

17th Annual San Antonio Community Performance of

MESSIAH

Friday, December 4 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 5 at 4 p.m.
2026

Hosted by the San Antonio Texas West Stake
in coordination with the La Cantera Stake of
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
with participants from 30+ area churches

Prelude

CHRISTMAS KALEIDOSCOPE SELECTIONS

arr. Robert Frost

Prelude Youth Orchestra, Pianist: Jay Idell
Conductors: Ashley Rosales, Camilla Guerra,
Daniel Macbeth, Vilate Kent

Opening Program

LITTLE BABY IN A MANGER

by Traci S. Law

Children's Choir, Pianist: Karen Gardner
Conductor: Lecia Swallow

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT

by Ruth Morris Gray

Youth Choir, Pianist: Rebecca Wood
Conductor: Kelly Barton

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

by John W. Work II, arr. Jonathan Keith

Youth Choir & Children's Choir, Pianist: Karen Gardner
Conductors: Lecia Swallow & Kelly Barton

Concert Etiquette

- Please silence all electronic devices.
- Please refrain from using flash photography during performances.
- During the *Messiah* portion of the program, please hold all applause until the end; applause during the previous music is fine.
- Please take noisy children to the designated children's rooms.
- Please leave/enter only between pieces, unless taking out a child.

Messiah

by George Frideric Handel
Conductor: Susan Slaugh

OVERTURE

Orchestra

COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

Alex Nepomuceno, tenor

Isaiah 40:1-3—Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned… The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD

Choir & Orchestra

Isaiah 40:5—And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

FOR BEHOLD, DARKNESS SHALL COVER THE EARTH

Casey Fletcher, bass

Isaiah 60:2-3—For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

AND HE SHALL PURIFY

Choir & Orchestra

Malachi 3:3—And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET

Darby Hindmon, soprano

Isaiah 52:7, Romans 10:15—How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

Messiah

O THOU THAT TELLEST GOOD TIDINGS

Choir & Orchestra

Isaiah 40:9, 60:1—O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

THE PEOPLE THAT WALKED IN DARKNESS

Scott Ballinger, bass

Isaiah 9:2—The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

Choir & Orchestra

Isaiah 9:6—For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

PASTORAL SYMPHONY

Orchestra

THERE WERE SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE FIELD

Matita White Charlton, soprano

Luke 2:8-9—There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks 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

Noel Heaton, soprano

Luke 2:10-11—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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Messiah

AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL

Kaitlin Bennett, soprano

Luke 2:13—And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

GLORY TO GOD

Choir & Orchestra

Luke 2:14—Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

REJOICE GREATLY, O DAUGHTER OF ZION!

Catherine Nix, soprano

Zechariah 9:9-10—Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

COME UNTO HIM

Meikjn Fielding, soprano

Matthew 11:28-29—Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

SURELY HE HATH BORNE OUR GRIEFS

Choir & Orchestra

Isaiah 53:4-5—Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

AND WITH HIS STRIPES

Choir & Orchestra

Isaiah 53:5—And with His stripes we are healed.

Messiah

WHY DO THE NATIONS SO FURIOUSLY RAGE?

Benjamin Henry, bass

Psalm 2:1-2—Why do the nations so furiously rage together? And why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His Anointed.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O YE GATES

Choir & Orchestra

Psalm 24:7-10—Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is the King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

Haley Nelson, soprano

Romans 8:31, 33-34—If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

HALLELUJAH

Choir & Orchestra

Revelation 19:6, 11:15, 19:16—Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

