


THE PEMIGEWASSET CHORAL SOCIETY | SEASON 49

Snow Angel

and other
seasonal selections



2021 WINTER CONCERTS

William Gunn, *Music Director*
Laura Belanger, *Accompanist* | Alex Ellsworth, *Cello*

ADMISSION BY DONATION
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Thursday | December 2 | 7:30 PM
Gilford Community Church | Gilford

Friday | December 3 | 7:30 PM
St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church | Franklin



Sunday | December 5 | 3:00 PM
PSU Silver Center | Plymouth



pemichoral.org



“Even though
the snow may blow,
*there’s not a wind
can stop my music!*”
—from *Snow Angel* by Sarah Quartel

Happy Holidays from the Alto section, from our snow angels to yours.

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*The Pemigewasset Choral Society lifts
all hearts during the winter season.*

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*“Our world then - our world now - both bleak and bright, always on the brink of night.
So ... the townspeople danced and sang...”
First Angel, Snow Angel, Sarah Quartel*

Music sustains us, it inspires and unites us. But for most of 2020, we couldn't make music in a group. Zoom let us sing, but not together. Only in spring 2021 could we gather outdoors, rehearsing in masks and often in full winter gear: hats, gloves, and jackets. The result was two highly successful concerts with NH Master Chorale in Riverside Amphitheater in Plymouth. We are enormously grateful to the community for the enthusiastic support we received.

Pemi Choral Society has not performed for an indoor audience since December 2019, and we've missed you. There is something special about returning to the indoor venues where we've sung so many times and where we see so many friends and relatives. We are proud to sing for you and we thank you for continuing to be there for us and for welcoming us into your community and your lives.

Our December concert includes some familiar seasonal works and a few new ones, including Snow Angel by Sarah Quartel. This lovely piece reminds us of the good in the world, and that “the energy of generosity, of compassion, of love, is circular.”

I'd also like to extend a special thank you to Ann Nichols, who resigned this summer as President of the Board. Her love of music and dedication to Pemi Choral Society has been indispensable these past few years. We hope to hear her voice again soon.

Happy holidays to you and your families. May 2022 bring peace, health, and contentment to us all.

Marilyn Pomerantz

Acting President, Pemigewasset Choral Society



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Choral Society**
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The Pemigewasset Choral Society
P.O. Box 115, Plymouth, NH 03264 • pemichoral.org

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WILLIAM GUNN
Music Director

William Gunn is the director of music at Plymouth Regional High School (PRHS) where he conducts the Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers. Mr. Gunn received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Ithaca College and his Masters of Music in Conducting from Colorado State University. He has studied conducting with Wes Kenney, Dwight Bigler, Steve Peterson, and Eric Hammer.

Choirs under Mr. Gunn's direction have consistently received high ratings at local and regional festivals. In 2014, the PRHS Chamber Singers were chosen to be the featured choir at the All New England Choral Festival. In 2016, the PRHS Concert Choir premiered a new work, *Time* by Ian Soderberg, and raised more than two thousand dollars for ALS research. The piece included text by a local author who lost her battle with ALS in 2015. Mr. Gunn has also commissioned new works with Jonathan Santore and Michael John Trotta.

Mr. Gunn performs regularly with New Hampshire Master Chorale, Manchester Choral Society, and New Hampshire Friendship Chorus. In 2018, Mr. Gunn was a conducting scholar at the Delaware Choral Academy in Aix-en-Provence, France. He is also the Treble Choir manager for the New Hampshire All-State Festival and President of the NH chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.



LAURA V. BELANGER
Accompanist

Laura V. Belanger received her degree from Manhattan School of Music where she studied under Bronson Ragan and Frederick Swan. She holds Choir Master (ChM) and Associateship (AAGO) certificates from the American Guild of Organists (AGO).

