

A graphic illustration featuring silhouettes of a Christmas tree with a star on top, a gift box with a ribbon, and an electric guitar with a lightning bolt on its body. The background is a vibrant rainbow gradient with a starry, bokeh effect.

# PEACE, LOVE & ROCK-N-ROLL

**A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

Saturday, December 7, 2024 | 7:05 PM  | Holland Center

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DR. A. BARRON BRELAND

# WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOW, PEACE, LOVE, & ROCK-N-ROLL!



the first half also includes holiday love songs made popular by Pentatonix, Jason Mraz, and The Carpenters that remind us that tender moments of togetherness – real and hoped for – should never be taken for granted. Before intermission, *Your Holiday Song* by the Indigo Girls will underscore the wealth of diverse holiday traditions that give special meaning to this season and the healing power of every voice and every song as we seek a place of belonging.

In the second half, we'll fire up renditions of tunes made famous by rock-n-roll icons, Chuck Berry's *Run, Rudolf, Run* and Bruce Springsteen's *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*, and a new favorite recorded by the cast of *Glee*, *Extraordinary Merry Christmas*. Between the dancing reindeer and the flashy finish, you'll hear songs penned or performed by legendary artists John Lennon and Stevie Wonder, songs that remind us that love and hope are not just feelings, but actions. As the lyrics of Celine Dion's *Don't Save It All for Christmas Day* so powerfully urge: "Let all the children know everywhere that they go their whole lives long – let them know love."

And speaking of children, RCMC's third concert this Season is one for children of all ages – from one to ninety-two! On June 1st, RCMC will perform the mixed chorus version of Disney PRIDE in Concert! This collaboration with your Omaha

Symphony is a family-friendly, multimedia production that draws inspiration from Disney films and celebrates LGBTQ+ life, love, family, and perseverance through timeless songs from the Disney songbook and personal stories from the chorus. You won't want to miss this magical show!

We also hope you will join us back here at the Holland on April 5th for *Rebel With A Cause*. RCMC and special guest artists will premiere *Sincerely Yours, Pauli Murray*, a multi-movement composition about civil rights activist and legal scholar Pauli Murray, whose writings influenced groundbreaking decisions in the US Supreme Court and who later became the first African American woman ordained in the Episcopal Church. Murray was a trailblazer in the fight for equality for women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community. This concert also includes protest songs that became the soundtrack for fellow rebels fighting for equity and inclusion.

In this and every concert, we are committed to making music that matters – for you, our audience, for our donors and supporters, and for our singers who are the lifeblood of this organization. We are so grateful for your presence and loving applause as we continue our work of standing for many and singing as one. Thank you for being here, Happy Holidays, and enjoy the show!

This is the first of three major concerts during our 41st Season, and River City Mixed Chorus is delighted to be on this beautiful stage and grateful that you have chosen to spend your evening with us.

In our 2024-2025 Season, we are squarely focused on the themes that have become our persistent and heartfelt refrain – hope, love, community, and a pronounced, powerful pride. Our deepest desire is that our music lifts your spirits during this holiday season and ignites in you unwavering hope for a more loving and inclusive world.

Tonight's program includes toe-tapping radio favorites, old and new, performed in RCMC's usual four-part harmonies with a dash of whimsy and sparkle and woven together with a special guest DJ and friend of the chorus, Wingy from "Boomer" Radio. After opening with Elton John's *Step Into Christmas*,

SCOTT FOCHT



Welcome to *Peace, Love, & Rock-n-Roll Holidays*, our annual Winter celebration of joy, love, and togetherness. As we gather tonight, we're reminded of the magic of this season—a time to connect, reflect, and embrace the traditions that bring us closer as a community. Whether this is your first River City Mixed Chorus concert or one of many, you are an essential part of our story.

Tonight's performance represents more than just music; it symbolizes the heart of the River City Mixed Chorus. Now in its 41st Season, this

organization has stood as a beacon of inclusion and unity, lifting up voices that celebrate diversity and foster understanding. Tonight, you'll hear not just melodies but the spirit of a community that believes in the transformative power of song.

As we revel in the power of music to unite and inspire, we are also looking boldly toward the future. Our vision is to fill this house to capacity, expand our outreach, and share the message of love and inclusion with even more people. To help realize this dream, we are thrilled to announce that we will be hiring our first-ever Executive Director in early 2025. In partnership with Dr. Breland, Artistic Director, this new role will enable us to amplify our mission, grow our audience, and ensure the River City Mixed Chorus continues to thrive for generations to come.

As part of this exciting journey, I invite you to join us for *Momentum – An Evening of Giving* for River City Mixed Chorus, our inaugural gala

fundraiser, on Friday, February 21st, 2025. This extraordinary evening will be a celebration of our past, present, and future, complete with wonderful performances, stories of impact, and opportunities to support the chorus. Save the date and help us build the momentum needed to reach all who would hear us sing.

As Board Chair, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you. Your support allows the chorus to continue creating these unforgettable moments and building bridges through music. Thank you for standing with us as we grow, dream, and continue creating moments of joy and connection through song.

May this evening fill you with the warmth of the season and remind you of the beauty that we create when we come together. From all of us at the River City Mixed Chorus, we wish you peace, joy, and love.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 24/25

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**Maggie Ramos**  
Board Member  
**Michele Yindrick**  
Board Member

### EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

**Dr. A. Barron Breland**  
Artistic Director

**John Porter**  
Chorus President

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Scott Focht**  
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**Michele Yindrick**  
Safety & Accessibility

JOHN PORTER



On behalf of RCMC's singing members, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to *Peace, Love, & Rock-n-Roll!* We've been pouring our hearts—and maybe a few strained vocal cords—into this concert since August, when belting *Run, Run, Rudolph* in 90-degree heat earned us some dramatic eye rolls from friends and family. But now that the holidays are officially here, those same folks are in the audience with you, cheering us on and pretending they didn't tell us to "please, for the love of all that's merry, STOP." (We see you. We love you.)

