



For Immediate Release

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True Concord performs Christmas Lessons & Carols
Annual holiday tradition features choir, soloists, organ, harp and oboe

Tucson, AZ (Nov. 25, 2016)--True Concord Voices & Orchestra continues its 13th season with five performances of Christmas Lessons & Carols December 8-11 at four venues throughout Tucson and Green Valley.

Christmas Lessons & Carols is presented each year by Music Director Eric Holtan who reimagines the program with traditional and new seasonal music. The performances are held in area churches by candlelight and audience participation is encouraged. About Christmas Lessons & Carols, Holtan said "This program tends to be a favorite with our audiences. The performing spaces are small, so there is an intimacy to the setting which is enhanced by the candlelight and audience participation." Texts of the carols are distributed to audience members so that they may sing along.

In addition to more familiar seasonal music, this year's program features two world premiere performances of *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* by Tucson composer Sheldon Curry. They are both part of "Concord Canticles" by Curry and the two texts are often paired.

The complete program is:

Hodie Christus natus est (from Ceremony of Carols) Benjamin Britten
Ave Maria Javier Busto
A Spotless Rose Paul Mealor
Hymn to the Virgin Benjamin Britten
Magnificat Sheldon Curry (World Premiere)
On Christmas Night Gerald Near
How Still He Rests Brent Pierce
Hallelu! Stephen Paulus
Mary's Lullaby John Rutter
Nunc dimittis Sheldon Curry (World Premiere)

Times, dates and locations for Christmas Lessons & Carols are:

Thursday, December 8, 7:30pm – Episcopal Church of the Apostles, 12111 N. La Cholla Blvd. Oro Valley

Friday, December 9, 7:00pm – St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church, 600 S. La Canada Dr., Green Valley

Saturday, December 10, 7:30pm – St. Philip’s in the Hills Episcopal Church, 4440 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson

Sunday, December 11, 3:00pm – St. Philip’s in the Hills Episcopal Church, 4440 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson

Sunday, December 11, 7:30pm – St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, 3738 N. Old Sabino Canyon Road, east Tucson

Looking ahead to the rest of the season:

True Concord’s performance of Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* January 27-29 will bring its largest number of performers together to-date on one stage. A collaboration with the University of Arizona Choral Department, it features Grammy-winning operatic baritone Richard Paul Fink and has been called the “cornerstone of the 2017 Tucson Desert Song Festival.” True Concord has never performed a work on such a monumental scale with 70 vocalists and a 50-piece orchestra. Holtan said of the piece “it’s one of those pieces that doesn’t get done very often in Southern Arizona. This will be a rare performance.”

True Concord also collaborates with Arizona Early Music Society when it performs Monteverdi’s *Vespers of 1610* February 24-26. True Concord will provide the vocalists and the Society is bringing instrumentalists who will perform on period instruments including lutes, cornettos and sackbutts. Holtan said of the performance “it’s going to be a first for True Concord, and I believe this is the first professional performance of *Vespers* in Tucson.”

True Concord wraps up its season March 23-26 with *Russian Masters*, a program showcasing the rich choral tradition of Russia and featuring Gretchaninoff’s *Passion Week* and including works by Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky.

For tickets and more information, visit trueconcord.org. or call 520.401.2651.

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About True Concord Voices & Orchestra

The Grammy-nominated choir and chamber orchestra performs a full season line up of six programs each year, performing in venues throughout Tucson, Oro Valley and Green Valley.

True Concord is Southern Arizona’s professional choir and chamber orchestra. Founded in 2004, its mission is to create experiences with music that move, enrich and inspire. This mission is accomplished primarily through the performance of masterworks and the music of America’s cultural mosaic. More information at www.trueconcord.org and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

True Concord venue map

