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Chorale*

*2025 Holiday
Prelude Concert*

Tina Johns Heidrich
Music Director & Conductor

November 23, 2025

Our 25th Anniversary Season!

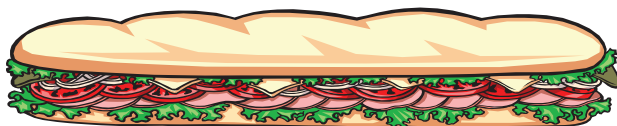
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Connecticut Master Chorale

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

Connecticut Master Chorale Orchestra

Our Next Concert

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A Festive Call to Freedom – arr. Joseph Martin

My Country, 'Tis of Thee – arr. Dan Forrest

Hoe-Down – Aaron Copland

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arr. Greg Gilpin & Larry Clark

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First Congregational Church of Danbury

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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 WJMJ in Hartford.

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.

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"
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
1st time: 2001
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
2nd time: 2002
- McDonald's Gospelfest winner
3rd time: 2003
- Madison Square Garden: Regional Representative in the 2004 Gospelfest
- ABC7 TV appearance
- Guests of Nutmeg Opera Company
Puccini's "La Traviata"
- Guests of Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra
"Viva Verdi" concert

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 Music Education with a major in voice, 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.

For 28 years, 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 celebrates our 25th Anniversary, I remain as excited as I was when the group began. We have performed nearly 600 unique pieces by over 450 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.”

Audition for the Connecticut Master Chorale

We encourage talented and experienced singers who have good choral blending voices and sight-reading skills to consider auditioning.

Rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings at the South Britain Congregational Church
Route 172, Southbury, CT.



More information can be found at
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To inquire about specific openings
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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 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 for 35 years.



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 25 seasons as the Connecticut Master Chorale's extraordinarily talented accompanist, he is currently the accompanist for the choirs at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School, and the staff pianist for the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. This is also his 20th year as the Music Director of the Waterbury Chorale. He also directs the Heritage Singers, at Heritage Village in Southbury.

Mr. Jacovino has composed/arranged several vocal/choral pieces, including "Mass of Gratitude" (St Rose Church) "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 A Happy New Year.....with a Dash of Salsa", "Magnificat" (soprano solo and organ), 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. Joe currently lives in Middlebury with his wife Roberta. His daughter Sara is a professional trombonist/pianist/composer/arranger, living in New York City.



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on another fine season!***

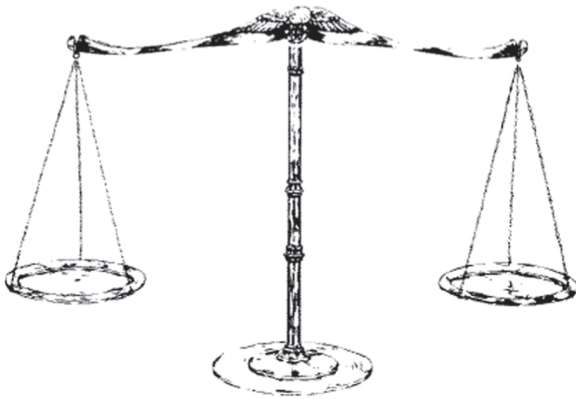


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Proud to support the  
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Master Chorale*



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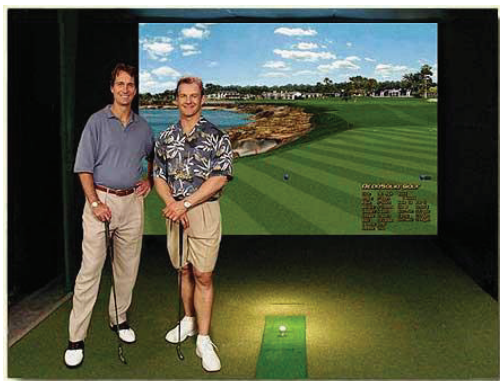
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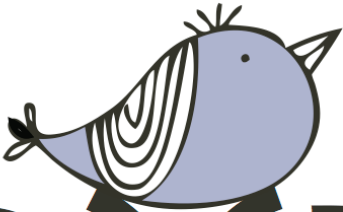
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*Connecticut Master Chorale*  
*2025 Holiday Prelude Concert*  
*Season of Joy!*

|                                    |                                                  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Sing Joy                           | arr. Jay Alhouse                                 |
| Angels We Have Heard of High       | arr. Dan Forrest                                 |
| On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | Charles Coffin                                   |
| May Steinberg, flute               | tr. John Chandler; arr. Michael Culloton         |
| Brad Peterson, tambourine          |                                                  |
| Love's Pure Light                  | Elaine Hagenberg                                 |
| One Sweet Little Baby              | Glenn McClure and Wes Kenninson                  |
|                                    | arr. Shawn Kirchner                              |
| Wisemen of the World               | Zygmunt Odelgiewicz                              |
|                                    | words by Stefan Bortkiewicz; arr. Derek J. Myler |
| Hanukkah, Season of Joy!           | Mark Weston                                      |
| Paul Giammatteo, clarinet          |                                                  |
| Glorious Christmas Refrains        | arr. Tom Fettke                                  |