Our winter concerts are like a bedazzled holiday sweater: warm, sparkly, cozy, and often sentiment-

inducing. Tonight's program promises a mix of toe-tapping holiday classics and fresh tunes that might just wiggle their way into your Spotify playlists. Thanks to our fabulous dancers, phenomenal instrumentalists, and—let's be honest—our sheer determination to embody all things festive, we're here to lift your spirits higher than a reindeer on a sugar rush.

But let's keep it real. Not all holiday lights shine bright for everyone, and some songs tonight reflect the darker corners of life—places where love and belonging still feel out of reach. This year has shown us that our messages of radical inclusion founded in authenticity and human kindness are not yet fully shared by all of our neighbors. But here we are, and here YOU are. And so tonight, we will strive for a vision of peace and belonging, and cling to the dreams articulated so well by the lyricists who remind us that *someday we will live in a world where all are free, where there will be no tears, where all are equal, and no one has fears.*

As an LGBTQ+ organization, we know firsthand the power of chosen

family. We've built a space where we can lift each other up, laugh through the chaos, and be a beacon for anyone who needs it. The world might not be perfect yet (shocking, right?), but together we're singing our way toward a vision of radical inclusion, kindness, and joy. Your presence here tonight—yes, YOU—is part of that vision. We see you, we feel your love, and we're sending it right back at you with every note.

Oh, and if tonight's performance inspires you to trade your shower solos for the stage, auditions are just around the corner (December 9 and 16. Don't wait. We book up faster than Mariah Carey in December). Rehearsals start in January, so jump in and let us welcome you into the family by sending me an email at [audition@rcmc.org](mailto:audition@rcmc.org). Prefer to cheer us on from the audience? Join our mailing list at [rcmc.org/join](http://rcmc.org/join) and click on "Join our mailing list". Your claps and laughs fuel us more than coffee ever could.

Now, sit back, relax, and let's rock this holiday season with *Peace, Love, & Rock-n-Roll!*

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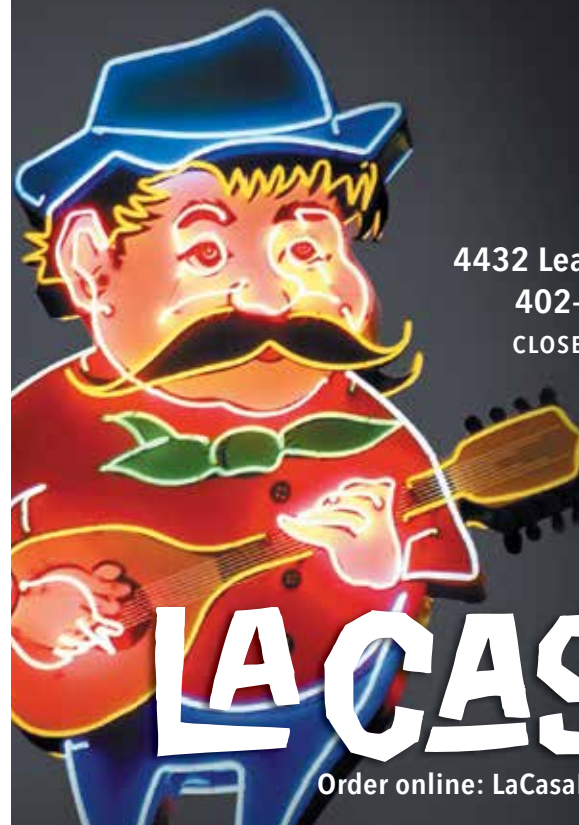
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# CONCERT



**DR. A. BARRON BRELAND**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

With degrees in Music Theory and Choral Conducting from the University of Georgia and the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Dr. A. Barron Breland has emerged as a conductor set apart from others by his eclectic skills equipped to perform music from masterworks of the Baroque and Classical eras to great contemporary works of art, including repertoire in various popular styles. Recent choral performances conducted include *Considering Matthew Shepard*, the Mozart C-minor Mass, Mozart Requiem, and Beethoven Mass in C; critics have praised the warmth and communicative power of his performances and choruses.

Breland is in demand throughout the Midwest as a conductor, chorumaster, clinician, and adjudicator, and he has prepared choruses for Grammy and Tony-winning artists such as Laura Benanti, John Mellencamp, Norm Lewis, Brian d'Arcy James, and conductors Dale Warland and Ted Sperling. Breland has also served as chorumaster and prepared numerous works for the Omaha Symphony, including Beethoven's 9th Symphony, *Carmina Burana*, *Elijah*, *Messiah*, and many others.

Currently, he is the Vice Provost for Faculty & Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, where previously he was Professor of Music and Chair of the Department of Fine & Performing Arts. He conducted their premiere ensemble, the Creighton University Chamber Choir, and taught classes in music theory, history, and conducting.

Singing from the age of 6, Breland's first exposure to professional choral music was in 1990 as a member of the Atlanta Boy Choir, where he performed with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, as well as in tours and festivals throughout Europe. Since 2011, he has been the Artistic Director of the River City Mixed Chorus, and in his 14-year tenure with the organization the ensemble has grown to over 150 active singing members, has headlined conferences, performed alongside Grammy-winning *Conspirare*, and has taken the stages of historic and iconic venues around the region. He is also the Principal Guest Conductor of *Résonance*, a semi-professional chorus whose debut album *Pilgrimage* was released in July 2020 on the MSR Classics label. All the ensembles under Breland's leadership perform regularly with the Omaha Symphony, and all have performed at state and regional ACDA and NMEA conferences.



