



# *A Christmas Festival*

**TrueNorth Christmas Concert**  
**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
(7:30 p.m. Concert / Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

**Avon Lake Presbyterian Church**  
**32340 Electric Blvd.**  
(just west of Jaycox Road, north side of the street)

**The TrueNorth Chorale and Chamber Orchestra**  
**Rick Fortney, Artistic Director**

**Non-Ticketed Performance – Love Offering**

**Enjoy your favorite Christmas Carols!**

Featuring the music of Leroy Anderson, Jerry Brubaker, Chip Davis,  
Dan Forrest, Gustav Holst, Daniel Pinkham, Ralph Vaughan Williams,  
Mack Wilberg, and Tim Zimmerman

**[www.TNCArts.org](http://www.TNCArts.org)**



Welcome! Thank you for joining us this evening.

We thank Avon Lake Presbyterian Church for hosting tonight's concert. I have the privilege of serving as Director of Music and Arts Ministries here at Avon Lake Presbyterian.

Tonight you will hear some of your favorite Carols of the season as well as some new pieces you can hopefully add to your December playlist for the future! It is an amazing journey to rehearse music, bringing each piece to life ... rehearsing weekly and discovering various nuances of the music with good friends ... then, being able to share it with all of you! May this Christmas season bring you and your family joy and awareness and affirmation of the reason for the season!

Membership in both the Chorale and Chamber Orchestra are open to all high school students and above. The Chorale and Chamber Orchestra rehearses at Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Road in Bay Village. The Chorale rehearses on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The Chamber Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**2023 – 2024 Season ... mark your calendars!**

**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Concert for Ukraine  
(Location to be determined)**

**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Good Friday Concert,  
*Requiem for the Living*, Dan Forrest**

**Avon Lake Presbyterian Church**

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

***A New Creation*, Rene Clausen  
Avon Lake Presbyterian Church**

TrueNorth Cultural Arts teaches music lessons at The TrueNorth Studios located in Avon Lake, 33467 Lake Road, upstairs in Suite 208 & 209, just west of Moore Road. Lessons in voice, piano, strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion are available. Please call 440.724.7189 for further information.



**Rick Fortney**

**Founder and Executive / Artistic Director  
TrueNorth Cultural Arts**

**[www.TNCArts.org](http://www.TNCArts.org) / 440.724.7189**

**TRUENORTH CHRISTMAS CONCERT,**

***A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL***

**TRUENORTH CHORALE AND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

**UNDER THE DIRECTION OF RICK FORTNEY  
CONCERTMASTER, ADAM MURRAY**

## **SECTION I**

<b><i>A Christmas Festival</i></b>	Leroy Anderson
<b><i>Joy to the World! (ANTIOCH)</i></b>	George Frederick Handel
<b><i>Deck the Halls</i></b>	Welsh New Year's Eve Carol, John Parry
<b><i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman</i></b>	Traditional English Carol
<b><i>Good King Wenceslas</i></b>	Thomas Helmore
<b><i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i></b>	Felix Mendelssohn
<b><i>The First Noel</i></b>	Traditional English Carol
<b><i>Silent Night (STILLE NACHT)</i></b>	Franz Gruber
<b><i>Jingle Bells</i></b>	James Lord Pierpont
<b><i>O Come All Ye Faithful (ADESTE FIDELES)</i></b>	John Francis Wade

## **SECTION II**

**There is Faint Music** Dan Forrest  
'For God's own Son – her baby Boy!'

**See Amid the Winter's Snow (HUMILITY)** John Goss  
Arranged by Dan Forrest  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia!'

**Joy to the World! (ANTIOCH)** George Frederick Handel  
Lowell Mason  
Arranged by Dan Forrest  
Soloist: **Adam Murray, violin**

'Bethlehem ... out of you will come for Me One who will be ruler over Israel.'  
Micah 5:2

**Silent Night (STILLE NACHT)**

Franz Grüber

Arranged by Dan Forrest

'They ... found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby.'

Luke 2:16

**The Work of Christmas**

Dan Forrest

'Peace on Earth'

**SECTION III**

***Fantasia on Greensleeves***

Ralph Vaughan Williams

***In the Bleak Midwinter***

Gustav Holst

Soloist: **Fermin Quiñones-Villanueva, clarinet**

**SECTION IV**

***Christmas Cantata (Sinfonia Sacra)***

**Daniel Pinkham**

***I. Quem Vidistis Pastores?***

**(Maestoso / Allegro Molto Ritmico)**

***II. O Magnum Mysterium et Admirabile (Adagio)***

***III. Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Allegro)***

Janine Porter, soprano / Kristen Jones Smittgen, alto /  
Joel Smittgen, tenor / David Weaver and Roger Welling, bass

Pinkham's *Sinfonia Sacra* with its Latin Christmas text is scored for chorus and double brass choir. Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata is divided into three distinct movements, each with its own narrative. Pinkham uses a technique called text painting to create images and layers of sound that portray the lyrics.