WORTHY IS THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN

Choir & Orchestra

Revelation 5:12-14—Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

Messiah Choir

Soprano

Alison Castillo
Allyson Leavitt
Amanda Mefford
Amanda Wilcock
Andra Haney
Angel Heaton
Anne Taylor
Ashley Villarreal
Brittany Franklin
Caitlin Cragun
Caroline Cragun
Caroline Gramm
Caroline S. Jones
Chiara Evans
Christina Barinque
Christine Gullo
Courtney Macbeth
Crystal Lefler
Diana Jensen
Haley Nelson
Isabella Pankratz
Juliana Walton
Kaitlin Bennett
Keira Mefford
Kristin Childs
Laura Hanson
Lela Torres
Maricruz Perez
Mary Anne Astleford
Mary Ellen Hardee
Matita Charlton
Melanie Bonebreak
Natalie Chase
Rayleigh Ray
Rebecca Wood
Ruth Lindgren
Sallie M. Faircloth
Sarah Sandoval
Sarah Stevens
Sheryle Lindley
Tara Lundmark
Tiffany Evans

Alto

Alice Witterman
Amy Crane
Anne Maclure
April Wolfe
Arianna Richins
Ashley Glancy
Becky Owens
Bonnie Fielding
Bretta Weatherholtz
Cathy Pratt
Chelsie Jurich
Diana Hoskins
Donna Antopia
Eliza Ashby
Elizabeth Plewe
Emilie Mickelsen
Emmy Gerhart
Erin Nielsen
Isabella Bailey
Jeannine Vasquez
Jennie Padgett
Jill Swanson
Julie Anderson
K Lynne Gates
Kari Faircloth
Kathryn Robles
Kathy Coulehan
Kimberly Scott
Kristi Fletcher
LaDawn Reese
Laurel Laney
Leah Vance
Linda Rose
Lisa Johnson
Loretta Osborne
Marie Cummings
Marie DeGennaro
Mary Anderson
Meikjn Fielding
Melinda Flores
Melissa Hayhurst
Melissa King
Melissa Miller
Nuala Murphy
Pat Stone
Patti Davis
Rachel Mickelsen
Rebecca Vaughn
Rose Ashby
Ruth Gott
Sarah Gerhart
Seena Swinyard
Shannon Thompson
Sofia Jones
Susan James
Susan Paddock
Synneve Levos
Tamara Patterson
Tari Davis
Toni Long
Whitney Nolden

Tenor

Alex Doyle
Amy Richardson
Anijanette Thompson
Bill Eells
Brian Moore
Clare Brown
Curtis Brown
David Loertscher
Grant Sherwood
Gustavo Rios Jr
James Watson
Jeremy Pratt
Jerin Smith
Jill Hurd
Jon Richins
Kyle Chandler
Lucas Montoya
Luke Hanson
Nathan Richardson
Rita Miller
Saul Campbell
Spencer Hamilton

Bass

Adam Jones
Ben Lyman
Benjamin Hardin
Benjamin Henry
Bill Long
Bradley Weatherholtz
Brian Crawford
Bud Thompson
Casey Fletcher
Christopher Bailey
Collin Williams
Conner Fletcher
Dallin Anderson
Daniel Wiest
Dominic Ciccarello
Don Redd
Edward Johnson
Ezra Holmes
Giovanni Ciccarello
Israel Jessop
Jacob Fletcher
James Ray
Jared Paul
Jason Owen
Joseph Ciccarello
Joseph Wiest
Keeley Jones
Mac Anderson
Paul Gullo
Reyn Price
Ricard Jensen
Rodney Franklin
Ryan Martin
Ryan Williams
Rylan Jessop
Steve Pratt
Steven Gullo
Talon Bailey
Tim Griesdorn

Messiah Orchestra

1st Violin
Alison Ashley*
Clayton Simons
Erin Rushforth*
Jean Vogler
Maren Wunderli*
Preston Moy
Vilate Kent

2nd Violin
Ashley Rosales
Beth Buford*
Elizabeth Rushforth
Haven Hauck
Jacen Henry
Jasmine De La Rosa
Joshua Christensen
Julie Watson*
Steven Walton
Susanna Vale

