

Under the direction of Maestro Gregory Douglas Johnson

Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra  
presents

# 'Twas The Night Before Christmas

A Traditional Christmas Featuring: *Dr. Ralph Jones*, Narrator



Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 3pm

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
9460 Charles Street, Chilliwack

**Prizes Drawn!**

Tickets:

\$25 Adults / \$15 Seniors and Children

Available at: [chilliwackchristmas.eventbrite.com](http://chilliwackchristmas.eventbrite.com) and at the door



# About Us

The Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra Chilliwack's community orchestra, was founded in 2008 by local volunteer musicians who were dedicated to performing high quality symphony concerts for patrons of the eastern Fraser Valley. Over past seasons we have presented some of the very best in guest soloists including Dr. Robert Silverman, Jennifer Lim, Dr. Janice Fehlauer, Dr. Sarah Davis Buechner and operatic soprano, Siobhan Raupach.

We have also presented innovative collaborations with other musical organizations such as Beatles Tribute group, *The Fab Fourever*, *Philomusica Chorus* and members of the *Chilliwack Players Guild*.

In 2021-2022, rebuilding from the Covid-19 pandemic, we will present two concerts – the one that you are currently attending and a second, entitled "*The Anti-Hero: Good (and Bad) Guys' Music of Opera and Film*," at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre. We hope that you will enjoy our season!

## A Message of Thanks....

The **Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra** Board and Members wish to extend sincerest thanks to our valued patrons for their continued support of our concerts. The Met is your Community Orchestra, composed of musicians from the Chilliwack and surrounding area. We make it possible to attend our concert programs featuring concertos with world-class soloists and full symphonies without needing to leave our community. We also endeavour to perform one program of modern-day music each season.

## Did you Know...?

The Sleigh Ride by Leopold Mozart features a natural trumpet (often referred to as a Baroque trumpet). It is a **long, double-folded trumpet without valves**. It was the trumpet used across Europe from the 15th through the mid-19th centuries, and is a common ancestor to all modern brass instruments. Historically, the natural trumpet was used as a military instrument to facilitate communication (e.g. break camp, retreat, etc.).

In 1906, composer Gustav Holst composed a setting of Christina Rossetti's poem "Cranham," now known as In the Bleak Midwinter, for *The English Hymnal*. Today it is performed throughout the world.

The Cherry Tree Carol relates an apocryphal story of the Virgin Mary, presumably while traveling to Bethlehem with Joseph for the census. In the most popular version, the two stop in a cherry orchard, and Mary asks her husband to pick cherries for her, because she is hungry. Joseph spitefully tells Mary to let the child's father pick her cherries. At this point in most versions, the infant Jesus, from the womb, speaks to the tree and commands it to lower a branch down to Mary, which it does. Joseph, witnessing this miracle, immediately repents his harsh words.

Holly, especially the variety found in Europe, is commonly referenced at Christmas time, and is often referred to by the name "Christ's thorn." Since medieval times the plant has carried a Christian symbolism as expressed in the popular Christmas carol, The Holly and the Ivy, where the holly represents Jesus and the ivy represents His mother, Mary.

A 16<sup>th</sup> century carol originating from Coventry, The Coventry Carol was traditionally performed during Coventry "Mystery Plays," which were medieval plays enacting New Testament Stories, including that of the Nativity.





# 'Twas the Night Before Christmas – A Traditional Christmas

## Programme

A Christmas Festival	Leroy Anderson
The Sleigh Ride	Leopold Mozart
The Huron Carol - The Moon in Winter	arr. Jack Kopstein
In The Bleak Midwinter	Gustav Holst
Cherry Tree Carol	arr. Robert W. Smith
Holly and the Ivy	arr. Vince Gassi
'Twas the Night Before Christmas	music – Bill Holcombe poem – Clement Clarke Moore

featuring – **Dr. Ralph Jones**, *narrator*  
Shannon Goldsmith, *conductor*

(Short) INTERMISSION PRIZE DRAW

A Vaughan Williams Christmas	arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Coventry Carol	arr. Bob Cerulli
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	orch. Brant Adams
A Christmas Hymn	words/music J. E. Spillman and Martin Luther, arr. Robert w. Smith
Christmas Sing-A-Long	arr. Bob Cerulli
Deck the Halls/We Wish You a Merry Christmas	Anon.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night!

