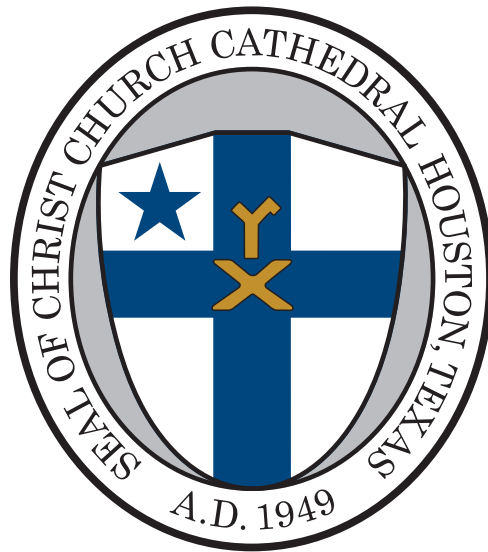


# GIVE US FAITH TO SING ALWAYS



presented by

Choir of Christ Church Cathedral

Robert L. Simpson, *Conductor*

Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral

Marianna Parnas-Simpson, *Founder and Artistic Director*

Daryl Robinson, *Cathedral Organist*

Sunday, February 26, 2023  
five o'clock in the evening

This afternoon is the culmination of the efforts and shared affection of many people. It began in March, 2020 with an unexpected visit by Dean Barkley Thompson to a choir rehearsal. He asked me to sit for a moment and then proceeded to read a statement that brought me to tears. He announced that the Cathedral Choir, with the support of the Vestry, had commissioned the world-renowned composer, Ēriks Ešņvalds, to write a Mass in my honor to commemorate my 25th anniversary as Canon for Music at Christ Church Cathedral. I was overwhelmed. Ēriks Ešņvalds is precisely the composer I would have selected myself had I been asked. *Mass of the Eternal Flame*, the commissioned work we premiere today, is a significant addition to the sacred choral repertoire. I believe it will be enthusiastically received by choirs around the globe. I offer my heartfelt thanks to all those who made this commission possible, especially Charlotte Jones, Howard Rhoades, Floyd Robinson, Daryl Robinson and former Dean Barkley Thompson.

Three other commissions are presented this afternoon. I invited Dale Trumbore, a gifted young California composer, to write *As It Is in Heaven* for the Cathedral Choir's appearance at the 2016 national convention of the American Guild of Organists. *Diptych*, by noted Canadian composer Rachel Laurin, was written for Daryl Robinson thanks to a commission by Charlotte Jones. Daryl requested that the work include the hymn *Coe Fen* which we sing together at the beginning of the concert. In 2016, Cathedral parishioner Nell Richardson commissioned Houston's own David Ashley White to write a hymn in memory of her father-in-law, Milton Richardson, 5th Bishop of Texas. The three additional works, *Ubi caritas* by Maurice Duruflé, Richard DeLong's *O Taste And See* and the seldom heard *Who Is At My Window, Who?* by Canadian Welford Russell, appear on the program because of their personal meaning to me.

I am delighted that the Cathedral's Treble Choir of Houston is joining us to sing three additional works by Ēriks Ešņvalds. Founded in 2006 by director Marianna Parnas-Simpson, the Treble Choir is a remarkable outreach ministry of the Cathedral, treasured not only for its musical artistry, but for the nurturing environment it creates that enables young women to find their voice.

Your presence here this afternoon means so much to me. Please join the choirs in Reynolds Hall following the concert so I can thank you in person and introduce you to our special guest, Ēriks Ešņvalds, who is with us today.

Robert Simpson

# Ubi Caritas

Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsulemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

*Where charity and love are, there is God. The Love of Christ joined us in one. Let us rejoice and be glad in him. Let us fear and love the living God. And love one another in sincerity of heart.*

— Roman hymn dating from 4th–10th cent. or earlier

## Hymn

Ken Naylor (1931–1991)

Descant: Andrew Kotylo

1. How shall I sing that ma - jes - ty which an - gels  
2. Thy bright - ness un - to them ap - pears, whilst I thy  
3. How great a be - ing, Lord, is thine, which doth all  
do \_\_\_ ad - mire? Let dust in dust and si - lence lie;  
foot - steps trace; A sound of God comes to my ears,  
be - ings keep! Thy know - ledge is the on - ly line  
sing, sing, ye heav'n - ly choir. Thou - sands of thou - sands stand a -  
but they be - hold \_\_\_ thy face. They sing be - cause thou art their  
to sound so vast \_\_\_ a deep. Thou art a sea with - out a  
round thy throne, O God most high; \_\_\_ Ten thou - sand times ten  
Sun; Lord, send a beam on me; \_\_\_ For where heav'n is but  
shore, a sun with - out a sphere. \_\_\_ Thy time is now and  
thou - sand sound thy praise; but who \_\_\_ am I?  
once - be - gun there al - le - lu - ias be.  
ev - er - more, thy place is ev - ery - where.

text: John Mason (c. 1645-1694); Music: COE FEN, Ken Naylor (1931-1991)

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## Who Is At My Window, Who?

