

# A city in song, from barbershop to Boychoir

9:14 AM, Nov. 27, 2011 Written by Janelle Gelfand

Musical treats abound during the holidays in the Cincinnati region. This year, performances of Handel's "Messiah" will include a new sing-along "Messiah" with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in Mason, as well as a traditional performance in Music Hall.

Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra joins forces with the Cincinnati Boychoir for Part I of "Messiah" (which includes the well-known "Hallelujah Chorus") in their concert entitled "And the Glory of the Lord."

You can thrill to the sound of the Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Organ, rescued from the old Albee Theater and lovingly restored and installed in Music Hall's Ballroom.

Join in festive carol singing, from Covington's free noontime sing-along in Trinity Episcopal Church to the annual Feast of Carols extravaganza of more than 300 voices at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music.

The volunteer singers of the May Festival Chorus will be lifting their voices during "Happy Holidays with the Pops," featuring five-time Grammy winner Sandi Patty, and in the CSO's two "Messiah" performances. (There's no "May Festival Christmas" concert this year, to give the chorus a few days off.)

Take a welcome break from the holiday rush for a contemplative sacred program. Many churches will mount special programs, and most of them are free. In Hyde Park, Knox Choir will present Cincinnati's first complete Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach since 1992, led by Earl Rivers with soloists and orchestra. All six parts will be performed, divided in half by an optional catered dinner.

Or, enjoy the serene voices of Cincinnati Camerata in its annual Marian concert, led by its new director Brett Scott in Covington's historic Mother of God Church.

The always-popular Grammy-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer returns for an annual holiday program. And you won't want to miss opera tenor Marco Panuccio when he performs "O Holy Night." Both are at Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral, Downtown.

Here's a select list of holiday favorites:

Today – Great Music in a Great Space presents its annual Advent Lessons and Carol Service, sung by the Choir of Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral, Anthony DiCello, director, with seasonal choral music and handbells. Free admission; freewill offerings accepted. 3 p.m., Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral, Downtown. 513-421-2222, [www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org](http://www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org).

Dec. 3 – “A Chanticleer Christmas.” Ring in the holidays with this Grammy-winning vocal ensemble, Chanticleer, in a program of profound and joyous music, 8 p.m., Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral, Downtown. 513-421-2222, [www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org](http://www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org).

Dec. 3 – “The Majesty of Christmas,” Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony Orchestra, Paul Stanbery, conductor, with the Chorale and Hamilton Public Schools’ Elementary Honors Chorus, 7:30 p.m. New Life Vineyard Church, 2470 Princeton Road, Hamilton. Tickets: \$10; \$5 children 6-12; under 6 free. 513-895-5151, [www.hfso.org](http://www.hfso.org).

Dec. 3-4 – Feast of Carols. CCM’s choirs are joined by Madeira High School choirs, Cincinnati Sound Chorus and Southern Gateway Chorus (women’s and men’s barbershop) with the Concert Orchestra and conductors, 5 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Corbett Auditorium, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Tickets: \$12; \$5 non-UC students; UC students are free. 513-556-4183, [www.ccm.uc.edu](http://www.ccm.uc.edu).

Dec. 4 – “Quia Ergo Femina.” Cincinnati Camerata with director Brett Scott in music by Hildegard von Bingen, Grieg, Josquin, Rachmaninoff, Britten, Mozart and more. \$12 at the door (suggested). 7 p.m., Mother of God Church, 119 West 6th Street, Covington. 513-941-5088, [www.cincinnati-camerata.com](http://www.cincinnati-camerata.com).

Dec. 4 – Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols, Cathedral Bishop’s Choir and Cathedral organs, Robert Schaffer, conductor and organist, Gregory Schaffer, organist. 3 p.m., Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. No admission; freewill offering is accepted. [www.cathedralconcertseries.org](http://www.cathedralconcertseries.org).

Dec. 9 – “Sounds of the Season.” Pianist Steve Schmidt and friends perform jazz standards for the holidays, noon, Mercantile Library, 414 Walnut Street, Downtown. Free; reservations requested. 513-621-0717 or [reservations@mercantilelibrary.com](mailto:reservations@mercantilelibrary.com).

Dec. 9-11 – “Happy Holidays with the Pops.” The Cincinnati Pops, John Morris Russell, conductor; Sandi Patty, vocalist, the May Festival Chorus, Robert Porco, director, and the

Winton Woods High School Varsity Ensemble, David Bell, director. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday, Music Hall. Tickets from \$20-\$80. 513-381-3300, [www.cincinnati pops.org](http://www.cincinnati pops.org).

Dec. 10-11 – “A Candlelit Christmas with the Vocal Arts Ensemble.” Tunes of the season in a quiet, reflective atmosphere, directed by Donald Nally. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Saint Boniface Catholic Church, Northside; 5 p.m. Sunday, Summit Country Day School Chapel, Hyde Park. Tickets: 513-559-0000, [www.vaecinci.org](http://www.vaecinci.org).

Dec. 10-11 – “And the Glory of the Lord.” Cincinnati Boychoir, Christopher Eanes, director, Christ Church Cathedral Chancel Choir, Stephan Casurella, conductor, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, Mischa Santora, conductor and soloists, Vivaldi’s “Gloria” and Handel’s “Messiah” (Part I), 7:30 p.m. Saturday; 5 p.m. Sunday, Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown. tickets: \$20; \$12 students. 513-396-7664, [www.cincinnati boychoir.org](http://www.cincinnati boychoir.org).

Dec. 15 – “Happy Holidays with the Mighty Wurlitzer,” with Ken Double, theater organist and the Fairview-Clifton Kinderchoir, presented by the Society for the Preservation of Music Hall with the Ohio Valley Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Music Hall Ballroom. Tickets: \$25; \$20 seniors, students and groups of 10 or more. 513-621-2787, [www.cincinnati arts.org](http://www.cincinnati arts.org).

Dec. 16 – “O Holy Night: An Evening of Holiday Song,” Marco Panuccio, tenor, with Carol Walker, pianist, Blake Callahan, organist, and the Choir of Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral. 8 p.m., Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral, Downtown. Tickets: \$20; \$10 student. 513-421-2222, [www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org](http://www.stpeterinchainscathedral.org)

Dec. 17 – The Knox Music Series presents J.S. Bach’s Christmas Oratorio (complete, with the 60-voice Knox Choir, Knox soloists and chamber orchestra, Earl Rivers, director. 4 p.m., Parts I, II and III; 7:30 p.m. Parts IV, V and VI. Free admission; freewill offering. Dinner, \$25, by reservation only. 513-321-2573, [www.knox.org/musicseries.php](http://www.knox.org/musicseries.php)

Dec. 17-18 – Handel’s “Messiah,” James Bagwell, conductor, the May Festival Chorus, Robert Porco, director, soloists Caroline Worra, Leah Wool, Daniel Ross and Daniel Mobbs. “Sing-along Messiah,” 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Christ’s Church at Mason, 5165 Western Row Road, Mason. Tickets: \$25; \$10 children; and 2 p.m. Sunday in Music Hall, Over-the-Rhine. Tickets from \$10. 513-381-3300, [www.cincinnati symphony.org](http://www.cincinnati symphony.org)

Dec. 21 –Christmas Carol Sing in the historic surroundings of Trinity Episcopal Church, 326 Madison Ave., Covington. A brass quintet joins organist John A. Deaver. Free; \$7 to purchase lunch. The program starts at 12:15 p.m. 859-431-1786, [www.trinitychurchcovky.com](http://www.trinitychurchcovky.com).