

The **Vernon**  
Chorale

THE VERNON CHORALE PRESENTS

# A CEREMONY OF CAROLS



**EHREN BROWN**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**KATHLEEN BARTKOWSKI**  
COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

**DAVID GLADSTEIN**  
CONDUCTING FELLOW

**SAT. DEC. 3, 2022**  
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As incoming president of the Board of Directors, I am so looking forward to our upcoming year! I'm honored to serve The Vernon Chorale in this new role, and I know I speak for all of us when I say that we're elated to be singing together once more. Our 42nd season is sure to please as we celebrate the joy that choral music brings to all of us. We're deeply grateful for the inspired leadership of our Artistic Director, Ehren Brown, and the impeccable musicianship of our Collaborative Pianist, Kathleen Bartkowski. Together, we create bonds that endure and concerts that resonate!

We would not be able to provide the quality of performances our community has come to expect without the continued support of our audiences and donors, so let me thank you! Your patronage not only allows us to fulfill our mission of educating singers and listeners about the beauty and breadth of choral music, but to engage in community outreach, as well. We are pleased to welcome three distinguished young musicians who've been recognized as part of our fellowship programs this season. Our Choral Fellows, Grace Michalowski and Aidan O'Connor, join us from ECSU, while UConn student David Gladstein has stepped into the role of Conducting Fellow. We're excited to renew our relationships with local universities and to extend these opportunities once again – no energy is quite the same as the exuberance of youth!

As we look to the future, we're hopeful about several potential opportunities for growth. One idea we're exploring is the possibility of offering extra performances of our concert programs in varying locations to reach a wider audience. In addition, the board has discussed collaborating with other local musical organizations and hiring professional instrumentalists more frequently. We're working hard to balance our wildest dreams with our revered traditions, and as a non-profit, we're sensible of the generosity of our donors. What ideas do you have for us? We always welcome feedback from our supporters.

Please enjoy our 2022-2023 Concert Season – and thank you!



**Liz Whiteley**

President, Board of Directors



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# ABOUT THE VERNON CHORALE

## **Mission**

The Vernon Chorale's principal mission is to provide a forum for members to learn and refine choral singing skills and to educate audiences through the presentation of concerts of choral music, both sacred and secular.

## **History**

Established in 1980 and officially incorporated in 2002, our organization, guided by bylaws, a mission statement, and a Board of Directors, has a membership of almost fifty volunteer singers selected by audition and drawn from Central and Eastern Connecticut's community of both trained and amateur musicians from all walks of life. The Vernon Chorale is a vibrant organization whose objective is to contribute high quality choral music to Hartford and Tolland counties on a non-profit basis. We present three choral concerts per year, incorporating gifted local composers, instrumentalists, and young, rising talent. We are dedicated to the utmost caliber of choral singing and musical excellence, and to cultivating the next generation of young musicians.

Our programming covers a broad range of choral music from the Renaissance to newly commissioned works. Past performances included Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*, Schubert's *Mass in G Minor*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Howells' *Requiem*. In 2008, the Chorale performed at the fall conference of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association at Central Connecticut State University. In 2011, the Chorale partnered with the University of Connecticut Festival Chorus to present a celebration of Mozart featuring a full orchestra accompanying the choirs' performance of Mozart's *Requiem* (K. 626) and *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* (K. 339). More recently, the Chorale collaborated in concerts with the Hockanum Valley Ringers and an Irish folk band, offering diverse musical experiences for both singer and audience.

The Vernon Chorale greatly values its ties and support with the local Vernon community, as well as embraces opportunities to reach audiences all across Connecticut. At the core of our community outreach lie our Choral Fellow and Conducting Fellow programs.

## **Choral Fellow**

In 2003, the Vernon Chorale began offering a unique program for gifted music students currently enrolled in Connecticut colleges and universities: a choral fellowship which includes a stipend for a season of participation with the Chorale. Today, we continue to offer this fellowship to a handful of auditioned music students and provide them with an opportunity to participate in exceptional performance at the community level. This role has evolved to expose students to the challenging world of non-profit, including first-hand insights into development and programming.

