Home for the Holidays

Minnesota Orchestra

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

Holiday Concerts

Friday, December 14, 2018, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall
Sunday, December 16, 2018, 2 pm | Orchestra Hall
Thursday, December 20, 2018, 11 am | Orchestra Hall

The program for today’s concert will be announced from the stage. The concert is 75 minutes in duration and is performed without an intermission.

ensemble
Christina Baldwin*
Robert O. Berdahl*
Kevin Kling*
Thomasina Petrus*
Alejandro Vega

ComMUSICation, choir | Ryan LaBoy, music director

Peter Rothstein, stage director
Kevin Kling, writer
Robert Elhai, composer and arranger

With additional material by Peter Ostroushko and Stephen Paulus, along with other seasonal pieces

Laurie DeMartino, projection designer
Nancy Carlson, original artwork for “The Mitten”
Alice Fredrickson, costume designer
Paul Bigot, hair and makeup designer
Kelli Foster Warder, choreographer
Jim Lichtscheidl, movement director
Eric McEnaney, musical preparation
Katie Hawkinson*, production stage manager
Matthew Meeks, 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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"Linus and Lucy" and “Skating” – By Vince Guaraldi
“Christmas Time is Here” (from A Charlie Brown Christmas) – By Lee Mendelson and Vince Guaraldi
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This concert is sponsored by JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Sarah Hicks, 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 2018-19 season she also leads the Orchestra in performances with Dessa, Indigo Girls and Igudesman & Joo, as well as the Inside the Classics series and film music concerts of Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Star Trek Into Darkness, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban and Disney’s classic 1991 animated version of Beauty and the Beast. More: minnesotaorchestra.org.

Robert O. Berdahl, ensemble


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, The Burning Wisdom of Finn McCool with the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and, most recently, The Best Summer Ever for the Children’s Theatre Company. A frequent commentator for TPT’s Almanac, NPR and MPR’s All Things Considered, Kling was named the Minneapolis Story Laureate by then-Mayor R.T. Rybak in 2014. He grew up in Osseo, Minnesota, and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College. More: kevinkling.com.

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, Vocal Essence, Schubert Club, Skylark Opera, Ex Machina, Astoria Music Festival, Fort Smith Symphony and Colorado Symphony. She serves as resident director at the Jungle Theater, and she served as artistic associate, music director and performer with The Moving Company. Her appearances at the Guthrie Theater range from Shakespeare and contemporary plays to musical theater and operetta. More: christina-baldwin.com.

Thomasina Petrus, ensemble

Thomasina Petrus is a company member at Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre and Park Square Theatre. She has performed with prominent artists including James “Cornbread” Harris, Sr., Jevetta Steele, T. Mychael Rambo, Stokley, Walter Chancellor and Prince.
She has toured the country with six separate stagings of Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill, and with her original production Lady Days for young audiences and elderly residences. Her other original productions include HOLD, a play about incarcerated women through music and poetry. She was a 2015-16 Playwright Center McKnight Theatre Arts Fellow, and she is the creator of Thomasina’s Cashew Brittle. More: thomasinaproduction.com.

**Alejandro Vega, ensemble**

Alejandro Vega returns after performing with the Minnesota Orchestra in Home for the Holidays in 2017. He has also recently performed with the Minnesota Opera in The Shining and Dead Man Walking. He has had roles in Matilda the Musical, Peter Pan the Musical, The Wizard of Oz, The Abominables, and Last Stop on Market Street at the Children’s Theatre Company, and has appeared in multiple productions at Theater Latté Da and with 7th House Theater at the Guthrie Theater.

**Robert Elhai, composer and arranger**

Robert Elhai has written music for productions at History Theater, Jungle Theater, Fortune’s Fool Theatre, Nautilus Music-Theater and Theater Latté Da. He created scores for The New Standards’ performance with the Minnesota Orchestra in July 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 theater productions at the Guthrie, 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.

**ComMUSICation**

**Ryan LaBoy, music director**

Inspired by the music-for-social-change El Sistema movement, ComMUSICation uses music to empower urban young people with skills for success. Currently in its fifth year, ComMUSICation builds relationships among community partners through an intensive after-school youth development music program that encourages family involvement and community engagement. As an organization, ComMUSICation is committed to working with St. Paul’s most vulnerable youth and families, providing young people an equitable opportunity to experience rigorous community music-making and a safe, caring community where youth can freely express themselves. ComMUSICation also addresses systemic barriers to access through tuition waivers and scholarships, meals, transportation and academic support. More: commusicationmn.org.