



Capitol Hill

CHORALE

Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director

ELLA

Swingin' Christmas

December 2 + 3, 2023

Lutheran Church of the Reformation



Introduction to the Concert

While there is much that I could write about my personal feelings on Ella Fitzgerald, I have been given only one page and so will make this brief (though, if you speak to me after the concert, I will wax poetic about her). With her immaculate phrasing, stunning technique, and glorious intonation, I have always held her in the highest esteem. When students study voice with me, I always ask if they have listened to her - no matter the genre they are studying. Each song is a masterclass, and when you hear her sing, it is as if she is singing to you alone. With the life-altering technology of recorded sound, we are brought into her presence, and she is immortal.

It is my honor today to celebrate Ella by reimagining her iconic performances on the albums "Ella Wishes You a Swinging Christmas" from 1960, and "Ella Fitzgerald's Christmas" from 1967. To make it as authentic as possible, we will be using the original arrangements that have been preserved and published by Jazz Line Publications. We are also overjoyed to be joined again by our dear friend and bandleader David Jellema, as well as our new friend, soloist Sarah Ulloa. While we swing with Ella's memory during Yuletide, remember that we have her entire discography left to go.

Thank you so much for being here with us. We can't do it without you.

Frederick Binkholder

Capitol Hill Chorale

Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director

Brent Erstad, Accompanist

Ella

Swingin' Christmas

December 2 + 3, 2023

FEATURING

David Jellema

*Cornet, clarinet, soprano
recorder, arranger*

Sarah Ulloa

Vocals

Tommy Barrick

Drums, percussion

Gary Gregg

*Tenor saxophone, soprano
saxophone, clarinet*

Dan Roberts

Piano, keyboard

Darryl Brenzel

*Alto saxophone, clarinet,
arranger*

Anita Thomas

*Alto saxophone, baritone
saxophone, clarinet*

Doug Elliott

Trombone, arranger

Pete Revell

Bass

- Hark, the Herald Angels Sing Music by Felix Mendelssohn & William H. Cummings. Lyrics by William H. Cummings & George Whitefield. Arranged by Grace Price & Robert Black. (JLP)
- What Child Is This Traditional English Melody. Lyrics by William C. Dix. Arranged by Yumiko Matsuoka.
- We Three Kings John Henry Hopkins, Jr. Arranged by Grace Price & Robert Black.* (JLP)
- I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm Irving Berlin. Arranged by Darryl Brenzel.
- O Holy Night Attributed to Dietrich Buxtehude. Original poem by Placide Cappeau. Set to music by Adolphe Adam. English version by John Sullivan Dwight. Arranged by Doug Elliott.

Jingle Bells	James Lord Pierpont. Arranged by Frank DeVol.* (JLP)
Silent Night	Music by Franz Gruber. Lyrics by Joseph Mohr. Arranged by Grace Price & Robert Black.* (JLP)
Winter Wonderland	Music by Felix Bernard. Lyrics by Richard Bernhard Smith. Arranged by David Jellema.
Joy to the World	Traditional. Arranged by Grace Price & Robert Black.* (JLP)

INTERMISSION

Angels We Have Heard on High	Traditional. Lyrics by James Chadwick. Arranged by Grace Price & Robert Black. (JLP)
Frosty the Snowman	Steve Nelson & Jack Rollins. Arranged By Frank DeVol.* (JLP)
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen	Traditional. Arranged by Grace Price & Robert Black.* (JLP)
Santa Claus is Comin' to Town	Music by J. Fred Coots. Lyrics by Haven Gillespie. Arranged by Frank DeVol.* (JLP)
The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)	Mel Torme & Robert Wells. Arranged by Darryl Brenzel, Audrey Snyder, John Higgins.
O Come All Ye Faithful	Traditional. Arranged by Grace Price & Robert Black.* (JLP)
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas	Hugh Martin. Arranged by Vern Swain, David Jellema.* <i>Angel Amado, Carolina Lumetta (Saturday)</i> <i>Andres Almeida, Sidney Smith (Sunday)</i>
Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! ...	Music by Jule Styne. Lyrics by Sammy Cahn. Arranged by David Jellema.

All JLP (Jazz Lines Publications) scores have been prepared for their publication by Rob DuBoff and Jeffrey Sultanof.

Any titles with amendments/adaptations for this stage by David Jellema are indicated with an asterisk (*).



This project is supported in part by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the Capitol Hill Community Foundation.



