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Chorale*

*2022 Holiday
Prelude Concert*

Tina Johns Heidrich
Music Director & Conductor

November 20, 2022

Our 22nd Season!

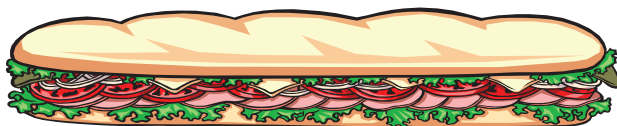
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Connecticut Master Chorale

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

Connecticut Master Chorale Orchestra

Our Next Concert

To Hope! A Celebration - Dave Brubeck

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Dave Brubeck's birth, we recognize his many contributions to the world of music. Legendary for his unique jazz, he also gained wide recognition as a composer of classical works. His superb choral writing is evident in this glorious Mass that truly makes a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Wendy Gerbier, Mezzo-soprano

Marques Tollie, Tenor

I'm Gonna Sing! - André Thomas

A collection of spirituals from the master of spiritual writing!

Dr. Thomas is a distinguished conductor, composer and arranger who is especially well known for his wonderful arrangements of traditional spirituals. This collection includes

*I'm Gonna Sing, Deep River, Swing Down, Chariot,
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Sunday, March 5, 2023 – 3:00 pm

First Congregational Church of Danbury

\$20 in advance – \$25 at the door

For information and tickets, call 203-740-9533

www.cmchorale.org

About the Connecticut Master Chorale

The Connecticut Master Chorale, founded and directed by Tina Johns Heidrich in 1999, is a premiere ensemble of professional caliber vocalists in Western Connecticut. As we continue into our third decade, we are especially grateful for the enthusiastic audiences who have contributed to our success, and we look forward to continuing our tradition of bringing dynamic and exciting music to the area.

As we look back at our achievements, we have had many special experiences in addition to our regularly scheduled concerts each year.

One of our most exciting honors was being invited to perform at the **White House** in December 2002. We were selected through a recorded audition and sang in the Grand Foyer for thousands of White House guests, including workers for Air-Force One and Marine-One, the Marine Corps, the Secret Service, and their families. We are extremely proud to have been granted this distinction!

We were invited to sing in the U.S. premiere of Karl Jenkins' ***Stabat Mater*** at **Lincoln Center** in New York City in January 2009. Meeting the composer, hearing his comments, and singing the piece in his presence added insight and inspiration to our performance in March 2009 in Connecticut.

On Easter Sunday 2002, we performed by invitation at **Carnegie Hall**, singing John Rutter's ***Magnificat*** under his direction. We returned to Carnegie Hall in January 2003 to sing Mozart's ***Coronation Mass***, and again in November 2005, when Rutter conducted us in a performance of his ***Mass of the Children***.

Another accomplishment was winning the annual McDonald's Gospelfest Competition for three consecutive years. In June 2004, we performed as a Regional Representative in Gospelfest 2004 at **Madison Square Garden**. Our 2001 Gospelfest performance was televised on ABC in July 2001.

We have also sung as invited guests at West Point Military Academy, and with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra. Our concert recordings have been featured on WMNR Fine Arts Radio, and recently on WJMJ in Hartford. The video can be found on our website.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our performance, and we thank you for your support. We are especially grateful to the First Congregational Church of Danbury, our advertisers, our contributing members, our audience, and to the many individuals who help support us. For more information about the Chorale, please call 203-775-2602 or visit www.cmchorale.org.



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About Our Director



Tina Johns Heidrich is the Founder and Music Director of the Connecticut Master Chorale. A dynamic leader with her own distinct vision and style, she consistently produces memorable performances filled with sensitivity, emotion and passion, engaging both singers and audience. Her unique approach of “work hard but have fun” and her immense energy ensure an exciting and educational experience for her singers, while eliciting their very highest performance quality.