## **Conducting Fellow**

The Vernon Chorale also provides a wonderful opportunity for fledgling conductors. Selected candidates work under the tutelage of the Artistic Director to prepare and conduct works with the Chorale for the winter and spring concerts. The Conducting Fellow also has the unique experience of planning and executing an entire program for the annual June concert, a project that serves as a platform for young, talented conductors to explore concert preparation and rehearsal coordination. With considerable, direct time leading the Chorale, the Conducting Fellow is able to build confidence and a résumé.

# PERSONNEL

## Leadership

### Artistic Director

Ehren Brown

### Conducting Fellow

David Gladstein

### Collaborative Pianist

Kathleen Bartkowski

### Section Leaders

Rebecca Harris (Soprano)

Jeanne Allie (Alto)

Tom Sweet (Tenor)

Ken Bartschi (Bass)

## Board of Directors

### President

Elizabeth Whiteley

### Vice President

Cynthia Trenholm

### Secretary

Sarah Maldonado

### Treasurer

Bruce Jones

### Assistant Treasurer

James Burr

### General Directors

Julie Bezanson

Kate Adams

## Past Artistic Directors

Mark Singleton (2001-06)

Michael Barnicle (1998-2001)

Eileen Sullivan (1996-98)

Leslie Eckstein (1992-96)

Mary Marcell (1991-92)

Sal Ciccirella (1984-91)

Herbert Chatzky (1980-84)

## Past Presidents

Cynthia Trenholm (2017-22)

McLean Turner (2014-17)

Bruce Jones (2008-14)

Steven Westerberg (2006-08)

Laura Lang (2004-06)

Keith Burris (2003-04)

Patricia Hope Richardson (2002-03)

Claudia Ayer (2001-02)

## Past Accompanists

Stephan Scarlato (2001-05)

Alan Dougherty (2000-01)

Anthony Beck (1999-2000)

Mary Anne Barnicle (1998-99)

Connie Cokkinias (1996-97)

Kyle Swann (1990-96)

Barbara Jackson/Thomas Nerbonne  
(1989-90)

Gavin Taylor (1988-89)

Keith Narkon (1984-88)

Cathy Lord (1980-82)

# VERNON CHORALE MEMBERS

## Soprano

Julie Bezanson ^  
Lisa Corriveau  
Jess Dalrymple  
Meghan DePeau  
Rebecca Harris\*  
Sarah Maldonado ^  
Grace Michalowski  
Caragh O'Brien  
Patricia Richardson  
Jane Roets  
Stephanie Summers  
Elizabeth Whiteley ^

## Alto

Kate Adams ^  
Jeanne Allie\*  
Karen Anger  
Lauren Dominique  
Elena Foster  
Jill Rizzo-Flower  
Lynn Sweet  
Cynthia Trenholm ^

## Tenor

Earle Bidwell  
David Gladstein  
Ruth Holm  
David Klotz  
Rob Morehouse  
Aidan O'Connor  
Tom Sweet\*

## Bass

Kenneth Bartschi\*  
James Burr ^  
Dennis Carroll  
Rich Coffey  
Kurt Dembeck  
Bruce Jones ^  
Joseph Scott  
Steve Walker

\* Section Leader    ^ Board Member

# WHO'S WHO

## Ehren Brown

Artistic Director



Ehren Brown makes music wherever he goes, with whatever he can find and with whomever he can persuade to join him in singing. An artisan of the choral voice, Ehren is known for his energetic musical leadership and a wide range of expertise in different areas of choral music. He blends experience in the concert hall, classroom, and church to create his unique approach to choral singing.

Ehren currently serves as Director of Choirs at East Hampton High School and Artistic Director of the Vernon Chorale. He is also in demand as a guest clinician and conductor of festival choruses. An alumnus of the University of Connecticut, Ehren holds a Master of Music degree in choral conducting and undergraduate degrees in voice and music education. He has studied conducting with Peter Bagley, Mark Singleton, and Jeffrey Renshaw.