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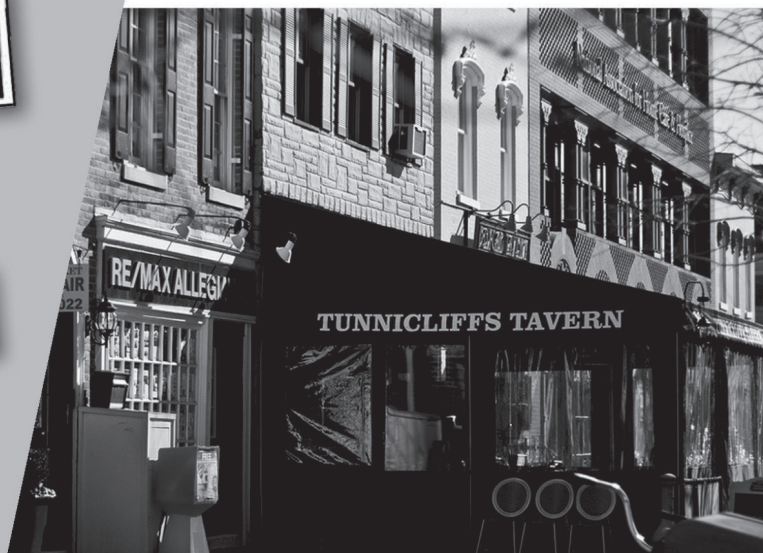
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About the Chorale

2023–2024 marks the Capitol Hill Chorale's 31st season rehearsing and performing on Capitol Hill. Since its first concert in December 1993 with 45 singers, the Chorale has performed more than 70 choral programs, grown to more than 100 singers, toured Europe, uncovered rarely performed pieces, and commissioned new works.

This year, the Chorale celebrates its 24th season under the baton of Artistic Director Frederick Binkholder, who continues to bring innovative programming and high musical standards. His programming has included a wide repertoire—from the major works in the classical choral canon to works by early music masters, contemporary composers, and other genres of choral literature. Recent highlights include: a 2019 summer tour of the country of Georgia, where a portion of the Chorale performed Zakaria Paliashvili's Orthodox Divine Liturgy; a concert of German lieder in memory of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau; programs exploring the American shape-note and Shaker traditions; multiple concerts featuring works by African American composer Margaret Bonds; and several programs of jazz interpretations featuring the David Jellema Ensemble. The Chorale regularly collaborates with other DC-area musicians, such as the Washington Saxophone Quartet and vocalist Katerina Burton.

During its very first season, the Chorale established its tradition of performing major Orthodox liturgical works with the North American premiere of Gretchaninoff's setting of the All-Night Vigil (Op. 59). Binkholder has expanded this tradition, leading Chorale performances of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in settings by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Paliashvili, and Stevan Stojanovic Mokranjac. In its June 2016 program, the Chorale honored the centenary of World War I by performing Kastalsky's rarely performed "Memory Eternal to the Fallen Heroes" (1917).

Composer Kevin Siegfried has been the Chorale's Composer-in-Residence since March 2014, and the Chorale is honored to have premiered a number of his new works, including the cantatas "Child of Earth" (2011), "Angel of Light" (2015), "Vidimus Stellam" (2016), and "Music of the Spheres" (2017) for chorus and glass armonica—the last of which featured glass armonica player Dean Shostak.

In 2018, the Chorale was awarded the Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award for its contribution to the creation of new and challenging choral music. The Chorale won a WAMMIE (Washington Area Music Association Award) for Best Area Choral Group in 2008, and received nominations in 2017 and 2020. CHC has been a finalist in the Washington City Paper's annual "Best of DC" multiple times in recent years, including most recently in 2023. The Chorale has also been selected for the holiday program "Songs of the Season," presented by WETA Arts, in 2022 and 2023.

Additional information about the Chorale, along with information about its first commercially produced recording (a setting of sacred Georgian chants on the Orthodox Divine Liturgy by Georgian composer Zakaria Paliashvili), can be found at capitolhillchorale.org. You can follow the Chorale on Facebook, Twitter, and Spotify.

