



AN ENGLISH HOLIDAY

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY

SAT | DEC 02 | 2:30



Start your holiday season with an afternoon of music and lights!

Join us for a festive afternoon featuring talented performers from throughout our community followed by the Federal Way City tree lighting.

The afternoon will kick-off at 1:45 in the PAEC lobby with Christmas carols and other delights by Jet Cities Chorus. These ladies really put the "ho, ho, ho" in the holidays and will set the festive mood. At 2:30, the Federal Way Symphony's holiday concert will feature holiday favorites and two great British choral works: Holst's *Christmas Day* featuring the Federal Way Chorale and Vaughan William's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* featuring the Chorale and Bass soloist Ryan Bede. The concert will also feature Emerging Artist and violin soloist Eden Pawlos.

We will end in time for concertgoers to make their way down the grand staircase to the Federal Way City tree lighting ceremony at 4:30 pm. It will be a fitting ending to a magical afternoon of music!

[Purchase Tickets Now!](#)

Program

PHILIP LANE (b. 1950)

Old Christmas Music

J.S. BACH (1685-1750)

Wachet auf (orch. Eugene Ormandy)

Violin Concerto No. 1 in a, BWV 1041—

Allegro moderato

Eden Pawlos, violin

“Little” Fugue in g (orch. Lucien Caillet)

JUDITH BAILEY (b. 1941)

Noel (Fantasy on Christmas Carols)

INTERMISSION

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Federal Way Chorale

Ryan Bede, Bass

GUSTAV HOLST (1875-1934)

Christmas Day

Federal Way Chorale

LEROY ANDERSON (1908-1975)

A Christmas Festival

Program Notes



What would the holiday season be without music? Inundated though we may sometimes feel by its omnipresence in stores, offices, elevators, and just about every other public space you can think of, I suspect we all find it uplifting and welcome in some way, shape, or form, whether our personal thoughts be sacred, secular, sentimental, or any combination thereof.

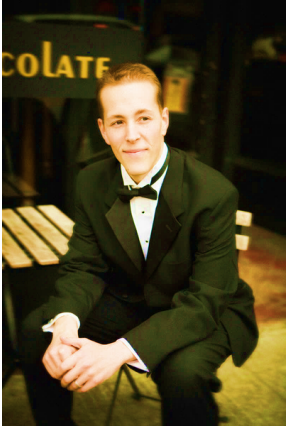
2023 will mark my sixty-eighth Christmas, and I can guarantee that I'll get a little teary when certain favorites drift 'round my ears for the umpteenth time. And then

there are my favorite holiday films in which music plays such a valuable role — the assembled friends and family of *George Bailey* singing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" at the conclusion of *It's a Wonderful Life*; the little street urchins attempting to serenade Ebenezer Scrooge (before his spiritual reclamation) with "Silent Night" in the 1951 film version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*; Vince Guaraldi's jazzy *Charlie Brown* Christmas score...all moments that unfailingly tug at my heartstrings during their once-a-year viewings.

I hope that today's mélange of beautiful and festive music — choral masterpieces by Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams, two modern takes on holiday music by living British composers Judith Bailey and Philip Lane, a clutch of works by Johann Sebastian Bach (all of whose music, as Leonard Bernstein put it, was written to celebrate the glory of God), and Leroy Anderson's evergreen medley of Christmas standards — will fill you with the spirit of the season and put you that much more in the mood for a festive and meaningful December. Happy Holidays, everyone!

Adam Stern
Music Director
Federal Way Symphony

Meet Our Soloists



Born and raised in Tacoma, **Ryan Bede** is familiar to Federal Way Symphony concertgoers for his performances in Handel's *Messiah*. A graduate of the University of Puget Sound and the University of Washington, he is currently a PhD. candidate at UW.

Ryan made his Seattle opera solo debut in May of 2017 in *The Magic Flute* followed by roles in *Madama Butterfly*, *An American Dream*, and *The Barber of Seville* in that same season.

Recent concert engagements have included Spectrum Dance Theater's production of *Carmina Burana* as well as Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with Early Music Vancouver/Pacific Musicworks, a solo appearance with the

Cal Poly

Symphony & Chorus (Durufle *Requiem* and Ravel *Don Quichotte a Dulcinée*), the role of the Land Speculator in the premiere of Sarah Mattox's opera *Heart Mountain* with Vespertine Opera, and Samuel Barber's *Dover Beach* with the Seattle-based Bella Sala Ensemble.

