

Christmas Festival Choir 2024

Featuring: "Awaiting The Messiah"

I am excited to extend a warm invitation to you to join our Christmas Festival Choir for 2024. This year, we are presenting "**Awaiting The Messiah**", a moving and powerful musical experience that will be the highlight of our Christmas season at St. Andrew.

Our Festival Choir is a wonderful short-term opportunity to sing alongside our 130-voice adult choir, accompanied by a full professional orchestra, handbells, and soloists. Whether you are a seasoned singer or simply love to raise your voice in worship, this is your chance to be part of something truly special.

There is no cost to participate, and we provide all necessary materials, including rehearsal learning tracks and sheet music (both in paper and electronic formats). The commitment is flexible, and our rehearsal schedule is designed to accommodate busy lives, with several optional bonus rehearsals available.

Rehearsal Schedule:

- **Wednesday, September 25:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Saturday, September 28:** 9 am–12 pm
- **Sunday, October 6:** 10:30–11:30 am (Optional Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal)
- **Wednesday, October 9:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Sunday, October 20:** 10:30–11:30 am (Optional Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal)
- **Wednesday, October 23:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Saturday, November 2:** 9 am–12 pm
- **Sunday, November 3:** 10:30–11:30 am (Optional Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal)
- **Wednesday, November 6:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Wednesday, November 13:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Wednesday, November 20:** 7:15–8:00 pm
- **Sunday, November 24:** 10:30–11:30 am (Optional Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal)
- **Sunday, December 1:** 10:30–11:30 am (Optional Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal)
- **Wednesday, December 4:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Saturday, December 7:** 9 am–12 pm (Exact choir involvement TBD)
- **Wednesday, December 11:** 7:15–8:15 pm

Performance Dates:

- **Friday, December 13 at 7:30 pm**

- **Saturday, December 14 at 4:00 pm**

Musical Selections: We will be performing a diverse and inspiring program, including the following pieces:

- **"Messiah Overture and Processional"** – J. Cranfill (Commission work)
- **"Comfort Ye" and "Every Valley"** – Handel (Orchestra and Soloist)
- **"And the Glory of the Lord"** – Handel (Choir and Orchestra)
- **"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"** – Distler (Choir, A Cappella)
- **"O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion"** – Handel (Choir, Orchestra, Soloist)
- **"Rejoice, Rejoice"** – Handel (Soloist and Orchestra)
- **"O Nata Lux"** – Lauridsen (Choir, A Cappella)
- **"This Little Babe"** – Britten (Harp and St. Andrew Sisters Vocal Ensemble)
- **"For Unto Us A Child is Born"** – Handel (Orchestra and Choir)
- **"Fum, Fum, Fum"** – arr. Valerie Stephenson (Handbells in the dark with Blacklight)
- **"Glory, Glory"** – Clydesdale (Choir, Orchestra, Soloists)
- **"Silent Night"** – D. Forrest (Choir and Orchestra)

We hope that you will consider joining us for this incredible journey as we prepare to present "Awaiting The Messiah." Your voice, whether experienced or new to choral singing, will add to the beauty and depth of this performance.

To sign up or for more information, please contact us at music@gostandrew.com or simply join us at our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 25.

We look forward to lifting our voices together in celebration and anticipation of the Messiah's birth.

Blessings,

Mark Zwilling

Director of Music and the Arts

St. Andrew United Methodist Church