Chorale Roster

Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director
 Brent Erstad, Accompanist
 Kevin Siegfried, Composer-in-Residence
 Ruslan Bondar, Paul Drummond Conducting Fellow
 Bruce Purdy, President, Board of Directors

Sopranos

Theadocia Austen
 Elizabeth Baker
 Sofia Becerra-Licha
 Brooke Bennett Velez
 Erika Berg
 Clare Blackwell
 Jessica Chaiken †
 Laura Darby
 Radharani De †
 Holly Degn
 Sarah Dwyer-Heidkamp

Susannah Edwards
 Jessica Estepa
 Misti French
 Elizabeth Hague
 Arielle Hollies
 Pamela Karg *†
 Molly Keefe-Forsyth
 Laura Klein
 Helena Kosanovic
 Carolina Lumetta

Elizabeth McMahon
 Margaret Neily
 Devereux Powers
 Peggy Rainwater *
 Juliana Rustum
 Sidney Smith
 Sharon Poel Thompson
 Susan Turk
 Brooke Velez
 Tai Williams

Altos

Robyn H. Alexander †
 Colleen Brown
 Marian Connolly
 Jennifer Dahnke
 Chantal Dalton
 Amy Davis †
 Madeline Douglas
 Sandrine Gil
 Morgan Gruenewald
 Kate Hartwig
 Deborah Jones

Meg Karras
 Deborah Ann Kermer
 Helen Kovach
 Elizabeth Malone
 Dina Michels
 Amy Nabel
 Kathy Nawyn
 Meagan Nouhra
 Elissa Frankle Olinsky
 Hannah S. Ostroff
 Virginia Pasley

Laura Rear McLaughlin
 Leanne Repko *
 Meg Roggensack
 Laurie Rubiner
 Hilary Salmon
 Ilene Schwartz
 Veronica Slaght
 Claire Tinsley
 Katrina Tselentis
 Andrea Vermehren
 Elaine Winch

Tenors

Angel Amado
 Gabe Brown
 Guillaume Cleaud
 Silvio Eberhardt *
 Peter Engel
 Carl H. Ford

David Greengrass
 Samuel Holliday †
 Ryan Hopkin
 Harrison Killefer
 Ben Leiner
 Erik Lundgren †

David Mecher
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 Steven Pruitt
 Bruce Purdy †
 John Martin T. Schalow
 Rolf Winch

Basses

Andres Almeida
 John Paul Barringer †
 Ruslan Bondar
 Sherman Edwards
 Arthur Fox
 Adam Hollies
 Parker Jayne
 Willard R Jones

Ryan Karsner
 Alex Knapp
 Read Scott Martin
 Andrew McKenna
 Princeton Miles *†
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Biographies



Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director

Frederick Binkholder is in his 24th season as Artistic Director of the Capitol Hill Chorale and has spent more than 35 years as a professional conductor, performer, and teacher. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Central Methodist College at the Swinney Conservatory of Music, studying under Dr. R. Paul Drummond, and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Georgia State University under the tutelage of Dr. John B. Habermen. He is Professor of the Practice at Georgetown University, where he serves as Director of Vocal Studies and was awarded the Vicennial Medal for distinguished service. With a penchant for idiosyncratic programming, he has performed numerous world premieres, helped to revive neglected classics, and championed the performance of underrepresented composers. His ongoing work includes collaborations with composer Kevin Siegfried, with musicologist Dr. Piotr Nawrot on SVD in the authentic performance of *Música en las Reducciones Jesuitas*, and research into the choral music of Margaret Bonds. In February of 2018, the Concert Choir of Georgetown University gave the premiere performance of the Bonds 1964 cantata "Simon Bore the Cross" at the Kennedy Center. His edition of this work was published through GIA Publications. His SSA edition of the Bonds "You Can Tell the World" has just been released by Hildegard Publishing. Fred lives in Georgetown with his wife and son.



Brent Erstad, Accompanist

Brent Erstad serves as Director of Music and Organist of St. John's Church - Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C., commonly known as "The Church of the Presidents." He has also taught on the Music and Theology faculties at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA, and is a recent past manager of the Royal School of Church Music training course in Newport, Rhode Island. A native of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Brent holds a Master of Sacred Music degree from Boston University and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. His undergraduate degree is from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He studied organ with Peter Sykes and piano with Margarita Shevchenko and Olga Radosavljevic.



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ORTHODONTICS



David Jellema, Cornet, Clarinet, Arranger

David Jellema is originally from the DC suburbs and was a music archivist (Archives Center NMAH and Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University) before moving to San Antonio and Austin, Texas to become a freelance musician and music teacher. "Jelly," as he is known in Austin and New Orleans, plays in numerous ensembles of earlier styles of jazz and swing, travels outside of ATX to play for national swing dance events, is heard on dozens of music albums, and is often heard in New Orleans French Quarter Festival venues. This is David's sixth concert with CHC since 2002 as leader, arranger, and soloist integrating local jazz talents with the Chorale's diverse facets. It is with much delight that he is able to share his friend Sarah's unique gifts with Ella enthusiasts in DC for her first visit to the Nation's Capital, where Jelly began performing 45 years ago, and even breathing well before that.