Ms. Belanger is an active composer and has directed and accompanied choruses and church choirs throughout New England, including the University Glee Club of Providence, RI. She is an avid enthusiast of musical theatre and as such has served as music director for many community theatre productions, including *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Godspell*, and *Cinderella*. In 2017, Ms. Belanger was nominated for "Best Musical Direction in a Community Theatre Production" by NH Theatre Awards.

Ms. Belanger is recently retired from her role as a Steinway sales consultant at Steinert's Pianos in Natick, MA. She lives in New Hampshire's Lakes Region and serves as organist at the Sanbornton Congregational Church in Sanbornton, NH.

You can learn more about Laura at her website: LVBMusic.com



ALEXANDER ELLSWORTH

Cello

Alex Ellsworth is a cellist and music educator from Plymouth, New Hampshire. He studied at the University of Maryland School of Music and continued graduate work at DePaul University. While living in Chicago, Alex co-founded the contemporary performance

ensemble, Mocrep, performed in Symphony Hall as a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and toured three continents with the theater company, Manual Cinema. In 2020 he returned to New Hampshire to join Holderness School as Music Director, Dorm Parent and Soccer Coach. Alex plays on a cello attributed to Franz Geiffenhof from 1815 thanks to the incredible generosity of many of the members of the Pemi Choral Society and greater Plymouth area.

The cello is sponsored by Rosemary and Herbert D'Arcy

In Memoriam

Nancy Chandler

Cynthia J. (Cindy) Clark

Mary Margaret (Mimi) Ford

Frederick Smith

Carol Stockhausen

Hugh Sycamore



Quotable quotes from Pemi members

“Making music together is joyful. I can be in a bad mood or tired before a rehearsal, but it all falls away once we begin singing together. We have had wonderful directors, who inspire us—it is a joy to make great music, and then share it with an audience.”

Kathy Hillier, Plymouth, Alto 1 (One of the original founders of the Pemi Chorus, who has been singing in the chorus since 1973)

“I love being part of creating the harmony in a song—the polyphony of a full chorus. I don’t have to be the best singer in the group, because the whole chorus creates a sound that is so much greater than the sum of its individual members.”

Joel Funk, Rumney, Tenor 2

“I just moved to NH from California, and was looking for a community chorus to sing in. The Pemi Chorus has been very welcoming, and I am glad I found it. I love to sing, and it’s wonderful to be surrounded by others who like to sing, too. Singing in a group elevates my voice, and I can dare to sing out more, and continue to get better.”

Carol Zink, Holderness, Alto 2

The Pemigewasset Choral Society
SINGING MEMBERSHIP

Soprano One

Elizabeth Burow, *Rumney*
Kimberly Coursey, *Wentworth*
Eileen Curran-Kondrad, *New Hampton*
Olivia Etchings, *Woodstock*
Emma Forest, *Laconia*
Kelly McGowan, *Waterville Valley*
Linda-Lee Scott, *Center Harbor*
Carol Stewart, *Thornton*
Kirsten Wilkinson, *Sanbornton*

Soprano Two

Deborah Corr, *New Hampton*
Melanie Dixon, *Plymouth*
Gisela Behrendt Estes, *Plymouth*
Josianne Fitzgerald, *Meredith*
Nancy Frost, *Gilford*
Gina Healy, *Laconia*
Suellen Kador, *Meredith*
Barbara McCahan, *Plymouth*
Nancy Nesheim, *Meredith*
Susan Scrimshaw, *Thornton*
Kimberly Sterndale, *Meredith*
Lois Wagner, *Campton*

Alto One

Janis Bass, *Holderness*
Phyllis Corrigan, *Gilford*
Lin Everett, *Hebron*
Lulu Fite, *Gilford*
Mandy Gennaro, *Holderness*
Kim Hamel, *Wolfboro*
Katherine Hillier, *Plymouth*
Denise Hutchins, *Campton*
Rebecca McCuin, *Thornton*
Janet Panagoulis, *Holderness*
Anita Ross, *Thornton*
Olivia Smith, *Northfield*
Lea A. Stewart, *Campton*

Alto Two

Robbin Adams, *Campton*
Lourdes Aviles, *Campton*
Susan Chadwick, *Bristol*
Rosemary D'Arcy, *Bristol*
Sally Filteau, *Hebron*
Mary Hazelton, *Hebron*
Elsie Ivester, *Gilford*
Mary Lloyd-Evans, *New London*
Carol Lowden, *Woodstock*
Victoria Merriman, *Ellsworth*

The Pemigewasset Choral Society
SINGING MEMBERSHIP

Alto Two (cont.)

