

Program for December 4, 2016
Brass Roots Trio

“Winter’s Eve”

“Season of Joy”

Joy to the World – G. F. Handel (1685-1759)/Mark Hayes (b. 1953) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

“The Solstice”

Invierno Porteño (Winter) – Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

“Winter Sunset”

Celebration of Light —Joseph Martin (b. 1958) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

“Advent & Nativity”

Emmanuel Comes – Mark Hayes (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

Manger Medley – Mark Hayes (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

The Shepherds at the Manger – Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

“Christmas Across the Globe”

A la Nanita Nana (Spain) – Traditional Spanish Carol/David Eddleman (b. 1036) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle (Italy) – Alfonso Liguori (1696-1787) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

Wexford Carol (Ireland) - Traditional Irish Carol/Mark Hayes (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

Rise Up Shepherd (US) – American Spiritual/Mark Hayes (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

“Christmas at Downton Abbey”

English Carol Medley –Mark Hayes (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

Intermission

“The Vienna Grand Ball”

Der Rosenkavalier Concert Waltz – Richard Strauss (1864-1949) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

“Czech Christmas Suite”

Le Noël – Bohuslav Martinu (1890 – 1950) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

1. The Sleigh 2. Child’s Lullaby 3. Christmas Carol

“Yule Jazz”

O Tannenbaum – German Carol/Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

Winter Wonderland – Felix Bernard (1897-1944)/Dave Brubeck (1920-2012) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

The Christmas Song – Mel Tormé (1925-1999)/Vince Guaraldi (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

“O Night Divine”

O Holy Night – Adolphe Adam (1803-1856) (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

“Glad Tidings of Joy!”

Holiday Medley – Mark Hayes (arranged by Rosetta Bacon)

“Winter’s Eve” Program Notes (by Rosetta Bacon)

Season of Joy - After a brilliant fanfare opening of “*Joy to the World*,” ‘Winter’s Eve’ takes the listener on a musical journey of the season as expressed in cultures around the world.

The Solstice - When music lovers hear the phrase “*The Four Seasons*,” they usually associate it with Antonio Vivaldi’s memorable work. However there is another suite of “*The Seasons*” in a very contrasting style by the Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla. Piazzolla was a marvelous composer with a distinctive musical sound that combined jazz and the Argentinian tango. His music is filled with exciting rhythms and with luscious harmonies that incorporate dissonance yet remain largely tonal. In Vivaldi’s “*The Four Seasons*,” each season includes three short movements. Piazzolla’s version gives each season only one movement that contains several sections depicting different moods within the single movement. His “*Invierno Porteño*” (Winter) is slow and sultry, yet intensely rhythmic.

Winter Sunset - Benedetto Marcello’s 18th century setting of the Jewish liturgical poem Ma’oz Tsur introduces the festive Hanukkah original “*Celebration of Light*” by Joseph Martin celebrating the triumph of light over darkness.

Advent & Nativity - Mark Hayes artfully combines the chant “*Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*” in Dorian mode with the contemporary tune “*Emmanuel*” by Bob McGee in his stunning “*Emmanuel Comes*.” Also using traditional carols, he partners “*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*” and “*Away in a Manger*” in this lush “*Manger Medley*.” Franz Liszt composed “*Weihnachtsbaum*” (Christmas Tree), a suite of 12 pieces, and dedicated it to his first grandchild. A number of the pieces include themes from Christmas carols. “*The Shepherds at the Manger*” is based on the familiar tune “*In dulci jubilo*.”

Christmas Across the Globe - Christmas Across the Globe takes the listener on a musical journey to four countries. Based on a traditional Spanish lullaby, “*A la Nanita Nana*” by David Eddleman incorporates rhythms and harmonies reminiscent of a Spanish guitar. “*Tu scendi dalla stella*” (From Starry Skies Descending,) is a Christmas carol from Italy, written in 1732 by Saint Alfonso Liguori in the musical style of a pastorella. Though found in numerous arrangements and commonly sung, it is traditionally associated with the zampogna, or large-format Italian bagpipe. “*The Wexford Carol*” is a traditional religious Irish Christmas carol originating from County Wexford and dating to the 12th century. This lovely tune is remarkable for its haunting Mixolydian mode. “*Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*” is an African-American spiritual first published in ‘Slave Songs of the United States’ (1867). Its lyrics are based on the nativity account in the gospel of St. Luke. Throughout, the lyrics urge the listener to leave behind one’s work and to rise up and follow the star of Bethlehem — perhaps an allusion to rising up and following a path to freedom from slavery.

Christmas at Downton Abbey - Reminiscent of the final episode of the much loved Masterpiece Theater TV series, Mark Hayes’ “*English Carol Medley*” evokes the Christmas at Downton Abbey spirit.

Vienna Grand Ball - For most music lovers, the waltz equals Vienna during its 19th-century glory days. By the time Richard Strauss composed “*Der Rosenkavalier*” in 1909-1910, the sun was setting on that golden age, and the composer used the waltz in the opera as shorthand for the elegance and grace of a bygone era. In Vienna today, the old tradition of the Grand Ball during the holiday season continues to thrive in the city of waltzes.

Czech Christmas Suite - Bohuslav Martinu, Czech composer of the early 20th century composed almost 400 pieces. “*Le Noel*” (The Christmas Suite) was written in the composer’s early style, where French effervescence combines with American jazz idioms.

Yule Jazz - Vince Guaraldi was an American jazz musician and pianist noted for his innovative compositions and arrangements and for composing music for animated adaptations of the Peanuts comic strip. His distinct sound permeates “*O Tannenbaum*” and “*The Christmas Song*” which he arranged for “*A Charlie Brown Christmas*.”

Included in this group is Dave Brubeck’s jazz style arrangement of Felix Bernard’s popular “*Winter Wonderland*”.

O Night Divine - “*O Holy Night*” (Cantique de Noël) is a well-known Christmas carol composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847 to the French poem “*Minuit, chrétiens*” (Midnight, Christians) by a wine merchant and poet, Placide Cappeau. The text reflects on the birth of Jesus and of humanity’s redemption.

Glad Tidings of Joy - The award winning pianist, composer, conductor and arranger Mark Hayes has penned several pieces on this program. His versatility as a composer is apparent in the many styles and harmonic coloring in his compositions. “*Holiday Medley*” is a fun arrangement of “*Jingle Bells*,” “*Deck the Halls*,” “*The Twelve Days of Christmas*” and “*We Wish you a Merry Christmas*” incorporating jazz waltz styles and changing meters.