



# JoAnn's Classical Christmas

Friday, Dec. 9

10:30am

**Join the BPO and the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus for a morning of Christmas Classics.**

## **Rimsky-Korsakov, Dance of the Tumblers from *Snow Maiden***

In this piece, lively dancers are keeping themselves warm and entertained as they keep watch in the woods. You may recognize this piece, as it is a winter classic.

## **Tchaikovsky, Pas de Deux and Valse Finale et Apotheosis from *The Nutcracker*, Op. 71**

A Pas de Deux translates literally as “dance for two” it is a couple’s dance included in classical ballet forms. In this famous Christmas ballet, the sugar plum fairy dances with Prince Coqueluche. It showcases both the male and female dancers. As Clara waves goodbye to the land of the Nutcracker, this elegant waltz plays her out, and she awakens back in her home.

## **Bizet, "Farandole" from Suite No. 2 from *L'Arlésienne***

From the Opera “The Girl From Arles” comes this triumphant glowing dance movement. It has gained reputation as a Christmas classic because of its incorporation of the Three Kings Theme, from a folk song book produced in France.

## **Schubert, Ave Maria**

This piece has become a Christmas standard, partly due to a misconception. In a Catholic Mass the Ave Maria is an important moment. Many people believe that Schubert wrote this theme as a setting for the Mass. Rather, it is from a song setting of the poem “The Lady of the Lake” by Sir George Scott. Here the soloist floats gracefully over the simple accompaniment.



## Adolphe Adam, O Holy Night

The text of this next piece was originally written by French poet Placide Cappeau to celebrate the installation of an organ at his church. It was then turned into a carol by Adolphe Adam, and translated into the well-known English version by the pastor John Sullivan. Dwight.



## John Rutter, Candlelight Carol

This piece was first sung by John Rutter's own choir, the Cambridge Choir. It focuses on the love that the Virgin Mary feels towards her baby Jesus. It incorporates both English and Latin text.

## Bach, Jachzet Frohloket from Weihnachtsoratorium, BWV 248

This is one of Bach's Christmas Cantatas, written for the Christmas season of 1734. The full piece lasts about 3 hours, but most often is shortened. The form alternates rousing and joyous choruses with direct biblical quotations of the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

## Randol Bass, Fanfare: Joy to the World

This fanfare is based on "Joy to the World" and features the brass section of the orchestra before erupting into the famous theme along with the chorus.

## Vivaldi, Concerto in G minor for Two Cellos and Orchestra

This concert features a wonderful collaboration between father and son. Our principal cellist Roman Mekinulov will be performing with his son, Benjamin.

## Corelli, Concerto Grosso, Opus 6, No. 8, "Christmas Concerto"

You'll hear five of the six movements of this piece today, all relatively short, with direct transitions. This piece was possibly performed as early as 1690, though it was not published until 1714.



- I. Vivace - Grave - Allegro
- II. Adagio - Allegro - Adagio
- III. Vivace
- IV. Allegro
- V. Pastorale



## Menotti, Introduction, March and Shepherd's Dance from Amahl and the Night Visitors

This opera was written to capture the hope and faith of children trying to stay awake to catch a glimpse of The Three Kings. It is a children's opera, the tale of a crippled boy who meets the three kings in his dreams.

## Pietro Yon, Gesu Bambino

This is an Italian Christmas carol, with the lyrics taken from the English hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful." After it was written, the melody was used by Frank Marten in an English carol "When Blossoms Flowered Mid' the Snow." It has proven itself to be a versatile yet accessible piece, and has been arranged for many different choirs and ensembles.



## Aundi Marie Moore

Aundi has received nothing but raving reviews since she began her professional career. She has skills in both concert settings, as well as on the stage. She has performed in Don Giovanni with the Monte Carlo Opera, and in a number of musicals. You'll be delighted by her sweet yet full and compelling voice.

## Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus

The Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus is Western New York's premiere symphonic choral ensemble. What began in 1937 as the Buffalo Schola Cantorum became the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus in 1992 to reflect its close association with the BPO.

### Rutter, *Mary's Lullaby*

English composer and choir director John Rutter has made a career primarily composing Christmas songs for his choir The Cambridge Singers. Much of the music he writes is added to many choir's regular Christmas

programming. *Mary's Lullaby* opens with a pastoral nostalgic oboe solo, and as the women take over the voice of angels, the men sing the part of the shepherds and wise men.



### Handel, *Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah*

The Hallelujah Chorus is one of the most performed pieces of Christmas literature. From its debut performance in 1742, *The Messiah* has exploded into popular culture, especially the Hallelujah Chorus.

It is rumored that at the London premiere of the piece, King George the Second stood during the performance of the Hallelujah Chorus. As was per custom, the rest of the audience stood as well, and it is still customary today to stand. It has since been recorded by many professional groups since, sometimes in unique ways, including jazz covers and world music ensembles.

### Leroy Anderson, *A Christmas Festival*

We hope you've enjoyed JoAnn's Classical Christmas. How many Christmas songs can you recognize in this piece? (answers on page 4).



**Happy Holidays  
From the BPO!**





JoAnn Falletta, Conductor

**BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA**

*Friday Morning  
Concert Series*

[education@bpo.org](mailto:education@bpo.org)

## Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

- As Buffalo's cultural ambassador, the Grammy Award-winning
- Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, under Music Director JoAnn
- Falletta, presents more than 120 Classics, Pops and Youth
- Concerts each year. Over 50,000 people are reached yearly
- through the Orchestra's educational programming.
- Since 1940, the orchestra's permanent home has been
- Kleinhans Music Hall, a National Historic Landmark designed
- by Eliel and Eero Saarinen with an international reputation as
- one of the finest concert halls in the United States.



## Explore and Learn:

**Classical music may seem to represent a more genuine, or more spiritual, observance of Christmas traditions than many other current ones (like Black Friday shopping!) So much of Western classical music has its roots deeply intertwined with Christian traditions that this is a natural time for it to shine. How many pieces in this program are already familiar to you? Where (besides the concert hall) might you have heard them?**

## Carols included in Anderson's Christmas Festival:

- Joy to the World
- Deck the Halls
- Good King Wenceslas
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- Silent Night
- Jingle Bells