Gaia Posner, *Plymouth*
Sara Willingham, *Concord*
Carol Zink, *Holderness*

Tenor One

Michael Bramer, *Campton*
Sarah Bunkley, *Plymouth*
Pam Coburn, *Meredith*
AJ Coppola, *Thornton*
Gabrielle Crandall, *Center Harbor*
Jay Frost, *Meredith*
Peter Kador, *Meredith*
Mary Edith Kovach-Heise, *Campton*
Ginny Lovett, *Meredith*
Nam Nguyen, *Plymouth*
Marilyn Pomerantz, *Thornton*
Patricia Timbury, *Woodstock*

Tenor Two

Joel Funk, *Rumney*
Woodie Laverack, *Holderness*
Gary McCool, *Rumney*
Allan Stern, *Thornton*

Bass One

Steven Anglea, *Rumney*
Dan Hale, *Plymouth*
Robert Harrington, *Laconia*
Franz Kuder, *Groton*

Bass Two

Glenn Graunas, *Plymouth*
Matthew Murray, *Waterville Valley*
Thomas Perkins, *Holderness*
Logan Ross, *Thornton*
Rob Stewart, *Thornton*

“Hard to realize it’s now the 10th anniversary of our final concert together! Please keep singing the right notes.”

Bob and Margot Swift

New Hampshire
Master Chorale

Dan Perkins, music director

Brava!

to our friends in the
Pemi Choral Society

Visit NHMASTERCHORALE.ORG

Season Nineteen

Spring 2022 Repertoire

Missa in tempore belli (Mass in Time of War)
Joseph Hadyn

Seven Last Words of the Unarmed
America Will Be
Joel Thompson

Snow Angel

PROGRAM

Veni Veni Emmanuel
In Winter

Flute: AJ Coppola
The Holly and the Ivy
Christmas Memories
Shepherd's Pipe Carol
O Holy Night
Deck the Halls **

Michael John Trott
Victor Johnson

John Rutter
Rosephanye Powell
John Rutter
Keith Christopher
Traditional

**Join us in this Sing-A-Long

Intermission

Fantasia on Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughn Williams
Alex Ellsworth, Cello

Snow Angel

Sarah Quartel

1. Prologue
2. Creatures of Light
3. God Will Give Orders
4. Sweet Child
5. Snow Angel

Narrators: Sue Chadwick, Rosemary D'Arcy and Denise Hutchins
Djembe: Emma Forrest
Cello: Alex Ellsworth

Angels We Have Heard on High**

Traditional

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

arr. Livingston Gearhart

PROGRAM NOTES

It seems fitting to center our concert program around angels. We dedicate these performances to the “angels” who have made it possible for us to sing together again — doctors, nurses, and scientists who have made incredible advancements in the last eighteen months to allow us to rehearse safely.. Angels are central figures in many religions, and are often messengers between earth and heaven. We see their depictions and images in art, literature, and music dating back thousands of years. Sarah Quartel uses this music to enhance the story of three angels, our narrators, who will tell their stories to you. The Prologue introduces the audience to these celestial beings. The ominous opening with the piano and cello bring us into the opening mantra from the choir:

All his angels, all his heavenly armies, open your eyes, sweet child.

In the second movement, Creatures of Light, Quartel uses excerpts of a poem by Thomas Moore (1779-1852) to depict the wonder of seeing these magnificent creatures.

