

The Charles River Chorale

presents

Home for the Holidays

directed by

Ashley Nelson

with associate director and accompanist

Susan Fortin

December 10, 2016, at 7:30 PM

Medway High School, Medway, MA

featuring

Frostiana

Seven Country Songs by Robert Frost, set to music by

Randall Thompson

and other selections of the season

with a performance by the

Charles River Children's' Choir



Roy S. Kelley, Founding Director

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December 10, 2016, at 7:30 PM

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Seven Country Songs by Robert Frost, set to music by

Randall Thompson,

accompanied by 9-piece ensemble, as well as

other selections of the season.

With a performance and holiday sing-along by the

Charles River Children's Choir

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The Charles River Chorale is proud to sponsor the Charles River Children's Choir through its outreach funding. This funding is supported in part through your purchase of raffle tickets. Please buy a few small "chances" to give small people a big lesson in music.

The Charles River Chorale, Inc. is a 503(c)(3) corporation organized under Massachusetts law. Its membership forms its "shareholders," each of whom also pays dues and contributes in various ways to the management and operation of the corporation. Your donations are fully tax-deductible, and are encouraged.



Roy S. Kelley, Founding Director



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Frostiana

Seven Country Songs by Robert Frost Set to music by Randall Thompson

From the Publisher:

Commissioned in 1958 for the two-hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Amherst, Massachusetts, Frostiana was composed between June 15 and July 7, 1959 in Gstaad, Switzerland.

The work was first performed as part of the Bicentennial Commemoration at an Inter-Faith Convocation in the Amherst Regional High School Auditorium on October 18, 1959. It was sung by the Bicentennial Chorus, comprised of singers of all denominations in the township. Professor J. Heywood Alexander accompanied, the composer conducted, and the poet was present.

Randall Thompson

From Wikipedia:

Randall Thompson (April 21, 1899 – July 9, 1984) was an American composer, particularly noted for his choral works. He was born and principally educated in Massachusetts.

“Thompson composed three symphonies and numerous vocal works including Americana, The Testament of Freedom, Frostiana, and The Peaceable Kingdom, inspired by Edward Hicks's painting. His most popular and recognizable choral work is his anthem, Alleluia, commissioned by Serge Koussevitzky for the opening of the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood. He also wrote the operas Solomon and Balkis and The Nativity According to St. Luke.”



Randall Thompson. Photo Credit:
Wikipedia (Public Domain)

Robert L. Frost

Summarized from Wikipedia.

Born in 1874, Robert Frost's life is notable for his literary success despite many difficult periods. Born in San Francisco, his family moved to Massachusetts when his father died. Frost completed his high school education in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He briefly attended Dartmouth College, but returned home after only two months to teach, deliver newspapers and work in a factory maintaining carbon art lamps.

Frost later attended Harvard University, leaving due to illness. He attempted a life as a farmer in Derry, New Hampshire, but eventually returned to the field of education at several New Hampshire schools. He moved his young family to England in 1912. Between then and 1915, Frost made important poetic acquaintances and published his first book of poetry. Returning to the United States during World War I, Frost bought a farm in Franconia, New Hampshire and truly launched his career of writing, teaching and lecturing.

Frost taught English at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts for most of the years between 1916 and 1938. He also taught at the University of Michigan during the 1920s. He won his first of four Pulitzer prizes in 1924. From 1921 to 1963 Frost spent almost every summer and fall teaching at Middlebury College in Ripton, Vermont. During these years, he also experienced many family losses, including the deaths of his wife and four of his six children.

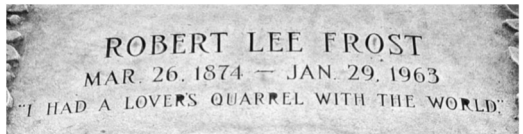
Despite never completing a formal education, Frost received over 40 honorary degrees. Several institutions were named for him, including the Robert L. Frost school in Lawrence Massachusetts and Amherst College's main library.

