

NEWS RELEASE

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Get into the Holiday Spirit with the Joyous Sounds of Christmas at the University of Saint Mary

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7 & 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary once again will ring in the Christmas season with a pair of annual musical holiday traditions: the joyful Christmas Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, in Saint Joseph Dining Hall, and the glorious Christmas Choral Vespers Concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, in Annunciation Chapel.

Both events are free and open to the public and will be held on USM's Leavenworth Campus at 4100 South 4th Street.

The Christmas Choral Vespers is a USM tradition dating back more than 30 years. The event will feature the University of Saint Mary Concert Chorale, under the direction of Dr. William Krusemark, chair of USM's fine arts department, and accompanied by USM Assistant Music Professor Freda Proctor on organ and Tabitha Reist-Steiner on harp. The featured work of the evening will be Vaughan-Williams' "Fantasia on Christmas Carols" with mezzo-soprano and USM student Jenna Schwinn of Leavenworth as soloist. Other works will include the iconic "Ukrainian Bell Carol."

"With a presentation of German, American, Spanish, and British carols, we try to present a mix of familiar and unfamiliar music at Vespers," Dr. Krusemark said. "And we close each show with a rendition of 'Silent Night,' with the audience encouraged to join in."

Contact Dr. Krusemark at (913) 682-5151, ext. 6460, for more information on Choral Vespers.

The Christmas Band Concert will feature the USM Community Band and USM String Ensemble, under the direction of Freda Proctor.

The program will include themes from "The Nutcracker Suite," concert arrangements of "The First Noel," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "Gesu Bambino," and "Christmas in Europe." Katie Miller will be the featured trumpet soloist in "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and the flute choir will present a medley of traditional Christmas carols. The program will close with Mannheim Steamroller's "A Fresh Aire Christmas."

The Christmas Concert ensembles are made up of USM students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as professional and amateur musicians from the local community.

Contact Freda Proctor at (913) 758-6320 for more information on the Christmas Concert.

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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