

# A Scandinavian Christmas with the Minnesota Orchestra

**Sarah Hicks**, conductor

**Maria Jette**, soprano • **Robb Asklof**, tenor • **Andrea Een**, violin and Hardanger fiddle

**Minnesota Boychoir**, Mark S. Johnson, artistic director

**Twin Cities Girls Chorus**, Kristi Billings, conductor

**Ethnic Dance Theatre**, Donald La Course, artistic director

Presented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Friday, December 11, 2009, 8 pm	Orchestra Hall
Saturday, December 12, 2009, 8 pm	Orchestra Hall
Saturday, December 19, 2009, 2 pm	Orchestra Hall

<b>Jan Sweelinck</b> /orch. Sarah Hicks	<i>Hodie Christus natus es</i>
<b>Gustav Nordqvist/Traditional</b> / orch. Hicks	<i>Jul, Jul, Strålande Jul</i> (Yule, Yule, Radiant Yule) <i>Ett Barn Är Fött På Denna Dag</i> (A Child Is Born On This Day) <i>Maria Jette, soprano; Robb Asklof, tenor</i>
<b>Jean Sibelius</b>	<i>Valse Chevaleresque</i> , Opus 96c
<b>Todd Price</b>	<i>Winter Joys</i> <i>Minnesota Boychoir, a cappella</i>
<b>Niels Gade</b>	<i>Children's Christmas</i> , Opus 36/2 <i>The Child Jesus Came Into This World</i>
<b>Steve Nelson and Walter E. Rollins</b> / arr. Bruce Chase and Hicks	<i>Snomannen Kalle</i> (Frosty the Snowman) <i>Robb Asklof, tenor</i>
<b>Traditional</b> /arr. Hicks	Danish Folk Medley <i>Bitte Mand i Knibe</i> (Little Man in a Bind) <i>Den Toppede Høne fra Thy</i> (The Crested Hen from Thy) <i>Syvspring: Hornfiffen</i> (Seven Jumps: Hornpipe) <i>Andrea Een, violin; Ethnic Dance Theatre</i>
<b>Jón Leifs</b>	<i>Icelandic Dances</i> , Opus 11/4
<b>Adolphe Adam</b>	<i>O Helga Natt</i> (O Holy Night) [Cantique de Noël] <i>Maria Jette, soprano</i>
<b>Leroy Anderson</b>	<i>A Christmas Festival</i>

I N T E R M I S S I O N

<b>Johan Halvorsen</b>	<i>Entry March of the Boyars</i>
<b>Leigh Harline</b> /arr. Bill Holcombe	<i>Ser du stjärnan i det blå</i> (When You Wish Upon a Star) <i>Robb Asklof, tenor</i>
<b>Thorvald Aagaard</b> /arr. Hicks	<i>Snefflokke kommer vrirlende</i> (Snowflakes Come Swirling) <i>Minnesota Boychoir</i>
<b>Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky</b>	<i>Waltz of the Snowflakes</i> , from <i>The Nutcracker</i> <i>Minnesota Boychoir</i>
<b>Traditional</b> /from Ola Mosafinn <b>Traditional</b> /from Lars Skjervheim	Two Norwegian Fiddle Tunes <i>Bruremarsj</i> (Bridal March), from Voss <i>Syndebukken</i> (Scapegoat): <i>Vestlandsspringar</i> (West Country Springar) <i>Andrea Een, Hardanger fiddle; Ethnic Dance Theatre</i>
<b>Teodoro Cottrau</b> /arr. Giancarlo Chiaramello	<i>Santa Lucia</i> <i>Maria Jette, soprano; Twin Cities Girls Chorus</i>
<b>Peter Knudsen</b> /arr. Robert Scholz	<i>Jeg er så glad hver Julekveld</i> (I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve)* <i>Maria Jette, soprano; Robb Asklof, tenor;</i> <i>Andrea Een, Hardanger fiddle; Minnesota Boychoir;</i> <i>Twin Cities Girls Chorus</i>
<b>Various composers/Traditional</b> arr. John Finnegan	Christmas Sing-Along* <i>Jingle Bells • Joy to the World • It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i> <i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing • Silent Night • Deck the Hall</i> <i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>

\* Sing-along texts appear on page 32.

thank you

We gratefully acknowledge **U.S. Bank** for its support of the Saturday evening concert as part of the 2009-10 U.S. Bank Pops Season.