Ms. Heidrich has led the Chorale to artistic acclaim and recognition - including the great honor of being invited to sing at the White House in December 2002. The Chorale sang by invitation in January 2009 at Lincoln Center in the U.S. premiere of Karl Jenkins’ “Stabat Mater”. The Chorale has also performed at Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall (three times), West Point Military Academy, and with the Ridgefield Symphony as their guest chorus – all by invitation. They won the annual McDonald’s Gospelfest Competition for three consecutive years and appeared on ABC TV.

Born and raised in Danbury, Ms. Heidrich earned her Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Vocal Music Education from Western Connecticut State University.

With an extensive background and over 45 years of experience in choral and orchestral conducting, she has directed numerous school, church, and community choirs and orchestras, as well as musical theatre. She has directed choruses on tour in Eastern Europe, Canada, and Washington, DC, and on ABC’s “Good Morning America”, and has served as Guest Conductor for several groups, including the Danbury Music Centre’s annual “Messiah” performance, and Guest Clinician for the Western Connecticut State University Chamber Choir Festival.

From 1990 to October 2017, Ms. Heidrich was the Director of Music of the First Congregational Church of Bethel, where she served as organist and directed the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs.

“As the Chorale continues into our third decade, I remain as excited as I was when the group began. We have performed over 500 unique pieces by over 400 composers in many venues, and worked with today’s leading composers. And what pleases me most both personally and professionally, is the music we create, the outstanding sound of the group, the satisfaction after each performance, and the enthusiasm and loyalty of our audiences.”

Connecticut Master Chorale

Memorable Moments

- Founded in 1999
- White House Christmas performance
- Guests of West Point Military Academy
- Carnegie Hall with John Rutter
1st time: 2002 Rutter's "Magnificat"
- Carnegie Hall with Terre Johnson
2nd time: 2003 Mozart's "Coronation Mass"
- Carnegie Hall with John Rutter
3rd time: 2005 Rutter's "Mass of the Children"
- Lincoln Center – U.S. Premiere of Karl Jenkins' "Stabat Mater"
- Madison Square Garden performance
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
1st time: 2001
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
2nd time: 2002
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
3rd time: 2003
- ABC7 TV appearance
- Guests of Nutmeg Opera Company
Puccini's "La Traviata"
- Guests of Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra
"Viva Verdi" concert

About Our Accompanist

Joseph J. Jacovino, Jr. graduated from the Hartt College of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance and from the Manhattan School of Music with a Master's Degree in Music Education. He retired in 2014, after 35 years, as the Music Director at Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, where he directed the concert band, jazz band, guitar ensemble, handbell choir, piano keyboard class, and taught music theory.



Since 2000, Mr. Jacovino has been the organist/cantor/choir director at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown, where he has conducted numerous concerts involving the St. Rose Festival Chorus and Orchestra. In 2005 the choir traveled to Italy performing concerts in Rome, Florence, and at the Vatican.

In addition to his 22 seasons as the Connecticut Master Chorale's extraordinarily talented accompanist, he is also a member of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra.

This is also his 16th season as the Music Director of the Waterbury Chorale, which is currently celebrating its 54th season. He is also currently the Interim-Director of the Heritage Singers, Heritage Village, Southbury.

As a composer, Mr. Jacovino has written several sacred choral pieces and masses, including "Christmas at the Palace" (a tribute to the Waterbury Palace Theater), "Enshrined in the Grace of God", dedicated to Waterbury's Shrine of St. Anne, and "Something Beautiful for God", based upon a prayer by Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Mr. Jacovino has been an active piano soloist, having appeared with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra, Naugatuck Valley Community College Orchestra, the Connecticut Master Chorale and Orchestra, and the St. Rose Festival Chorus and Orchestra. He has appeared in recital on numerous occasions as a classical organist and pianist.



