

Sierra  
Master  
Chorale  
and Orchestra

# DANCES FOR THE SEASON HOLIDAY SPECIAL

Ken Hardin, conductor  
Toon Vandevorst, assistant conductor



Sponsored by: Dr. John & Valarie Bush, and

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# Sierra Master Chorale & Orchestra

Ken Hardin, conductor

*Toon Vandevorst, assistant conductor*

Fantasia on Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

Felix Mendelssohn

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (Sing along)

Traditional; arr. David Willcocks

Rejoice: Fantasia on a Hymn of John Reynolds

Jerry Grant

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**- Intermission-**

***Please enjoy refreshments in the reception hall***

***Treat donations go toward InConcert Sierra and SMC education programs***

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Before the Paling of the Stars  
Christmas Hath a Darkness

Dr. Derek Healey

Sing We Now of Christmas

Traditional arr. John Leavitt

O Come All Ye Faithful (Sing along)

John Wade; arr. Willcocks

White Christmas (Sing along)

Irving Berlin; arr. John Moss

March of the Toys

Victor Herbert

Dances for the Season (*premiere*)

Toon Vandevorst

Commission underwritten by Richard & Shirley Dickard, and Kitty Whiteside

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# About the Music

This year the Sierra Master Chorale is presenting both the old and the new to celebrate the holidays.

For the tried-and-true, the *Fantasia* is a segment from Ralph Vaughan Williams' 1929 opera "Sir John in Love", based on Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor." It freely borrows from the traditional *Greensleeves* melody, combining it with an East Anglian folk song that Vaughan Williams had collected during field research. *There Shall A Star Come Out of Jacob* is the only choral movement from the unfinished oratorio *Christus*, which Mendelssohn was still working on, in 1847, the last year of his life. As in most of Mendelssohn's later compositions, the influence of Bach's music – tonight represented by the popular *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* – is obvious. It was first performed posthumously in 1852. John Rutter is predominantly known for his choral music arrangements of (mostly) carols as well as original compositions. In 1988, he wrote *What Sweeter Music* on a text by Robert Herrick (1591-1674), a period in Rutter's life when his output was minimal as he was suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome. *Sing We Now of Christmas* is the English translation of the traditional 15th century French carol *Noël Novoulet* arranged by John Leavitt. The *March of the Toys* is an orchestral interlude from Victor Herbert's 1903 operetta "Babes in Toyland".

As for the fresh and new, today we will hear a new version of local composer Jerry Grant's *Rejoice*, for Chorus and Chamber Orchestra. The work was commissioned by the Methodist Church of Minnesota in 1998 for their Easter celebration and is based on a hymn by John Reynolds. Grant reworked the piece for a Christmas concert performed by a group in Los Angeles. For the Sierra Master Chorale, he has provided this later version with yet a different orchestration. In his own words, "The elders wanted a 'stand up and cheer' ending. You decide if they got what they asked for."

Dr. Derek Healey was born in Wargrave, England, but moved to the U.S. in 1969. He is a very prolific composer with over 130 compositions to his name, ranging from opera to chamber music to choral works. He wrote the two carols *Before the Paling of the Stars* and *Christmas Hath a Darkness* on texts by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) in 2005. Healey's carols, rooted in folk songs but fresh in concept, show his mastery of choral writing.

My own composition, *Dances for the Season*, features all your favorite carols, but in the guise of popular dances, as if they were all attending a costume ball. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear becomes a Viennese waltz, O Little Town of Bethlehem a fox-trot, De Tierra Lejana a habanera, Deck the Hall an African dance, Lord of the Dance an Irish reel, the Wexford Carol a bolero and Angels We Have Heard On High a tango. We finally get to rest our feet with a quiet setting of Stille Nacht / Silent Night.

We hope you will enjoy these different historical and contemporary takes on the Christmas season. Happy Holidays to all!

... *Toon Vandevorst*



# Sierra Master Chorale Members

## Alto 1

Sally Buckthal  
Carole Gibson  
Vicki Goss  
Julie Hardin  
Christine Newsom  
Rosalie Plummer  
Carolyn Valle 🎵  
Mimi Vishoot  
Diane Walker  
Susan Zlimen

## Alto 2

Peggy Brewer  
Sue Clark  
Barbara Dakin  
Nancy Donahue  
Susan Duey  
Kathy Eldredge  
Linda Foreman 🎵  
Katie Hatten  
Lynda Jamieson  
Nora Kinney  
Tarla Leighton  
Linda Maloney  
Jeanne Palmer 🎵  
Cynthia Yaguda

## Tenor 1

Ken Getz  
Larry Graham  
Henry Hansen  
Paul Towne  
Barry Turner  
Michael Vierra

## Tenor 2

David Bess 🎵  
Dr. John Bush  
Jerry Maloney  
Dan Richards  
John Simon

## Baritone

Rod Fivelstad  
Lennart Hjord 🎵  
Barry Howard 🎵  
Doug Morgan  
Steve Nicholson  
Sarito Whatley

## Bass

Reed Hamilton  
Bruce Lattyak  
Dave Olsen  
Keith Porter  
Stephen Tassone

## Soprano 1

Vicki Cambron  
Mary Anne Davis  
Colette Dennison  
Shoshana Doan  
Amy Mauk  
Cheryl Maxwell 🎵  
Marsha Ostrom  
Susan Schimmel  
Jane Sellen  
Nina Stillwell