Harpsichord
Casey Fletcher*

Viola
Allen West
Cathryn Macbeth
Karen Jensen*
Samuel Hobbs*
Vincent Rodriguez

Cello
Abbigail Johnson
Ann Sawyer
Camilla Guerra
Emma Slaugh
Jared Aguirre
Kiley Hobbs*
Rob Roberts*
Sally Presas*
Shauna Herzog

Bass
Diana Milk-Batista
Emily Rhodes*

Flute
Annie Earl
Eve Macbeth
Kate McBride
Pippa VanVeldhuizen
Roslyn Wilcox

Oboe
Amy Hafen
Justin Varga
Madalyn Crane
Mae VanVeldhuizen

Bassoon
Ed Palmer

Clarinet
Benjamin Updike
David Cummings
Evie Lefler
Kristie Mitchell
Tiffany Keith

French Horn
Gavin Johnson
Lily Alvarez

Trumpet
Mark P. Anderson

Trombone
Bethany Wiest
Connie Kimbrough
Thomas Ashworth

Organ
Jan Lindsay

Timpani
David Hulme
Jared Paul*

Piano
Shelly Craig

*Solo accompaniment

2027 *Messiah* Dates

Rehearsals begin
October 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Performances
December 3 at 7 p.m. and December 4 at 4 p.m.

www.samessiah.com

Conductor/Soloist Bios



Susan Slaugh, conductor, founded the San Antonio Messiah in 2009 and this is her 17th year as the *Messiah* conductor. Susan has 40+ years of violin, piano, and choral experience through various public schools, private schools, churches, local choirs, and symphony orchestras. She currently plays violin with the Symphony of the Hills, and this is her fourth year as the Orchestra Director at Great Hearts Invictus, a local charter school. Susan studied music education at Sam Houston State University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from the University of Houston. Susan enjoys composing and arranging music, some of which may be found on her website, www.texansusan.com. She is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is married to Mike Slaugh, and has five children, ages 12-26.



Alex Nepomuceno, tenor, has been singing most of his life and has no plans of stopping anytime soon. A longtime resident of San Antonio, Alex got hooked on choral singing in high school and has sung for various local church choirs over the years. He is currently honored to be a member of the San Antonio Choral Society and its chamber choir, Sonoro; and he is continuing to develop and hone his vocal technique via instruction with Dr. Catherine Nix at the Musical Arts Center of San Antonio. When he isn't singing in a choir or performing his duties as a technical writer, Alex enjoys reading, hiking, and playing ukulele.



Casey Fletcher, bass, is a multi-talented vocalist, keyboardist, and U.S. Space Force officer whose musical journey began with the jazz ensemble Expressions in 1999. There, he developed his signature baritone style and piano improvisation skills. He has since remained active in classical and choral music, serving as a founding member of the Dallas chamber singers group The Texas Voices and performing the lead role in Kenneth Cope's devotional production, *My Servant Joseph*. An accomplished keyboardist, Casey is in his second year playing harpsichord for the San Antonio *Messiah* production. Music has also connected with his military service: while deployed to Kyrgyzstan, he was featured as a guest keyboardist with the Air Force Band of the West. Away from music and duty, he is a devoted husband and father of three children.

Soloist Bios



Darby Hindmon, soprano, is from Houston, Texas. She attends San Antonio College, under the tutelage of Dr. Catherine Nix. She currently performs in the concert choir, under the direction of Cindy Sanchez, and in Musica Sacra, under the direction of Dr. Owen Duggan. She previously had the privilege of being a member of the Live Oak Singers choir, under the direction of Paul Hughes.



Scott Ballinger, bass, grew up singing with his father at home and in his church and school choirs. His first experience performing *Messiah* was with a local church in Illinois at sixteen years old. He went on to earn a degree in commercial music from Millikin University, where he sang bass with a renaissance choir and the premier University Choir. With a diverse interest in musical styles, Scott enjoys singing anything from Gregorian chant to modern pop music. He sang together with his wife Amanda in the San Antonio Mastersingers when Andrea Bocelli performed with them. He has a fifteen-year-old son who sings professionally and a ten-year-old daughter learning cello and piano.