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Joseph Jacovino, Music Director • Leslie Merwin, Accompanist



the Waterbury Chorale

Friday, December 2, 2023

7:30 PM

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Sunday, December 4, 2022

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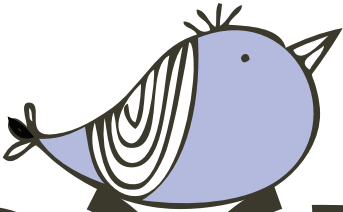
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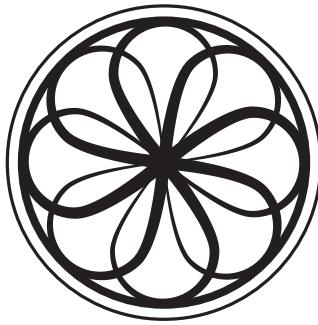
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# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

## *2022 Holiday Prelude Concert*

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor  
Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

|                            |                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Christmas Gloria           | Douglas E. Wagner                              |
| Unto Us a Son Is Born      | arr. Trevor Manor                              |
| Joy to the World           | Lowell Mason                                   |
| May Steinberg, piano primo | words by Isaac Watts; arr. Dan Forrest         |
| Ecce Novum                 | Ola Gjeilo                                     |
| Little Drop of Heaven      | Pepper Choplin                                 |
| Look-A That Star           | Jay Althouse                                   |
| Robert Bria, solo          |                                                |
| Light                      | Lisa Loeb and Cliff Goldmacher; arr. Andy Beck |
| A Garland of Carols        | arr. Linda Spevacek                            |

### *15-minute intermission*

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Holiday Film Festival | arr. Alan Billingsley |
| Winter With You       | Pinkzebra             |

### *A MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY*

|                                                                 |                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Ale Pun (Spain)                                                 | arr. Ruth Elaine Schram                     |
| Petit Enfant (France)                                           | Linda Miller Shaw and Dana Thompson         |
| May Steinberg, flute                                            |                                             |
| Gesú Bambino (Italy)                                            | Pietro A. Yon                               |
|                                                                 | words by Frederick H. Martens               |
| A Greek New Year's Carol                                        | arr. Tina Johns Heidrich                    |
| Winter Wonderland                                               | Felix Bernard; words by Dick Smith          |
|                                                                 | arr. Greg Jasperse                          |
| Gettin' in the Mood for Christmas                               | Joseph Garland                              |
| words by and Brian Setzer and Michael Himelstein; arr. Mac Huff |                                             |
| Christ Is Born                                                  | Tim Greene; arr. Mike Speck and Cliff Duren |
|                                                                 | orchestrated by Chris McDonald              |

# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

## **SOPRANO**

Karrie Beaulieu  
Debbie Benham  
Ginnie Carey  
Sheila Corr  
Carina Decremer  
Emily Flower  
Mary Fraser  
Trish Grinnell  
Michele McDonald  
Robin Michalak  
Christine Michel  
Heidi Palmer  
Kristen Schretzenmayer  
Peg Sheehan  
May Steinberg  
Michaela Taylor  
Carol Wheeler  
Sarah Zamudio

## **TENOR**

Robert Bria  
Roy Deoss  
Steve Gardner  
David Jurman  
David Nicholson  
Tim Smith  
Daria Verelley  
Tom Wolff

## **ALTO**

Gale Barna  
Angela Caes  
Sandy Chadwick  
Anita Corbeil  
Teresa DeCarlo  
Anna Jedd  
Sandy Johnson  
B.J. Johnston-O'Connor  
Bobbi Lyon  
Rebecca Masayda  
Janet Nazzaro  
Nancy Northrop  
Kate Peterson  
Julie Pope  
Nancy Raymond  
Leona Schwartz  
Jana Tvedt

## **BASS**

James P. Alworth III  
Dana Demand  
Rich Drygas  
Eric Hudson  
Jack Kelly  
Brad Peterson  
Walt Rynkiewicz  
Gary Sander  
Pastor Gregory Wismar

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*We wish you a very  
Happy Thanksgiving  
and a joyous  
Holiday Season!*

# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

## *Holiday Brass*

### **Trumpets**

Frank Tamburro

Jessie Joy Wills

### **Trombones**

Marshall Brown

Jackie Harris-Stone

### **Tuba**

Walter Gibson

### **Fender Bass**

Steve Taylor

### **Percussion**

Robert Nolte

Peter Coutsouridis

### **Piano/Organ**

Joseph Jacovino, Jr.

