

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Warms Holiday Hearts
with "Christmas Choral Vespers" Concert
7 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2005

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—With Christmas on the horizon, the University of Saint Mary fine arts—music department is ready to celebrate the season with a Christmas tradition dating back to 1978, the Christmas Choral Vespers Concert. Christmas Vespers combines the entire USM music community for a night of spiritual music for the season.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 in Annunciation Chapel on the University of Saint Mary campus, located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan. The event is free and open to the public. Call 913-682-5151 extension 6460 for details.

Christmas Vespers will feature the entire USM music community, including the University Concert Chorale, Brass Ensemble, Vespers Orchestra, and the unique Bells of Saint Mary Handbell Choir. Dr. William Krusemark, chair of the USM fine arts—music department, Freda Proctor, assistant music professor, and Ryan Harris, senior student music conductor will lead the ensemble.

The featured work for the evening will be Pergolesi's setting of "*Magnificat*" for mixed choir and string orchestra. The program will also include carols for choir in German and Norwegian as well as bell choir arrangements of "*Away in The Manger*" and "*Ding Dong, Merrily On High.*" Vespers will conclude with Holst's "*Christmas Day*" featuring USM's full orchestra and choir.

Featured student vocal soloists for the evening include Jesan Barnes, junior from Omaha, Neb., Matt Lockwood, senior from Easton, Kan., Ryan Harris, senior from Kansas City, Kan., and Taylor Gillespie, junior from Pueblo, Colo.

The Vespers program will last approximately one hour and will be followed by a reception in Saint Joseph Dining Hall.

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