Previously, he has served as Associate Director of Music at Immanuel Congregational Church, Director of Music at St. Mark's Episcopal Chapel, Founding Conductor of the Hartford Chorale Chamber Singers, Chorus Director at Hartford Public High School and Bulkeley High School, Repertoire and Standards Chairperson for Community Choirs on the Connecticut American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Executive Board, Co-founder and Director of the all-male vocal ensemble A Completely Different Note, and teacher of choir and general music at Lebanon Middle School.

### KEVIN IACOLINO

Project Consultant

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## Kathleen Bartkowski

Collaborative Pianist



Kathleen Bartkowski accompanies many community, college, and professional ensembles, including the Vernon Chorale, an auditioned community choir based in Vernon, Connecticut. She is frequently invited to accompany choral festivals, musicals, and other school ensembles, and is the Organist and Parish Administrator for St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gales Ferry, Connecticut. She has served on the Connecticut ACDA Executive Board and is currently a Member-at-Large on the New London American Guild of Organists Board. Her professional achievements are recognized in Who's Who in America.

Kathleen earned a Master of Music in Piano Accompanying from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she accompanied the University Chamber Choir, Chorale, vocalists, and instrumentalists. While pursuing her degree, she was granted the Eugenie M. May Award for Piano Performance. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Connecticut, where she served as accompanist for the choral department, playing for the University Chorale, Concert Choir, and Graduate Vocal Ensemble, as well as vocalists and instrumentalists. She was awarded a University String Scholarship for two years and the Victor Borge Scholarship for four years while attending UConn.

Some of Kathleen's most notable appearances include accompanying the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Eastern Division Honor Choir (Hartford, CT), the New England Music Festival Choir, NY Area All-State Choir (Suffern, NY), and ACDA National Mens Honor Choir (Chicago, IL). Among the many other groups she has accompanied are the Hartford Chorale Chamber Singers, the Mystic River Chorale, Mak'hela (Jewish Chorus of Western Massachusetts), Ledyard High School Choral Department, and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and NAfME honors choirs and conference sessions on the local, state and national levels. She has accompanied Connecticut Eastern Region and All-State Honors choirs, New England Music Festival Association choirs, ACDA Eastern Division Children's Honor Choir, and has traveled with the UMass choirs and the Mystic River Chorale to Europe on several occasions. She has had the immense honor of working with such esteemed choral conductors as Peter Bagley, Charlene Archibeque, Andre Thomas, Z. Randall Stroope, and Janet Galvan.

Kathleen lives in Colchester with her husband, Doug, and two cats, Ben & Jerry.

# WHO'S WHO

## David Gladstein

Conducting Fellow



David Gladstein is currently studying music education at the University of Connecticut as well as the Neag School of Education. He studies both jazz piano and voice and has performed with the University's Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, and others. He holds several leadership positions as the president of UConn's NAFME chapter, and he is a co-founder and the president of UConn's Freestyle Rap Club. He is also heavily involved in the university's ACDA

chapter. In his career at UConn, he has taken piano lessons under the direction of Earl MacDonald, Angelina Gadeliya and Steven Bulmer, and has studied voice with Rod Nelman. In his earlier years, David grew up in Canton CT, which was where his first love of music blossomed through countless experiences. While he was there, he arranged a song for his high school choir, and he had the opportunity of conducting several of the choirs both in rehearsal and in concert. In addition to this, he was the director of the low voices a cappella ensemble, the Cantones. Nowadays, David frequently performs jazz piano at weddings, businesses, and other private functions outside of school. David is a driven learner, and aspires to be the director of a high school choir, and eventually the director of a collegiate choir program. He is extremely passionate and enthusiastic about conducting, and is thankful for his time with The Vernon Chorale.

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# MEET OUR CHORAL FELLOWS



## Grace Michalowski

Grace Michalowski is from East Hampton, Connecticut. She is currently a student at Eastern Connecticut State University pursuing a BA in Music with a double concentration in Vocal Performance, Music Industry and Leadership, as well as a minor in Theater. Grace is a proud member of multiple ensembles at Eastern, including Eastern Concert Chorale, Eastern Chamber Singers, and Eastern's 3 O'Clock Jazz Combo. She also supports the music department as vocal department assistant. Grace will be participating in Eastern's production of 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' in the Spring of 2023. Grace is a student of Dr. Emily Riggs and Dr. Rebecca Barko. Grace is so thankful to be able to take part in Vernon Chorale this semester as she is eager to make music with as many talented musicians as possible. She hopes you enjoy the show.



