporates the traditional liturgical text, both in Latin and English. From the dramatic entrance of the chorus to a soaring duet between soprano and tenor soloists, this piece provides a festive 21st-century setting for the ancient Christmas text.

PROGRAM NOTES (CONTINUED)

Sussex Carol

The lyrics to this traditional British carol were originally published by Luke Wadding, a late 17th-century Irish poet and bishop of the Catholic Church. In 1928, English composer Ralph Vaughn-Williams heard the carol and wrote an arrangement that became known worldwide. This Neil Harmon arrangement, scored for mixed chorus, preserves the spirit of the original carol, which called for rejoicing in the birth of the Savior.

O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel

Originally sung in the 12th century during the Advent season, the five-verse Latin text was translated into English by John Mason Neale in 1855, assuring the hymn's enduring place in Advent celebrations around the world. In her arrangement, Hagenberg sought to evoke "the feeling of a desolate desert, capturing the profound sense of anticipation for a Savior," with the choral parts embodying "the timeless hope and yearning echoing through generations."

In Terra Pax

One Christmas Eve in the 1920s, still grieving from losses suffered in World War I, Gerald Finzi climbed to the church at the top of Chosen Hill, nestled between Gloucester and Cheltenham, the midnight bells ringing out across the wintry landscape.

It wasn't until 1954, when he was dying of leukemia, that the British composer transposed that indelible scene into *In Terra Pax: Christmas Scene*. The text is drawn from two verses of Robert Bridges's poem *Noel: Christmas Eve, 1913*. By placing the work in the idyllic English countryside, beloved of the British Romantics, Finzi found that "the Nativity becomes a vision seen by a wanderer on a dark and frosty Christmas Eve in our own familiar landscape." The title itself—*in terra pax*—reflects the universal desire for peace on earth, as well as the composer's personal experience with war. Music scholar John Bawden termed *In Terra Pax* "a radiant, optimistic work of great beauty and sincerity," creating "a compelling musical narrative that is at once personal yet universal."

PROGRAM NOTES (CONTINUED)

Mary, Did you Know?

Written by Mark Lowry in 1991, this heartfelt piece explores the profound mystery of Christ's birth through a unique perspective—that of Mary as the mother of the Savior. How aware was she of what was being asked of her, that when she caressed her son's face, she was in fact touching the face of God?

Silent Night

Stille Nacht was first performed on Christmas Eve, 1818, at the Nikolauskirche, the parish church in the Austrian village of Oberndorf. The melody was composed by Franz Zaver Gruber, to the lyrics of Father Joseph Mohr. The beloved carol has been translated into 300 languages and recorded by virtually every famous vocal artist. This arrangement by composer and pianist Molly James creates a rich, harmonious balance between voices and instruments.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

This joyous celebration of the coming of the Christ child was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley. In 1855, a new melody was adapted from a Felix Mendelssohn cantata by William H. Cummings. This arrangement by contemporary American composer Dan Forrest mixes voices with brass for a truly glorious effect.

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

This perennial holiday favorite was written for Andy Williams, who debuted it on his 1963 Christmas album.

All Is Quiet

The piano introduction sets the scene for a snowy winter's night as this tender lullaby brings words of comfort and assurance to the sleeping baby. An angelic cappella solo suggests the special bond between mother and child.

We Believe

On Thanksgiving morning in 2018, a group of Macy's and Delta Airlines employees gathered to sing in the Macy's Day Parade. They performed the premier of "We Believe," which received an Emmy nomination in 2019 for Outstanding Original Song.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Santa Barbara Master Chorale's holiday concert, *The Light So Shines*.

We are so glad you are here with us this evening at the beautiful Lobero Theatre as we open the Christmas season together in song. At a time of year when our days grow shorter, it is a joy and a privilege to gather in community and share music that reminds us that light, hope, and peace are still very much alive among us.

Tonight's program is built around Gerald Finzi's radiant *In Terra Pax*, a work that places the ancient message of "peace on earth" into the quiet stillness of an English countryside on Christmas Eve. Around it, you will hear music by contemporary composers and beloved arrangers whose works many of you may recognize: pieces that shimmer with joy, cradle us in stillness, and invite us to listen for the ways that light breaks into our own lives—sometimes dramatically, often gently, always as a gift. Under the direction of Dr. David Lozano Torres, with our soloists and orchestral musicians, this concert is conceived as a theatrical journey of story and sound, moving from longing to celebration, from darkness toward light.

