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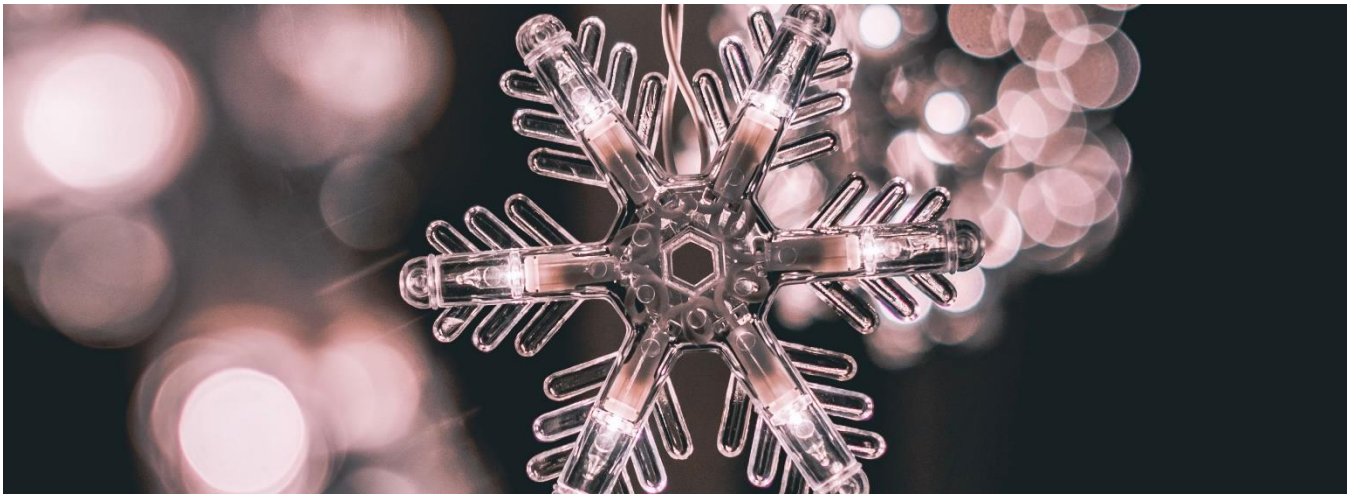
SONGS for the SEASON



(Mesa, AZ) Time to celebrate the holidays with the Sonoran Desert Chorale in concerts filled with wonderful music meant to touch hearts and bring smiles of good cheer! Selections include many favorites interpreted in stunning arrangements as well as exciting instrumental accompaniment.

Songs for the Season performances are set for **Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 7:30 P.M. at First United Methodist Church**, 15 E. First Avenue, Mesa and **Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 3:00 P.M. at La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church**, 6300 E. Bell Road, Scottsdale.

Single tickets are \$25 for adults/\$20 for seniors, students, and groups of 10 or more. Tickets may be purchased online at SonoranDesertChorale.org, by calling 480-305-4538, from members, or at the door. Student Rush tickets are available ten minutes before curtain with appropriate ID.



The concerts will feature a very special piece by American composer, Conrad Susa, who “explores the Christ child’s birth through the many moods, rhythms, and colors of Bethlehem carols that use varied texts – Biscayan, Catalanian, Puerto Rican, Spanish, Andalucian, Castilian, and Mexican in *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest*. The evocative timbres of the harp, the marimba, and the guitar are woven into an instrumental fabric that is at times beautiful and serene and at other times rhythmically energetic.” (CPR Classical) The combined delicacy and exuberance of the pieces along with the instrumental accompaniment are sure to delight.

Familiar favorites include *Ding, Dong Merrily On High* and *The Holly and The Ivy* in arrangements by Carolyn Jennings and John Rutter. A special treat accompanies the French carol. Choral compositions and arrangements by Carolyn Jennings, Professor Emerita of Music at St. Olaf College, are widely sung by church, community, college and school choirs. John Rutter is an internationally renowned English composer and conductor, whose music embraces hymn settings for choirs, Christmas carols, and epic choral works such as the Gloria and the Requiem.

The Chorale will also offer contemporary arrangements of *Away in a Manger* and *Angels We Have Heard on High* which include close harmonies supporting the quiet carol and insistent rhythmic movement underpinning the story of angelic song. All are fresh and engaging.

Don’t miss this beautiful music. Join the Chorale (Yes, you will be invited to sing along on several familiar pieces!) on December 10 and 11 to celebrate the season in style!



*The Chorale is happy to bring live choral music to the community. Out of consideration for all, **please note** that wearing masks while inside the performance venues is strongly recommended, but no longer required. You are encouraged to check our website for a complete statement of the Chorale's COVID-19 safety protocol - SonoranDesertChorale.org.*

About the Chorale

Sonoran Desert Chorale was founded in 1994 by Jeff Harris, who directed the group for twenty-five years. It is now led by Artistic Director, Dr. Craig Peterson. Since its inception, the group has become a highly regarded and sophisticated choral organization, presenting musical compositions from cultures around the globe as well as important pieces from the European and American music traditions. Concerts frequently include guest performances and collaborations with distinguished artists and organizations in the community. The Chorale has engaged in six international concert tours, with performances throughout Europe, including Venice, Rome, Florence, Vienna, Salzburg, Prague, Budapest, Ljubljana, Bayeux, Chartres, Galway, Dublin, and Edinburgh. The Chorale was invited to perform with Broadway superstar Michael Crawford for the inaugural concert of the \$150 million Mesa Arts Center. The Chorale was selected to appear at the Western Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Salt Lake City, UT.

For more information, high-resolution images, or to schedule an appearance or interview, please contact Lynn Kough at SDCpr@sonorandesertchorale.org.

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Significant support is received from the Arizona Commission on the Arts. For more information, see and hear the Sonoran Desert Chorale on the web at SonoranDesertChorale.org