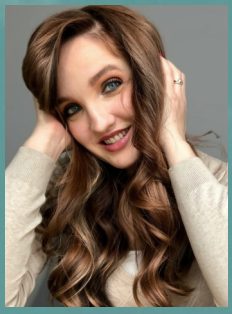


Matita White Charlton, soprano, views singing as a sacred ministry, a way to bear testimony of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Inspired by the sacred musical tradition of The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square (formerly known as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir), she approaches performances as an act of faith and enjoys appearing as a soloist at congregational and regional levels. Her musical journey began on the piano at age four. A high school valedictorian and Texas All-State Choir alumna, she performed with the Taft Chorale and Madrigals before studying voice at UT Austin and graduating from UTSA with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Music. She is a certified music teacher as well as a middle school teacher who enjoys working with her 7th grade students. Additionally, she coaches for TMEA auditions, judges at Region, and is planning a small studio of combination voice-piano lessons.

Soloist Bios



Noel Heaton, soprano, has been in love with music since the 8th grade. She is currently a senior attending Brennan High School and is very excited and grateful to be a part of *Messiah* for the very first time. For the past three years, she has sung in the TMEA Treble and Mixed Choir and is the first alternate for Pre-Area. Noel is the Co-Vice President of the Brennan Choir program and a member of the school's small select choir, Bear Harmony. When she graduates, she plans to serve the Lord on a mission and major in education at BYU. She is absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to help bring the Spirit of Christ this Christmas season and hopes that all who listen will be able to feel it as well!

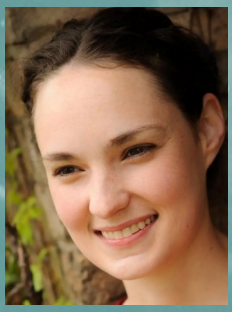


Kaitlin Bennett, soprano, has been singing and performing on stage from the age of three. Classically and Broadway trained, Kaitlin counts Mary Magdalene in *Lamb of God* and numerous leading roles such as Dolly Levi, Miss Adelaide, and Sister Mary Amnesia among her favorite roles. Kaitlin has performed in community theaters since 2007 and has also directed and produced shows. She plans on starting her own community theatre to bring the joy of performing to all who wish to participate. Kaitlin is happily married to the love of her eternities and together they have five beautiful children. Singing songs of praise to the Lord is one way she shares her testimony with the world, and she hopes you feel the Spirit of the Lord today.

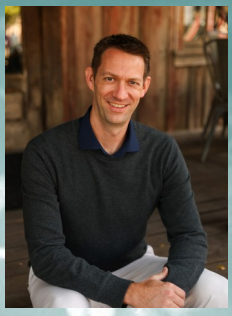


Catherine Nix, soprano, continues to delight audiences across the country with her vocal versatility and creative recital programming. She is equally comfortable in the musical genres of opera, oratorio, sacred works, orchestral works, and intimate chamber ensemble settings. In addition to fulfilling her schedule of performance engagements, Dr. Nix serves on the voice faculty of San Antonio College and Musical Arts Center of San Antonio. She enjoys sharing her love of vocal literature, diction, and pedagogy with her students. Dr. Nix is also in demand as a workshop clinician. She has worked with church musicians across the country, and she specializes in the ministry of the Catholic cantor. You may email her with questions about voice lessons or performances at cnix@macsainc.com.

Soloist Bios



Meikjn Fielding, soprano, has been performing in *Messiah* periodically for over twenty years in the choir, orchestra, or as a soloist. She teaches orchestra and choir at Jones Middle School in NISD. She is excited to perform in the choir this year alongside her youngest daughter, and has enjoyed performing in the orchestra with her oldest daughter in years past. She is excited to participate in a concert where she isn't in charge.