Sarah Ulloa, Vocalist

Originally from Davenport, IA, and now residing in Austin, TX, Sarah has always let the music guide the way. Her academic journey, starting at 5 years old, led her to explore the realm of jazz, musical theatre, and classical music. Sarah first studied with Kristin Bruchmann for 19 years and then with Keith Haan and Marti Dunn-Hall at St. Ambrose University. She has performed in everything from national choirs to the smallest of venues, playing piano, drums, and singing for a handful of Texas bands and traveling around the US. She and David Jellema have been creating music together for the better part of 10 years, and she is honored to stand by him tonight.

Currently, Sarah is the Director of the Eastside Music School in Austin and teaches voice lessons. Which makes sense, as she was brought up in a home of generations of talented musicians. Her family have guided the way and made sure there was never a day without music. Sarah feels a deep sense of honor as she steps into Ella's shoes for the night and is excited to bring her cheer and sassiness to you all.

Let's get Ella and Duke Back Together Again



The energy, joy, and wit of the incomparable Ella Fitzgerald are beautifully captured by her statue at the Library of Congress - but unfortunately the statue is currently in storage and not on display. We are working with the Library of Congress' Music Division and DC's own Duke Ellington School for the Arts to find the perfect spot to share Miss Ella with the world, and you can help!



Donate today to
get Ella and Duke
back together again!

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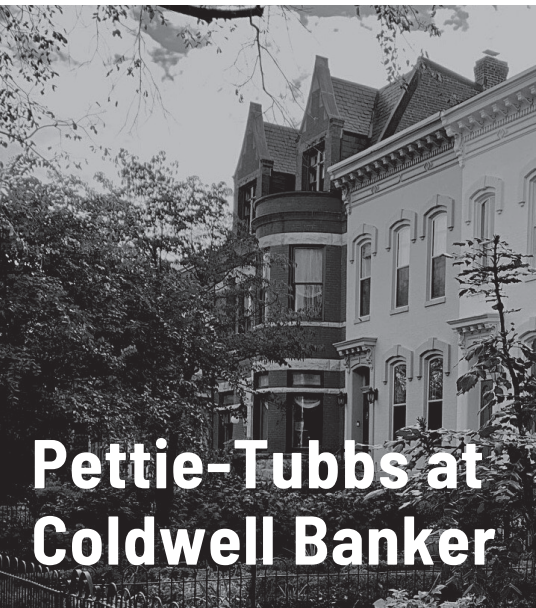


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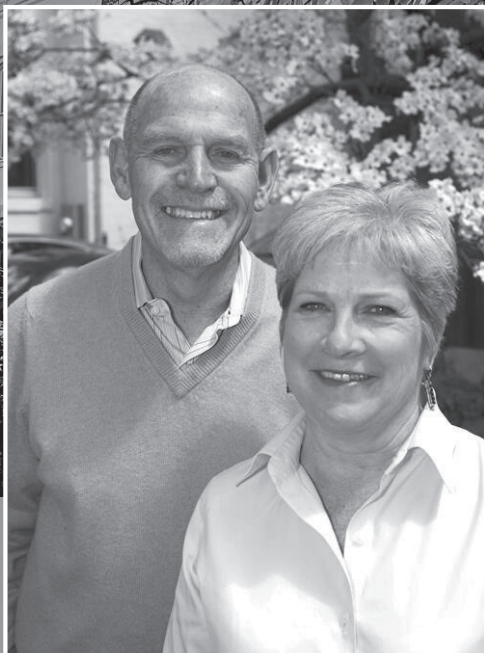
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Since its founding, the Chorale has prioritized bringing a wide range of styles and composers to our community. This season is no exception. We've learned a great deal about jazz through our preparation for this concert, and from here, we'll transition to music of the early Romantic era followed by traditional Shaker tunes in June. Our ability to learn about each of these styles, bring in professional scholars and musicians, and perform a broad repertoire is only possible because of the generous support we receive from our community. We hope you'll consider contributing to this campaign, allowing us to continue exploring and sharing a variety of music — in this season and for many more to come.



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Frederick Binkholder, Artistic Director



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Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church

- Exploring the Choral Music of Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn Bartholdy)



Mother Ann

June 1 & 2, 2024

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church

- Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Shaker arrival in America with a focus on female Shaker composers
- Featuring arrangements from Kevin Siegfried

Learn more at capitolhillchorale.org