Welford Russell (1900–1975)

Who is at my window, who?  
Go from my window, go.  
Who calls there so like a stranger?  
Go from my window, go.

Lord, I am here, a wretched mortal,  
That for thy mercy does cry and call  
Unto Thee, my Lord celestial.  
See who is at my window, who?

Remember thy sin and all thy smart,  
And all for thee what was my part.  
Remember the spear that thirlit my heart,  
And in at my door thou shall go.

I ask no thing of thee, therefore,  
But love for love to lay in store.  
Give me thy heart, I ask no more.  
And in at my door thou shall go.

Who is at my window, who?  
Go from my window, go.  
Cry no more there like a stranger  
But in at my door thou go.

— “Gude and Godlie Ballates,” 1578

## As It Is In Heaven

Dale Trumbore (b.1987)

*Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.* And after this I add, from the Gospel of John: Thy name is love, God is love. He who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. No man hath seen God anywhere, but if we love one another then He abides in us, and His love is fulfilled in us.

*Thy Kingdom Come.* And I add: Seek ye the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all the rest will be added unto you. The Kingdom of God is within you.

*Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.* And here I ask myself whether I really believe that I am in God and God in me? And do I believe that my life consists in increasingly love in myself? Is it true that I do not wish to live for personal desires and human glory, but only for the fulfillment of the will of God? And I add the words of Jesus from the three Gospels: Not my will, but Thine; and not what I desire, but what Thou desirest. And not as I desire but as Thou desirest.

— Leo Tolstoy (1828–1910)

*Commissioned by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral.*

*Sean Stultz, soloist*

# O Taste And See

Richard DeLong (1951-1994)

O taste and see the goodness of the Lord; blest are they who trust in him.

— Psalm 34:8

## Hymn

David Ashley White (b.1944)

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on,  
2. See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing  
3. Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the  
4. Blest in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on, washed in  
cit - y of our God; he whose word can - not be  
from e - ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and  
cloud and fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a  
the Re - deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -  
bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;  
daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.  
cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.  
on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can  
Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er  
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by  
'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver  
shake thy sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -  
will their thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the  
night and shade by day, safe they feed up - on the  
self to reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn  
round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.  
man - na which he gives them when they pray.  
prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

Text: John Newton, alt.; BISHOP RICHARDSON, music: David Ashley White, ©2009 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.; www.selahpub.com  
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*Commissioned by Nell Richardson in memory of her late father-in-law  
Milton Richardson, Fifth Bishop of Texas (1965-1980).*

## O Salutaris

Ēriks Ešenvalds (b.1977)

O salutaris  
Quae coeli pandis ostium.  
Bela premunt hostilia;  
Da robur, fer auxilium.

*O Saving Victim opening wide  
The gate of heaven to all below.  
Our foes press on from every side;  
Thine aid supply, Thy strength bestow.*

Uni trinoque Domino  
Sit sempiterna Gloria;  
Qui vitam sine termino,  
Nobis donet in patria. Amen.

*To Thy great name be endless praise  
Immortal Godhead, One in Three;  
Oh, grant us endless length of days,  
In our true native land with Thee. Amen.*

—*Verbum supernum prodiens, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274)*

*Joanna Wilson and Lilliana Baker, soloists*

## Who Can Sail Without the Wind?

Swedish Folk Song; arr. Ēriks Ešenvalds

Who can sail without the wind?  
Who can row without oars?  
Who can leave a parting friend  
Without shedding tears?  
I can sail without the wind  
I can row without oars  
But I can't leave a parting friend  
Without shedding tears

*Ella Theurer, soloist*

## Stars

Ēriks Ešenvalds

Alone in the night  
On a dark hill  
With pines around me  
Spicy and still

And a heaven full of stars  
Over my head  
White and topaz  
And misty red;

Up the dome of heaven  
Like a great hill  
I watch them marching  
Stately and still

Myriads with beating  
Hearts of fire  
The aeons  
Cannot vex or tire;

And I know that I  
Am honored to be  
Witness  
Of so much majesty

—*Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)*

## Diptych, Op.107, for organ (Concert Piece No.8)

Rachel Laurin (1961)

*Commissioned by Charlotte Jones.*

# Mass of the Eternal Flame, 2022

## Ēriks Ešenvalds

*Commissioned by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral. World Premiere.*

### Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.*

### Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax  
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.  
Laudamus te; benedicimus te;  
adoramus te; glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,  
Filius Patris.

