

Home for the Holidays with the Minnesota Orchestra

Sarah Hicks, conductor
Conceived and directed by Peter Rothstein
Written by Kevin Kling

Holiday Concerts

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 8 pm	Orchestra Hall
Sunday, December 15, 2019, 2 pm	Orchestra Hall
Thursday, December 19, 2019, 11 am and 7:30 pm	Orchestra Hall

Today's concert lasts two hours, including one 20-minute intermission.

ensemble

Christina Baldwin*
Robert O. Berdahl*
Kevin Kling*
Greta Oglesby*
Huxley Westemeier*

VocalEssence Singers of this Age, choir | G. Phillip Shultz, III, conductor

Peter Rothstein, stage director
Kevin Kling, writer

Robert Elhai, composer and arranger
Peter Ostroushko, composer

With additional material by Stephen Paulus, along with other seasonal pieces
Eric McEnaney, musical preparation

Laurie DeMartino, projection designer
Alice Fredrickson, costume designer
Nancy Carlson, original artwork - "The Mitten"
Kelli Foster Warder, assistant director/choreographer
Jim Lichtscheidl, movement director
Priscilla Bruce, hair and makeup designer
Clara Cavins, assistant costume designer
Justin Hossle*, production stage manager
Z Makila, assistant stage manager

* Member of Actors Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

"Merry Christmas Darling" - Words and music by Richard Lynn Carpenter, Frank Pooler
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"Christmas Time is Here" (from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*) - By Lee Mendelson and Vince Guaraldi
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Sarah Hicks, conductor

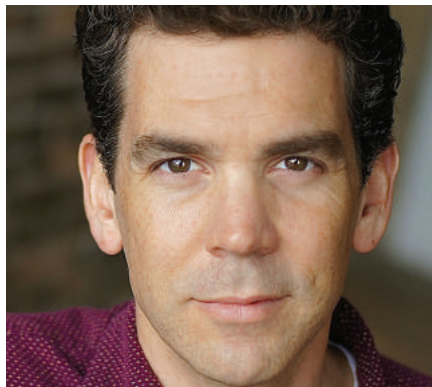
Conductor Sarah Hicks, the Minnesota Orchestra's principal conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall, has led a broad range of programs since joining the Orchestra as assistant conductor in 2006. During the 2019-20 season, she will conduct the Orchestra in performances with Ben Folds and Cloud Cult; a tribute to Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald featuring Capathia Jenkins and Tony DeSare; the Sam & Sarah series; and live performances of movie scores featured in the Orchestra's Movies and Music series. Away from Orchestra Hall, she has recently conducted concerts with the Antwerp Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, Dallas Symphony and Virginia Symphony Orchestra. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.



Christina Baldwin, ensemble

Christina Baldwin has performed numerous works with the Minnesota

Orchestra, including Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* and *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, Stephen Paulus' oratorio with libretto by Michael Dennis Browne. As a soloist, she has worked with the Bakken Trio, VocalEssence, Schubert Club, Skylark Opera, Ex Machina, Astoria Music Festival, Fort Smith Symphony and Colorado Symphony. Her performances as an actor range from Shakespeare and contemporary plays to musical theater and operetta, and she has worked with the Guthrie Theater, American Repertory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Jungle Theater, Kansas City Repertory Theatre and more. She is a director of opera and theater, a member of The Moving Company, and associate artistic director of the Jungle Theater. More: christina-baldwin.com.



Robert O. Berdahl, ensemble

Robert O. Berdahl has been featured in many productions at the Guthrie Theater since 1999, including *The Royal Family*, *The Music Man*, *A Christmas Carol*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The 39 Steps*, *Macbeth*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *1776*, *She Loves Me*, *Pygmalion*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Twelfth Night* and *Warm Beer Cold Women*. His additional performance credits include leading roles at the Ordway, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Theater Latté Da, Horton Grand, History Theatre and Hope Repertory. More: robertoberdahl.com.



Kevin Kling, writer and ensemble

Kevin Kling's plays have been produced in the Twin Cities and around the world. His collaborations with composer Victor Zupanc include *For the Birds* for Zeitgeist, *Best Summer Ever* for Children's Theatre Company and *The Burning Wisdom of Finn McCool* performed by the Dakota Valley Symphony, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, St. Olaf College and the Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra. Kling and Zupanc recently premiered their *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* with the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra. A frequent commentator for TPT's *Almanac*, Kling was named the Minneapolis Story Laureate by Mayor R.T. Rybak in 2014. More: kevinkling.com.



Greta Oglesby, ensemble

Greta Oglesby earned critical and audience acclaim when she played the lead in Tony Kushner's *Caroline*,

or *Change* at the Guthrie Theater, a performance for which she was awarded an Ivey Award. Her recent performances include five seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; *Crowns, Burial at Thebes, Sunshine Boys* and *Appomattox* at the Guthrie; *Gem of the Ocean* and *Amen Corner* at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago; and several major roles at Penumbra Theatre in shows such as *Piano Lesson, The Ballad of Emmett Till* and *Black Nativity*. She has recently published the book *Mama 'n Nem: Handprints on My Life* from Kirkhouse.



Huxley Westemeier, ensemble

Eleven-year-old Huxley Westemeier is welcomed for his Minnesota Orchestra debut in *Home for the Holidays*. He has performed in many local productions, most notably *Watch on the Rhine* at the Guthrie Theater, *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Ordway, and the Children's Theatre Company's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid the Musical*. He performed on the first national Broadway tour of *School of Rock the Musical* as Billy, and most recently originated the role of August Rush in the world premiere of *August Rush the Musical* at the Paramount Theatre. In addition to theater, Westemeier enjoys composing and playing music, reading, linguistics, magic, biking, traveling and running with his dogs.



Robert Elhai, composer and arranger

Robert Elhai has composed music theater for History Theater, Jungle Theater, Fortune's Fool Theatre, Nautilus Music-Theater and Theater Latté Da, among other companies. He created scores for The New Standards' performance with the Minnesota Orchestra in 2016. Nominated for Tony and Drama Desk Awards for the Broadway production of *The Lion King*, he has written arrangements and orchestrations that have graced many other theater and concert productions, as well as some 150 movies, including *Crazy Rich Asians, Fences, Avengers: Age of Ultron, Across The Universe* and most of *The Fast and the Furious* series. More: robertelhai.com.

Peter Rothstein, stage director

Peter Rothstein works extensively as a director of theater, musical theater, opera and new work development. He is the founding artistic director of Theater Latté Da, a Twin Cities-based company dedicated to adventurous musical theater. His other directing credits include productions at the Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre Company, Minnesota Opera, Ten Thousand Things, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Seattle's 5th Avenue Theater. He is the creator of *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. He has been awarded seven Ivey

Awards for overall excellence and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. More: peter-rothstein.com.

VocalEssence Singers Of This Age

G. Phillip Shoultz, III, founding director

Rhiannon Fiskradatz, operations manager

Corey Cellurale, choral assistant

VocalEssence Singers Of This Age is a dynamic group of Twin Cities-area high school students who sing, move, write their own music, rap, and reflect the diversity of our community in its membership. Under the leadership of Founding Director G. Phillip Shoultz, III, the students present a wide range of music from classical to hip-hop. The ensemble is in residence at Augsburg University.

Shoultz enjoys a multifaceted career in the arts, learning and worship arenas. He serves as Associate Conductor and Director of Learning and Engagement of VocalEssence. The winner of the 2015 ACDA Graduate Conducting Competition and an International Conductors Exchange Program participant, he oversees worship and music activities at Good Samaritan UMC and frequently conducts choirs and workshops worldwide. More: vocalessence.org.