*15-minute intermission*

|                            |                                            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Glad Tidings of Joy        | Mark Hayes                                 |
| Shout for Joy!             | André Thomas                               |
| Song for a Winter's Night  | Gordon Lightfoot                           |
|                            | arr. Michael Hanawalt and Justine Sasanfar |
| Umoja Tunaimba             | Victor Johnson                             |
| The Star                   | Mariah Carey and Marc Shaiman              |
|                            | arr. Mark Brymer                           |
| We Toast the Days          | Linda Kachelmeier                          |
| Sandy Chadwick, guitar     |                                            |
| Must Be Santa              | Hal Moore; words by Bill Fredricks         |
|                            | arr. Allen Hill                            |
| This Time of the Year      | Brook Benton and Clude Otis                |
| Paul Giammatteo, saxophone | arr. Mark Hayes                            |
| They Had Joy!              | Chris Machen; arr. Tom Fettke              |

# *Connecticut Master Chorale*

Tina Johns Heidrich, Music Director and Conductor

Joseph Jacovino, Jr., Accompanist

## **SOPRANO**

Karrie Beaulieu  
Debbie Benham  
Ginnie Carey  
Sheila Corr  
Emily Flower  
Libby Donohue  
Mary Georgette  
Lisa Golymbieski  
Michele McDonald  
Christine Michel  
Ann Marie Palmieri  
Diane Peterson  
Kristen Schretzenmayer  
Peg Sheehan  
Marianne Simonetti  
May Steinberg  
Michael Taylor  
Sarah Zamudio

## **TENOR**

Robert Boncoddio  
Robert Bria  
Rich Drygas  
Steve Gardner  
David Jurman  
David Nicholson  
Brad Peterson  
Tim Smith  
Daria Verelley  
Rev. Gregory Wismar

## **ALTO**

Gale Barna  
Angela Caes  
Sandy Chadwick  
Anita Corbeil  
Teresa DeCarlo  
Anna DeVeau Jalbert  
Heidi Flower  
Elizabeth Johnston-  
O'Connor  
Rebecca Lewis  
Bobbi Lyon  
Cathy Nickse  
Nancy Northrop  
Kate Peterson  
Julie Pope  
Nancy Raymond  
Jenna Richards  
Kate Vengrove

## **BASS**

James P. Alworth III  
Mike Carbonneau  
Dana Demand  
Paul Giammatteo  
Eric Hudson  
Jack Kelly  
Tim Koch  
David Morey  
Steve Peterson  
Gary Sander

*The Connecticut Master Chorale thanks  
you for your support and we wish you a  
Happy Thanksgiving and joyous  
Holiday Season!*



*Connecticut Master Chorale  
Holiday Brass*

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Steven Perrett

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Jackie Harris-Stone

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# *Program Notes by Ginnie Carey*

## *"Season of Joy!"*

**Sing Joy** – arr. Jay Althouse (b. 1951). Our program opens with this superb collection of favorite carols emphasizing both singing and joy. *Joy to the World*, with lyrics by the prolific Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748), who published more than 800 hymns and has been called “the greatest among hymn-writers”, is sung to the hymn tune ANTIOCH, which is commonly attributed to either George Frideric Handel or Lowell Mason. Recent research has called that attribution into question, as a number of similar tunes appeared around 1832 and 1833 with various attributions. *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* has roots in New England, as both the lyricist and the composer were originally from Massachusetts. It was written by Harvard Divinity School graduate Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810 – 1876) and may be the only popular Christmas carol that focuses on the angels singing “peace on earth, good will to men”, rather than the birth of Christ. The usual hymn tune in our country is CAROL, composed by Richard Storrs Willis (1819 – 1900), a Yale graduate who was also an author and the music critic for the New York Tribune. *O Come, All Ye Faithful* was originally published in Latin as *Adeste Fideles* by John Francis Wade (1711 – 1786). The English translation is by Frederick Oakley (1802 – 1880), a priest, translator and author of both prose and poetry. The arranger, Jay Althouse, is a composer of both sacred and secular music with more than 600 works in print.

**Angels We Have Heard on High** – arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978). This beloved Christmas carol originated in France, with the verses in French and the “Gloria in excelsis Deo” refrain in Latin. It is believed to be a traditional Noël from the Languedoc region and was first published in *Noëls Français et Provençaux* in 1805. The English version is not an exact translation but a paraphrase of the French verses by English Roman Catholic Bishop James Chadwick (1813 – 1882) and retains the original Latin refrain. A remarkable new vision from the talented composer and arranger Dan Forrest depicts the sparkling joy of the rejoicing angels, interspersed with gorgeous glorias building to a dramatic finale.

