



# Penn Chorale

Elizabeth Braden, Conductor

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Sunday, December 3, 2023

*3:00 pm*

Saint Mary's Church  
3916 Locust Walk



**PennMusic**  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

# Program Notes

Welcome to our program, Music of Stillness & Christmas Dreams. Although we're only a week removed from Thanksgiving, we're turning our musical hearts and minds ahead to the Christmas season.

The concert opens with a beautiful work by Elaine Hagenberg, which provides the title for today's concert: *The Music of Stillness*. It opens with these words 'There will be rest...and the music of stillness, holy and low.' You are invited in to find rest, and to find the 'holy' in the music we are about to sing – whatever 'holy' may mean for you. We hope you will hear words and music that might take you beyond yourself, to a place of stillness, joy, rest, and calm. At the close of the concert, you will hear us sing: 'What dreams may come, both dark and deep... as I surrender unto sleep...sleep...sleep.'

Between the invitation to find rest and the time to surrender unto sleep, we offer music that is part of a Christmas Dream. There are no Mouse Kings, Sugar Plum Fairies, or Princes in our dream. Instead, our musical dream ties together different elements of Christmas. We'll sing pieces telling parts of the Christmas Story – including songs about Mary, a joyful Noel reminiscent of what we're told the Angels and Shepherds sang, several versions of Christmas lullabies, and works about the power of gathering in the cold of winter to find community.

And finally, *Sleep*, which was written by American composer Eric Whitacre. He first composed the music for Robert Frost's poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." However, the Frost estate wouldn't grant permission to use this poetry, so Whitacre commissioned a new poem, "Sleep" by Charles Anthony Silvestri. Perhaps a reminder even in the middle of our Christmas dream of the resilience that art requires.

On behalf of the Penn Chorale, thank you for joining us today. We've worked hard this semester so that we could present a unique, meaningful, and beautiful concert for you. We hope you find rest, joy, and a bit of 'holy' in our music today.

-Liz Braden, Conductor  
Penn Chorale

# Program

**The Music of Stillness**, by Elaine Hagenberg

**“White Eyes”** by Mary Oliver

*Read by William Jones*

**I Sing of a Maiden**, by Patrick Hadley

**The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**, Basque Carol *arr. by Edgar Pettman*

**“Christmas Carol”** by Paul Laurence Dunbar

*Read by Kevin Zhao*

**Ding Dong! Merrily on High**, 16<sup>th</sup> C. French Carol *arr. by David Willcocks*

**African Noel**, Traditional African Carol *arr. by Victor C. Johnson*

*Emily Monfort, percussion*

**Susanni**, by Richard Rodney Bennett

**“Christus Natus Est”** by Countee Cullen

*Read by Sonali Chandy*

**Nativity Carol**, by John Rutter

**Christmas Lullaby**, by H. Leslie Adams

**Coventry Carol**, 16<sup>th</sup> C. Carol *arr. by B.E. Boykin*

*Shikhar Gupta, soloist*

**Dormi Jesus**, by B. E. Boykin

**In the Stillness of Winter**, by Victor C. Johnson

**Patterns on the Snow**, by Mari Esabel Valverde

**“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”** by Robert Frost

*Read by William Jones*

**Sleep**, by Eric Whitacre

## About the Ensemble

Penn Chorale is an ensemble that sings a variety of choral music, mostly concentrating on music composed in the 21<sup>st</sup> and late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. We also strive to include composers often neglected in the traditional choral canon – including female composers and composers from the BIPOC, AAPI, and LGBTQ+ communities. Recent concerts have included music by such composers as Melissa Dunphy, Rosephanye Powell, David Hurd, Jake Runestad, Eric Whitacre, and even arrangements of songs by Billy Joel and The Beatles. Penn Chorale is open to all Penn students, alumni, staff, faculty, and any members of the greater Penn community. We welcome new members at the start of every semester, and invite you to consider joining the choir if you like to sing.

## About the Conductor

Elizabeth Braden is the Conductor of Penn Chorale, a position she has held since the group's inception in the Fall of 2019. Ms. Braden is also the Chorus Master at Opera Philadelphia, where she has led the chorus for many years, most recently in performances of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* and in the World Premiere of Rene Orth's opera *10 Days in a Madhouse*. Other recent accomplishments include conducting a performance of Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* on Camden County's summer concert series, and Music Directing *Wig Wag*, part of the 2023 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Next spring, she will be conducting a the Opera Philadelphia Chorus in a concert ('To Sit and Dream') featuring music by Black composers and highlighting poetry of Langston Hughes, and preparing the chorus for Puccini's famous opera *Madama Butterfly* for performances at The Academy of Music.

