

California Bach Society Press Release

December 2 – 4, 2022

Christmas in the British Isles: Music of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland

Friday, December 2, 2022, 8:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell, San Francisco

Saturday, December 3, 2022, 8:00 p.m.
All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley, Palo Alto

Sunday, December 4, 2022, 4:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft, Berkeley

Tickets: \$40 (discounts for advance purchase, seniors, students, and under 30). For discounts and to facilitate social distancing, please purchase tickets in advance at www.calbach.org. For COVID-19 protocols, consult www.calbach.org/covid. Doors open 30 minutes prior to each performance.

650-485-1097 | <http://www.calbach.org> | info@calbach.org

The California Bach Society's popular Christmas concerts, presenting choral settings of music from around the world, are a Bay Area holiday tradition. This year, CBS performs traditional favorites and lesser-known gems from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, presented in intimate arrangements for choir and organ that showcase the magical sound of CBS at its holiday best.

Arrangements of traditional carols by English, Scots, Welsh, and Irish composers include:

- The Holly and the Ivy
- In the Bleak Midwinter
- Ding Dong! Merrily on High
- Wexford Carol

In addition to carols sung in English, the choir will perform rarely heard carols in Welsh and Gaelic.

Enriching the CBS holiday offering is a newly composed carol, *Come the Light*, by Ann Burgess from Somerset, England, who won the 2015 BBC Radio 3 Carol Competition with this composition. The program also features Christmas music written by celebrated English composers such as Benjamin Britten, Herbert Howells, and John Rutter.

"The listener had the uncanny, elevating sense of hearing every voice devoted to a single purpose. It was, in the broadest sense of the term, a musically spiritual experience." — *SF Classical Voice*, 2017 (reviewing the CBS *St. Matthew Passion*)

Biographies:

To download photos, please go to <http://www.calbach.org/press/>.

The California Bach Society, a 30-voice chamber chorus, was awarded "Best Choral Group" and "Best Early Music/Baroque Ensemble" for 2017-2018 by *San Francisco Classical Voice*, following a dazzling performance at the Berkeley Early Music Festival. Founded in 1971, CBS has specialized in historically informed performances since 1998 and has established a reputation for its interpretations of Renaissance and Baroque choral music. Leon Chisholm of *San Francisco Classical Voice* wrote: "In recent years, **the California Bach Society has become a prospector of Baroque gold**. Its concerts have brought forth exquisite, rarely heard works by forgotten masters from the lost frontier, to the delight of its audiences."

Artistic director **Dr. Paul Flight**—a noted choral conductor, teacher, and singer—is in his seventeenth season with the California Bach Society. A former member of the Waverly Consort, Theatre of Voices, Pomerium Musices, and the New York Collegium, he brings a wealth of expertise to CBS. Critics have praised Dr. Flight's conducting acumen, stating: "**Flight has made of the choral group a professional ensemble capable of every expressive nuance and glorious ensemble sound.**"

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