The first movement begins with a question to the shepherds, "What have you seen? Tell us! Tell us!" The shepherds answer repeating over and over the rhythmic idea, "We have seen the birth and heard the angelic chorus giving praise. Alleluia!"

The second movement uses the ***O Magnum Mysterium*** text, O Great Mystery realizing the wonder of the manger scene with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lying next to cows, sheep, and goats. The second movement also praises the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. The melody of the second movement is based on the fundamental tone, D, with a wondering melody that harkens to the melodic structures of Gregorian chant. Later in the movement, harmonies overlapping text by the various parts of the chorus create a mysterious quality of the great mystery of Christmas.

The third movement begins from afar, as if angels are singing, ***Gloria In Excelsis Deo!*** from afar.. Each time the three verses are interrupted with this Gloria, the sound appears to be closer and closer to the final glorious proclamation. The final

movement, ***Gloria in Excelsis Deo***, is a monument of 20th century choral expression.

## SECTION V

**Love Offering** *to help defray this evening's expenses and to help support the on-going education and performance opportunities for TrueNorth Cultural Arts.*

***Sleigh Ride***

Leroy Anderson

***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Traditional French Carol

Arranged by Tim Zimmerman

*"The heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God."*

Luke 2:13

## SECTION VI

***O Magnum Mysterium (O Great Mystery)*** Mack Wilberg

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

***The First Nowell (THE FIRST NOEL)***

Traditional English Carol

Arranged by Mack Wilberg

*"There were shepherds ... in the fields ...  
keeping watch over their flocks."*

Luke 2:8

***Masters in This Hall***

French Carol

Arranged by Mack Wilberg

*The birth of Christ has raised up the poor and cast down the proud.*

***O Come, All Ye Faithful (ADESTE FIDELES)***

John Francis Wade

Arranged by Mack Wilberg

*"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened."  
Luke 2:15*

***Auld Lang Syne***

Chip Davis

(please join in singing the final chorus with us)

**Chorus:**

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
for auld lang syne,  
we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne.  
For auld lang syne.



***Tonight's Concert is available on YouTube and Facebook  
Live through Avon Lake Presbyterian Church***

***The TrueNorth Chorale***  
**Rick Fortney, Director**

***Soprano I***

Cathy Harvey  
Janine Porter, Section Leader  
Misty Sinclair

***Alto I***

Sandi Gerhan  
Sybil Mundy  
Diane Seith  
Adrienne Terleck

***Soprano II***

Rania Assily  
Jean Collins  
Caron Collister  
Holly Herrick  
Betsey McKinney  
Kristin Jones Schmittgen  
Susan Wertenberger

***Alto II***

Carol Liston  
Nancy Spencer  
Ruth Williams  
Barb Ziegler

***Tenor I***

Ronald Young

***Bass***

Dave Weaver  
Roger Welling

***Tenor II***

Lynn Rhoades  
Joel Schmittgen

**TrueNorth Music Librarian**

Nancy Spencer

***The TrueNorth Chamber Orchestra***

**Rick Fortney, Conductor**

***Adam Murray, Concert Master***

***Violin I***

Olivia Felbinger

Adam Murray,

***Concertmaster***

***Flute***

Leslie Patzwahl

Susan Richardson

***Violin II***

Sanjana Chiravuri

Diane Spence

***Oboe***

Kim Weaver

***Viola***

Jim Parry

***Clarinet***

Fermin Quiñones-Villanueva

***Cello***

Joan Wojcicki Fortney

***(Bob and Mary Lou Fortney Chair)***

Catherine Schroth

Kimberly Taylor

***Bassoon***

Charlotte Hines

Sherry Spenser

***French Horn***

Melinda Kellerstrass

Lisa Muth

***String Bass***

Drew Postel

***Trumpet***

Ron Kuntz

Laural Lloyd

Dave Patzwahl

Timothy Stohs

***Trombone***

Noah Rish

Lily Vandenberg

**Piano**

Ruth Williams

**Organ**

Ruth Williams

**Chamber Orchestra Manager** – Joan Wojcicki Fortney

**Chamber Orchestra Music Librarian** – Diane Spence

***The TrueNorth Chorale*** sing a wide range of literature ranging from the masters to the contemporary, sacred and secular, musical theatre and patriotic.