**ADAM WITTE**  
ASSISTANT ARTISTIC  
DIRECTOR

Adam Witte has never been one to shy away from a music genre or musical instrument. His tastes, talent, and curiosity run far and wide, taking him on adventures across Europe playing euphonium solos with the University of Nebraska-Omaha Symphonic Wind Ensemble, offering him the chance to play piano on a piece with the Omaha Symphonic Chorus and Omaha Symphony, and leading him to conduct both the University Chorus and Chamber Choir at Creighton University. He is now the Designated Director of Worship and Arts at Countryside Community Church in Omaha, Nebraska, the Christian partner of the Tri-Faith Initiative. In his role there, he conducts the choir and handbell choir in addition to supervising the worship jazz ensemble. After joining as a singing member of River City Mixed Chorus in 2015, he was named Assistant Artistic Director a short year later. River's Edge, the RCMC small group he conducts, made its Festival debut at the international GALA Festival in Minneapolis in July of 2024. In addition to his work with RCMC and Countryside, Adam is also Assistant Conductor with local semi-professional chorus *Résonance*.





**KEITH HART**  
COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Keith earned a Bachelor's degree in music education from Northwest Missouri State University and began his musical career as a public school music teacher. Eventually turning his attention to the world of theatre, he worked as piano accompanist and musical director for productions in the Kansas City area, including Starlight Theatre, Quality Hill Playhouse, and Unicorn Theatre. After completing a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Missouri - Kansas City, he moved to Omaha to work as a scenic designer at the Omaha Community Playhouse. In the 20+ years since then he has worked as pianist, musical director, or scenic designer for various Omaha area theatre companies, including SNAP, Shelterbelt, Bellevue Little Theatre, Chanticleer, Stages of Omaha, BlueBarn Theatre, and the Omaha Community Playhouse. He has also been a church musician most of his life, at Dietz Methodist Church and First Unitarian Church of Omaha, among others. Keith joined River City Mixed Chorus as Collaborative Pianist in 2015.



**COURTNEY STEIN CAIRCROSS**  
CHOREOGRAPHER

Courtney Stein Cairncross is a freelance choreographer and teaching artist for several theatres, schools, and non-profit organizations in town. Originally from Omaha, Courtney holds a Masters in Dance Anthropology from the University of Roehampton in London, England, where she lived and worked professionally for three years. Most recently, Courtney has worked as Associate Choreographer on the Metropolitan Opera new work "Grounded", which opened the 2024-2025 Met Season.



**DAVE "WINGY" WINGERT**  
SPECIAL VOICE TALENT

Dave Wingert (a.k.a. "Wingy" to his radio listeners) has enjoyed a career both in broadcast (radio and tv) as well as a (sometime award-winning) stage actor since he first arrived in The Big O back in 1975. "It blows me away that, having been a part of just about every radio station in town, you must know that the last ten years....having helped built (locally owned) Boomer Radio into the success it now is, has turned into the Best Chapter Of My Entire Life. Feeling enormously blessed and joyful each and every day. And having been invited to sprinkle a little 'Wingy Fun' on this already magnificent holiday concert, was one of the biggest honors of my career. Sending boo-koo love and hugs to all who are sitting here in this gorgeous Holland auditorium waiting for the show to begin." XXXXOXO DRW

**CONCERT SUPPORT**

**ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION TEAM**

- Dr. A. Barron Breland**  
Artistic Director & Conductor
- Adam Witte**  
Assistant Artistic Director
- Keith Hart**  
Collaborative Pianist
- Courtney Stein Cairncross**  
Choreographer
- Irene Hawkins**
- Rebecca Rotert Shaw**  
Dance Captains
- Dave "Wingy" Wingert**  
Special Voice Talent
- Stephanie Vik**  
ASL Interpreter
- Travis Mullins**  
Chorus Manager
- Michele Yindrick**  
Production Manager
- Valerie Haynes**  
Librarian
- Jared Cunningham**  
Attire/Costume Coordinator
- Peter Soby**  
Videographer & Video Production
- Studio B**  
Sound Recording
- IATSE Local 42**  
Stagehands & Electricians
- Corrie Suhr Photography**  
Event Photographer

**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

- Melissa Holtmeier**  
Fiddle
- Will Karpf**  
Woodwinds
- Jason Johnson**  
Trumpet
- Marcus Nunez**  
Trombone
- Shawn Bell**  
Trombone
- Jonah Bennett**  
Bass Guitar
- Jeanne Cahill**  
Mandolin
- Colin Duckworth**
- Joyce McVicker**  
Guitar
- Vince Krysl**  
Drums & Percussion
- Kimberly Pearce**  
Synthesizer

**SECTION LEADERS**

- Soprano**  
Anita Pecor  
Lynell Stafford
- Alto**  
Michaela Baumeister  
Rose Uhrich
- Tenor**  
Dr. Donald Callen Freed  
Justin Thomason
- Bass**  
Jon Holloway-Wallace  
Andrew McCullough