### **Personnel Manager**

Walter Gibson

## *Program Notes*

*by Ginnie Carey*

**Christmas Gloria** - Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952). An internationally recognized composer and arranger, Mr. Wagner is now a full-time composer after 30 years as a music educator and administrator. His Christmas Gloria opens with dramatic organ, brass and voices that evoke the angels singing their glorias on high to celebrate the wondrous birth of the child in the manger.

**Unto Us a Son Is Born** - arr. and trans by Trevor Manor (b. 1985). *Puer nobis nascitur* was first published in 1582 in Finland in *Piae Cantiones*, a volume of 74 medieval songs in Latin. Composer and music director Trevor Manor did his own translation and created this splendid arrangement.

**Joy to the World** - Lowell Mason (1792-1872); words by Isaac Watts (1674-1748); arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978). The most published Christian hymn in North America, *Joy to the World* was written in 1719 by Isaac Watts, a precocious child who began to learn Latin at age 4 and was writing poetry at 7. He became a minister and wrote sermons, poems and hymns, but today is best known for the more than 800 hymns he wrote.

The hymn tune ANTIOCH was first published in Lowell Mason's *The Modern Psalmist* in 1839 as "Arranged from Handel" by Mason, but there has long been speculation over the facts. Today Handel scholars believe that the similarities are a "chanced resemblance", and that Mason, a known admirer of Handel, arranged something that he assumed was from Handel. Mason is known as the Father of American Church Music, and he was also the person who first introduced music education into American public schools.

Dan Forrest has been one of the Chorale's favorite composers for some time. His experience with Irish traditional music inspired him to create this marvelous arrangement that gives new meaning to the word joy!

**Ecce Novum** - Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978). The text *Ecce, novum gaudium* was also first published in *Piae Cantiones* (1582) and the composer has used the first verse and the refrain for his exquisitely gentle choral setting, which can be found on his album *Winter Songs*. Norwegian Ola Gjeilo first came to the United States to study composition at the Julliard School. He is also an accomplished pianist and presently lives in Los Angeles.

*Behold, a new joy. Behold, a new wonder! Bears a son.  
She knew not a man, but as the pear-tree bears the pear,  
the flourishing papyrus brings the lily from the soil.  
See how nature changes her laws! A pure virgin bears the son of God.*

**Little Drop of Heaven** - Pepper Choplin (b. 1957). The composer was inspired by "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" when he wrote this beautiful a cappella Advent anthem that incorporates a longing for peace. Pepper Choplin is a full-time composer, conductor and humorist who writes in varied styles including folk, Gospel, classical and jazz.

**Look-A That Star** - Jay Althouse (b. 1951). This dynamic new a cappella Christmas spiritual about the star shining bright is a stellar example of the quality of Jay Althouse compositions and a perfect showcase for our tenor and bass voices. With wide experience in the world of music education as well as music publishing, he has more than 700 choral works in print. He and his wife have cowritten children's musicals and he is also the author of bestselling books on various musical topics.

**Light** - Lisa Loeb (b. 1968) and Cliff Goldmacher (b. 1968); arr. Andy Beck (b. 1961). Singer-songwriter Lisa Loeb is a multit talented musician who is a Grammy Award winner, actress, writer of books and music for children, and philanthropist who somehow also finds time to design her own line of eyeglasses. Her co-writer, Cliff Goldmacher, is a music educator and composer who has collaborated with many award-winning artists in genres ranging from Americana, blues, country, pop and jazz to classical. Their unusual Hanukkah song is a folk influenced reflection on the Miracle of Light and tells a “story of hope in the darkness”. The arranger, Andy Beck, is director of Choral Publications at Alfred Music and has composed and arranged over 450 popular choral works.