## Soprano 2

Valarie Bush  
Kathy Chastain  
Connie Dorland  
Laura Drucker  
Julia Glasse  
Jill Horrigan  
Rosemary Motz  
Cathy Rado  
Betsey Severn 🎵  
Carolyn Winters



🎵 = Section Leaders

🎵 = Membership Director

🎵 = Chorale Chairperson

*The SMC is generously underwritten by Robert & Carol Hamilton*

Established in 2008, the SMC is an auditioned group of singers who continually strive for excellence and variety in programming. Under the direction of conductor Ken Hardin and assistant conductor Toon Vandevorst, the choir has consistently improved each year of its existence. The chorale has adopted fairly strict guidelines suggested by its governing committee, and agreed to by the SMC members. Through the use of various tools such as extra rehearsals and sectionals, constructive assessments, two annual workshops, rehearsal CDs, and more - the members have created a very positive and supportive community in which to thrive. More than a group of singers, we are good friends bonded by our shared love of making beautiful music... and sharing it with you. Thank you for joining us for our holiday tradition. And thank you to Carol and Bob Hamilton for their underwriting support!

— Barry Howard, chairman



# SMC Orchestra

## Ken Hardin, Conductor

(podium sponsored by Jackie Wilson)

### Violin 1:

Richard Altenbach, concertmaster  
(chair sponsored by Dr. Aileen James)

Nancy Hill

Dagenais Smiley

Helen Graham

### Violin 2:

Jolán Friedhoff\*

John Abdallah

Randi Soule

Amanda Lostritto

### Viola:

Connie Kupka\*

David Thorp

### Cello:

David Speltz\*

Jia-mo Chen

### Bass:

Miles Tsue

### Flute:

Kirsti Powell\*

Shannon Devir

### Oboe:

Murray Campbell\*

Laura Harrington

### Clarinet:

Elizabeth McAllister\*

Karen Stenger

### Bassoon:

Dave Riddles\*

Cathy Collings

### Horn:

Cameron Kopf\*

Matt Reynolds

### Timpani / Percussion:

Tom Rance\*

Kit Bailey

### Keyboard:

Toon Vandevorst

\* principal

Cathy Collings, orchestra coordinator



### Richard Altenbach, concertmaster,

received his Master of Music Degree from the University of Illinois. He was first violinist of the Los Angeles Chamber, LA Opera, Joffrey Ballet, and Houston Symphony Orchestras. He was concertmaster of the Mozart Camerata, associate concertmaster of the Omaha, Berkeley, and Hollywood Bowl Orchestras. Richard is the concertmaster of the Auburn Symphony, and performs with MIM and Apollo Arts Ensemble. He is an active A-list Hollywood recording musician, and serves on the InConcert Sierra advisory council.



# About the Artists

**Ken Hardin** is the Artistic Director of InConcert Sierra and founding conductor of the Sierra Master Chorale. He learned the art of conducting at an ideal time when he was fortunate to work with superb Los Angeles musicians such as Rodgers and Hammerstein's conductor and music director Jay Blackton, conductor/composer Johnny Green, and acclaimed choral conductors like Paul Salamunovich, Roger Wagner and John Alexander. He received his degree in Voice and Music from California State University in Northridge, where he remained on the faculty until moving to Nevada County in 1984.

Hardin is a noted classical and jazz pianist, and principal keyboardist for the Reno Philharmonic. As the Artistic Director of InConcert Sierra, he successfully brings our community the best in young rising chamber artists and renowned musicians with established high-caliber careers. Ken has a small studio of voice and piano students, and serves on several adhoc committees.

*"One of the remarkable things about my job is the opportunity to make a great number of people very happy and even moved, all at the same time – lots of positive energy." — Ken Hardin*

**Toon Vandevorst** is a singer/songwriter, pianist and composer, and the Assistant Music Director for the Sierra Master Chorale. He studies Indian Raga with, and is assistant to legendary composer Terry Riley. His works have been performed in the Netherlands, Germany, Indonesia, the US and Canada, his most popular composition being *"The Best Part of Waking Up... for saxophone and amplified coffee maker."* He sang professionally as a tenor with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale, Pacific Collegium and Valti, among others. In 2007 Valti commissioned a work from him on poems by his wife, poet and playwright Alicia Vandevorst. Incidentally, in the fall of 1988, John Cage taught him how to eat with chopsticks.

**Jerome Grant, AKA Jerry Grant**, is a composer/conductor who spans the music world as a creator of music for over 500 episodes of television & film, with works for Chorus, Chorus with Ensembles, Chamber Ensembles, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and 60 works for Jazz/Rock Orchestra. His musical career has taken him from Detroit to Los Angeles as a performer in the jazz, rock and symphonic idioms on woodwinds, to composer/arranger for recording and TV/film. As an educator he has taught film scoring at UCLA, and songwriting and orchestration at CSU Chico and the Dick Grove School of Music. He continues to compose for the concert hall and his music is heard world wide. He blends jazz, symphonic and dramatic influences into an eclectic style that speaks with compelling imagery. Complete works may be seen and heard at [www.nujazzalternative.com](http://www.nujazzalternative.com).