

# SALISBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

P R E S E N T S

# Holiday CONCERT

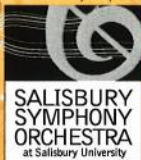
Saturday, December 11, 2021  
Holloway Hall Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.



*With*  
*Jennifer Hope Wills,*  
*Soprano*

Selections by Irving Berlin,  
Rodgers and Hammerstein,  
Randol Alan Bass, Coleridge-Taylor,  
and Rimsky-Korsakov

[www.salisbury.edu/SSO](http://www.salisbury.edu/SSO)



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a *symphony* alone.

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- Navjot Singh Sidhu

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# PROGRAM

Christmas Overture..... Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)  
Arr. By Sydney Baynes

Ave Maria..... Vladimir Vavilov (1925-1973)  
*Jennifer Hope Wills, soprano*

Laudate Dominum..... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)  
*Jennifer Hope Wills, soprano*

The Snow Maiden Suite ..... Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)  
Introduction  
Dance of the Birds

The Sound of Music from *The Sound of Music*..... Rodgers and Hammerstein (1959)  
You'll Never Walk Alone from *Carousel* ..... Rodgers and Hammerstein (1945)  
*Jennifer Hope Wills, soprano*

## INTERMISSION

The Snow Maiden Suite ..... Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)  
Cortege  
Dance of the Clowns

The Night Before Christmas..... Randol Alan Bass (b. 1953)  
*Jennifer Hope Wills, narrator*

O Holy Night..... Adolph Adam (1803-1856)  
*Jennifer Hope Wills, soprano*

White Christmas..... Irving Berlin (1888-1989)  
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas ..... Hugh Martin (1914-2011)  
*Jennifer Hope Wills, soprano*

Sleigh Ride..... Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Salisbury Symphony Orchestra at Salisbury University  
**Dr. Jeffrey Schoyen, Conductor**

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**Violin I**

Sachiho Murasugi,\*  
*concertmaster*  
Emma Baker  
Lindsey Behrman  
Daisy Holder  
Hyejin Kim  
Karen Niedfeldt  
Leyna Paul  
Caroline Stephenson  
Bobbie Thamert

**Violin II**

Kailey Chase\*  
Paul Herman  
Meri Holden  
Juliet Komwa  
Andrew Lee  
Lian Peach  
Joanna Pratt  
Raquel Vasquez

**Viola**

Alanna Imes\*  
Victor Hsia  
Yuri Tomenko  
Karen Treber  
Jenel Waters

**Cello**

Gina Choe\*  
Makayla Bounds  
Cesar Colmenares  
Kristilyn Friese  
Benjamin Rodman  
Patricia Rose  
Ryan Schwink

**Bass**

George Freeman\*  
Buck Burton  
Victoria Krcma

**Flute**

Lisa Adams\*  
Sally Hendon

**Piccolo**

Sally Hendon

**Oboe**

Julie Barton\*  
Kellie Harvey

**English Horn**

Kellie Harvey

**Clarinet**

Debra Scott\*  
Dalton Bosserman

**Bassoon**

Kari Shea\*  
Lynn Moncilovich

**Horn**

Brent Benfield\*  
Hannah Lewis  
Emerson Miller  
Allyson Morris

**Trumpet**

Bill Williams\*  
Tom Davis

**Trombone**

Thomas Cheezum\*  
Robert Beckey  
Kurt Ludwick

**Tuba**

John Scott

**Percussion**

Cody Rausch\*  
Jeanne Feltes  
Eric Shuster

**Harp**

Jasmine Hogan

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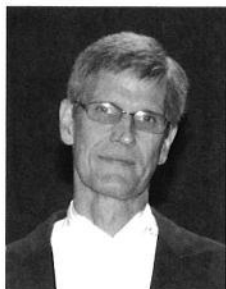
## ABOUT THE ARTIST