**A Garland of Carols** - arr. Linda Spevacek (b. 1945). Arranger, composer, music educator and author Linda Spevacek has created a wonderful celebratory medley of twelve traditional favorites of the season, starting with Advent and ending with the New Year. Her international selection includes *I Saw Three Ships* (English), *Fum, Fum, Fum* (Spanish), *The March of the Kings*, (*La Marche des Rois, Provençal*), *The Coventry Carol* (English), *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella* (French), *Christ Was Born on Christmas Day* (Old Medieval Melody), *Patapan* (Burgundian), *Mary Had a Baby* (American Spiritual), *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (American Spiritual), *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High* (French), *The Holly and the Ivy* (English) and *Wassail Song* (English).

**Holiday Film Festival** - arr. Alan Billingsley (b. 1955). Arranger, composer, orchestrator and producer of all styles of music, Alan Billingsley is also known for his work as music director and pianist for the NBC daytime series “Days of Our Lives” and his longtime working relationship with The Walt Disney Company. Three memorable songs from a trio of popular holiday movies, *Spirit of the Season* by Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri, from “The Polar Express”, *Welcome Christmas* with music by Albert Hague and words by Dr. Seuss, from “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” and *Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas* with words by Leslie Bricusse and music by John Williams, from “Home Alone 2”, are strung together in a spectacular choral medley.

**Winter With You** - Pinkzebra. The true identity of this mysterious composer is unknown because this is the pseudonym of a “successful music producer and composer” who has “had his music performed by

major symphony orchestras”. A note from the composer to the performers of his music tells us that “There is something magical about the fact that... you are bringing this music to life in a way that can connect and inspire people”. His peaceful, lovely song expresses the simple joy of sharing Winter with someone you love.

## A MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY

**Ale Pun** (Spain) - words and arr. Ruth Elaine Schram (b. 1956). A full-time composer and arranger, Ruth Elaine Schram began lessons in music theory and piano at age 5 and wrote her first song at 12. She now has over 2,000 published works and her songs have appeared on the HBO series *The Sopranos*, while her religious music is popular with many church choirs. A Spanish traditional carol with new words in English, *Ale Pun* describes the trip to Bethlehem by Mary and Joseph and the donkey. Ale pun and cata pun are nonsense words in Spanish that may refer to the sound of the hooves of the donkey as they walk along, but no one really seems to know their origin or true meaning. Some Spanish recordings use *Ale pun, cata pun* as the title of the song.

**Petit Enfant** (France) - Linda Miller Shaw (b. 1951) and Dana Thompson. This hauntingly beautiful French carol, written by Linda Miller Shaw and inspired by a short melody written by music student Dana Thompson when she was only 11, is a wonderful choice for the Chorale’s soprano and alto voices.

*Tiny child, in the arms of the mother,  
Sleep well into the night.  
Tiny child, safe from any harm.  
Oh, sleep well in peace, in peace!  
So precious and so fair, tiny child.  
May the angels guard the night.  
Tiny child, born into such love.  
Watch over every day, tiny child.  
Tiny child, sent from God above.  
Tiny child, in the arms of the mother.  
So tender and new, tiny child, tiny child,  
safe from any harm.  
Oh, so precious and fair, tiny child.*

**Gesú Bambino** (Italy) - Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943); words by Frederick H. Martens (1874-1932). Beginning his musical studies in his native Italy at age 6, Pietro Yon’s talent as an organist was so obvious



that he was assistant organist at St. Peters in the Vatican by the time he was 19. A visiting priest from Manhattan was so impressed he chose Yon as the organist of St. Francis Xavier Church when he was only 21. He started a music school at Carnegie Hall with his organist brother and eventually became the organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral. As a composer he wrote many works for piano, organ and orchestra, including this Italian Christmas classic, *Gesù Bambino*, written in 1917. The chorus is derived from the chorus of *Adeste Fideles* or *O Come All Ye Faithful*, and his creation has survived to become a standard in Italian Christmas music, recorded by Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli and many others. The melody was used by Frederick Martens in his English language carol *When Blossoms Flowered Amidst the Snow*.