The Santa Barbara Master Chorale has been part of this community since 1984, bringing major choral works and new musical voices to audiences from across the Central Coast. We are a volunteer chorus—your neighbors, colleagues, and friends—supported by a professional artistic team and orchestra. Together, we share a common purpose: to enrich the cultural life of Santa Barbara through choral music, and to open the doors of this art form to singers and listeners of all ages.

A concert like this one is only possible because of the generosity and dedication of many people. To our singers, who have given countless evenings to rehearsal; to our Artistic Director, Dr. Torres, whose vision has shaped tonight's experience; to our board members and volunteers, who work tirelessly behind the scenes; and to our donors, sponsors, and grantors—including support from the City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Arts Commission—we offer our heartfelt thanks. Your belief in the power of live choral music keeps this organization thriving.

Finally, thank you for being here. By choosing to spend your evening in this hall, you affirm that the arts matter—that beauty, reflection, and shared experience are essential in our community and in our lives. We hope that as the final chord fades tonight, you carry something of this light with you: a phrase of music, a line of text, a renewed sense of peace or joy that you can share with others in the days ahead.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Master Chorale, thank you for celebrating the season with us. May your holidays be filled with warmth, music, and light.

With gratitude,
John Fernandez
President, Board of Directors
Santa Barbara Master Chorale

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank the Lobero Theater for permitting us to use this iconic Santa Barbara facility to present our concert.

Thanks to San Marcos High School Music Department and Michael Calabro for their percussion support.

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*Actors

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Violin 1: Emily Sommermann

Violin 2: Daniel Macy

Viola: Christian Dos Santos

Cello: Katrina Agate

Double Bass: Adam Gilman

Flute: Andrea Di Maggio

Oboe: Trey Farrell

Clarinet: Brett Cochran

Bassoon: Alexandra Finch

Horn 1: Connor Hahn

Horn 2: Bruno Klena

Percussion 1: Jared Davenport

Guest Pianist for select numbers: Erin Bonski



David Lozano Torres, Artistic Director and Conductor

Dr. David Lozano Torres is an accomplished conductor, educator, and musical leader whose work spans professional, collegiate, sacred, and community settings. He currently serves as Artistic Director, Founder, and Conductor of the elite choral ensemble Vocal Affinity, which was featured at the 2022 Western American Choral Directors Association Regional Conference in Stories of the Pandemic and at the 2020 Northwest ACDA Regional Conference. He is also the Artistic Director & Conductor of the Santa Barbara Master Chorale, an ensemble dedicated to presenting major choral-orchestral works from the medieval era to the present. In spring 2025, he served as Guest Conductor for the Angeles Chorale in a special collaboration with the internationally recognized trailer music company Audiomachine, leading sessions for their newest album recording. He has also been invited to conduct Rob Gardner's *Lamb of God* at Carnegie Hall in June 2027 with MidAmerica Productions and the New England Symphonic Ensemble – an event bringing together more than 250 singers from across the country.

Dr. Torres's artistic vision is shaped by an esteemed pedagogical lineage. He studied extensively with Dr. Rebecca Lord (Brigham Young University-Idaho), Dr. Nicole Lamartine (Central Washington University), and the renowned Donald Neuen (UCLA), and received additional training with Dr. John Sutton (Azusa Pacific University), Diane Soelberg (BYU-Idaho), and Dr. Maxim Kuzin (UC Santa Barbara). He holds a B.A. in Music with a conducting emphasis from BYU-Idaho, an M.M. in Choral Conducting from Azusa Pacific University, and a D.M.A. in Conducting from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

An active leader in the wider music community, Dr. Torres serves as Director of Global Education Programs and Advisor for the Education and Conducting Area of the Student Academy of Musical Leaders (SAML), an organization devoted to advancing instrumental, marching, and performing arts education. His commitment to presenting transformative choral experiences – across both sacred and secular repertoire – is evident in large-scale productions such as the Santa Barbara premiere of Rob Gardner's *Lamb of God* in 2023, which brought together a 125-voice chorus, full orchestra, and professional soloists from across the nation, drawing an audience of over 850 to the historic Granada Theatre. He has also served as Artistic Director & Conductor of the Santa Ynez Valley Master Chorale (2022–2024) and founded *The Scholars*, a chamber choir training program for advanced singers under the umbrella of Vocal Affinity, Inc.

Dr. Torres's collegiate teaching experience includes conducting the UC Santa Barbara Treble Ensemble: *Lumina* Choir, which he expanded from 7 to over 80 singers in under two years; directing the Tenor-Bass Ensemble: *Singing Gauchos*; serving as Assistant Conductor of the flagship UCSB Chamber Choir; and teaching as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Choral Department. At BYU-Idaho, while part of the Choral/Conducting Faculty, he taught Men's and Women's Choir, basic and advanced conducting courses, maintained a private conducting studio, and led university ensembles in concerts, devotionals, and televised PBS guest artist productions in the 15,000-seat I-Center.