## Aidan O'Connor

Aidan is a junior at Eastern Connecticut State University majoring in music performance with a minor in psychology and plans for a career in music therapy. In high school, he participated in Connecticut's Northern Region High School auditioned chorus and worked with Hartford's own professional Chamber Ensemble, VOCE, alongside renowned composer Paul Mealor. He now sings in both the Eastern Concert Chorale and Eastern Chamber Singers at ECSU. Aidan is very excited to be a part of The Vernon Chorale and hopes everyone enjoys the concert tonight.

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# PROGRAM

When We Love ..... Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

A Ceremony of Carols ..... Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)  
arr. Julius Harrison (1885-1963)

1. Procession
2. Wolcum Yole!
3. There is no Rose
- 4a. That yongë child

Julie Bezanson, *soprano*

4. Balulalow

Jane Roets, *soprano*

5. As dew in Aprille
6. This little Babe
7. Interlude
8. In Freezing Winter Night

Grace Michalowski, *soprano*, Aidan O'Connor, *tenor*

9. Spring Carol

Sarah Maldonado, *soprano I*, Lauren Dominique, *soprano II*

10. Deo Gracias
11. Recession

Sarah Goss, *harp*

Winter Wind ..... Brandon Williams

Glow ..... Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)  
Piano accompaniment arr. Lisa Edwards (b. 1958)

Hanukkah! ..... arr. Derric Johnson (b. 1932)

Hard Times Come Again No More ..... Stephen Foster (1826-1864)  
arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

Lindsey Clark, *violin*

The Christmas Song ..... Mel Torme (1925-1999), Robert Wells (1922-1998)  
arr. Kirby Shaw (b. 1941)

Sarah Maldonado, *soprano*

Betelehemu ..... Via Olatunji (1927-2003), Wendell Whalum (1931-1987)  
arr. Barrington Brooks

Bruce Jones, *bass*

# TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

## When We Love

The towering tree spreads his  
greening canopy  
—A veil between the soil and sky—  
Not in selfish vanity,  
But the gentle thrush to shade and shelter.  
So it is with love.

For when we love,  
Simply love,  
Even as we are loved,  
Our weary world can be transformed.

The busy thrush builds her nest below  
—A fortnight's work to weave and set—  
Not for herself alone,  
But her tender brood to shield and cherish.  
And so it is with love.

For when we love,  
Simply love,  
Even as we are loved,  
Our weary world can be transformed  
Into the Kingdom of God!

Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

## A Ceremony of Carols

### 1. Procession

Hodie Christus natus est:  
hodie Salvator apparuit:  
hodie in terra canunt Angeli  
laetantur Archangeli:  
hodie exsultant justi dicentes:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluja.

Today is Christ born;  
today the Savior has appeared;  
today the Angels sing,  
the Archangels rejoice;  
today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

## 2. Wolcum Yole!

Wolcum be thou hevenè king,  
Wolcum, born in one morning,  
Wolcum for whom we sall sing!

Wolcum be ye Stevene and Jon,  
Wolcum Innocentes every one,  
Wolcum, Thomas marter one,  
Wolcum, be ye, Good Newe Yere,  
Wolcum, Twelfth Day both in fere,  
Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere  
Wolcum Yole!

Candelmesse, Quene of bliss,  
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.  
Wolcum be ye that are here,  
Wolcum Yole!  
Wolcum alle and make good cheer.  
Wolcum alle another yere,  
Wolcum Yole! Wolcum!

## 3. There is no Rose

There is no rose of such vertu  
As is the rose that bare Jesu.  
Alleluia.  
For in this rose containèd was  
Heaven and earth in litel space,  
Res miranda!

By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in persons three,  
Pares forma, pares forma.  
The aungels sungen the shepherds to:  
Gloria in excelsis, gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this werldly mirth,  
and follow we this joyful birth.  
Transeamus.

Alleluia, Res miranda, Pares forma,  
Gaudeamus,  
Transeamus.