### **A Greek New Year's Carol** - arr. Tina Johns Heidrich (b. 1954).

This spirited Greek carol celebrates St. Basil the Great, who is the Santa Claus of the Greek people. His name day or feast day is January 1 and children in Greece typically receive their Christmas presents on this day. Our own Tina Johns Heidrich recalls her childhood, often singing this song with family and friends, and it is with great joy and good memories that she arranged this version for us to sing.

*'Tis the beginning of a new month,  
and a new year, my tall rosemary tree.  
Let us begin our good year  
in the church of the holy throne.  
In the beginning, the holy and spiritual Christ  
walked on earth to warm our hearts.  
Saint Basil is coming!  
O rulers be aware that he comes  
from Kaisareia, a town of nobility.  
He holds an icon, sheet of paper,  
pen, and sugared candy,  
and looks at me as a youthful man.  
The pen had written of my fate and the  
paper spoke of the bright and golden sun.  
Sit down and eat. Sit down and drink.  
Sit down and sing and fill our hearts with joy!*

**Winter Wonderland** - Felix Bernard (1897-1944), words by Dick Smith (1901-1935); arr. Greg Jasperse (b. 1968). Dick Smith, a lyricist who had never had a big hit, was inspired by a snowfall in Pennsylvania, where he was being treated for tuberculosis, to write a romantic Winter poem. He sent the poem to his friend Felix Bernard,

a pianist and composer, who set music to Winter Wonderland, and the rest is history. Bandleader Richard Himber recorded the song with a group of New York musicians that included young clarinetist Artie Shaw. Guy Lombardo heard that recording and rushed to put out his own version before Christmas. It was an immediate hit! Over the years it has been recorded by Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and many others. The original lyrics were about a romance in the winter, but a later version printed in 1947 included a new children's lyric, transforming it into a seasonal song about playing in the snow. Johnny Mathis and others after him connected both versions of the song and sang them together. Composer, arranger and pianist Greg Jasperse is the Director of Vocal Jazz at Western Michigan University and their award-winning vocal jazz ensemble. His jazz influenced version of this classic makes for a very special nostalgic trip down memory lane.

**Getting in the Mood for Christmas** - Joseph Garland (1903-1977); words by Brian Setzer (b. 1959) and Michael Himelstein; arr. Mac Huff (b. 1959). The great Glenn Miller's iconic big-band classic *In the Mood* was composed by Joe Garland, a jazz saxophonist, composer and arranger who also wrote hits for Artie Shaw and Les Brown. He also had a long career playing with many of the great bands, including Louis Armstrong. Singer, songwriter and guitarist Brian Setzer is the leader of the 17-piece Brian Setzer Orchestra (BSO), a swing and jump band formed in 1990. Setzer and songwriter Michael Himelstein wrote the clever new holiday lyrics that reflect the period. With an arrangement by Mac Huff, it was recorded by the BSO for their 2005 album *Dig That Crazy Christmas*.

**Christ Is Born** - Tim Green (b. 1964); arr. Mike Speck (b. 1954), and Cliff Duren (b. 1982); orchestrated by Chris McDonald. Tim Greene is the eldest brother and member of the famous family singers The Greenes, an American Southern gospel trio from Boone, North Carolina. He has also composed music for them, including this great Christmas hit, which is from their 2006 album *Christ Is Born*. Rev. Greene selected portions of *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* and interspersed them with the jubilant message that "Christ is born and things will never be the same!". This is music filled with the boundless excitement, energy and spirit of joy found only in Southern gospel!

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We are delighted to have our concert today in this beautiful sanctuary. Our most gracious thanks to Reverend Pat Kriss, Pastor, Church Administrator Ginger A. Heinlein, Music Director Jim Moriarty, Caretaker Joe Ginty, the staff, and the entire Congregation.

