

LITTLETON
SYMPHONY
Orchestra

2023/24 CONCERT SEASON

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS

Héctor Jardón, Conductor

Friday, December 1, 2023 | 7:30 pm



The Littleton Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its 40th year of existence. In each of this season's programs we will share some highlights of the orchestra's history.



At the time of the Littleton Chamber Orchestra's first holiday concert on December 9, 1990, the orchestra had grown to fifty players. Eight of those members still play with us, five as principals. The orchestra had added full woodwind, brass, and percussion sections, and the strings sections had grown as well.

The concert took place at Littleton High School, with Byron Isaak conducting. Norman Greenhouse was the concertmaster. The title was "A Children's Christmas Concert."

The program opened with Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*. *Sleigh Ride* has appeared on most holiday concerts since, and is no doubt the most-played item in the orchestra's library. It is not a coincidence that this Anderson classic closes our program tonight.

NOW IN ITS 40TH SEASON, the Littleton Symphony Orchestra is excited to welcome its first assistant music director, Héctor Jardón, who will work with and act as a backup for music director Catherine Sailer.

During the past three decades the orchestra became one of the premier orchestras in the Denver Metro area. The orchestra performs repertoire normally associated with professional orchestras, and does it well. In the past several years the Littleton Symphony Orchestra has programmed symphonies of Beethoven, Brahms, and Mahler, as well as the Verdi and Brahms requiems, Strauss tone poems, and works by Debussy, Stravinsky, Ginastera, Ives, Copland, Bernstein, and Gershwin, among others.

This season will bring the Littleton premiere of several important works. We will continue our tradition of excellence, expanding our repertoire and continuing to "elevate the human spirit."

LITTLETON SYMPHONY *Orchestra*

OUR CORE VALUES

Engage and educate musicians and audiences with exceptional performances. Inspire and challenge dedicated, talented musicians. Embrace and promote diversity and inclusivity within our community and programs.

OUR VISION

Performances that elevate the human spirit.

OUR MISSION

To perform varied orchestral music that attracts and engages diverse audiences.

PAST SOLOISTS

(the short list)

IGNACE YANG
Concertmaster, Honolulu
Symphony Orchestra

YUMI HWANG-
WILLIAMS
Concertmaster, Colorado
Symphony Orchestra

SILVER AINOMÄE
Principal Cellist, Colorado
Symphony Orchestra

STEVEN COPES
Concertmaster, St. Paul
Chamber Orchestra

JULIE ALBERS
Principal Cellist, St. Paul
Chamber Orchestra

PETER COOPER
Principal Oboist, Colorado
Symphony Orchestra

EMILY LEVIN
Principal Harpist, Dallas
Symphony Orchestra and
Santa Fe Opera

KATIE MAHAN
Piano

DRAGON LONG
Piano

JENNIFER BIRD-
ARVIDSSON
Soprano

KARA GUGGENMOS
Soprano

MARCIA RAGONETTI
Alto

STEVEN TAYLOR
Baritone

JASON BALDWIN
Tenor

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GUEST CONDUCTOR

HÉCTOR H. JARDÓN

Héctor H. Jardón was born and raised in Toluca, Mexico, 40 miles west of Mexico City. He began musical training at the age of six. He is the Assistant Music Director of the Littleton Symphony Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, Saxophone Affiliate Faculty at Colorado Christian University, and the Fine Arts Director at Front Range Christian School.

Héctor is the recipient of multiple awards and recognitions from University of Denver and Colorado Christian University. He aspires to become a full-time Music Director and Guest Conductor of orchestras across the United States and Latin America. He also enjoys cheering for the Nuggets and the Broncos.

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FRONT RANGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

The FRCS honor choir is an audition-based ensemble of 5th-9th grade students. Formed in 2021, they are under the leadership of directors JoEllen Nikkel, and Amy Sutherland. As a K-12 private Christian school in Littleton, the FRCS Honor Choir is thrilled to participate in LUMC's Holiday Celebration.

| SOPRANO | ALTO | TENOR |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Jessica Rice | Katherine Sutherland | Nicholas Lucci |
| Taylor Shelly | Truly Deiker | Jacob Hernandez |
| Caitlyn Leewaye | Madison Geraci | Josiah O'Keefe |
| Adoline Rowley | Addison Kilgore | Ben Macready |
| Mary Wallace | Kristen Lagos Casco | |
| Shelby Kelbert | Bethany Fogg | |
| Rhea King | Anya Green | |
| Madelina Limpede | Ansley Green | |
| Kendal Fisher | Kaelyn Shelly | |
| Kylee Hollohan | Danika Smith | |
| Emery Osberg | Bella Kimery | |
| Ivy Valerio | Addison Ruth | |
| Jessica Dopps | Isabella Leal | |
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Program Notes

