

The Village Voices Chorus
presents the
2023 Holiday Spectacular!
with
Festival Orchestra



Conductor: **Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr.**

Accompanist: **Paul Hoffmann**

Featured Dancers: **Susan & Mark O'Brien**

North Lake Presbyterian Church

Thursday, December 14, 2023

6:00 pm

Dr. JOHN T. LOWE, Jr. is a native of Lynchburg, Virginia. He received the Bachelor of Science degree in Organ Performance from Liberty University in 1993, the double Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting from the University of Alabama in 1996, and the Doctor of Music degree in Organ Performance and Church Music from Indiana University, Bloomington, in 2005. His teachers include David Charles Campbell, George B. Clark, the late J. Warren Hutton, Larry Smith, and Christopher Young in organ, and Sandra Willetts in conducting. In September 2007, he assumed the duties of Director of Music and Organist at Gainesville, Florida's Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, where he oversees the parish music programs and plays the three-manual, forty-nine rank Visser-Rowland organ in liturgies and concerts. Since 2014 he has served as Conductor of The Village Voices Chorus, having accompanied the group from 2010-2014. He has also served as Dean and Sub-Dean of the Gainesville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Previously, Dr. Lowe was Music Director and Organist at Ocala's First United Methodist Church from 2003-2007, the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Central Florida Master Choir, and Dean of the Ocala Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Dr. Lowe has been a prizewinner in local, regional, and national competitions. In 1991 he was first place winner of the American Guild of Organists Regional Competition for Young Organists in Annapolis, Maryland, and in 1996 the second place winner of the San Marino, California Organ Competition. In 1998 and 1999, he was one of 25 young artists invited to compete in both the opening rounds of the Calgary International Organ Competition and the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, respectively. He has performed recitals in Alabama, California, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia. His accompanying engagements have taken him to the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, New Zealand, and Australia.

Paul Hoffmann, pianist, arranger, composer and conductor, studied at the Eastman School and Peabody Conservatory, was a Fulbright Scholar studying at the "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, Austria, and at the Vienna Musikhochschule. Famous pianist, Rudolf Serkin, said of Hoffmann's playing, "He is a true artist." As a professor of classical piano, he taught piano performance at The Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University from 1980 to 2016. While there he served as piano department chair and conducted the Helix New Music Ensemble which he founded in 1990.

Hoffmann's main piano teachers were Leon Fleisher, famous Swiss pedagogue Cecile Genhart, Brooks Smith who was the accompanist of Yasha Heifitz, and many more. During his career, Mr. Hoffmann has performed hundreds of solo and chamber music concerts in North America, Europe and Asia. He has made over 30 recordings, has recorded live for U.S. radio stations in New York City (WNYC), and for foreign radio stations such as Radio Cologne, Radio Frankfurt, Radio France, and Voice of America.

PROGRAM

A Merry Olde Christmas Gary Fry

NARRATION – Written in the Stars (unknown)

Go Tell it on the Mountain arr. Kirby Shaw

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain arr. Carolyn Jennings
Soloists: Barbara Carroll and Carol Guglielmi

NARRATION – Silver Bells (Hamish Hendry)

Jingle Bells arr. Mack Wilberg

Carol of the Bells arr. Jennifer Thomas
(featuring pianist Paul Hoffmann)

Silver Bells arr. Mark Hayes
Featured Dancers – Mark and Susan O'Brien

NARRATION – Luke 2:8-16 (King James Version of the Bible)

Welcome Yule Charles Hubert Hastings Parry
Glory to God (from *Messiah*) George Frideric Handel
Hallelujah (from *Messiah*) George Frideric Handel

Winter Wonderland arr. Calvin Custer

Carols of Central and South America arr. Mark Hayes
from *International Carol Suites*
Soloists: Ann Barber, Susan Bartlett, and Bob Taylor

The Journey
Going to Bethlehem
The Babe
At the Hour of Midnight
Song of the Wise Men

NARRATION – “Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem” by Dr. Maya Angelou
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Let Peace then Still the Strife Mack Wilberg

Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson

NARRATION – In the Bleak Midwinter (Christina Rossetti)

What Child is This? arr. Dale Warland
The First Noel arr. Dwight Bigler

Featured Dancers – Mark and Susan O'Brien

Silent Night Franz Gruber

Lisa Sullivan - Narrator

The Village Voices Chorus

Soprano

Ann Barber	R. Marcia Gould #	Angela May	Kathy Scott
Susan Bartlett	Carol Guglielm **	Roxy Meloy	Pat Smith *
Beth Beard	Marilyn Hanson	Mary Lou Merkner	Evangeline Taylor
Sue Biondi	Rhonda Heller	Kristin Miller	Cindy Van Lom
Carol Broos #	Val Hirsch **	Carolyn Moores *	Sunny Watson
HC Burich	Julia Johansson	Patricia Murphy	Teri Weed #
Joy Campbell *	Sheila Jones	Jeanne Phillips	Pat Witzeman *
Barbara Carroll	Donna Kagan **	Sheila Phillips *	Diana Wygand **
Chris Colegrove	Janet Kobar *	Cindy Poet **	
Amy Cornwall-Robinson	Carole Makus **	Linda Rosalsky	
Marie Erline	Cak Marshall	Sally Schmidt *	