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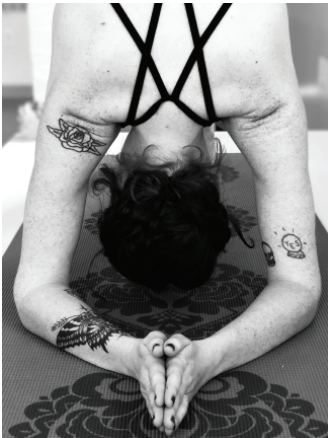


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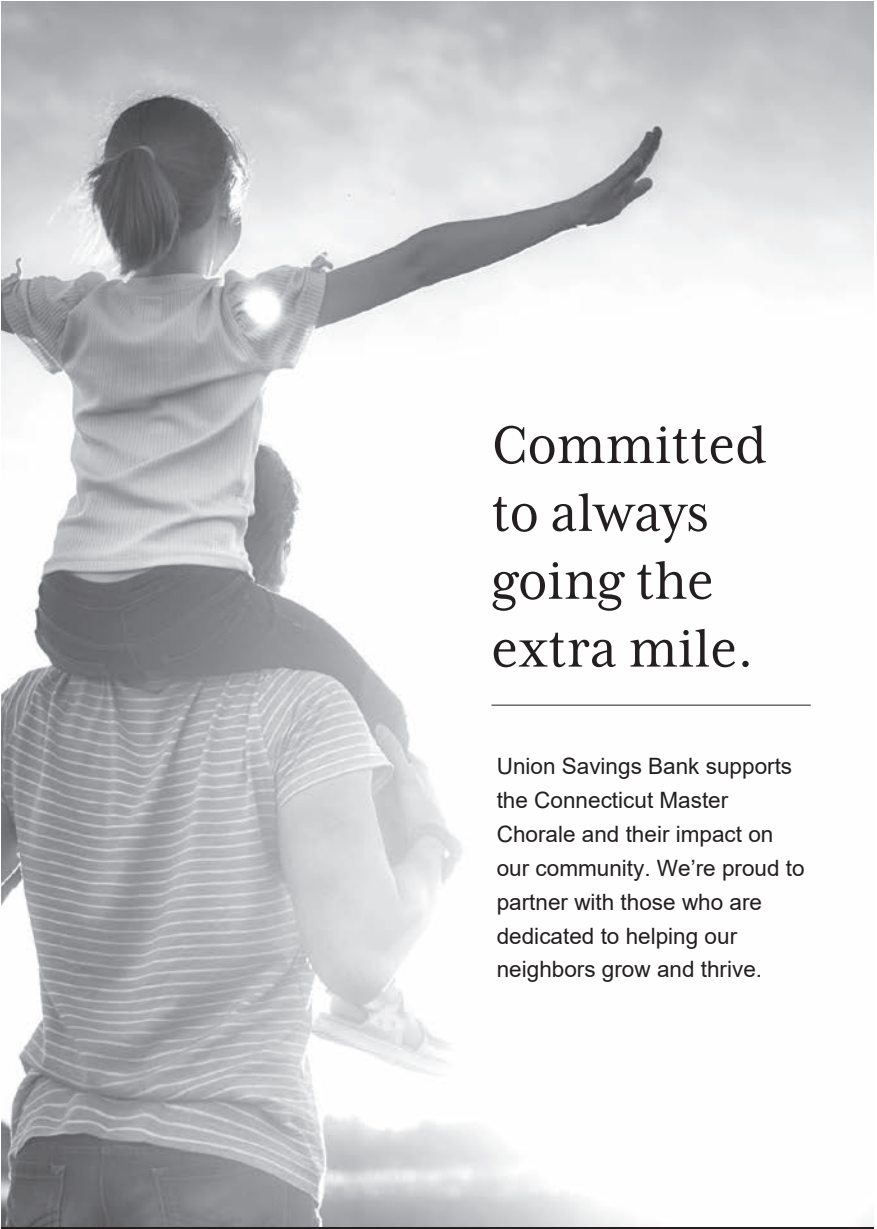
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