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

THE LITTLETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Héctor H. Jardón, Conductor

PRESENTS

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS

WITH THE FRONT RANGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HONORS CHOIR

Friday, December 1, 2023 | 7:30 pm

Littleton United Methodist Church, 5894 South Datura St., Littleton, CO

Leopold Stokowski (arranger)

TRADITIONAL SLAVIC CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Claude T. Smith

A RHAPSODY ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Peter Jaffe (arranger)

SYMPH-HANUKKAH

John Williams

THREE SONGS FROM "HOME ALONE"

with the **FRONT RANGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HONORS CHOIR**

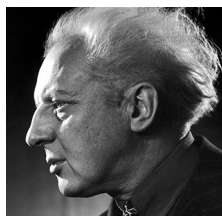
Victor Hely-Hutchinson

A CAROL SYMPHONY

Leroy Anderson

SLEIGH RIDE

PROGRAM NOTES



LEOPOLD
STOKOWSKI (*arranger*)
(1882–1977)

Traditional Slavic Christmas Music

London born Leopold Stokowski was a larger-than-life character in the grand tradition. Educated as an organist at the Royal College of Music, he came to the United States at the age of 27 and within a few years won the position of conductor of the Cincinnati Orchestra. He soon moved on to the Philadelphia Orchestra, where he achieved his greatest successes as a conductor, arranger, and composer.

While Stokowski wrote many original pieces, including several symphonies, his transcriptions and arrangements of existing works are much better known. *Traditional Slavic Christmas Music* is an arrangement based on Ippolitov-Ivanov's *In a Manger*, itself derived from a Slavic Christmas hymn. Written for separate choirs of strings and brass, the work is dark and rich, with a simple, beautiful melody.



CLAUDE T.
SMITH
(1932–1987)

A Rhapsody on Christmas Carols

Claude T. Smith composed over 180 works for band, orchestra, choir, solos, small ensembles as well as three method books for band and orchestra. His compositions have been commissioned and performed by leading musical organizations throughout the world including the U.S. Air Force Band, the "President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, the U.S. Navy Band, and the U.S. Army Field Band.

(Continued on next page)

Stokowski's first wife, "Russian" pianist Olga Samaroff (born Lucy Hickenlooper, in San Antonio) advised him to emphasize his European heritage rather than his English upbringing, and he capitalized on that throughout his career. His accent became more pronounced, and more bizarre, as he developed his career.

PROGRAM NOTES (cont'd.)

(Continued from previous page)

Originally commissioned by the United States Marine Band, with solo opportunities in each section of the ensemble, *A Rhapsody on Christmas Carols* has become standard repertoire for orchestra. The medley includes *In Dulci Jubilo*, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, *We Three Kings*, *Greensleeves*, *Joy to The World*, *Away In A Manger*, *Deck The Halls*, and *Angels We Have Heard On High*.

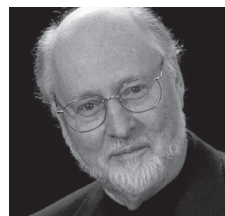


PETER
JAFFE *(arranger)*
(b. 1956)

Symph-Hanukkah

Peter Jaffe has served as the Stockton (California) Symphony's music director since 1995, and the Folsom Lake Symphony since 2014. He teaches every summer at the Conductor's Institute of South Carolina, has been a visiting professor at Stanford University, and conducted and taught at the Aspen Music Festival for fourteen years.

Symph-Hanukkah is his orchestral arrangement of Hanukkah music for orchestra, which was premiered by the Stockton Symphony in December of 2018. It includes *Ma'oz tzur* (Rock of Ages), *Mi y'malel* (Who Can Retell?) played in Klezmer style, *Hanukkah chag yafeh* (Hanukkah, Beautiful Holiday), *Blessing over the Hanukkah Lights*, and *Sevivon* (Spinning Top). Bits of the *Dreidel Song* are heard through much of the medley, and *O Hanukkah* concludes this celebration of the Jewish Festival of Lights.