## Penn Chorale

### Soprano

Gabrielle Caine  
Mia Castro-Diephonse  
Joy Gong  
Yuhong Kang  
Alisha Kodibagkar  
Allison Lastra  
Jessica Moreno  
Emily Parrish  
Lauryn Reynolds  
Zhuxuan Sun  
Emilia Wright

### Alto

Eva Agostino  
Sonali Chandy  
Lauren Cook  
Leanne Griffiths  
Kristen Lau  
Emily Monfort  
Ayesha Sheth  
Yolanda Simpson

### Tenor

Shikhar Gupta  
Steven Humes  
Konrad Lucke  
Carter Pason  
Ethan YiCheng Zhang

### Bass

Andreas Ghosh  
Loren Greer  
Shiqiu Liu  
William Jones  
Ethan Lewis  
Steve Yang  
Kevin Zhao



## Texts and Translations

### The Music of Stillness

**Music:** Elaine Hagenberg

**Text:** Sara Teasdale

There will be rest, and sure stars shining  
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,  
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,  
The music of stillness holy and low.

I will make this world of my devising  
Out of a dream in my lonely mind.  
I shall find the crystal of peace, – above me  
Stars I shall find.

### I Sing of a Maiden

**Music:** Patrick Hadley

**Text:** Traditional Carol

I sing of a maiden that is makeless;  
King of all kings to her son she ches.  
He came all so still where his mother was,  
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.  
He came all so still to his mother's bower,  
As dew in April that falleth on the flower.  
He came all so still where his mother lay,  
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.  
Mother and maiden was never none but she:  
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

### The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

**Music:** Edgar Pettman

**Text:** Basque Carol, trans. By Sabine Baring-Gould

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “though lovely maiden Mary  
Most highly favored lady! Gloria.”

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady! Gloria.”

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,  
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.”

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,

And Christian folk throughout the world  
will every say –  
Most highly favored lady! Gloria.

### Ding Dong! Merrily on High

**Music:** David Willcocks

**Text:** G.R. Woodward

Ding dong, merrily on high!  
In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
Ding dong, verily the sky  
is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io,  
By priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Pray ye dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May ye beautifully rhyme  
Your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

### African Noel

**Music:** Victor C. Johnson (arranger)

**Text:** Traditional African Carol

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Sing we all Noel!

### Susanni

**Music:** Richard Rodney Bennett

**Text:** Traditional 14<sup>th</sup> C. Carol

A little child there is y-born,  
Eia, eia, susanni, susanni, susanni.  
And he sprang out of Jesse's thorn,  
Alleluia, Alleluia. To save all us that were  
forlorn.

Now Jesus is the childe's name,  
Eia, eia, susanni, susanni, susanni.  
And Mary mild she is his dame,  
Alleluia, Alleluia. And so our sorrow's  
turned to game.

It fell upon the high midnight.  
Eia, eia, susanni, susanni, susanni.  
The stars they shone both faith and bright.

Alleluia, Alleluia. The angels sang with all their might.

Three Kings there came with their presents,  
Eia, eia, susanni, susanni, susanni.  
Of gold and myrrh and frankincense,  
Alleluia, Alleluia. As clerkes sing in their sequence.

Now sit we down upon our knee,  
Eia, eia, susanni, susanni, susanni.  
And pray we to the Trinity,  
Alleluia, Alleluia. Our help and succor for to be.

### **Nativity Carol**

**Music and Text: John Rutter**

Born in a stable so bare,  
Born so long ago;  
Born 'neath light of star  
He who loved us so.  
(Refrain) Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day

Cradled by mother so fair,  
Tender her lullaby;  
Over her son so dear  
Angel hosts fill the sky. (Refrain)

Wise men from distant far land,  
Shepherds from starry hills  
Worship this babe so rare,  
Hearts with his warmth he fills. (Refrain)

Love in that stable was born  
Into our hearts to flow;  
Innocent dreaming babe,  
Make me thy love to know. (Refrain)

### **Christmas Lullaby**

**Music and Text: H. Leslie Adams**

Sleep, baby, sleep. Sleep, baby, sleep.  
Mary and Joseph watch as your slumber.  
Sleep, baby, sleep.