Alto

Robin Ablett	Artie Ferrell	Martha Krichbaum	Cheryl Raynor
Peg Burnett *	Rose Marie Heenan	Janet Landry	Carolyn Reichert
Debbie Carter *	Anne Hollinger **	Dee Logé-Wacker #	Kristine Smoker
Donna Cipollone *	Bobbie Huddle	Margo McGinnis *	Posie Stock *
Geryle Conway **	Roxie Jacobson	Carol McNeill	Lisa Sullivan
Peg Cunningham *	Denise Johnson	Peggy Mills	Crystal Urosovich
Ann Curton	Mary Jo Johnson *	Mary Nadeau	Reina Wang
Emily Dorman *	Diane Jones *	Joan O'Donnell	Mary Williams
Sarah Dudak	Lynn Kelley	Shirley Palazzo *	Anne Wolpert
Martha Ecker	Jackie Knight	Linda Quinn	Vicki Yates #

Tenor

Karen Brown	Lyle Johnson	Ben Osborne *	Bob Taylor *
Jerry Denor	David Kirk	Andy Phillips #	Jeffrey Taylor
David Flanigan *	David Lance	Tim Plen	
Robert Hilkemann	Tom Meloy #	Jeremy Reynolds *	
Beverly Jeczalik	Laurie Morrill	Jack Strite #	

Bass

Jack Adams **	Dick Gainer	Gary Pratt	Eldon Taylor
Dan Barnes	Ralph Gingery **	Virgil Reyes	Gordon Temple
Brent Bierma *	Clayton Heath	Richard Ripp	Lamar Young **
Wayne Cunkelman **	Al Hellwege *	Dennis Smoker	
Jim Cunningham *	Hank Hovemeyer	Dick Stock *	
Scott Downing *	Jim McQuinn	John Stranges	
Dave Fuller *	David Paiga *	Ed Stromski	

** Members for 20 or more years * Members for 10 or more years # Board Members

Merry Christmas Happy New Year



Featured Dancers

Mark and Susan O'Brien are professional dancers and have been working together for 24 years.

They continue to teach and perform for several cruise lines, and venues including the Villages and Tampa Bay Area.

They recently moved to Tampa and will be teaching their unique social dance class for University of South Florida. They are also planning some events for the Cultural center.

Festival Orchestra

1st Violin

Cathy Nelson
Michele Gurevich
Elaina Cook

2nd Violin

Maluh de Felice
Charlotte Lewis
Rosa Schmidt

Viola

Peijun Xu
Heather Gullstrand

Cello

Sydney Anderson
Paul Lewis

Double Bass

Gabriel Shapiro

Flute/Piccolo

Brian Logan
Linda Stromski

Oboe

Peyton Redmyer
Charles McGee (2nd/EH)

Clarinet

Terri Quirk
Paula Vargas

Bassoon

Jillian Smith
Barbara Sisson

French Horn

Lesan VanSyckle
Karen Buckley
Tica Lossee
Margie Craver

Trumpet

Scott Nelson
Lew Buckley
Doug Purcell

Trombone

Ed Stromski
Mary Lund
Tony Brown

Tuba

Kevin Blackstock

Timpani

Dennis St Germain

Percussion

Rod Jacob
Frank Kelly
Kathy Shoenfelt

Harp

Meredith Coffman

Organ

Linda Rosalsky

Contractors

Virginia Lambole
Ralph Gingery

Next Concert for The Village Voices Chorus

March 12, 2024

Please know that your attendance at our concerts combined with the very generous donations received from our Patrons, Sponsors, and Benefactors, enable the Chorus to lend support and aide to a number of area groups, individuals, and charitable organizations. We filter all that we do through our motto of Harmony • Charity • Education and sincerely appreciate all that you do to help us accomplish our mission. As a result of the proceeds from last season's Silver Anniversary celebrations combined with the very generous donations received from our many friends, we were able to contribute \$48,000 to area groups, individuals, and charitable organizations. Thank you.

Patrons, Sponsors, Benefactors

Diamond (\$1,000 and up)

Anonymous
Harold & Joy Campbell
Carol Guglielm
Dee Logé-Wacker
Tom & Roxy Meloy
Diana Wygand

In memory of Douglas F. Wacker, MD

Platinum (\$500 – \$999)

Pat Witzeman

In memory of husband, Jim and grandson, Liam

Gold (\$250 – \$499)

Steve & Carol Broos
Marcia Gould
Reina Wang & Henry Mendenhall
Vicki Yates

*In memory of Lindsay Margaret Wanish
(daughter, forever 20)*

Silver (\$100 – \$249)

Debbie & John Carter
Amy Cornwall-Robinson
David Flanigan
Dick Gainer
Jackie Knight
Janet & Mike Landry
Carole Makus
Carol Mc Neill
Jim McQuiniff
Mary Lou Merkner
Andy & Jeanne Phillips
Dick & Posie Stock
Narda Vega