## Welcome, Yule!

Welcome be Thou, heavenly King,  
Welcome born on this morning,  
Welcome for whom we shall sing,

Welcome be ye, Stephen and John  
Welcome, Innocents, every one,  
Welcome, Thomas, martyred one  
Welcome be ye, good New Year,  
Welcome, Twelfth day, almost here  
Welcome, Saints, loved and dear,  
Welcome, Yule!

Candlemas, Queen of Bliss,  
Welcome, both to more and less,  
Welcome be ye that are here,  
Welcome all, and make good cheer,  
Welcome all, another year,  
Welcome, Yule!

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu.  
Alleluia.  
For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space,  
Wonderful thing!

By that rose we may well see  
That he is God in person three,  
Equal in form.  
The angels sung the shepherds to:  
“Gloria in excelsis Deo!”  
Gaudeamus.  
[Glory to God in the highest  
Let us rejoice]

Leave we all this worldly mirth  
And follow we this joyful birth:  
We travel on.

Alleluia, Wonderful Thing, Equal in form,  
Let us rejoice,  
We travel on.

#### 4a. That yongë child

That yongë child when it gan weep  
With song she lulled him asleep:  
That was so sweet a melody  
It passèd alle minstrelsy.

The nightingalë sang also:  
Her song is hoarse and nought thereto:  
Whoso attendeth to her song  
And leaveth the first then doth he wrong.

When that young child began to weep  
With song, she lulled him to sleep  
It was such a sweet melody,  
It was so very merry.

The nightingale sang also,  
But her song was hoarse, it was not the  
same:  
Whoever listens to the nightingale's song  
Instead of Mary's, does wrong.

#### 4. Balulalow (Scottish lullaby)

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweet,  
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,  
And I sall rock thee to my hert,  
And never mair from thee depart.  
But I sall praise thee evermoir  
With sanges sweit unto thy gloir;  
The knees of my hert sall I bow,  
And sing that richt Balulalow.

Oh my dear heart, young Jesus sweet  
Prepare your cradle in my spirit,  
And I shall rock you to my heart  
And nevermore from you depart.  
But I shall praise you evermore  
With sweet songs of your glory;  
The knees of my heart I shall bow  
And sing the right lullaby.

#### 5. As dew in Aprille

I sing of a maiden that is makèles:  
King of all kings to her son she ches.

He came al so stille  
There his moder was,  
As dew in Aprille  
That falleth on the grass.

He came al so stille  
To his moderes bour,  
As dew in Aprille  
That falleth on the flour.

He came al so stille  
Where his mother lay,  
As dew in Aprille  
That falleth on the spray.

Moder and mayden  
Was never non but she:  
Well may such a lady  
Goddess moder be.

I sing of a maiden that is mateless,  
Her son was the King of all Kings.

From his mother he came to us  
quietly  
As dew in April  
that falls on the grass.

His mother's labor was painless and  
quiet,  
As dew in April that falls on the flower  
branches.

As His mother lay there, he came  
quietly,  
As dew in April that falls on the  
branch.

Never has there been such a mother  
and maiden;  
How fitting it is that this be God's  
mother.

## 6. This little Babe

This little Babe so few days old,  
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;  
All hell doth at his presence quake,  
Though he himself for cold do shake;  
For in this weak, unarmed wise  
The gates of Hell He will surprise!

With tears he fights and wins the field,  
His naked breast stands for a shield;  
His battering shot are babish cries,  
His arrows looks of weeping eyes,  
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,  
And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

## 8. In Freezing Winter Night

Behold, a silly tender babe,  
In freezing winter night,  
In homely manger trembling lies –  
Alas, a piteous sight!

The inns are full; no man will yield  
This little pilgrim bed.  
But forced is he with silly beasts  
In crib to shroud his head.

This stable is a Prince's court,  
This crib his chair of State;  
The beasts are parcel of his pomp,  
The wooden dish his plate.

## 9. Spring Carol

Pleasure it is to hear iwis,  
The Birdès sing,  
The deer in the dale,  
The sheep in the vale,  
The corn springing --  
God's purveyance for sustenance.  
It is for man.