**Sarah Hicks**, conductor

Sarah Hicks, the Minnesota Orchestra's principal conductor of pops and presentations, has led a broad range of programs since joining the Orchestra as assistant conductor in 2006. She takes the Orchestra Hall podium this season to conduct the Inside the Classics series, pops performances with such artists as John Pizzarelli and Michael Cavanaugh, and more.

**Recent, upcoming:** Her schedule includes guest conducting engagements with the National Symphony Orchestra and other ensembles.

**Other posts:** In September 2009 Hicks was

appointed associate conductor of the North Carolina Symphony. In 2007 she completed a two-year tenure as associate conductor of the Richmond Symphony. She was earlier affiliated with the Philadelphia Singers, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Florida Philharmonic and Hawaii Symphony, which she founded in 1991.

**Of interest:** With Orchestra violist Sam Bergman, she is co-author of a blog on the Orchestra's website.

**More:** [minnesotaorchestra.org](http://minnesotaorchestra.org).



**Maria Jette**, soprano

Twin Cities-based soprano Maria Jette has performed extensively on concert, opera and recital stages throughout the U.S. and Europe; additional audiences have often heard her on the radio program *A Prairie Home Companion*. Since her 1992 debut with the Minnesota Orchestra as a soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, she has performed at subscription, family and Sommerfest concerts.

**Recently:** Jette's engagements this year have included a "Sopranorama" concert at the Southern Theater and performances on the concert series of VocalEssence, the Schubert Club, MacPhail and the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota.

**Collaboration:** She has enjoyed a long association with conductor Helmuth Rilling, performing with him in Germany, Spain, Japan and Canada as well as in U.S. music capitals.

**Contemporary music:** She has premiered works by Dominick Argento, Randall Davidson, David Evan Thomas, Steve Heitzeg and other Minnesota composers.

**More:** [mariajette.com](http://mariajette.com).



**Robb Asklof**, tenor

Tenor Robb Asklof has sung with orchestras and opera companies across the U.S., including the Santa Fe Opera, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Orlando Opera, Fargo Moorhead Opera, Western Plains Opera, Cincinnati Opera and Chautauqua Opera, and locally with Skylark Opera.

He sang at the Orchestra's inaugural Scandinavian Christmas concerts in 2008.

**Repertoire:** He has performed major roles in operas ranging from Handel's *Acis and Galatea* to Libby Larsen's *Eric Hermansson's Soul*.

**Award:** He was a 2004 prize winner of the Minnesota District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

**Background:** An Iowa native, Asklof earned music degrees from Lawrence University and the University of Minnesota.



**Andrea Een**, violin and Hardanger fiddle

Andrea Een has performed as soloist and chamber musician in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Europe and South America. She specializes in Hardanger fiddle, a nine-string Norwegian folk violin, in addition to playing violin and viola. In June 2010 she will perform at Oregon's Astoria Music Festival and the National Fiddle Contest in Voss, Norway.

**Performer, educator:** Een, a member of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra, teaches violin, viola, chamber music and Hardanger fiddle at St. Olaf College.

**Recordings:** Her solo album of original and traditional music, *From the Valley*, was released in 2004; a second CD, *Winter Dreams*, is due out this month.

**Award:** In 2003 Een received the St. Olav Medal, given by Norway's King Harald V, for her promotion of greater knowledge of Norwegian culture.

**Of interest:** She is a member of Penchant, a group of Minnesota poets, and her work has appeared in various anthologies and a solo chapbook.

**More:** [andreaeen.com](http://andreaeen.com).

### Minnesota Boychoir

**Mark S. Johnson**, music director

**Todd Price**, accompanist

The Minnesota Boychoir, founded in

1962, is the oldest continually operating boys choir in the Twin Cities. The choir often appears with the Minnesota Orchestra, performing works as varied as *Hansel and Gretel*, Bernstein's *Mass* and Stephen Paulus' *To Be Certain of the Dawn*. It performed at the Sydney Opera House in 2007 and toured Alaska in 2009. Next summer it will travel to Oregon for a children's choral festival presented in conjunction with the Oregon Bach Festival.