Frost was awarded a United States Congressional Gold Medal in 1960. At age 86 he recited by memory his poem "The Gift Outright" at John F. Kennedy's inauguration. Kennedy personally bestowed the Congressional Gold Metal on Frost in March, 1962.

Frost is buried at the Old Bennington Cemetery, Bennington, Vermont.



Robert Frost in 1959. Photo Credit: Library of Congress, via Wikipedia (Public Domain)



"I had a lover's quarrel with the world." The epitaph engraved on his tomb is an excerpt from Frost's own poem "The Lesson for Today."

Director Ashley Nelson

Ashley Nelson holds a bachelor's and master's degree in music education from Boston University's College of Fine Arts and has been the successful director of many choirs during her career. She conducted choirs in the Hopkinton and Norwood public schools, and is most recently working to expand the choral program at King Philip Regional High School.

As a member of the National Association for Music Education, Ashley has served as chorus manager and clinician at Massachusetts Music Educators conferences. She is also the Choral Festival Chairperson of the Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductor's Association and the newly appointed Membership Chair for the Massachusetts' chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Ashley also adjudicates for festival auditions and performances, competitions, and provides clinics to area choirs.

Additionally, Ashley is an arranger of choral works published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc., and enjoys her private studio of voice, piano, and music theory students.

Learn more at www.ashleynelsonmusic.com.

Associate Director and Principal Accompanist Susan Fortin

Susan Fortin is an active musician as accompanist, teacher, director and performer.

Susan currently teaches piano and K-8 general music in Attleboro. She holds a Bachelors degree in Choral/General Music Education from Iowa State University and a Masters degree in Piano Performance/Accompanying and Chamber Music from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Her piano performances include appearances with the Minnetonka, MN Symphony Orchestra, touring internationally as accompanist and assistant director with the Minnetonka Children's Chamber Choir, recitals, and events in Minneapolis, Providence and Boston. She is also accompanist for private studios and schools in Southeast Massachusetts.

Susan is also involved in church music ministry. She is currently Music Director at St. Aidan's Parish in Cumberland, RI. She and her husband have produced three CD's of sacred inspirational music.



Ashley Nelson, Director

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Ex-Officio: Ashley Nelson, Director



Susan Fortin, Accompanist

A Note from the Director

Dear Audience,

Seasons Greetings!

Welcome to our 2016 Winter Concert, "Home for the Holidays!" I was fortunate to grow up in a magical old Victorian home in Morristown, NJ. My folks were avid antique collectors and one of my mother's passions was collecting American samplers from the 18th and 19th centuries (needlepoint work that young women would use to show off their skills, using lettering, numbering and pictures). Many of the sayings were about home, and my favorite piece which hung in my room simply said the classic phrase, "Home, Sweet Home." Home looks and feels different to all of us and changes in structure throughout our lives. At the root of the holiday season is the chance to celebrate one another through giving, kindness and love. Perhaps we can do that as we share a music-filled home, sweet home, with each other tonight.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season,

~ Ashley

Home for the Holidays

Directed by Ashley Nelson

Susan Fortin, Associate Director and Principal Accompanist

I. Frostiana, Randall Thompson

1. The Road Not Taken (SATB)
2. The Pasture (TBB)
3. Come In (SAA)
4. The Telephone (SAATTBB)
5. A Girl's Garden (SSA)
6. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening (TBB)
7. Choose Something Like a Star (SATB)

Intermission

II. Charles River Children's Choir

III. Music of Home

1. I 'll Be Home for Christmas
Soloist: Susan Leist
2. Homeward Bound
Soloists: Sydney Robinson, Tina Robinson, Eleni O'Shaughnessy,
Joanna Wrona, Jean Lynch, Alexis White
3. Bring Him Home, from Les Miserables
Soloist: Gregory Lee
4. Home, from Beauty and the Beast
Soloist: Meghan Quilop
5. Somewhere In My Memory, from Home Alone
Soloist: Joanna Wrona
6. Home for the Holidays
Soloists: Fran Hutton Lee, Everard Huggins
7. Finale (Look at the World)