Then we always to Him give praise,  
And thank him than.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall,  
His bulwark but a broken wall;  
The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes;  
Of shepherds, he his muster makes.  
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,  
The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;  
Stick to the tents that he has pight  
[pitched].  
Within his crib is surest ward [protection];  
This little babe will be thy guard.  
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,  
Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

The persons in that poor attire  
His royal liveries wear;  
The Prince himself is come from heav'n;  
This pomp is prizèd there.

With joy approach, O Christian wight  
[being],  
Do homage to thy King,  
And highly praise his humble pomp,  
which he from heav'n doth bring.

It is always a pleasure to hear the birds  
sing,  
To see the deer in the dale, the sheep in  
the vale, the corn springing from the earth.  
God supplies sustenance  
For us all.

Then we should always give him praise  
And give him thanks.

## 10. Deo Gracias

Deo gracias! [Thanks be to God!]  
Adam lay ibounden, bounden in a bond  
[was bound in sin for];  
four thousand winter [years],  
Thought he not to[o] long.  
Deo gracias!

appil takè ben,  
The appil takè ben,  
Ne haddè never our lady  
A ben hevenè quene.  
[Then our Lady would have  
Never been a heavenly queen.]

And all was for an appil [apple],  
An appil that he tok [took],  
As clarkes [clerics] finden [find]  
written in their book[s].Ne [never] had the

Blessèd be the time  
The appil takè was.  
Therefore we moun [must] sing[en]  
Deo gracias!

## 11. Recession

[Same as 1. Procession.]

## Winter Wind

Blow, blow, thou winter wind.  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude.  
Thy tooth is not so keen,  
Because thou art not seen,  
Although thy breath be rude.  
Heigh-ho! Sing heigh-ho! unto the green  
holly:  
Most friendship is feigning, most loving  
mere folly.  
Then heigh-ho, the holly,  
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, thou bitter sky,  
That does not bite so nigh  
As benefits forgot,  
Though thou the waters warp,  
Thy sting is not so sharp  
As friend remembered not.  
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green  
holly:  
Most friendship is feigning, most loving  
mere folly.  
Then heigh-ho, the holly,  
This life is most jolly.  
Blow, blow, thou winter wind.

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)  
"As You Like It" (Act II)

# Glow

Softly falls the winter snow,  
Whispers to the sleeping world below:  
“Wintertide awakes,”  
Morning breaks and sets the earth aglow.  
In gentle tones of warmest white,  
Proclaim the glory of Aurora’s light.  
Sparrow sings in a clear clean voice,  
A sweet, silver carol for the season born.  
Radiant wings as the skies rejoice,  
Arise and illuminate the morn.  
Softly falls the morning snow,  
Whispers to the sleeping world below:  
“Glow, like the softly falling snow.”  
Glow, glow, glow.

Edward Esch (1917-1993)

# Hanukkah!

Oh Hanukkah, Oh, Hanukkah!  
Come light the menorah.  
Let’s have a party,  
We’ll all dance the hora.  
Gather ‘round the table  
We’ll give you a treat.  
Dreidels to play with and latkes to eat,  
And while we are playing,  
The candles are burning low.  
One for each night, they will shed a  
sweet light  
To remind us of days long ago. Whoa,  
One for each night, they will shed a  
sweet light  
To remind us of days long ago.

I have a little dreidel,  
I made it out of clay  
And when it’s dry and ready,  
Then dreidel I will play.  
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,  
I made it out of clay.  
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,  
Now dreidel I will play.  
Havenu shalom aleichem.  
We bring God’s peace now,  
God’s peace, we bring unto you.

## Hard Times Come Again No More

Let us pause in life's pleasures  
And count its many tears,  
While we all sup sorrow with the poor;  
There's a song that will linger forever in  
our ears;  
Oh! Hard Times come again no more.

Refrain:

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary;  
Hard Times, Hard Times, come again no  
more;  
Many days you have lingered around my  
cabin door;  
Oh! Hard Times, come again no more.

While we seek mirth and beauty, and  
music light and gay,  
There are frail forms fainting at the door;  
Though their voices are silent, their  
pleading looks still say,  
Oh! Hard Times, come again no more.