**Jennifer Hope Wills** spent nearly four years starring as Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera*, performing the role almost 1,000 times. Other Broadway credits include her critically acclaimed portrayal of Eileen in *Wonderful Town* opposite Brooke Shields (New Broadway Cast Recording), *The Woman in White* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Off Broadway, Wills appeared as Della in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* at City Center Encores! and in many readings and workshops of new musicals. She has had the opportunity to work directly with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Hal Prince, Jerry Herman, Alan Menken and more. Across the U.S., she appeared in many of

her favorite musicals, including *Magnolia* in *Showboat* and Fiona in *Brigadoon* (both at Broadway at Music Circus); Maria in *The Sound of Music* and Julie in *Carousel* (both at Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera); Marian in *The Music Man*, Rose in *Aspects of Love* and Sharon in *Finian's Rainbow* (all at Walnut Street Theatre); and Guinevere in *Camelot*, Abigail Adams in *1776* and Eliza in *My Fair Lady*. Wills also has headlined with the Houston, Portland, Omaha, Austin, Milwaukee, Roanoke, Grand Junction, Bay Atlantic and Regina symphony orchestras. Originally from Ocean City, MD, she is currently serving as Professor of the Practice in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at Salisbury University. Wills holds a M.M. in vocal performance from Indiana University as well as a B.A. in music - education from Salisbury University.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**Dr. Jeffrey Schoyen** graduated with distinction from the New England Conservatory of Music where he was a student of Lawrence Lesser. He completed a D.M.A. at Stony Brook as a student of Timothy Eddy. His awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Chamber Music Rural Residency Grant, Tanglewood Festivals Gustav Golden Award and a Frank Huntington Beebe Grant to study with famed cellist William Pleeth in London. Schoyen has extensive orchestral experience and has been a member of the Opera Orchestra of New York, Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and Principal Cellist of the Filarmonica del Bajío in Mexico.

An active chamber musician and recitalist, Schoyen has given concerts throughout the United States, Germany, Mexico and Spain. His most recent recital tour included the cities of Cuenca and Guayaquil in Ecuador. Schoyen has taught at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and at the University of Dayton. He has presented conference lectures on topics ranging from performance practice to kinesiology in string playing.

His interest in conducting began at Tanglewood, where he was awarded cello fellowships, playing under the guidance of conductors such as Bernstein, Ozawa and Masur. Since then, he has attended conducting workshops in Madison, Chicago and Toronto. Having been the conductor of the Slidell Community Orchestra and the Kearney Area Symphony Orchestra, he is presently serving his 17th year as the music director of the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra. He has collaborated with artists such as Anton Miller, Charlotte Paulsen, Gary Louie, Dan Kamin, The Capitol Quartet and Dominic Armstrong. He is Professor of Music at Salisbury University where he teaches cello and bass, and various other courses. During the summer, he serves on the faculty of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, MI.

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, *Christmas Overture***

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was born in London, the son of a West African father and English mother. Samuel showed talent on the violin from the age of five, and by 1890, with generous backing from a Presbyterian choirmaster, he entered the Royal College of Music, studying with Charles Villiers Stanford. Elgar thought highly of him, saying he was far and away the best young composer. The *Hiawatha* trilogy established him as a composer, and performances were so plentiful that with Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, it held second place only to *Messiah* in the hearts of choral societies the length of the country. He died in Croyden at the age of only 37 before his full potential as a composer could be fulfilled. His *Christmas Overture* appeared posthumously in 1925, arranged by Sydney Barnes; it features "God Rest You Merry Gentleman" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," and it is thought to have been put together from incidental music he wrote for a children's play called *The Forest of Wild Thyme*. (Goodmusic Publishing)

## **Randol Alan Bass, *The Night Before Christmas***

This setting of the famous Christmas poem *A Visit from St. Nicholas* (attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, but, in actuality, probably written by an Englishman, Major Henry Livingston Jr.) was commissioned by the Cleveland Orchestra. The first performance of the work took place in that city during the orchestra's holiday concerts in 1988, under the baton of Robert Page. The piece is cinematically conceived, and each poetic image of the narration is imaginatively colored in such a way that audiences can clearly visualize the happenings from passage to passage. (Randol Bass Music)

## **Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, *The Snow Maiden Suite***

The *Snow Maiden* is an opera in four acts written by Rimsky-Korsakov in 1881. It was premiered in the Marinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg in 1882, and it was the composer's favorite work. The movements of the suite are Introduction, Dance of the Birds, Cortège (solemn procession) and Dance of the Clowns. A love story between Mizger and the Snow Maiden, the opera ends with the Snow Maiden melting and Mizger drowning himself in a lake. The suite, though, ends with the famously boisterous "Dance of the Clowns," or as some know it "Dance of the Tumblers." (JS)