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SINGERS

SOPRANO








- Natalia Alamdari | 3
- Anne Barker# | 22
- Sam Bates | 9
- Katya Brunette | 12
- Sarah Chamberlin# | 4
- Sara Dean\* | 9
- Amy Dirgo | 3
- Miri Elliott | 1
- Arlo Foster-White | 4
- Carolyn Gehringer | 9
- Dakota Ghegan | 8
- Janet Goodman | 3
- Connie Grant-Leanna | 21
- Rita Grossenstein | 14
- Naomi Harrison-Carlson\* | 5
- Valerie Haynes\* | 17
- Kerrin Hoyer | 21
- Micaela Hoyer | 20
- Emily Koenig-Barker | 18
- Katie Kresha | 4
- Bridgit Kuenning-Pollpeter | 2
- Kaylei Margheim | 1
- Julie McCabe | 1
- Michaela Long\* | 2
- Erin Malm\* | 2
- Jillian McCall | 21
- Hannah Lee Miller\* | 7
- Alyssa Nelson# | 14
- Reo Newring\* | 23
- Jack Noden# | 6
- Crystal Olson | 23
- Shaelyn Oswald# | 6
- Heather Pash | 4
- Anita Pecor^ | 6
- Deanna Reilly\* | 5
- Rebecca Rotert Shaw# | 8
- Caryn Scheer# | 8
- Rachel Schnelle | 1
- Sam Servellon\* | 4
- Robin Sheldrake^ | 19
- Lynell Stafford | 17
- Suzy Stark | 19
- Denneal Stauffer# | 9
- Jaimee Trobough | 5
- Alex Van Cleave# | 6
- Ashley Veiga | 1
- Rachael Watkins | 3
- Maret Wibel | 1
- Brittany Wineinger^ | 9
- Samantha Zarders | 2

ALTO

- Jennifer Adhima\* | 1
- Alicia Amedee\* | 6
- Michaela Baumeister^# | 7
- Ashe Bechtel | 6
- Jordyn Bingham# | 1
- Brittany Bowman | 4
- Melissa Bugay\* | 3
- Jeanne Cahill | 5
- Karen Davidson-Fisher | 38
- Denise Dunham | 5
- Gina Durfee\* | 5
- Danielle Emsick | 13
- Emily Ertzner# | 18
- Laura Finken | 28
- Mariah Frahm^ | 19
- Jody Gernandt | 25
- Sarah Graff | 1
- Cian Hassovic# | 11
- Irene Hawkins# | 8
- Chole Hawkins\* | 13
- Katherine Higbee | 12
- Michelle Jansen-Griswold | 13
- Gloria Jensen | 31
- Claire Katan^ | 7
- Madelyn Kazmierski | 5
- Erika Kirby | 4
- Demi Kulper | 4
- Laura Leeds | 18
- Megan Lehr | 3
- Ashley Lemke | 4
- Julie Major-Frunz | 7
- Deb Manning | 13
- Christa McCall | 7
- Joyce McVicker | 26
- Nancy Mealey | 25
- Bethany Miller | 4
- Lora Miller | 3
- Sara Pecor | 6
- Forest Pierce\* | 4
- Vicki Rushlau | 28
- Kjersten Schuttler | 4
- Kelsey Scovill# | 9
- Kayleen Serfass | 3
- Julie Shaffer | 4
- Julie Sharp | 11
- Molly Slater | 2
- Tori Strubbe | 1
- Carol Svolos | 6
- Sally Swoboda | 3
- Rose Uhrich | 8

MEMBERSHIP PINS

The lapel pins worn by RCMC members are symbols of pride that showcase their singing appearances. The colors correlate to the number of concerts in which the member participated.

-  1-5 Concerts
-  30-39 Concerts
-  6-9 Concerts
-  40-49 Concerts
-  10-19 Concerts
-  50+ Concerts
-  20-29 Concerts

SINGERS



- Robin Welchans | 4
- Elizabeth Wood | 3
- Michele Yindrick\* | 25
- Alex Young^ | 6

- Jerry Meis | 27
- Richard Murpy | 14
- Debbie Nelson\* | 5
- Micah Oswald | 7
- Lee Scott | 1
- Nik Shapoval\* | 8
- Thomas Simons | 13
- Hal Sims | 3
- Logan Steiner# | 6
- Stuart Stenger\* | 4
- Justin Thomason^ | 4
- Chrys Toh | 1
- Brodie Urwin\* | 3
- Mark Van Kekerix | 38
- Shaelle Velyrre | 4
- Mark Weber | 1
- Kaitryn Williams# | 6
- Larry Wilson | 44

TENOR

- Matthew Bang\* | 17
- Mark Barta# | 5
- Lucie Case | 1
- Junie Coleman# | 6
- Steven Crandall\* | 7
- Bryan Crawford^ | 27
- Jared Cunningham | 6
- David Ellis | 6
- Daniel de Riancho | 1
- Dennis Fellhauer | 15
- Donald Callen Freed^ | 11
- Andrea Grover | 6
- River Hawthorne | 7
- Christopher Hill | 7
- David Hoylman | 1
- Kayla McKain | 3
- LuAnn McClarnon | 13
- Charlie McMahon | 1

BASS

- Stan Brown | 75
- Dan Cameron Burgdorf | 3
- Bill Canney | 22
- Mitch Crouse | 3

- Mark Curley\* | 26
- Kieran Foster | 4
- Jonas Glazeski | 5
- Fernando Guardado | 1
- Victor Hahn\* | 41
- Keith Hale | 7
- Maxwell Hobday# | 3
- Jon Holloway-Wallace^# | 26
- Chris Holst | 61
- Jason Hsi^ | 3
- Seph Kennedy | 1
- Donald-Brian Johnson\* | 13
- Noah Kihm | 3
- Ryan King | 1
- Cameron Koenig-Barker | 21
- Jacob Lawson | 5
- Andrew McCullough | 6
- Scott Miller\* | 25
- Stephen Moore | 12
- Gedi Murauskas | 8
- Marcus Pennell | 2
- Dylan Phelps | 7
- Josh Phelps\* | 1
- John Porter^ | 13
- Eric Rodine^# | 13