Rest your weary head on your tiny bed.

Angels guard you, shepherds surround you:  
Rest your weary head.

Wisemen travel from afar,  
Bringing gifts and, led by a star;  
Journey to the manger low  
To find the Child the whole world will know.  
Hallelujah! Praises to the newborn King!

So sleep, baby, sleep. Sleep, you baby, sleep.  
Little Lord Jesus, sleep as we pray and sing this lullaby.

### **Coventry Carol**

**Music: B.E. Boykin**

**Text: Traditional 16<sup>th</sup> C. Carol**

Lully, Lullay, thou little tiny child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.  
Lulay, thou little tiny child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve on this day  
This poor youngling,  
For whom we sing?  
By, by, lully, lullay.

Herod the king in his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might,  
In his own sight,  
All children young to slay.

Then woe is me, poor child, for thee!  
And ever mourn and say,  
For thy parting, neither say nor sing.  
By, by, lully, lullay.

### **Dormi Jesu (The Virgin's Cradle Hymn)**

**Music: B.E. Boykin**

**Text: from an engraving by Hieronymus Wierix**

Sleep, Jesus, your mother smiles  
Who sees such sweet sleep.  
Sleep, Jesus, gently  
If you don't sleep, your mother will weep,  
While she spins [her wheel], in her song she prays

Come, gentle sleep; sleep, Jesus, genty.

### **In the Stillness of Winter**

**Music and Text: Victor C. Johnson**

In the stillness of winter  
Beneath the cold December sky,  
The earth is all aglow  
With a coat of fallen snow  
As we dream of winters long ago.

In the stillness of winter  
As we gather by the fire,  
Loved ones we hold dear,  
Gather far and near,  
Greeting each other with a cup of cheer.

And in the glow of candlelight,  
We celebrate this winter night,  
And we bask in the warmth and the hope it brings.

And as the snow falls from above,  
We fill our hearts with joy and love  
And tidings of peace to one and all.

Trees are all adorned with the beauty of icy branches  
And dance in the breeze of the wintry air.  
The lakes and rivers are still,  
Frozen by winter's chill,  
And the stars gently fill the moonlit sky.

### **Patterns on the Snow**

**Music: Mari Esabel Valverde**

**Text: May Sarton**

Lose the pain in the snow  
Where all footsteps melt  
And the magic trance  
Bids you rise and follow  
Forgetting all you felt  
Except the dance, except the dance.

Lose the pain in the love  
Where all being flows  
Though the step is intricate  
Still as through the dance you move  
Silently the pattern grows  
To include, not to reject.

Lose the pain in the living  
Where the self however haunted  
Dances on because it must.  
All forgiving, all forgiving.  
Lose again all that you wanted  
Except trust, except trust.

Lose the pain in the faith  
Gladly the dance grows graver,  
Love and living both let go.  
Love and pain be danced to death  
Let the dancer never waver  
Drawing patterns on the snow.

### **Sleep**

**Music: Eric Whitacre**

**Text: Charles Anthony Silvestri**

The evening hangs beneath the moon,  
A silver thread on darkened dune.  
With closing eyes and resting head  
I know that sleep is coming soon.

Upon my pillow, safe in bed,  
A thousand pictures fill my head.  
I cannot sleep, my mind's aflight;  
And yet my limbs seem made of lead.

If there are noises in the night,  
A lightening shadow, flickering light;  
Then I surrender unto sleep,  
Where clouds of dream give second sight.

What dreams may come, both dark and deep,  
Of flying wings and soaring leap  
As I surrender unto sleep,  
As I surrender unto sleep.



# PennMusic

## Upcoming Performances

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### **Penn Collegium Musicum**

December 4, 2023 at 7:30pm  
*St. Mary's Church*

### **Penn Chamber**

#### ***Music in the Stacks Concert Series***

December 6, 2023 at 7:00pm  
*Van Pelt Library - Main Lobby*

### **Penn Arab Music Ensemble**

December 7, 2023 at 8:00pm  
*Houston Hall - Bodek Lounge*

### **Penn Flutes Holiday Concert**

#### ***Music in the Stacks Concert Series***

December 8, 2023 at 1:30pm  
*Penn Museum - Museum Library, Level 1*

### **Penn Sound Collective**

December 8, 2023 at 7:30pm  
*Fisher-Bennett Hall - Rose Recital Hall*

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