*Glory be to God in the highest.  
And in earth peace  
to men of good will.*

*We praise Thee; we bless Thee;  
we worship Thee; we glorify Thee.  
We give thanks to Thee  
for Thy great glory.*

*O Lord God, Heavenly King,  
God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father.*

Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dextram Patris,  
O miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy,  
thou only art the Lord,  
thou only art the most high, Jesus Christ.  
Together with the Holy Ghost  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

### Sanctus and Benedictus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Osanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is He that cometh  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Michelle Girardot, soloist*

## **Agnus Dei**

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei.

*Lamb of God,  
Who takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Lamb of God.*

## **NOTES**

**AS IT IS IN HEAVEN** sets Leo Tolstoy's meditation on the Lord's Prayer, excerpted from his essay: "On Reason, Faith and Prayer." Tolstoy describes how, as he prays daily in solitude, he adds biblical verses to each line of the prayer. Tolstoy's text offers a very human perspective on faith and doubt; he acknowledges that no man has seen God and reaffirms his own faith by first calling it into question, asking whether he really believes that he is in God and God in him. In choosing to set this text to music, I was attracted to how a well-known prayer takes on a new meaning through Tolstoy's intimate personal perspective. The music contrasts the familiarity of a homophonic, hymn-like setting for the words of the Lord's Prayer with overlapping, independent melodies for Tolstoy's additions and personal musings. — *Dale Trumbore*

**DIPTYCH, OP.107, FOR ORGAN** Commissioned by Charlotte Jones and dedicated to Daryl Robinson "in celebration of friendship and a shared passion for enriching the world through new music," the Diptych, Op.107, was composed during the summer, 2021. Written for a large organ, using as a reference Daryl's instrument at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, Texas, the piece includes the beautiful hymn "How shall I sing that Majesty," proposed by the commissioners. Daryl also had the idea of a two-parts piece, offering the possibility to be used as Opening and Closing Voluntaries at church, or presented as a singular concert piece. The first part "Bucolico" is a quiet prelude, and as the title suggests, introduces a pastoral atmosphere to the exposition of the hymn. The hymn is treated melodically as well as in the meaning of the words, inspired by the first verse "How shall I sing that majesty which angels do admire?" Then, the second part of the verse "Thousands of thousands stand around thy throne, O God most high; Ten thousand times ten thousand sound thy praise" is expressed musically in a brief crescendo leading to the "Adagissimo" on the words "But who am I?" The whole movement, through its simplicity and expressiveness, tells the deep humility of a soul inhabited with the real desire to praise the glory of God. The second part "Con Fuoco" is meant to be totally contrasting in character. The short introduction presents a slight link with the prelude motive, but this fiery movement was mainly inspired by the exuberant personality and impressive virtuosity of Daryl Robinson which the composer had many opportunities to admire through online posts! After the introduction, a "Moto Perpetuo" motive is exposed, and then a second theme, melodic and expressive, is presented in a choral texture. The extroverted atmosphere also brings a "sarcastic" theme, which becomes part of the celebration, leading to an increasing virtuosic moment where every musical motive wants to win the first place! At the end, the performer and the audience will be the winners! — *Rachel Laurin*