JOHN
WILLIAMS

(b. 1932)

Three Songs from *Home Alone*

In a career that spans five decades, John Williams has become one of America's most accomplished and successful composers for film and for the concert stage. He has served as music director and laureate conductor of one of the country's treasured musical institutions, the Boston Pops Orchestra, and he maintains thriving artistic relationships with many of the world's great orchestras, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Mr. Williams has received a variety of prestigious awards, including the National Medal of Arts, the Kennedy Center Honor, the Olympic Order, and numerous Academy

Awards, Grammy Awards, Emmy Awards and Golden Globe Awards. He remains one of our nation's most distinguished well-known musical voices.

Mr. Williams has composed the music and served as music director for more than one hundred films. Three Songs from *Home Alone* is a medley of *Somewhere in My Memory*, *Star of Bethlehem*, and *Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas* from the now-classic movie.

Littleton Youth Ballet 2023-2024 Season

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Potatoes were introduced into Europe from the Americas in the late sixteenth century. The traditional Hanakkuh food, cheese latkes, soon became potato latkes.

John Williams was the pianist in the Peter Gunn title theme.

PROGRAM NOTES (cont'd.)



VICTOR
**HELY-
HUTCHINSON**
(1901–1947)

A Carol Symphony

Christian Victor Noel Hope Hely-Hutchinson was born in Cape Town, South Africa. His father was the governor of Cape Colony, now Cape Town, from 1901 to 1910, during and after the Boer War, but Victor spent much of that time in Kent County, England. He was considered a child prodigy, composing many pieces before the age of ten, and a collection of his sketches for violin and piano were published when he was eight. One of his early piano teachers was Sir Donald Tovey, the famous musicologist, composer, conductor, and pianist, whose books are still read by music students today.

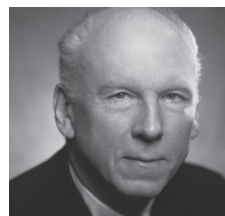
After completing studies at Eton and a year at Balliol College, Oxford, he studied conducting at the Royal College of Music under Sir Adrian Boult. He joined the BBC in 1926 where he worked as a conductor and pianist and formed the Midland Studio Orchestra. He left the BBC in 1934 to teach at the University of Birmingham, rejoining the BBC in 1944.

The winter of 1947 was long, and fuel was still rationed. Hely-Hutchinson refused to use the radiators in his office. He developed a cold which became pneumonia, and died in March of 1947 at the age of 45.

A Carol Symphony is a collection of four preludes meant to be played uninterrupted. It is based on five Christmas carols. The first movement recalls the chorale preludes of Bach and is based upon *O come, all ye faithful*. The second movement is a scherzo on *God rest you merry, gentlemen*. The third, slower, movement uses the *Coventry Carol*, with *The First Nowell* as an interlude, and the final movement is a joyful fugue on the opening phrase of the work, interrupted by *Here we come a-wassailing* and ending with the opening carol, *O come, all ye faithful*.

The *Carol Symphony* was premiered by the Wireless Symphony Orchestra (predecessor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra) on December 18, 1927, conducted by Sir John Barbirolli.

Victor Hely-Hutchinson never purchased a car, riding a bicycle instead.



LEROY
ANDERSON
(1908–1975)

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson created a style of orchestral music as distinctive as that of any composer. He is the American successor to Johann Strauss. Working alone in his Connecticut studio, Anderson created a language which is instantly recognizable to music lovers everywhere.

As for what must be his most popular Christmas composition, we are now in a distinctly New England sleigh. Imagine a crisp Winter evening, a great horse and sleigh, and good companions. In the words of one listener, "It's hard to imagine that someone actually wrote *Sleigh Ride*. It's as though it came from the ether. *Sleigh Ride* is one of those pieces of music that seems as though it has always been around; just another wonderful part of everyday life."

Leroy Anderson composed *Sleigh Ride* during a July heat wave in 1948.

"What's an oboe player's favorite sunscreen? Copper-'tune!'"