*Creatures of light, such as still play
Like motes in the sunshine, round the Lord,
And through their infinite array
Transmit each moment, night and day
The echo of his luminous word!
Creatures of light
When earth lay nearer to the skies than in these days of crime and woe,
And mortals saw, without surprise, in midair, angelic eyes
Gazing upon the earth below
Creatures of light*

The third and fourth movements, God Will Give Orders/Sweet Child are performed together without pause. They speak to the innocence and faith of children, rooted in the comfort from the angel’s protection.

*God will give orders to his angels about you,
And all his angels, all his armies sing “ah”!
Do not think poorly of these little children.
All of them have an angel in heaven,
And all of their angels can see the face of the Father.*

*Sweet child, hear my song
Sweet child, I will guard you
Sweet child, you’re the future
Love and mercy, show to others
Faith like a child, can hear the song
A song that falls on ears of those who wait, like a child for peace to come.
And trust that we will learn to show them love,
Like a child who knows no wrong from being loved by those who’ve taught them.
Faith, like a child, who knows no wrong
from being loved by those who’ve taught them
Faith, like a child, forever strong. The circle goes on.*

In the last movement, Snow Angel, the text paints the story of the third 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 flowers 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.
When she knew that the flowers 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 heaven, but now I have one down here.*

Will Gunn
Music Director

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DECK THE HALLS

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
 Fa la la la la, la la la la
 'Tis the season to be jolly
 Fa la la la la, la la la la
 Don we now our gay apparel
 Fa la la la la, la la la la
 Troll the ancient Yuletide carol
 Fa la la la la, la la la la

See the blazing yule before us
 Fa la la la la, la la la la
 Strike the harp and join the chorus
 Fa la la la la, la la la la
 Follow me in merry measure
 Fa la la la la, la la la la
 While I tell of Yuletide treasure
 Fa la la la la, la la la la

Fast away, the old year passes
 Fa la la la la, la la la la
 Hail the new, ye lads and lasses
 Fa la la la la, la la la la
 Sing we joyous all together, oh
 Heedless of the wind and weather
 Fa la la la la, la la la la

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains
 And the mountains in reply
 Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be
 Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing,
 Come, adore on bended knee,
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo



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The 2021-22 Swift Scholars

Dr. Robert Swift directed the Pemigewasset Choral Society and his wife Margot accompanied the chorus for over 30 years. When the Swifts retired after the Winter Concert series in 2011, the Pemi Choral Society gift to the Swifts was a scholarship in perpetuity at Plymouth State University for deserving music majors. This fall, the three students selected to receive Swift Scholarship support are Tyler Nadeau, Kaci Cochran and Olivia Perrault. All three will be performing with the Pemi Chorus in spring of 2022 when the Plymouth State University Chorale and Chamber Singers will join us to sing the Requiem for the Living by Dan Forrest. Congratulations to these three talented and dedicated music students!

LIVE THEATRE SEASON



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
October 7-9, 2021
Based on the Best-Selling Novel by Mark Haddon
Adapted by Simon Stephens



You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Nov. 11-20, 2021
Based on the Comic Strip "Peanuts" By Charles Schulz
Book, Music, & Lyrics by Clark Gesner with Michael Mayer & Andrew Lippa



Little Women
February 24 – 26, 2022
Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott
Music by Jason Howland
Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein
Book by Allan Knee



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Anne Hunnewell
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*We are very grateful to all our donors
and apologize if we have inadvertently made an error*

Listings as of November 7, 2021

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY!

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Choir of Angels

Perhaps they're listening,
those countless angels, their hymns dipped
down, their halos tilted toward Earth,
pausing in their praise to hear
this concert of voices,
this effort of humans.