**ĒRIKS EŠENVALDS** is one of the most sought-after composers working today, with a busy commission schedule and performances of his music heard on every continent. After study at the Latvian Baptist Theological Seminary and the Latvian Academy of Music, he became a member of the State Choir Latvija. In 2011 he was awarded the two-year position of Fellow Commoner in Creative Arts at Trinity College, University of Cambridge. Since then Ēriks has won multiple awards for his work and undertakes many international residencies working on his music and lecturing. Recent large-scale premieres include “Lakes Awake at Dawn” for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, “The Pleiades” for the Grant Park Music Festival Chicago, “A Shadow” for the BBC Proms, “Dreams Under Your Feet” for the Gewandhaus Leipzig, “Whispers on the Prairie Wind” for the Utah Symphony and Utah Chamber Artists, “St Luke Passion” for the Latvian Radio Choir and Sinfonietta Riga, “Visions of Arctic: Sea” for the Liepāja Symphony Orchestra, and the major multimedia symphonies “Nordic Light” and “Volcano Symphony,” both premiered in Latvia with further performances around the world. His full-scale opera “The Immured” was premiered at the Latvian National Opera in 2016 to great acclaim. His compositions appear on recordings from Trinity College Choir Cambridge and Polyphony with Britten Sinfonia on Hyperion, Portland State Chamber Choir and the Vasari Singers on Naxos, Latvian Radio Choir with Sinfonietta Riga on Ondine, Elīna Garanča with the Latvian Radio Choir on Deutsche Grammophon, ORA Singers on Harmonia Mundi, VOCE8 on Decca Classics, The Crossing on New Focus, Merton College Choir Oxford on Delphian, and Choir of the West at Pacific Lutheran University, the University College Dublin Choral Scholars, and the National Youth Choir of Scotland on Signum, amongst others.

**DALE TRUMBORE** is a Los Angeles-based composer and writer whose music has been called “devastatingly beautiful” (*The Washington Post*) and praised for its “soaring melodies and beguiling harmonies deployed with finesse” (*The New York Times*). Trumbore’s compositions have been performed widely in the U.S. and internationally by the Chicago Symphony’s MusicNOW ensemble, Conspirare and the Miró Quartet, soprano Liv Redpath, Los Angeles Children’s Chorus, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Modesto Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, Phoenix Chorale, Tonality, and VocalEssence. The recipient of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)’s inaugural Raymond W. Brock Competition for Professional Composers, an ASCAP Morton Gould Award, and a Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant, Trumbore has also served as Composer in Residence for Choral Chameleon. She has been awarded artist residencies at Copland House, the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, the Tusen Takk Foundation, and Ucross. Her choral works have been commissioned for premieres at national conferences of ACDA, American Guild of Organists, Chorus America, and National Collegiate Choral Organization, and her music is available through Boosey & Hawkes, G. Schirmer, and Graphite Marketplace.

**DARYL ROBINSON** has earned international acclaim from critics and audiences alike, being described as an artist with “... a driving muscular poetry underpinned by nimble technique and nuanced sense of style ...” (*Choir and Organ*) and possessing “... flawless technique and rhythmic verve ...” (*The American Organist*). Winner of both First Prize and Audience Prize in the 2012 American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Performance, he has since maintained an active career as a recitalist, collaborative artist, church musician, and educator. Mr. Robinson began his teaching career on the faculty of Westminster Choir College and currently serves as Assistant Professor of Organ at the University of Houston’s Moores School of Music. Notable recital venues include the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Shanghai Oriental Art Center, and the Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Mr. Robinson has also been a featured artist at conventions of the Organ Historical

Society (2018) and the American Guild of Organists (2014, 2015, and 2016). His collaborative career has included performances with the GRAMMY®-winning Houston Chamber Choir and Houston Symphony, and he is a frequent collaborator with the GRAMMY®-nominated Ars Lyrica Houston. Multiple critically-acclaimed commercial discs are available; these include the first commercial recording of the organ at Walt Disney Concert Hall, American Fantasia (2018, Gothic Records), and his debut solo album, Sempre Organo (2013, ProOrgano Records), both of which have garnered rave reviews internationally. Mr. Robinson's performances are routinely featured on nationally syndicated radio programs, including Pipedreams® and With Heart and Voice. Mr. Robinson recorded A Love So Fierce: The Complete Solo Organ Music of David Ashley White (2021, Acis Productions), the first commercial recording of the organ at Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, where he serves as Associate Minister for Music and Cathedral Organist. Collaborative recordings include Carolae – Music for Christmas (2016, Naxos Records), recorded with the GRAMMY®-nominated Williamson Voices of Westminster Choir College.

**PARAGON BRASS ENSEMBLE**, since its formation in 1983, has delighted audiences at home in Houston and across the country with presentations of musical virtuosity and tremendous variety. The five musicians who make up the Paragon Brass have performed around the world in every imaginable setting, from symphony hall to dance hall, from opera house to nightclub. They draw on this combined experience to bring alive an incredibly diverse repertoire. They share a commitment to excellence in brass chamber music performance- an excellence that has resulted in enthusiastic receptions wherever they appear.