- Rob Rutar | 3
- David Shreffler\* | 4
- Jeff Sjuts | 1
- Steven Spencer | 8
- Grae Steele^ | 7
- Adam Steinbach | 13
- Brett Toay\* | 15
- Cody Van Dorin | 3
- Joachim Voss | 1
- Adam Witte^ | 20
- Tony Wredt | 11
- Brian Wyant | 30
- Ryan Zeigler | 8
- Phil Zellner | 17

^ *River's Edge*  
# *Featured Dancer*  
\* *Leave of Absence*



# PEACE, LOVE, & ROCK-N-ROLL

## STEP INTO CHRISTMAS

Words & Music by Elton John & Bernie Taupin  
Arranged by Mac Huff

## LIKE IT'S CHRISTMAS

Words & Music by J. Jonas, N. Jonas, J. Evigan, G. M. Stone, F. Wexler, K. Jonas, & A. Wells  
Arranged by Mac Huff

## THANK YOU

Words & Music by S. Hoying, K. Olusola, K. Maldonado, M. Grassi, M. Manio, & M. Sallee  
Arranged by Mac Huff

Andrew Bukowinski, *cello*  
Katya Brunette, *soprano*  
Dylan Phelps, *bass-baritone*

## CHRISTMAS VALENTINE

Words & Music by Dave Barnes, Ingrid Michaelson, & Jason Mraz  
Arranged by Andy Beck

Shaelyn Oswald, *soprano*  
Micah Oswald, *tenor*

## JINGLE BELL ROCK

Words & Music by Joe Beal & Jim Boothe  
Arranged by Bryan Sharpe

River's Edge

## MERRY CHRISTMAS, DARLING

Words & Music by Frank Pooler & Richard Carpenter  
Arranged by Mac Huff

Thomas Simons, *tenor*

## LAST CHRISTMAS

Words & Music by Geroge Michael  
Arranged by Greg Gilpin

Jon Holloway-Wallace, *baritone*

## LIGHT

Words & Music by Lisa Loeb & Cliff Goldmacher  
Arranged by Andy Beck

## YOUR HOLIDAY SONG

Words & Music by Emily Saliers  
Arranged by Roger Emerson

## — 20-MINUTE INTERMISSION —

Cash bars are available in the lobbies. Be sure to check out RCMC's raffle basket fundraiser in the main lobby on the Orchestra level to purchase a chance to win a gift basket! All raffle proceeds benefit RCMC's Ryan-Knicely Scholarship Fund.

## RUN, RUDOLPH, RUN

Words & Music by Johnny Marks & Marvin Brody  
Arranged by Kirby Shaw

Michaela Baumeister, *mezzo-soprano*

## SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN

Words by Haven Gillespie  
Music by J. Fred Coots

Arranged by Jay Althouse

Rob Rutar, *bass-baritone*

## HAPPY XMAS (WAR IS OVER)

Words & Music by John Lennon & Yoko Ono  
Arranged by Mark Brymer

Jared Cunningham, *tenor*  
Gloria Jensen, *mezzo-soprano*

## THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY/PEACE ON EARTH

Words & Music by Harry Simeone, Henry Onorati, & Katherine Davis  
Words by Alan Kohan

Music by Larry Grossman & Ian Fraser

Arranged by Jay Althouse

## SOMEDAY AT CHRISTMAS

Words & Music by Ronald N. Miller & Bryan Wells  
Arranged by Mac Huff

Deb Manning, *mezzo-soprano*

## DON'T SAVE IT ALL FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Words & Music by Celion Dion, Peter Izzo, & Ric Wake  
Arranged by Paul Langford

## EXTRAORDINARY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Words & Music by Peter Astrom, Shelly Peiken, & Adam Anders  
Arranged by Mark Brymer





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**4:00 PM**  
 Carols + Children's Message + Candlelight  
**7:00PM**  
 Carols + Candlelight



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<https://nebraskazencenter.org>

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[www.pflag-omaha.org](http://www.pflag-omaha.org)  
[info@pflag-omaha.org](mailto:info@pflag-omaha.org)



# REBEL WITH A CAUSE

WORLD PREMIERE OF  
*SINCERELY YOURS, PAULI MURRAY*

Saturday, April 5, 2025 | 7:05 PM  
 Holland Center



On Sale Now!

Join River City Mixed Chorus and special guests at the Holland Performing Arts Center on April 5, 2025, for the premiere of *Sincerely Yours, Pauli Murray*, by composer Steve Milloy and lyricist Kim Hines. This composition honors Reverend Pauli Murray, a pioneering civil rights activist and legal scholar whose 1950 work on race laws was called "the bible" of the civil rights movement by Thurgood Marshall. As the first African American woman ordained as an Episcopal priest, Murray was a trailblazer for equality across various communities. RCMC will also perform protest songs that inspired the era.

Disney  
**PRIDE**  
**IN CONCERT**

WITH THE OMAHA SYMPHONY

Sunday, June 1, 2025 | 2:00 PM  
 Holland Center



On Sale Soon!

This family-friendly performance celebrates LGBTQ+ life, love, family, and perseverance through timeless songs and movie clips from the Disney songbook, accompanied by personal stories from the chorus. Kick off national PRIDE month by joining us for this special collaboration!