**More:** [boychoir.org](http://boychoir.org).

Luke Bilotta	Paul Ihlenfeldt
Zack Cambronne	Theo Janke-Furman
Jacob Campen	Jordan Johnson
Joe Chase	Robert Kancans
Patrick Connors	Jakob Kostecki
Andrew De Baker	John Kuske
Dawson De Baker	Andrew Larson
Jack Dolphin	Christian Messier
Mitchell Evans	Nelson Morlock
Ethan Ferry	Jimmy Morrissey
Florin Gruen	Robert Nelson
Aidan Haarman	Michael Oasheim
Justin Hanna	Steven Oasheim
Theodore Hanson	William Olson
Henry Henson	Caleb Sikorra
Jack Hoeglund	Josiah Sommer
Edward Hoey	Storm Stewart
Samuel Hohenshell	Tyler Strobel
William Holmstrom	Daniel Vento
Jordan Hopwood	Eric Wilson
Gabe Hugh	Nikolai Young

### Twin Cities Girls Chorus

**Kristi Billings**, conductor and executive director

**Stefanie Fiser**, conductor

**Deb Oleson**, accompanist

The Twin Cities Girls Chorus, founded in 2007, performs music from a variety of cultures and collaborates regularly with such performing groups as the Twin Cities Women's Choir and Artistic Youth Ensembles of Minnesota. It has performed the national anthem at sporting events of the Minnesota Twins and University of Minnesota and presents an annual Peace Concert benefiting local organizations that promote peace and social justice.

**More:** [tcgchorus.org](http://tcgchorus.org).

Rosa Broadhead	Kaitlyn Mulhern
Maya Chavez	Jaqueline Rodewald-Jones
Maggie Cramer	Jasmine Rodewald-Jones
Helen Dobbeltmann	Shovana Rydeen
Claire Eichhorn	Hannah Sand
Carmen Heimpel	Lindsay Schierman
Juliana Hougen	Solana Swanlund
Rachel Karis	Marta Uhlenkott
Kaitlin Kolstad	Phoebe Wahlberg
Emily Miller	Courtney Weldon
Suban Mohamed	
Anna Mulhern	
Emily Mulhern	

**Ethnic Dance Theatre**

**Donald La Course**, artistic director

Ethnic Dance Theater, founded in 1974, is the only professional dance company in the Upper Midwest dedicated to the performance and preservation of world

music, song and dance. In its mission to promote understanding of world cultures, it has performed music and dance from more than 50 countries, from China to Denmark and from Lebanon to Mexico. Among its regular events: a winter dance party and a spring concert series at

Minneapolis' Ritz Theater.  
More: [ethnicdancetheatre.com](http://ethnicdancetheatre.com).

Joseph Claesgens  
John Czichray  
Donald La Course  
Renee La Course  
Victoria Piorek

Kaja Rajtar  
Ruth Straub  
Anne von Bibra  
Wharton

## Sing-Along Texts

### Jeg er så glad hver Julekveld (I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve)

Jeg er så glad hver Julekveld,  
for da ble Jesus født,  
da lyste stjernen som en sol,  
og engler sang så søtt.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
The night of Jesus' birth;

Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
And angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem,  
He was a King indeed!  
For He came down from heav'n above  
To help a world in need.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve!  
His praises then I sing;  
He opens now for ev'ry child  
The palace of the King.

–**Marie Wexelsen**  
translated by Peter Andrew Sveeggen

### Jingle Bells

*Refrain:*  
Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way!  
Oh! what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way!  
Oh! what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh!

Dashing through the snow,  
In a one-horse open sleigh;  
O'er the fields we go,  
Laughing all the way;  
Bells on bobtail ring,  
Making spirits bright;  
What fun it is to ride and sing  
A sleighing song tonight! (Oh,)

*Refrain*

–**James Lord Pierpont**

### Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing.

–**Isaac Watts**

### Christmas Medley

#### It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King";  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

–**Edmund Sears**

#### Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.

–**Charles Wesley**

#### Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright,  
'Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

–**Josef Mohr**

#### Deck the Hall

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
'Tis the season to be jolly,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Don we now our gay apparel,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la.  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

–**Traditional**

#### O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest;

*Refrain*

–**John Francis Wade**