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry** – Charles Coffin (1676 – 1749); tr. John Chandler (1806 – 1876); arr. Michael Culloton (b. 1976). Based on John the Baptist's announcement at the Jordan River, this Advent hymn was composed by Charles Coffin, a French cleric and Rector of the University of Paris who wrote over 100 religious poems in Latin, published in *Hymni Sacri Auctore Carolo Coffin* in 1736. Originally titled “Jordani soras praevia”, it was translated into English in 1837 by John Chandler, one of the earliest and most successful modern translators of Latin hymns. The hymn tune is PUER NOBIS, a melody from a fifteenth century manuscript from Trier, Germany. The name comes from the original Latin Christmas text, Puer Nobis Nascitur, which translates into English as “Unto Us a Boy is Born”. Michael Culloton's creative arrangement is for women's voices with flute and tambourine.

**Love's Pure Light** – Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979) and Franz Gruber (1787 – 1863); words by Joseph Franz Mohr (1792 – 1848); tr. John F. Young (1820 – 1885). Elaine Hagenberg has created an exquisite new melody for *Stille Nacht* which embellishes Franz Gruber's original tune. She quotes the first verse of Joseph Mohr's lyrics and then focuses on the beginning of the third verse “Son of God, love's pure light”. The tender text is enhanced by her peaceful and ethereal choral arrangement, creating a memorable Christmas classic.

**One Sweet Little Baby** – Wes Kinneson (b. 1957) and Glenn McClure (b. 1965); arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970). Composer and scholar Glenn McClure specializes in diverse cross-cultural artistic collaborations. Some of our audience may remember his Caribbean Mass that the chorale performed in May 2007. He and Wes Kinneson, a member of the SUNY Geneseo English faculty, wrote this gospel Christmas song for their church. It describes the travels of the Holy Family to Bethlehem as prophesied by Simeon. Arranger Shawn Kirchner relates that when Glenn McClure shared it with him “I felt like I had discovered a new Christmas classic and was excited to include it in a set of Christmas arrangements I was making”.

**Wise Men of the World** – Zygmunt Odelgiewicz (1820 – 1899); text attributed to Stefan Bortkiewicz; arr. and trans. Derek J. Myler (b. 1993). Derek Myler is a music theorist and composer whose research and creative interests include Polish music, choral repertoires and the works of Danbury composer Charles Ives. When he was living in

Poland, he was charmed by the many unique and beautiful carols that were sung each holiday season, forming a distinctive body of folk music principally transmitted through generations of oral tradition. He has created the English translation and the arrangement of this carol celebrating the Magi on their journey. Polish priest and composer Zygmunt Odelgiewicz is known for his contributions to both sacred and folk music, and his works remain popular in Poland to this day.

**Hanukkah, Season of Joy!** – Mark Weston. Hanukkah is a Jewish celebration commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in the second century BC. Although there was only enough oil to keep the candles on the menorah burning for one day, the flames continued to burn for eight days. The word Hanukkah means “dedication” in Hebrew and the celebration lasts for eight days in remembrance of the ancient miracle. Mark Weston’s composition is filled with the joy and wonder of this special holiday.

**Glorious Christmas Refrains** – arr. Tom Fettke (b. 1941). Thomas E. Fettke was born in the Bronx, but ended up in California where he has published over 800 compositions and arrangements. He was inspired to create this marvelous musical tapestry, which includes eleven of the most popular Christmas refrains of all time, beginning with *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, with music by Henry T. Smart (1813 – 1879) and words by James Montgomery (1771 – 1854); *Angels We Have Heard on High*, a traditional French carol; *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* with music by Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847) and words by Charles Wesley (1797 – 1788); *Ding, Dong, Merrily on High*, a traditional French melody; *Sing We Now of Christmas*, a traditional French carol; *How Great Our Joy!*, a traditional German carol; *The First Noel*, a traditional English carol; *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*, a traditional American spiritual with words adapted by John W. Work Jr. (1871 – 1925); *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, words and music by John F. Wade (1711 – 1786) and translation from the original Latin by Frederick Oakley (1802 – 1880); *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, with music adapted from traditional plainsong by Thomas Helmore (1811 – 1890) and words translated from Latin by John M. Neale (1818 – 1866) and ending with *O Holy Night* with music by Adolphe Adam (1803 – 1856) and translation from French by John Dwight (1813 – 1893).