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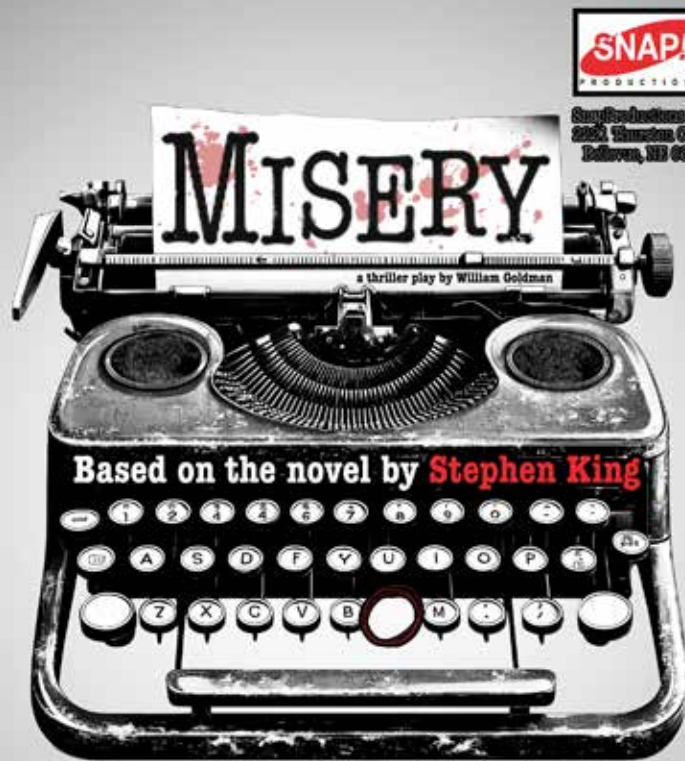
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SUN FEB 9th - 2:00PM	SUN FEB 16th - 2:00PM	SUN FEB 23rd - 2:00PM

Industry Night MON FEB 17th - 7:30PM Pay What You Can

Tickets available at [SnapProductions.com](http://SnapProductions.com)

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rcmc.org





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The Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, has supported this performance through its matching grants program funded by the Nebraska Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Visit [NebraskaArtsCouncil.org](http://NebraskaArtsCouncil.org) for information on how the Nebraska Arts Council can assist your organization, or how you can support the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.





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# SUPPORT

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### FOUNDING MEMBERS

for bravely putting into motion their dream of a more inclusive Omaha.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

who donate their time to ensure that our organization continues to thrive through every season.

### DEB MANNING AND KEITH HALE

for volunteering many hours in support of our marketing and social media and helping us spread our message of inclusivity as far as the internet reaches.

**TONY WREDT** for coordinating volunteers to setup and strike RCMC's rehearsal space every week.

### ANDREW MCCULLOUGH

for assisting in the creation of instrumental arrangements.

**VAL HAYNES, DAVID ELLIS, BRIAN WEDEMEIER, ERIN MALM, AND MARY SPURGEON** for preparing and serving the meal at our Fall Singer Retreat.

### DENNIS FELLHAUER AND BRIAN WEDEMEIER

for creation of raffle baskets and coordination of volunteers to make the raffle fundraiser benefitting RCMC's Ryan-Knicely Scholarship Fund a success.

### REBECCA NOBLE

for offering your time and expertise to RCMC's Executive Director Search Committee.

### MARK AND GINNY CURLEY AND ERIN MALM

for helping to setup Christmas trees and decorate the stage for tonight's performance.

### CHRIS ACKER OF MIXING ROOM STUDIOS AND HANK KUHLMANN

for creating the pre-concert greeting.

### NATE DODGE

for providing RCMC with storage space for our stage decorations and other large items.

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PASTOR MORITA TRUMAN, AND STAFF

for providing RCMC with weekly rehearsal space and storage for RCMC's music library and other materials critical to our success as an organization.

### MIKE HOGAN AND DAVE WINGERT

for enabling us to get the word out about RCMC and our mission to your KIOS and Boomer Radio audiences.

### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-OMAHA BARBARA WEITZ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

for providing space and use of virtual meeting equipment for RCMC's monthly Board meetings.

### GORDON KRENTZ AND THOMAS SIMONS AND ROB AND RACHEL RUTAR

for co-hosting RCMC's inaugural annual fundraising gala, *Momentum*. [See back cover for event details]

## STANDING FOR MANY. SINGING AS ONE.



PRODUCER CIRCLE OF GIVING

<b>PERFORMERS</b> \$1 – \$249	Recognition of donation in concert programs
<b>SOLOISTS</b> \$250 – \$499	Recognition of donation in concert programs One (1) ticket to each of next 2 major concerts Priority seating at concerts (must RSVP)
<b>DIVAS</b> \$500 – \$999	Recognition of donation in concert programs Two (2) tickets each to the Winter, Spring, & Summer concerts Priority seating at concerts (must RSVP) Invitation to an annual Donor Appreciation Event
<b>PRODIGY</b> \$1,000 – \$2,499	Recognition of donation in concert programs Four (4) tickets each to the Winter, Spring, & Summer concerts Priority seating at concerts (must RSVP) Invitation to an annual Donor Appreciation Event
<b>VIRTUOSO</b> \$2,500 – \$4,999	Recognition of donation in concert programs Six (6) tickets each to the Winter, Spring, & Summer concerts Priority seating at concerts (must RSVP) Recognition of your support during our concerts Invitation to an annual Donor Appreciation Event
<b>MAESTRO</b> \$5,000 +	Recognition of donation in concert programs Six (6) tickets each to the Winter, Spring, & Summer concerts Priority seating at concerts (must RSVP) Recognition of your support during our concerts Invitation to an annual Donor Appreciation Event Dinner for Four (4) with RCMC's Artistic Director

PRODUCER CIRCLE OF GIVING

As a non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of our allies to help us continue our mission to create exceptional musical experiences to support diversity, inspire change, and empower communities. We are so grateful for the support of our Producer Circle of Giving. To become a member and take advantage of our donor benefits, make a donation online at [rcmc.org](http://rcmc.org).