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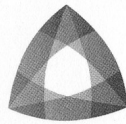
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VIOLIN I

Daniel McDonald**
Acting Concertmaster
Cindy Wander***
Cristina Clarke
Julie Dexter
Kate Knowles
Kari Shelley
Kristal Suter

VIOLIN II

David Cher*
Cynthia Davis
Judy Elgethun
Heather Graddy
Bobbi Jones
Kevin Lash
Kristiana Nelson
Elizabeth Ohsiek
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Kimberly Rieniets
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Oressa Wise

VIOLA

Loryn Gorsett*
Karen Nelson**
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Kathy MacNary
Carin Ramirez

CELLO

Tara McCrory*
Jim Todd**
Andrea Meyers
Abigail Nelson
Kathy Newtonson
Nicole Pierson
Richard Spritz

BASS

Tom Virtue****
Sue Walters

FLUTE

Rosanne Sterne*
Jayne Copland
Kris Gensemer

PICCOLO

Kris Gensemer

CLARINET

Harry Grainger*
Joel Lusby

OBOE

Dave Lichtenstein*
Bryan M. Walker

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Bryan M. Walker

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Doug Moran

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Joni Anderson
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John Sandusky*
Doug Tidaback

BASS TROMBONE

Al MacDonald

TUBA

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TIMPANI

Bill Mesa

PERCUSSION

Tony Estrada*
Bill Mesa**
Eric Osborne
Paul Schmidt

PIANO

Cindi Hsu

HARP

Hillary Scheffer

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** Assistant Principal
*** Fixed 3rd Chair
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I haven't finished my turkey soup yet!

David Lichtenstein, Attorney at Law

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STRINGS

Laura Anderson Schleiger
Suzuki Violin
laura.musical1@gmail.com
303.345.5516

Neil Gillette
Violin, Viola, Cello
neil80222@gmail.com
303.332.6133

Kathy MacNary
Violin, Viola
kathymacnary@gmail.com
303.519.9352

Christie Posschl
Violin
Monument, Colorado
christieposschl@gmail.com
719.651.2220

Jim Todd
Cello
celloman5@yahoo.com
303.596.4623

Rebecca Jonas
Cello
rebjonas@gmail.com
504.604.6554

Tom Virtue
Double Bass
tvirtue27@gmail.com
303.916.5209

WINDS

Jayne Copland
Flute, Piccolo
coplandflutestudio@gmail.com
303.902.1671

Rosanne Sterne
Flute
sternestudio@aol.com
303.347.0004

Amanda Brannon
*Clarinet, Bass Clarinet,
Saxophone*
amandabethbrannon@
gmail.com
720.978.9159

Harry Grainger
*Clarinet, Saxophone,
Electric Wind Instrument*
Graingerharry@aol.com
303.523.7838

BRASS

Joni Anderson
Horn in F
Joni.Elizabeth.Anderson@
gmail.com
720.299.0062

Janice Baugh
Horn in F, Trumpet
jbaugh1204@gmail.com
817.899.0094

Al MacDonald
Trombone
al@agrtech.us
303.888.9735

Doug Tidaback
Trombone, Euphonium, Trumpet
tidaback@gmail.com
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CONCERT SEASON



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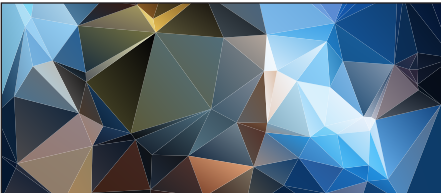
MUSIC IN MOTION

Catherine Sailer, Music Director & Conductor
Saturday, September 16, 2023 | 2:30 pm



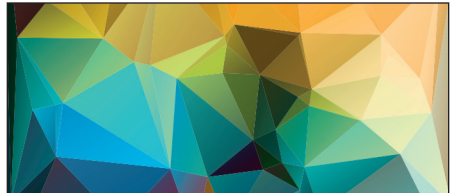
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Catherine Sailer, Music Director & Conductor
Friday, October 27, 2023 | 7:30 pm



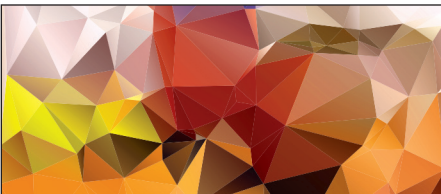
MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS

Héctor Jardón, Conductor
Friday, December 1, 2023 | 7:30 pm



A PAINTER'S PALETTE

Héctor Jardón, Conductor
Friday, February 9, 2024 | 7:30 pm



LATIN INSPIRATION

Catherine Sailer, Music Director & Conductor
Friday, April 5, 2024 | 7:30 pm



40TH SEASON FINALE!

Catherine Sailer, Music Director & Conductor
Friday, May 3, 2024 | 7:30 pm