***The TrueNorth Chamber Orchestra*** collaborate with the TrueNorth Chorale and other soloists with multiple concerts throughout the year. The Chamber Orchestra present a wide array of programs primarily focused on classical music, but many performances each year offer very unique programming. The Chorale and Chamber Orchestra have produced and hosted concerts to raise awareness and funds for various causes throughout the years, such as cancer awareness, hunger, and various national crisis events honoring our fallen heroes and supporting those who suffer.

**Special Thanks to:****Usher/Greeters**

Bill and Kathy Hamilton  
Teresa Konig  
Holly Kowalski  
Margaret Resar

**Soundboard AV Tech**

AmyLynn Kaspar, projections, Live feed  
Gary Uhl, sound  
Jay Knox, AV Media Team

**Setup:** Jacob York



**RICK FORTNEY, conductor,** is the Founder and Executive Director of TrueNorth Cultural Arts and is also the Director of Music and Arts Ministries at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church. He previously served as the Founder and the Artistic Director to the French Creek Theatre and Cultural Arts Manager for the Lorain County Metro

Parks; Director of Choral Activities at Cleveland's John Marshall High School, 2000 – 2008, and Director of Worship Ministries / Minister of Music at Bay Presbyterian Church in Bay Village (1990 – 1999). His professional singing resume includes performances with New York Choral Artists, Musica Sacra, Trevor Pinnock's Classical Band Chorus, The New York Concert Singers, The Juilliard Singers, The National Chorale, The David Dussing Singers, and featured Soloist within the Calvary Baptist Chamber Concert Series. Theatrically he was Spirit McCoy in the Hatfield's and McCoy's in Beckley, West Virginia outdoor theatre; worked with American Entertainment, singing at Convention Shows, State Fairs and Cruise Ships for a number of years; and was in the opera chorus for three seasons with Director Peter Sellers while living in New York City. Rick is an active chorister with The Canterbury Singers, USA having sung several choral residencies at Cathedrals throughout England.

Mr. Fortney received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts Degrees from Bowling Green State University.



Photo Credit to Sheri Trusty

A 2019 graduate of The Ohio State University, **Adam Murray** received a Bachelor's degree in Music Education while studying under Dr. Robert Gillespie and Dr. Kia-Hui Tan. Adam currently serves as Orchestra Director and Music Department Chair for the Port Clinton City School District. During his time as orchestra director, Port Clinton City Schools has been acknowledged by the NAMM foundation as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" three years running.

He is often described by critics as "not the guy we came to see" and by his grandmother as "a very handsome young man"

TrueNorth Cultural Arts is located at 33467 Lake Road, Suite 208 and 209 in Avon Lake. We offer private music lessons on piano, voice, strings, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments.

Our large Ensembles rehearse at Bay United Methodist Church. Membership in both ensembles is open to all high school students and above. The Chorale rehearses on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The Chamber Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:30 p.m.



*Transforming lives through engagement in the arts  
Where art meets community*

TrueNorth is a multidisciplinary arts organization committed to building and strengthening individuals and communities through the performing, visual and the literary arts. Our vision is two-fold: To educate, equip, and empower individuals so they can embrace and succeed in the creative arts; and to envision and encourage communities where creative arts and art appreciation flourish. TrueNorth accomplishes its mission and vision, while fostering these shared values-inclusiveness, community-responsiveness, integrity in operations, and advocacy of the creative arts.

### **TrueNorth Cultural Arts Purpose Statement:**

To transform lives through engagement in the arts... By:

- Encouraging multi-disciplinary art forms and their integration
- Educating, equipping, and empowering artists and audiences
- Celebrating the gifts of the novice through the professional
- Fostering mentoring relationships
- Developing new works, artists, and expressions
- Collaborating with other arts organizations
- Being a safe, respectful, faith-encouraging arts community
- Expecting excellence in all things

As a result: We enrich and strengthen our communities by our presence.



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*Avon Lake  
Presbyterian Church*

Everyone Welcome!  
Join us in person or watch live on  
Facebook or YouTube.  
May you carry the joy of Christmas  
in your heart all year long!

*Christmas Eve  
Worship Services*

10:00AM      7:30PM  
Traditional Worship      Candlelight Worship



32340 Electric Boulevard, Avon Lake | 440-933-6240 | [www.AvonLakeChurch.com](http://www.AvonLakeChurch.com)