Contributions from December 1, 2023 - November 30, 2024

**MAESTRO \$5000+**

Jon Holloway-Wallace & Randy Wallace  
*In memory of Kitty Holloway*

**VIRTUOSO \$2500-\$4999**

David & Susan P Davies  
Scott Focht  
George Kleine & Tom Knox  
Mark Van Keckerix

**PRODIGY \$1000-\$2499**

Don & Barbara Bredthauer  
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Mark & Ginny Curley  
Hank Kuhlmann & Donald-Brian Johnson  
Thomas Liefer  
Daniel McCarthy  
Lynne Mytty & Jana Martin  
Thomas Nielsen & Kevin Rose  
David Schuler  
Dara Spivack  
Thomas Stalnaker  
Joachim Voss & Don Horn

**DIVAS \$500-\$999**

J. Scott & Anne Barker  
James Blachnik  
Randall Donner & Ron Chase  
David Ellis & Mark Nation-Ellis  
Dennis Fellhauer & Brian Wedemeier  
Lee Foster  
Bill Gaus  
Victor Hahn  
Anthony Harris & David Kresha  
Dan & Cindy Heidelberg  
Betsy Kimball & Don Frey  
Cindy Ludwig  
Deb Manning & Bill Sukstorf  
Penny May  
Monty J McClean  
Peg & Jim Schneider  
Carol & Tom Svolos  
Lawrence "Red" & Jan Thomas  
*In honor of J. Scott Barker*

**SOLOISTS \$250-\$499**

Leo & Teddy Adams  
Mary Anna & Clyde Anderson  
Thomas Clarkin  
Thomas & Sara Dean  
Adam & Carolyn Gehringer  
Kevin Leahy  
Matt, Katy, Nora, & Luke Pierson  
Rob Rutar  
Marc & Caryn Scheer  
Mark Schulze  
James & Susan Tracy  
Rebecca Wiegand & Marvin Van Keckerix

**PERFORMERS \$1-\$249**

Nic Batterton  
Michelle Renee Beacom  
Mike & Katie Beacom  
Carol Beaty  
Charles Begay  
Paul Bock & Eric Klis  
Barron Breland  
Buster Brown & Lynn Corbeil  
David Brufloft  
Melissa Bugay  
Daniel Cameron Burgdorf  
Andrea Butler  
Vincent Carriere  
Lucie Case  
Mindy Chipman  
Bridget Claborn  
Kirk & Catherine Cryer  
*In memory of Judy Hancock*  
Catherine Eberle  
Stephanie Elrod  
Cleveland Evans  
Mary Focht  
Jody Germandt  
James Graf  
DeWayne Greim  
Andrea Grover  
Keith Hale  
Chole Hawkins  
Valerie Haynes  
Cat Henning

Bob Hoppe

*In memory of John Hall*  
Carol & David Johnson  
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*In memory of Rich Ketter*  
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Tom Luke  
Jeffrey Lulf  
Spencer Magee  
Michael & Karen Markey  
Christa McCall  
Loren & Iola Mullins  
Gedi Murauskas  
Dorothy Neill  
Loyd Neve  
Mary Oswald  
Susan Patchen  
Josh Phelps  
James Poppert  
John Porter  
Gregory Post  
Ryan Rehder  
Dianne Ross  
Myron Sikora  
Don Slaughter  
Corey Stafford  
Allan & Lynnette Stamler  
Suzy Stark  
Grae Steele  
Adam Steinbach  
Sally Swoboda  
Melissa Taylor  
Amy Tillman  
Jerry Woolstrum  
Brian Wyant  
*In memory of Judy Hancock*



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**RYAN-KNICELY SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Ryan-Knicely Scholarship Fund was created to ensure that there are no financial barriers to being a member of the Chorus for anyone who wishes to sing. Chorus members in need of financial assistance can apply to the Board of Directors for help from the Fund with covering Chorus-related expenses.

*Contributions from December 1, 2023 - November 30, 2024*

Daniel Cameron Burgdorf	Chole Hawkins	Rob Rutar
Thomas Clarkin	Valerie Haynes	Adam Steinbach
Bill Gaus	Raymond Hoffman	RCMC Concert Raffle
Jody Gernandt	Laura Leeds	Basket Fundraisers

**SUPPORT THE ENDOWMENT**

The River City Mixed Chorus Endowment Fund was established by the Board of Directors in 2015. Administered by the Omaha Community Foundation, the Endowment Fund is a resource that will help ensure the long-term financial health of the Chorus. The Fund is set up so that the principal is not used, but proceeds from the principal will help fund the annual budget.

*Contributions from July 1, 2015 – December 1, 2024*

Randall Donner & Ron Chase	Gedi Murauskas
Bill Gaus	Jeff Nelson
Andrea Grover	Mary Lou Ruh Estate Trust
Valerie Haynes & Dee Ramm	Allan Stamler
Nan Knicely Estate Trust	Carol Svolos
Frank & Penny Kowal	RCMC Board of Directors



**WHO WE ARE**

# OMAHA TO DES MOINES AND BACK AGAIN.

Approximately 260 miles on an unexceptional stretch of I-80 that left plenty of time for life-altering discussions, six friends went to see the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus' one-night-only performance in Des Moines. The year was 1984 — the same year that GALA Choruses, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, was founded.

**That night changed everything.**

On the drive home, the friends discussed the need to spread the same messages of love, unity, inclusion, acceptance, and empowerment within their own community. They organized The Mid City Chorus with three other friends, nine men and one woman, and had their first performance at a variety show for the Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha. The reception was overwhelming. Their second performance was a Christmas concert at The Max. Around that time, the founding members officially changed the name of the Chorus to River City Mixed Chorus (RCMC) and solidified their place in GALA.

