



OMAHA SYMPHONY

Ankush Kumar Bahl, Music Director

program notes

2022/23 SEASON



Physicians Mutual®

OMAHA SYMPHONY

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 15-18, 2022

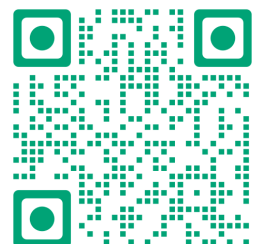
Holland Performing Arts Center
Ernest Richardson, conductor

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This printed program is a condensed version. For more info about the orchestra, guest artists, and the music, download the Omaha Symphony app or scan this QR code with your mobile device.



program list

Pat-a-Pan

BERNARD DE LA MONNOYE/ARR. DOUG KATSAROS

God Bless Us Everyone from *A Christmas Carol*

ALAN SILVESTRI & GLEN BALLARD/ARR. WILLIAM ROSS

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year – The Christmas Waltz

EDWARD POLA & GEORGE WYLE and JULE STYNE & SAMMY
CAHN / ARR. JAMES KESSLER

Winter Wonderland

FELIX BERNARD/ARR. JAMES STEPHENSON III

A Christmas Love Song

JOHN MANDEL/ARR. DAVID SIEGEL, PAUL RAIMAN & D.
PETTIT

It Must've Been Ol' Santa Claus

HARRY CONNICK JR./ARR. DOUG KATSAROS

The Happy Elf

HARRY CONNICK JR./ARR. DOUG KATSAROS

Pie Jesu from *Requiem*

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ORCH. DAVID CULLEN

Carol of the Bells

MYKOLA LEONTOVYCH/ARR. BARLOW BRADFORD

Christmas Time is Here

VINCE GUARALDI/LEE MENDELSSOHN/ARR. MATT
NAUGHTIN

Be A Santa from *Subways Are For Sleeping*

JULE STYNE/ARR. LANNY MEYERS AND MATT CASTLE

INTERMISSION

Deck the Halls

TRADITIONAL/CHIP DAVIS

Spirit of the Season from *The Polar Express*

ALAN SILVESTRI & GLEN BALLARD/ARR. CONRAD HOPE

Ancient Echoes of Christmas

TRADITIONAL/ARR. ERNEST RICHARDSON

Boar's Head/Wassail, Wassail

TRADITIONAL/ARR. MATT CATINGUB

Frosty The Snowman

WALTER ROLLINS & STEVE NELSON/ARR. DOUG KATSAROS

Joy to the World

TRADITIONAL/ARR. DAVID BINION & B.J. DAVIS

Believe from *The Polar Express*

ALAN SILVESTRI & GLEN BALLARD

Sleigh Ride

LEROY ANDERSON

Silent Night

FRANZ GRUBER/ARR. ERNEST RICHARDSON

The Prayer, for Soprano and Tenor

DAVID FOSTER/CAROLE BAYER SAGER/ARR. VICTOR
VANACORE

O Holy Night

ADOLPH-CHARLES ADAM/ARR. ERNEST RICHARDSON

Hark Ye Shepherds

TRAD./ARR. ERNEST RICHARDSON

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

TRADITIONAL/ARR. PAUL RAIMAN, DAVID SEIGEL, TREVOR
MOTYCKA & ERNEST RICHARDSON

featured artists



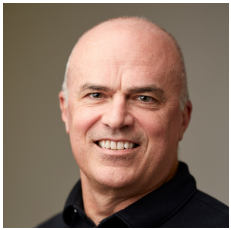
Principal Pops Conductor

Ernest Richardson is the principal pops conductor and resident conductor of the Omaha Symphony. Since 1993, he has been integral in the development of the Symphony's vaunted education and community engagement programs, in addition to his artistic leadership in the creation and curation of the successful Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, and Movies Series. Richardson's innovation can be especially seen in the Symphony's Choral Collaborative, Celebrate Creativity, and Mission: Imagination programs, which remain mainstays of the organization's season.



Director

Parker Esse is a multi-award-winning director/choreographer known for his inclusive, visionary, energetic, and earnest story-driven work. After performing regionally, in national tours, and as a featured performer on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning *Fosse*, he began collaborating on multiple Regional and Broadway shows as associate director/choreographer, creating Broadway's Tony/Drama Desk/multi-award-winning productions of *Finian's Rainbow*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Follies*.



Chorus Director

Joel Johnston is Director of Vocal Music at Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska, where he conducts the University Choir, the Clef Dwellers, Freshtones, and teaches courses in Music Education and Vocal Pedagogy. Known for his positive and dynamic leadership, Joel is in demand as a vocal clinician, conductor, choreographer, and adjudicator. He has conducted more than 40 choral festivals throughout the Midwest and is a frequent judge at show choir competitions.