**MARIANNA PARNAS-SIMPSON** graduated with a master's degree in Choral Conducting from the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Russia. She founded the award-winning St. Petersburg Girls' Choir, Kamerton, which she directed for ten years before coming to the United States. Since 1999 Ms. Simpson has taught at Parker Elementary School, a Houston ISD magnet school for music, and created a chorus program that grew from 30 to 250 children, grades 1– 5. In 2005, she was named Teacher of the Year by her fellow teachers at Parker Elementary. In 2006 Marianna founded the Treble Choir of Houston, a youth ensemble for young women grades 6– 12 whose mission is helping young women to find their voice. From 2008 to 2010, Ms. Simpson served as the Artistic Director of the summer program for the American Boychoir in Princeton, NJ. Her choirs have been selected to perform at Carnegie Hall, Houston Symphony, Organization of American Kodály Educators Conference, TMEA, and ACDA multiple times. She has conducted numerous children's chorus festivals and workshops in the United States and internationally. Marianna Parnas-Simpson is a founding member of the Houston Chamber Choir.

**ROBERT SIMPSON** serves as Canon for Music at Houston's historic Christ Church Cathedral. He is also the Founder and Artistic Director of the Houston Chamber Choir, and Lecturer of Church Music at Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Chorus America awarded him the Michael Korn Founders Award for the Development of the Professional Choral Art and most recently awarded the Houston Chamber Choir the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence. Mr. Simpson is the recipient of the 2015 American Prize in Choral Conducting. Choirs under his direction have toured the United States, Europe, and Mexico, and performed before national conventions of Chorus America, the American Choral Directors Association, The American Guild of Organists, The Association of Anglican Musicians, and The Hymn Society of America. They have appeared nationally on CBS-TV, ABC-TV, and American Public Radio.

## *The Cathedral Choir*

Chelsea Berner	Charlotte Jones*	Howard Rhoades
Jesse Berney	Frances Kittrell	Floyd Robinson
Fredy Bonilla	Laura Lisk	Wick Rowland
Andrew Carroll*	Chris Lo	Justin Shen
John Catalani	Kirstie McCallum	Anne Shepard*
Joshua Chavira	Ben McGee	Gary Smith
Nancy Ellis	Kyle McGowan*	Becky Stevens
Frankie Espinoza	Bill McKenzie	Eric Strom
John Gallagher	Ann Miller*	Sean Stultz
Nick Germanotta	David Miller	Ashly Vining
Michelle Girardot	Melanie Miller*	Claudia Watson
Charlie Gillman	Penny Morris	Hal Watson
Joel Goodloe	Jim Murdaugh	Michele Watson
Frank Hood	Riley Nordmeier	Catherine Whitney
Madeleine Hussey	Lindsey Overstreet	Dana Whitney
	John Proffitt	

*\* Stars handbell players*

You are invited to Reynolds Hall  
following the concert to greet  
Ēriks Ešenvalds and the musicians.

*Special thanks to St. Anne Catholic Community, Tom Jaber, Director of Music,  
Matthew Dion, Assistant Director of Music, for the use of their handbells,  
and John Catalani for transportation assistance.*

## *Treble Choir of Houston at Christ Church Cathedral*

Angelique Alvarez

Amy Anawaty

Lilly Baker

Ardiana Batuigas

Carmela Batuigas

Elizabeth Bradford

Anna Burchett

Maille Craig

Maggie Euscher

Nora Feld

Maddie Gentry

Adelyn Goerig

Cecilia Grand

Jadyn Grannis

Arna Green

Thea Hakel

Riya Hari

Chloe Harrison

Emilia Haymon

Stephanie Jaing

Octavia Lane

Hailea Lattimore

Emma Lewis

Ivanna Lopez

Anahi Martinez

Alexandria Matengula

Vidya Mathews

Annie Mello

Lily Mello

Lark Perry

Catherine Phillips

Harper Potoczniak

Mary Pule

Blake Reed

Vanesa Reyes

Ella Theurer

Kaylin Victoria

Evelyn Watson

Maeve Watson

Nadia Weaver

Joanna Wilson

Alice Wilson

Victoria Wilson

Rebekah Wood

Journi Young

## *Paragon Brass*

Jeff Grass, trumpet

Tom Tillotson, trumpet

Chris Shelburne, horn

Mark Holley, trombone

Matthew Lamm, tuba

Craig Hauschildt, timpani

Laura Smith, harp



## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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