### Dedication

*This concert is dedicated to the memory of former President and founding member, Robert Dyck. Blessings to you, Bob.*



## Personnel

### Violin 1

Rick Barker  
Rob O'Brennan

Suzanne Gresham  
Sheila Evani

### Violin 2

Earle Davies  
Cathy Maycock

Claire Anderton  
Linda Ragan

Anne Fleming

### Viola

Gwyneth Jones

### Cello

Wendy Atkinson

Emily Heeryeong Hwang

### Flute

William McKnight

Vince Curran

### Oboe

Margaret Smiley

Ivan Pettigrew

### Clarinet

Emily Wright

### Bass Clarinet

Debbie Dorombozi

### Bassoon

Ron Schubank

### French Horn

Shannon Goldsmith  
Mary Eggen

Paula Quick  
Heather Lennie

### Trumpet

Ken Kimberley

### Trombone

Barry Eggen  
Kevin Jackson

### Tuba

Dave Ford

### Harp

Anya McRae

### Percussion

Anya McRae  
Jillana Nickel

### Piano

Cathy Gallagher

# Biographies



Gregory Douglas Johnson

Now returning for his eighth season as Artistic Director of the Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra, Gregory Douglas Johnson is grateful to be once again performing at public concerts. His performances have been described as containing "great feeling and nuance" (Ukrainian Canadian Herald) and audiences are quick to respond to his connection with the music. Born and raised in the Fraser Valley, his conducting pursuits have taken him as far as the Czech Republic, but he maintains his family life here. He has had the opportunity to work with esteemed conductors such as Larry Rachleff, Gustav Meier and Kirk Trevor. During his orchestral conducting training in Winnipeg, he had the rare opportunity to conduct the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the St. John's Chamber Orchestra, in addition to his work with the University Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. Equally at home in choral and wind ensemble conducting, he is in his ninth season as Music Director of the Fraser Valley Community Winds, and maintains an award-winning choir at Woodward Hill Elementary in Surrey. He has worked with students of all ages, holding concurrent flute instructor posts at Trinity Western University and the Langley Community Music School. His family of two effervescent children, Gabriel and Josephine, and his wife Jacqueline, enjoy spending quality time together, particularly in nature.





## Biographies continued

Dr. Ralph Jones has been a Chilliwack Players Guild actor for 15 years, starting in a pantomime as the “Pink Fairy” in *Cinderella Up the Beanstalk*.

This was followed by several more pantomimes and regular appearances at the Players Guild British Nights. Serious plays included Agatha Christie’s *Witness for the Prosecution*, as the Judge. A few musicals should be mentioned, including *Nunsense* as well as the Guild’s recent series of radio plays.

Ralph read *A Child’s Christmas in Wales* with the CMO in 2017 & sang in the same concert with Philomusica Chorus.

When not on stage, Ralph tries his hand at medicine. “Trust me I’m a doctor!” says Ralph.



## CMO Membership/Volunteer Tear or Cut-Off



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a:

Community Member (\$50)

Donor \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax receipt over \$25)

Volunteer (area[s] of interest) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to the Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra, and return to the Box Office or by post to the CMO, PO Box 2076, Stn Main, Chilliwack, BC V2R 1A5.  
For e-transfer, contact [pinger52@gmail.com](mailto:pinger52@gmail.com).

# Upcoming Concert!

**Sunday, March 27, 2022 3:00 p.m.**

The CMO has an exciting and provocative concert planned at the Hub International Theatre of the Chilliwack Cultural Centre entitled *The Anti-Hero: Good (and Bad) Guy Music of Opera and Film!* Come explore famous melodies of the opera stage and silver screen with renowned soloist Andrew Greenwood, one of Canada's most sought-after music protagonists. This one you do not want to miss! Tickets on sale February 28, 2022 at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre Box Office, 604-391-SHOW (7469) or online at <https://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca/tickets/>

## **Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra Society 2021-2022 Board of Directors**

Vince Curran	Michael Hare
Brian Hick	William McKnight
Paula Quick	Margaret Smiley

### Acknowledgements:

*Michael Bergman, Christ Lutheran Church,  
The Fraser Valley Philharmonic Society,  
Colleen Kimberley, Ewen McKie, Nigel Plumley,  
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