## **Adolphe Charles Adam, *O Holy Night***

Adolph Adam lived from 1803 to 1856 and was a French composer, teacher and music critic. A prolific composer for the theatre, he is best known today for his ballets *Giselle* and *Le Corsair*. He is also known for his operas, and his carol "O Holy Night." At one point in his career, he tried to launch an opera company, but it failed. He was left with a huge debt, and he worked various jobs to pay this off, among those as a professor at the Paris Conservatoire. He died in his sleep at age 53. "O Holy Night" is known the world over for its lovely lyrics and emotionally moving melody. (JS)



# PROGRAM NOTES

## **Rodgers and Hammerstein, *The Sound of Music & You'll Never Walk Alone***

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein each had successful careers before they started working with one another. At Columbia University, Rodgers, as a freshman, wrote songs for the 1920 *Varsity Show*, *Fly With Me*. Hammerstein was on the judging committee and eventually added two songs of his own working with Rodgers. In 1943, the team produced *Oklahoma* together, which was a huge success. From that point, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music* followed. *The Sound of Music*, based on the story of the Von Trapp family, was Rodgers and Hammerstein's last collaboration. The greatly successful 1959 musical was also adapted to the screen in 1965 with Julie Andrews as Maria and Christopher Plummer as the Captain. *The Sound of Music* has many enduring songs in it, "Edelweiss" being the last song that Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote together. "You'll Never Walk Alone" is from Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *Carousel*. The song is sung by Nettie Fowler, cousin of the protagonist Julie Jordan, in an effort to comfort Julie after Billy, her husband, accidentally falls on his knife during a botched robbery. "You'll Never Walk Alone" was a support song most recently used in the U.K. and Europe during the pandemic.

(JS)

## **Vladimir Vavilov, *Ave Maria***

Caccini was a Renaissance composer who is mistakenly credited with writing this famous "Ave Maria." In reality, the "Ave Maria" was written by Russian composer Vladimir Vavilov. He was a student of Rimsky-Korsakov in Leningrad. Vavilov, who lived from 1925 to 1973, often wrote pieces and ascribed them to other composers. In this way, he was not unlike Casadesu who wrote the J.C. Bach Viola Concerto or Fritz Kreisler who wrote many pieces ascribing them to baroque composers.

(JS)

## **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Laudate Dominum***

Mozart wrote his *Solemn Vespers* in 1780 for performance in the Salzburg Cathedral. It was his last composition for the cathedral. The *Laudate Dominum* (Praise ye the Lord, O ye servants of the Lord) is a stand-alone movement consisting of a beautiful soaring soprano line supported by accompanying strings. After his time in Salzburg, Mozart moved to Vienna where his composition of opera was hugely successful.

(JS)

## **Hugh Martin, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas***

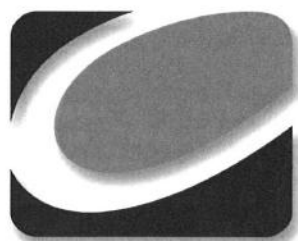
This song was written as part of the musical *Meet Me in St. Louis* in 1944, and it was sung by Judy Garland. Frank Sinatra sang a popular version later. Originally, Martin's lyrics were thought to be, by Garland, too depressing. Martin changed some lyrics making them more upbeat. Eventually, Garland sang the song to U.S. troops in World War II, and many were often brought to tears. The song has become an enduring piece of American culture.

(JS)

## **Leroy Anderson, *Sleigh Ride***

Leroy Anderson was a prolific composer who began his career at Harvard University and New England Conservatory. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees at Harvard, studying music and foreign languages. He spoke seven languages. His musical life was deeply rooted in Boston, and he wrote many light classical pieces for the Boston Pops Orchestra under Arthur Fiedler. "Sleigh Ride" is one of his best-known pieces and incorporates sleigh bells, a whip crack and a horse whinny.

(JS)



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