Ryan currently lives in Nashville, TN where he maintains an active performance and teaching schedule. Learn more about Ryan at <https://www.ryanbede.com/>



Eden Pawlos is in 11th grade at Kentridge High School. She is a student of Key to Change Studio and first started learning the violin over Zoom during the pandemic three years ago.

She is the first-place winner of the Jessie Montgomery Senior Division at the annual Key to Change Solo String Festival. She has performed on Classical King FM's Northwest Focus Live and Unmute The Voices radio shows, and performed as a soloist with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra, where she will

return as a soloist in February 2024. Most recently, she made her debut with the Seattle Symphony and also performed for Dr. Jill Biden, the First Lady of the United States.

Outside of playing the violin, Eden loves painting, spending time with her friends and family, and listening to and making music. After high school, Eden plans to attend a four-year university, where she hopes to study something she loves. Eden studies the violin with Dr. Quinton Morris and Noah Geller. Today marks her debut playing with the Federal Way Symphony Orchestra.

[Purchase Tickets Now!](#)

The Federal Way Chorale

Formed in 1993 and under the direction of Don Barrows and Laird Thornton, the Federal Way Chorale has grown to become a premier regional choir in the Puget Sound. Now under the direction of Tom Almlie, the Chorale strives for musical excellence and performs for diverse audiences with a wide variety of musical pieces and styles. The group distinguishes itself with dynamic performances and professional presentation of demanding choral literature from the masters to the light music of today. Please join the Chorale for “Yuletide, A Celebration of the Season in Song” on December 16, 2023 at 4:00 pm at the Federal Way Performing Arts and Events Center.



Jet Cities Chorus

Jet Cities Chorus is a women’s chorus from the South Puget Sound area that sings 4-part *a cappella* harmony. They are committed to having a diverse group of singers and supporting community activities, are passionate about singing and empowering women! Please join the Chorus for “There’s no Place Like Gnomes for the Holiday” on December 16, 2023 at 3:00 pm and 7 pm at Journey Church in Federal Way.

[Purchase Tickets Now!](#)

The Composers

Philip Lane *Old Christmas Music*

WATCH
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Philip Lane, (b. 1950), is an English composer and musicologist. *Old Christmas Music* is one of several his Christmas-themed pieces. He has also composed for television including several animated programs. Lane is known for his reconstruction of lost film scores including *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, *The Quiet Man*, and *The 39 Steps*. [More](#)

WATCH

J.S. Bach Selected Works



Johann Sebastian Bach, (1685-1750) was the most celebrated member of a large family of north German musicians. Although he was admired by his contemporaries primarily as an outstanding harpsichordist, organist, and expert on organ building, Bach is now generally regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time and is celebrated as the creator of the *Brandenburg Concertos*, *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, the *Mass in B Minor*, and numerous other masterpieces of church and instrumental music. [More](#)

WATCH

Ralph Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols



Ralph Vaughan Williams, (1872-1958) was an English composer. His works include operas, ballets, chamber music, secular and religious vocal pieces and orchestral compositions including nine symphonies, written over sixty years. Strongly influenced by Tudor music and English folk-song, his output marked a decisive break in British music from its German-dominated style of the 19th century. [More](#)

Judith Bailey Noel (Fantasy on Christmas Carols)



Judith Bailey, (b. 1941) is a British composer, conductor and clarinetist. She served as conductor of the Southampton Concert Orchestra and Petersfield Orchestras for 30 years. Her compositions include two symphonies, five string quartets, concertos for clarinet and strings and double-bass and strings, some choral works and a substantial amount of music for wind. She is also an accomplished painter whose landscapes are inspired by her native Cornwall. [More](#)

The Composers

Gustav Holst *Christmas Day*

WATCH



Gustav Holst, (1875-1934), was an English composer and music teacher noted for the excellence of his orchestration. His music combines an international flavour based on the styles of Maurice Ravel, Igor Stravinsky, and others with a continuation of English Romanticism. His pioneering methods entailed a rediscovery of English choral and vocal traditions with innovations based on new European music and Hindu literature. [More](#)

Leroy Anderson *A Christmas Festival*

WATCH



Leroy Anderson, (1908-1975) was an American composer of light orchestral music, often incorporating unusual percussive or musical effects. In the mid-1950s, a survey of American orchestras found his works were performed more often than any other American composer. His fluency in nine languages led to his service as an Army interpreter during WWII and the Korean War. His most popular work is the Christmas standard *Sleigh Ride*. [More](#)