Refrain

'Tis a sigh that is wafted across the  
troubled wave,  
'Tis a wail that is heard upon the shore,  
'Tis a dirge that is murmured around the  
lowly grave,  
Oh! Hard Times, come again no more.

Refrain

Stephen Foster (1826 – 1864)

## The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,  
Jack Frost nipping at your nose.  
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir  
And folks dressed up like Eskimos.  
Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe  
Help to make the season bright.  
Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow  
Will find it hard to sleep tonight.  
They know that Santa's on his way,  
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh.  
And ev'ry mother's child is gonna spy  
To see if reindeer really know how to fly.

And so I'm offering this simple phrase  
To kids from one to ninety-two.  
Although it's been said many times, many ways,  
Merry Christmas to you.

Mel Torme (1925 – 1999) , Robert Wells (1922 – 1998)

## **Betelehemu** **(Nigerian Christmas Song)**

Betelehemu  
Awa yio ri Baba gbojule  
Awa yio ri Baba fehenti

Nibo labi Jesu  
Nibo lagbe bi i  
Betelehemu, ilu ara  
Nibo labi Baba o daju  
Iyin, iyin, iyin nifuno  
Adupe fun o, adupe fun o, adupe fun  
o jooni

Baba oloreo  
Iyin, iyin, iyin fun o Baba anu  
Baba toda wasi  
Betelehemu

Betelehemu, ilu ara  
Nibe labi Baba o daju

Bethlehem  
We are glad that we have a Father to trust  
We are glad that we have a Father to rely  
upon.

Where was Jesus born?  
Where was He born?  
Bethlehem, the city of wonder  
That is where the Father was born for  
sure.  
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.  
We thank Thee, we thank Thee, we thank  
Thee for this day,  
Gracious Father.  
Praise, praise, praise be to Thee,  
Merciful Father.  
Bethlehem

Bethlehem, the city of wonder  
That is where the Father was born for  
sure.

Nigerian Carol

## **Love to Sing?**

The Vernon Chorale, Inc. has a membership made up of volunteers selected by audition, drawn from Hartford and Tolland counties of both trained and amateur musicians. Auditions are held by appointment twice each year: once in late August or early September, and again in early January.

For more information, please visit our website at **[vernonchorale.org](http://vernonchorale.org)**, or you may contact us at **860-375-0545** or e-mail us at **[auditions@vernonchorale.org](mailto:auditions@vernonchorale.org)**.

# SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING CONCERTS!

**April 1, 2023**

First Congregational Church of Vernon  
695 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon

**June 3, 2023**

St. John's Episcopal Church  
523 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon

Visit [vernonchorale.org](http://vernonchorale.org) for updated information

## THE SHIMER FUND

A new way to support young talent, the Shimer Fund has been established by longtime Vernon Chorale member Paul Shimer. Monies donated to the Shimer fund can be used specifically for any special or particular project of The Vernon Chorale, Inc., concerning young choral singers/artists. Projects can include but are not limited to: support to young singers' costs of membership such as dues and music fees, help with costs of the Choral Fellowship program or Conducting Fellowship program, help to fund scholarships to a highly motivated Rockville High School senior who will be attending college and majoring in the musical arts sphere, or any other costs promoting and encouraging the talents of young choral artists. Donations should be made to The Vernon Chorale, Inc., and noted that it is for the Shimer Fund. All contributions will be matched up to \$500 per year.

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With heartfelt gratitude, we wish to thank the following sponsors for their significant support of The Vernon Chorale's 2022-2023 concert season. Their generosity allows us to plan innovative programs, nurture new talent, celebrate the community that flourishes around the arts and, best of all, sing! Thank you!

## **The Vernon Arts Commission**



## **CT Humanities**

# **cthumanities**

*Support has been provided to The Vernon Chorale from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.*

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# The Vernon Chorale

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We would like to thank our adbook contributors and organizations such as the Vernon Arts Commission for their continuing support of our programming and mission.

We would also like to thank you, our audience, for your unwavering support and patronage this season. The Vernon Chorale is only able to do what we do because of the generosity of community members like you!

Help us continue our mission of bringing the highest quality choral music, sacred and secular, to Central and Eastern Connecticut.

**Your support is greatly appreciated.**