*In memory of Judy Joray and Donna Davidson
In memory of Roger McNeill*

*In honor of all young singers
In memory of our parents*

Bronze (\$10 – \$99)

Jack Adams
Karen Brown
Peg Burnett
Geryle Conway
Wayne Cunkelman
Jim & Peg Cunningham
Marie Erline
Clayton Heath
Rose Marie Heenan
Al & Ellen Hellwege
Julia Johansson
Donna Kagan
Cak Marshall
Elizabeth Martin
Margo McGinnis
Carolyn Moores
Laurie Morrill
Joan O'Donnell
Ben Osborne
Richie D. Paola
Sheila Phillips
Bob Taylor
Evangeline Taylor
Mary Williams

Celebrating my 25th year as a member

In honor of my wife, Donna

In honor of my daughter's music career

*In honor of Village Voices board members
In honor of our Village Voices Maestro, John Lowe*

*In memory of Jennifer Cira, Daughter
In memory of Oscar Dahle*

In memory of loved ones

*In memory of Pat Taylor
For Jeff who made this possible for me*

In Appreciation

North Lake Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Jeff Hosmer, Sr. Pastor
Shawn Smith, Associate Pasto
Liz Smith, Congregational Care Pastor
Lynn Miller, Visitation Pastor
Kathy Yoakum, Office Manager
David Paul, Buildings and Grounds
Ben Rogers, AV Technician, Footprint AV
Sallie Matteson, Traditional Music Assistant

Lake County Sheriff's Office

For Special Services

Dr. Sandra Willetts – Conductor Emeritus
Robert T. Heagy, III – Ocala Copy Center
Diana Wygand, Carole Makus – Music Librarians
Ralph Gingery – Artistic Liaison and Special Orchestrations
Teri Weed, Dee Logé-Wacker, Tom Meloy, Pamela Ripp – Publicity
Carol Broos – Information Technologies
Jack Strite – Program
Teri Weed – Stage Manager
Board of Directors - Village Voices Chorus

The Village Voices Chorus thanks you for your support in our quest to preserve and perform the great music of the ages. Your attendance at our concerts and the many generous donations we receive from our loyal patrons enable us to support the professional efforts of local musicians, to contribute to local charities such as Operation Homebound of the North Lake Presbyterian Church, and through our cooperative efforts with the Howard Schwartz Music Scholarship we assist talented young musicians accomplish their dreams of a baccalaureate degree in the fine arts. Thank you for helping us to achieve our vision of

Harmony • Charity • Education

If you would like to become a donor and participate in our Annual Fund Raising Project for the 2023– 2024 season, please indicate your preference and complete the brief form below, and then send this sheet along with your donation to:

Village Voices Chorus, Inc
P.O. Box 485
Lady Lake, FL 32158

The Village Voices Chorus is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please list the name of the person you are remembering or honoring through your donation.

Make checks payable to The Village Voices Chorus.

THE VILLAGE VOICES CHORUS



THE VILLAGES, FL

Harmony • Charity • Education



To our families, friends, and loyal supporters the Village Voices Chorus extends a warm and heartfelt welcome to our 2023 Holiday Spectacular! with Festival Orchestra. At this wonderful time of year, we have many wishes for you. We wish you the gift of music, the gift of love, the gift of peace, the gift of joy, the gift of good health, the gift of belonging, and the gift of happiness. We wish you the gift of a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Let Peace then Still the Strife by David Warner

*Let peace then still the strife,
The loneliness and grief,
Come heal the piercing silence of passing.
And sweet familiar strains,
The voices lost in death,
Arise in songs of hope everlasting.
Then let the voices roll
As waves upon the sea,
Come forth and break upon us, refreshing.*

*And barren coves be filled,
O'erflow with reverie!
Let mem'ry salve as Gilead's caressing.
And though the balm be spread,
Let tender rifts remain
That breaking hearts not yield to forgetting.
For hearts rent wide at death,
Unfolded to our dead,
Hear singing from beyond sunlight's setting.*

*Then sing, beloved ones,
Reach o'er the summer sea.
Pour forth thy boundless love for us living!
Sweep into ev'ry soul,
Make music of our tears,
Turn all our songs to joy and thanksgiving!
And when we silent pass,
From far across the sea
Let praises ring for life's wond'rous blessing.*

*Then sing ye living souls!
Sing generations past,
Swell high the tide of life, us refreshing!
Sing forth as with one voice,
Bear silent grief away,
Resound with peace and hope everlasting!
And all who wait and sing
Sing on from earth and heav'n
And make our crossing forth joyful passing!*

Amen!

Auditions

The Chorus actively recruits and welcomes new members. Auditions are held in August and January of each performance season. As a result of the auditions held on August 16, 2023, we had 13 new singers join the Chorus. If you would like to try out for the Chorus, Dr. Lowe will conduct the second auditions for this season on January 10, 2024. Visit our website, complete and submit the on-line audition request form, and our Membership Chairperson, Val Hirsch, will contact you.

Visit our website for ticket and for audition information:

www.TheVillageVoicesChorus.org