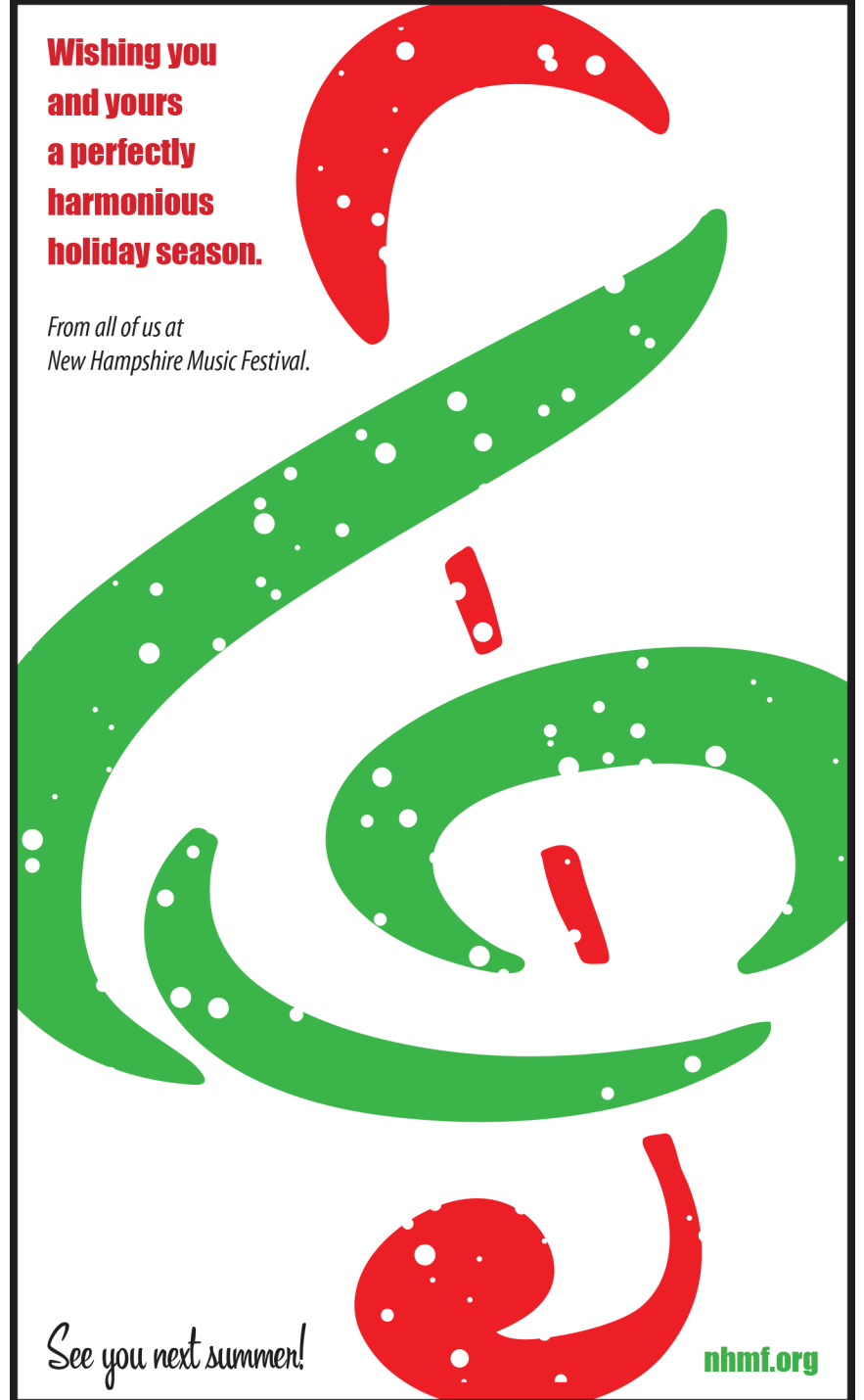
Air trembles now into music out of nothing
but breath between us,
rising and falling into a miracle
beyond touch and pain, free
from past and tomorrow.

Seraphim can feel the vibrations with their wings.

The Tenor Section wishes
everyone
a lovely winter season.

**Wishing you
and yours
a perfectly
harmonious
holiday season.**

*From all of us at
New Hampshire Music Festival.*



See you next summer!

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