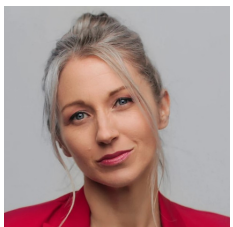
Principal

Darlesia Cearcy recently appeared as Diana in *Next to Normal* at Westport Country Playhouse. Broadway credits include *Erzulie: Goddess of Love* from *Once on This Island*, *Lottie Gee* (in Audra McDonald's stead) in *Shuffle Along*, *Nettie* in *The Color Purple*, *Sarah* in *Ragtime*, and *The Goodbye Girl*. She won the BTF award for her work in *Nina Simone: Four Women*. TV credits include *High Fidelity*, *Madame Secretary*, *FBI*, *House of Cards*, *Elementary*, *Law & Order SVU*, and *Nurse Jackie*, as well as Netflix's *The Watcher*.



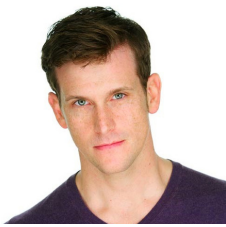
Principal

J. Daughtry is a theatrical, gospel and R&B singer and actor on both stage and screen. Credits include backup vocals for "Anthony Brown and Group TherAPy," Patti LaBelle, Donald Lawrence, Bobby Jones Gospel, and Kirk Franklin, and stage roles in *Ain't Too Proud*, *The Color Purple* and *Beautiful*. He has toured with shows such as *Cirque du Soleil*, *Motown The Musical*, and *Miss Saigon*. J. Daughtry spends a great deal of time helping those in need through his philanthropic effort Helping Hands.



Principal

Sara Jean Ford is an actor, singer, and writer living in NYC. Stage credits include Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Jellylorum in *CATS*, Smitty in *How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, Petra in *A Little Night Music*, *Finian's Rainbow*, and Louisa in *The Fantasticks* (original revival cast). Sara has appeared as a soloist in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Disney Hall. Currently, Sara can be seen starring in her hit dark comedy web series, *The Aging Ingenue*, which she also co-wrote, now streaming on BroadwayWorld.com!



Principal

Kevin Vortmann is thrilled to return for his 11th appearance with the Omaha Symphony! Favorite credits include *A Little Night Music*, *Death Takes a Holiday*, *Most Happy Fella*, *On the Town*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Show Boat*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Lost in the Stars*, *Stairway to Paradise*, *Juno*, and *Children and Art*. He has been a featured soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, with multiple engagements at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall and the Kennedy Center. Love to family, especially Amanda, Colin, Lucas, and Mom!



Dancer

This is **Darien Crago**'s first year with the wonderful Omaha Symphony! Past stage credits include Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, her Broadway debut with *Holiday Inn*, NYC City Center's *Paint Your Wagon* and *Lady, Be Good*, *Cheek to Cheek* at the York Theatre. TV credits include *Fosse/Verdon* and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. Darien enjoys performing at regional theatres including Goodspeed, Cape Playhouse, The Muny, Paper Mill Playhouse, PCLO, and The Lex, as well as internationally, having performed in Paris with physical comedy experts from the Jacques Lecoq School in the regional premiere of *YŌKAI*.



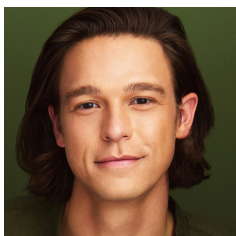
Dancer

Darrell T. Joe is so excited to ring in the holidays with the Omaha Symphony! Theater credits include *Cheek to Cheek: Irving Berlin in Hollywood*, the *Jesus Christ Superstar* 50th Anniversary tour, Paul in *Kiss Me, Kate*, Bobby in *A Chorus Line*, Fred in *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Damn Yankees* (National Tour), *Holiday Inn* (Goodspeed, The MUNY), *42nd Street* (Bucks County Playhouse), and *A Christmas Carol* (Denver Center). Happy Holidays!



Dancer

Erin Moore is a versatile artist, performing across mediums and genres. Credits include HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*, Netflix's *A Very Murray Christmas*, appearances on *The Tonight Show* and *Saturday Night Live*, *Follies*, *After Midnight*, *Shuffle Along*, *Rigoletto* at The Metropolitan Opera, as well as being featured with the San Francisco Symphony. TV credits include the finale of *Fosse/Verdon* on FX, season 3 of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, and Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Tick, Tick...Boom* on Netflix. Erin is happy to be back at the Omaha Symphony this year!



Dancer

J Savage is so excited to spend Christmas with the Omaha Symphony! Credits include *Newsies* (Davey), *State Fair* (Pat Gilbert), *Carousel*, and *Something Rotten*. Aside from theatre, he is an avid rock climber and song writer. During the pandemic, he moved west, bought a van, and taught preschool to the rangers' kids in Yellowstone National Park, an experience recounted in his one man show, *Farewell to the West*. Just prior to this, he was Yellowstone's 2022 artist in residency, and he will be making his Broadway debut early next year.

Youth Ensemble Members

Clara Kizer, Quinn Krejci, Martin Prieto, Matias Prieto, Liam Richardson, Thomas Rogers, Claire Wegner, Lilli Westman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Omaha Symphony would like to thank the following for their involvement with this year's Physicians Mutual Omaha Symphony Christmas Celebration!

Anne Nagosky Violin & Viola Studio

SNJ Choir

Résonance