Since our humble beginnings, we've grown to more than 160 singing members, with hundreds of performances and sold-out holiday shows. We're determined to make you laugh, make you think, and, more importantly, give you a sense of belonging.

**HOW GAY CHORUSES CAME TO BE**

There are times when unimaginable acts of tragedy unleash our inner courage and fuel us to act. This was such a time.

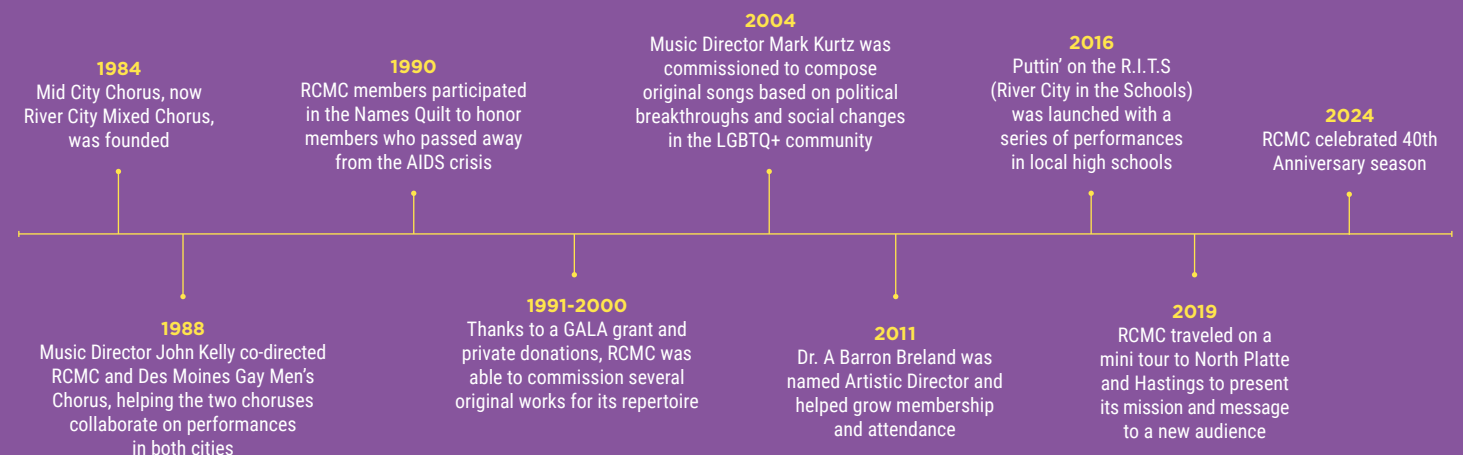
In the fall of 1978, San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay politician in American history, and Mayor George Moscone were heartlessly assassinated in San Francisco City Hall. The event sent shockwaves through the gay and lesbian community. That evening, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus gathered on the steps of City Hall and held it's very first public performance. At the time, the word "gay" in a chorus name was unheard of.

Three years later, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus toured the US, forever changing the lives of millions of people and inspiring the formation of many new gay and lesbian choruses.

By 1984, fourteen of those choruses bonded together to found what is now the largest gay and lesbian choral organization in the world —the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA Choruses). GALA Choruses has since grown to more than 10,000 singers from more than 190 choruses, all sharing in the common mission of empowering LGBTQ+ Choruses as they change the world through song.

It was because of that fateful day and heartbreaking tragedy that many choruses were able to find their voices.

**TIMELINE**





CANTO ULTIMO

Italian, meaning "final song." In our hearts they will always live. Their love, their voices, and their smiles are forever imprinted in our minds. The River City Mixed Chorus remembers past members who have sung their canto ultimo.

- |             |                     |                     |                  |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Chuck       | Vance               | Craig Boetger       | Dennis Pierce    |
| Alan        | Fritz               | Pat Phalen          | Brian D. Adams   |
| Chip        | Steven              | Peggy Ryan          | John Coe         |
| Jerry Kruse | Jonathan D. Cole    | Rich Ketter         | Michael Dantzler |
| Jerry Peck  | Ronnie              | Betty Dorr          | John Hall        |
| Johnathan   | Bruce Beyersdorf    | Nan Knicely         | Tim Smith        |
| John        | Mark Farmer         | Alexandra Nather    | Frank McKee      |
| Marilyn     | Aleta Fenceroy      | Douglas Steinkruger | Mark Ledbetter   |
| Norm        | Mike Maciejewski    | Anne Boyle          | Deb Melichar     |
| Tim         | Elmorine McKiernan  | Duane Lundeen       |                  |
| Joel        | Aramando E. Andrade | Peggy Zellner       |                  |
| Brandon     | Kathy England       | Martin Hanna        |                  |



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LOVED THE SHOW?

Found yourself bobbing your head and tapping your feet to the music? Pictured yourself on stage singing with our talented crew? You're in luck; we saved a spot just for you.

Our next round of auditions will be held December 9 & 16, 2024 at First United Methodist Church Omaha. Email us at [audition@rcmc.org](mailto:audition@rcmc.org) to reserve your spot.

In the meantime, you can peruse our commonly asked questions at [rcmc.org](http://rcmc.org).

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Support RCMC and reach a wider audience by advertising your business in our concert programs. For specific details and ad packages, email [marketing@rcmc.org](mailto:marketing@rcmc.org) or call 402-341-SING (7464)

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# RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

LGBTQ+ | OMAHA



# Momentum

An Evening of Giving for The River City Mixed Chorus

Join us at our inaugural gala dinner!

Be a catalyst for a future of extraordinary music, empowering our community.

You don't want to miss this special event!

Feb 21, 2025 | 6pm | Cocktails, Dinner, Silent Auction

Holland Performing Arts Center - Scott Hall

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