Benjamin Henry, bass, has been surrounded by music for as long as he can remember. Encouraged by his mother to discover and share the beauty of music, he has carried that passion throughout his life. Ben has sung with numerous vocal ensembles, including three years as the bass for BYU's premier a cappella group, Vocal Point. Today, he continues to share his love of music through vocal performance, finding joy in praising the Lord alongside members of his community. He and his wife are the happy parents of two sons and a daughter, all of whom are beginning to explore their own musical interests and keep their home full of life and joy.



Haley Nelson, soprano, grew up singing in family events and eventually did competition choir in high school, performing with the TMEA All-State Small School Mixed Choir from 2017-2020. Haley has a master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from St. Mary's University and is currently working at Valero as a Human Resource Data and System Analyst. Haley is also the co-director of the Valero Vocals, a volunteer choir made up solely of Valero Headquarters employees. Music and singing have been and will continue to be an important activity in Haley's life. This is her third year singing with the *Messiah* choir, but she also loves to sing with her sisters and friends whenever she visits home, especially during the holidays.

Special Thanks

Bradley Pierson, Michael Villareal, Andrew Sampson, Paul Hunter, Gus Rios, Gabby Hull, Toby White, County Line Community Band, Yvonne Lorenc, Crystal Lefler, LaDawn Reese, Dane Ciccarello, ushers, parking lot attendants, cleanup crew, setup crew, families of the *Messiah* Committee, and the many, many others who have worked behind the scenes to make this production a success. Thank you!

Historical Notes

In 1741, Charles Jennens sent a collection of scriptural passages to his friend, George Frideric Handel, with the hope that Handel would set the words to music. On August 22, 1741, Handel began writing *Messiah*. As Handel was composing, servants said that he did not leave his house, allowed no visitors to disturb him, left all food virtually untouched, and shunned sleep. Handel finished composing *Messiah* in just twenty-four days. "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself," were the words Handel uttered as he was composing what is widely regarded as the greatest oratorio of all time. "Whether I was in my body or out of my body as I wrote it I know not. God knows." Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart later arranged a version of *Messiah* that expanded the orchestral instrumentation, which is often used today.

Tradition holds that when Handel first performed *Messiah*, he persuaded all of the musicians to join him in donating their time and going without pay. The proceeds of the first ever *Messiah* performance went to pay off the debt of 142 inmates in debtors' prison. This powerful analogy testifies that our sins and debts may also be made whole through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who freely gave His life and atoned for our sins.

It is said that during the opening notes of the "Hallelujah" chorus, King George II rose to his feet. As is customary when a King stands, the audience also stood, thus beginning a tradition that has lasted more than two centuries. Others stand because the "Hallelujah" chorus proclaims Christ to be the "King of Kings" and to stand is to show reverence and respect for our true King, the Savior of us all, Jesus Christ.

Messiah Production Board

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Producer, Conductor, Website, Advertising/Program Design

PATTI DAVIS
Assistant Producer—Music, Alto Section Leader

MARY ELLEN HARDEE
Assistant Producer—Administration

JEANNINE VASQUEZ
Production Assistant—Secretary

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Youth Choir Conductor

LECIA SWALLOW
Children's Choir Conductor

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Technology Specialists



After the performance, if you have questions or would like a tour of the church hosting this event, meet in the East foyer.

We hope you enjoyed listening to and feeling the beautiful and inspiring music about our Savior, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!

Visit www.samessiah.com for details on participating next year!

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Where to attend Sunday services for

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

13153 Iron Horse Way
9am, 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30pm

6240 UTSA Blvd.
9am– Singles, 10:30am, 12pm
1:30pm– Spanish

7100 Wilder St.
9am, 10:30am– Spanish, 12pm

7420 Huebner Rd.
9am, 10:30am

For more locations/times, see www.maps.churchofjesuschrist.org
For questions, call 210-349-3268 or visit comeuntochrist.org