In the professional realm, Dr. Torres has served as Associate Conductor of the Angeles Chorale, Artistic Director & Conductor of *Echo Luminos* in Los Angeles, and Assistant Conductor for multiple ensembles at Azusa Pacific University. He has conducted the music for two worldwide televised broadcast events of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Annual General Conference and Young Adult Fireside) and led the first Southeastern U.S. production of *Lamb of God*, featuring a 150-member chorus, orchestra, and professional soloists from Idaho and Utah.

Dr. Torres began his conducting journey over fifteen years ago, founding his own wind ensemble and concert series in Los Angeles. Today, he continues to work toward a long career in collegiate choral music, with a passion for mentoring future conductors, fostering artistic excellence, and presenting music that inspires, transforms, and uplifts.

PIANIST



Heather Levin-White, Collaborative Pianist

Originally from Redlands, California, Heather Levin-White attended the University of California Santa Barbara, where she studied voice with Margery MacKay, played piano in the jazz band, and worked as a collaborative pianist for voice lessons and classes. During her junior year, she participated in the Education Abroad Program, furthering her studies in French and music at the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France. Upon completing her Master's degree at UCSB, she joined the Music Teacher's Association of California and became active in the Santa Barbara area as a teacher, solo pianist, and vocal accompaniment. She has participated in chamber ensemble concerts, church services and choral programs, school and community choral groups, and theatre and opera productions for Westmont College, Santa Barbara City College, and the Santa Barbara Master Chorale, as well as schools and churches throughout the area. "I am grateful to work with so many wonderful teachers, musicians, and students in the Santa Barbara community," says Heather.

SOLOISTS



Ashlee Elizabeth, Soprano

Soprano Ashlee Elizabeth is a classically trained musician who finds joy in every opportunity to perform. She has participated in live theatre throughout her life and her favorite credits include Hunchback of Notre Dame (Esmeralda) with Cedar Valley Community

Theatre, Les Miserables (Cosette) with American Fork High School, and Into the Woods (Rapunzel) with Utah COPA.

Her operatic training is from Southern Utah University under professor Carol Anne Modesitt, and contemporary training from Brigham Young University (Provo) under Libby Ferguson. She is currently a member of the choral group Vocal Affinity, and writes and records her own music. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Sergio Manzo, Baritone

Baritone Sergio Manzo, for his “divine and natural voice,” (von Otter) has been acclaimed for his compelling combination of vocal richness and dramatic presence. The Rutland Herald praised his Pilot in Rachel Portman’s The Little Prince for its “vocal gravitas that gives

him authority” and “rich emotion,” while noting his Figaro in Mozart’s Le nozze di Figaro for a “powerful voice” and unusual vulnerability. His portrayal of the Padre in Don Quixote was recognized for “vocal sensitivity” in balancing character and devotion.

Recent appearances include Papageno (Die Zauberflöte) with Genesis Opera, Jupiter (Orphée aux enfers) and Marullo (Rigoletto) with Opera North, and Mr. Gobineau in Fort Worth Opera’s Spanish-language premiere of Menotti’s The Medium. He has also performed Don Giovanni (Don Giovanni), Dr. Falke (Die Fledermaus), and Publio (La clemenza di Tito).

Currently based in Southern California, Manzo continues to expand his repertoire across both lyric and comic roles, bringing expressive artistry and theatrical vitality to every performance.

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(contributions made between January 2023 and January 2025)

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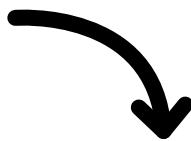
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Mary Garza	Barbara Larsen	<i>In memory of</i>
Eduard Gatta	<i>In memory of</i>	<i>Loren Salady</i>
	<i>Kathryn Dean</i>	

SANTA BARBARA MASTER CHORALE

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Do you know someone who missed tonight's program? Join us at Gainey Estate Vineyard for a condensed concert this Sunday!



Christmas Concert at the Vineyard

Sunday, December 14

3:00–5:30 p.m.

Adults: \$35 per person | Kids 18 and under are free

Gainey Estate Vineyard
3950 CA-246, Santa Ynez, CA

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

April 11-12, 2026: Disney Concert

June 6-7, 2026: Classical Works Concert

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sbmasterchorale.org



See what we're up to!