**Glad Tidings of Joy** – arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953). Pianist, composer and arranger Mark Hayes has created an unusual Christmas treat. An a cappella opening based on the final phrase of the traditional English carol *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen* segues into a Samba rhythm with lyrics by Mr. Hayes and continues with lines from *Joy to the World* before returning to the original “glad tidings of joy” theme.

**Shout for Joy!** – André J. Thomas (b. 1952). Dr. Thomas has been described as “the master of Gospel music” because of his many creative arrangements of traditional spirituals but he is also a noted classical and choral conductor. After a long career teaching at Florida State University, he is presently a Visiting Professor of Conducting and Interim Conductor of the Yale Camerata. He has a special relationship with the London Symphony Orchestra, “expanding their canvas of musical styles” by introducing Symphonic Gospel music to the orchestra’s repertoire, and featuring diverse artists and composers, such as Wynton Marsalis. He describes this piece as an “explosion of joy” that is “like taking a trip to New Orleans in the 1950s or 60s, with parades going down the streets”.

**Song for a Winter’s Night** – Gordon Lightfoot (1938 – 2023); arr. Michael Hanawalt (b. 1978) and Justine Sasanfar (b. 1979). Gordon Lightfoot was a Canadian singer-songwriter who achieved worldwide success. His biographer, Nicholas Jennings, wrote that “his name is synonymous with timeless songs about trains and shipwrecks, rivers and highways, lovers and loneliness”. Written in 1967 during a rainstorm in Cleveland while he was missing his first wife, Brita Ingegerd Olaisson, this sentimental ballad expresses the longing to be with loved ones on a cold snowy night.

**Umoja Tunaimna** – Victor C. Johnson (b. 1978). In Swahili and English, Victor Johnson’s message is one of unity, justice and peace. A composer and arranger who teaches at the Ft. Worth Academy of Fine Arts and is also director of the Children’s Choir of Texas, his first choral composition was published while he was still a sophomore in high school.

**The Star** – words and music by Mariah Carey (b. 1969) and Marc Shaiman (b. 1959); arr. Mark Brymer (b. 1957). Nominated for Best Original Song at the 75<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards, this inspiring song was written and sung by Mariah Carey for the 2017 animated movie

*The Star*, in which a donkey and his friends become part of the story of the first Christmas. Mariah Carey is an American singer, songwriter, record producer and actress with a five-octave vocal range and a career spanning over 30 years. Her first voice teacher was her mother, a classically trained opera singer and voice coach. Marc Shaiman has co-written and co-produced with Mariah Carey and many others, including Harry Connick Jr. and Bette Midler.

**We Toast the Days** – Linda Kachelmeier (b. 1965) is a composer, conductor and professional singer in St. Paul, Minnesota who works “primarily with our first and most versatile instrument: the voice”. Her “special passion is for choral music and art song because of their unique capacity to convey emotion”. This Celtic-inspired piece was originally written to be sung at midnight on New Year’s Eve.

**Must Be Santa** – Hal Moore (1910 – 1974); words by Bill Fredericks (1941 – 1999); arr. Allen Hill. Written by Hal Moore and Bill Fredericks, who was one of many featured vocalists with the Drifters, was first released and made famous in 1960 by Mitch Miller. In 2009 Bob Dylan released a version of the song in a Polka-meets-klezmer style for his Christmas album, *Christmas in the Heart*. Allen Hill created this fun arrangement for men’s voices.

**This Time of the Year** – Brook Benton (1931 – 1988) and Clyde Otis (1924 – 2008); arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953). Although Brook Benton was better known as a singer and Clyde Otis an executive in the recording business, they were also a prolific song-writing team. Among their many successful songs are *Endlessly, it’s Just a Matter of Time* and *Baby, You’ve Got What It Takes*. This bluesy seasonal classic from 1959 has been recorded by many artists, including Etta James, Brenda Lee and Ray Charles.

**They Had Joy!** – Chris Machen (b. 1955); arr. Tom Fettke (b. 1941). Chris and Diane Machen are contemporary Christian concert artists, producers and songwriters who have devoted their lives as a married couple to bringing people to Christ through their music and have composed over 400 songs. Chris wrote this ultimate joyous Southern Gospel retelling of the Wise Men’s journey as they follow the star to find the baby boy in the manger.

# *Special Acknowledgements*

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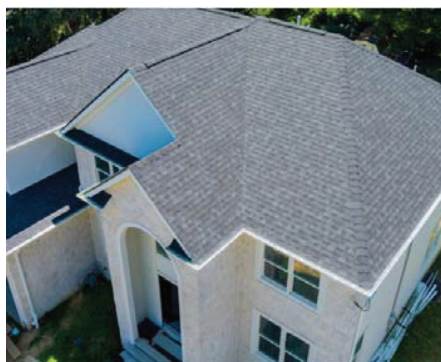
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