Charles River Chorale

Sopranos

Nancy Carroll
Ruth Chick
Mary Connor
Janet Donovan
Paula Duddy
Sherry Fiust
Karen Gehm
Leslie Heffernan
Jean Lynch
Mary-Lou Northgraves
Eleni O'Shaughnessy
Jennifer O'Shea
Vonnie Reis
Sydney Robinson
Tina Robinson
Jeanne Seyfarth
Jean Sniffin
Kristin Stashenko
Kathy Stevens
Colleen Viscarra
Alexis White
Joanna Wrona

Tenors

Jordan Deschenes
Phil Fougere
Everard Huggan
Sue Leist
Greg Quilop
Sandra Swanson

Altos

Pat Campo-LeBlanc
Laurie Collins
Trish Crocker
Kari Denitzio
Kate Follen
Liz Forsythe
Sabine Goldmann
Mary Catherine Hubbard
Fran Hutton Lee
Susan Johanson
Jeanne Johnson
Kathy Maloof
Sherry Manning
Margaret May
Anne McKee
Kathy McKenna
Betsy Miller
Lynne Narum
Georgia Papavasiliou
Meaghan Quilop
Dove Quinlan
Anja Spencer
Jennifer Tower
Brenda Trapani

Basses

Paul Benoit
Brooks Corl
Robert Gehm
David Hart
Bob LaPointe
Gregory Lee
Jack Maloof
Robert Sniffin

Charles River Children's Choir

Director: Lelia Tenreyro-Viana

Accompanist: Everard Huggans

Declan Cassidy
Maggie Doherty
Nora Doherty
Simone Kerstens
Nora Molley
Sarah Martin
Taney Martin
Eleanor Muscatello
Kathryn Quilop
Annika Whooten

Ensemble for *Frostiana*

Flute
Kathleen Kenny

Clarinet
Joseph Alberg

Horn
Ami Fields

Harp
Catie Canale

Violins
Eric Mrugala
Liubomyr Senyshyn

Viola
Chris Brainard

Cello
Alex Jordan

Double Bass
Janet Haas

WELCOME HOME

The Charles River Chorale welcomes you to our 32nd Annual Holiday Concert, "Homeward Bound." First let me say *Thank You* to all our sponsors and those who have supported us this year as we bring you this celebration of the home and the Holiday Season.

Ashley Nelson and the Chorale have been working hard and are excited to perform, along with the ensemble that has been assembled to accompany us. This is music that will warm your heart, brighten your mood and bring you home for this holiday season.

Please remember to visit and support our sponsors and advertisers in the program. Also, please don't forget to participate in the raffle, which funds our community outreach supporting the Charles River Children's Choir. Also, we have our annual Silent Auction which is a great way to get some Holiday gifts without the hassle at the mall, and also another great way to support the Chorale. Remember that anything on the tables was donated.

We hope you enjoy all the festive sounds with your family and friends.
Thank You & Happy Holidays!

Laurie Collins,
Chairperson

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"I'll Be Home for Christmas" was recorded in 1943 by Bing Crosby. It was originally written to honor soldiers overseas who longed to be home at Christmastime, and has become a Christmas standard.

"Homeward Bound" was composed by Marta Keen, a music educator and librarian.

"The Prayer (Bring Him Home)," from *Les Miserables*, is Jean Valjean's prayer that God spare young Marius from death at the Barricades.

"Home," from the Broadway musical version of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* reveals Belle's anguish that she cannot return home after promising to remain at the Beast's castle.

"Somewhere In My Memory" was composed by John Williams as the "backbone" theme for *Home Alone*, with lyrics by Leslie Bricusse.

"(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays" was composed by Robert Allen, with lyrics by Al Stillman. Published in 1954, the best-known recordings were by Perry Como, who recorded the song twice.

"Look at the World" is an anthem by prolific English choral composer John Rutter. It has been adopted as the Charles River Chorale's signature piece, and entered the Chorale's repertory through Founding Director Roy S. Kelley.

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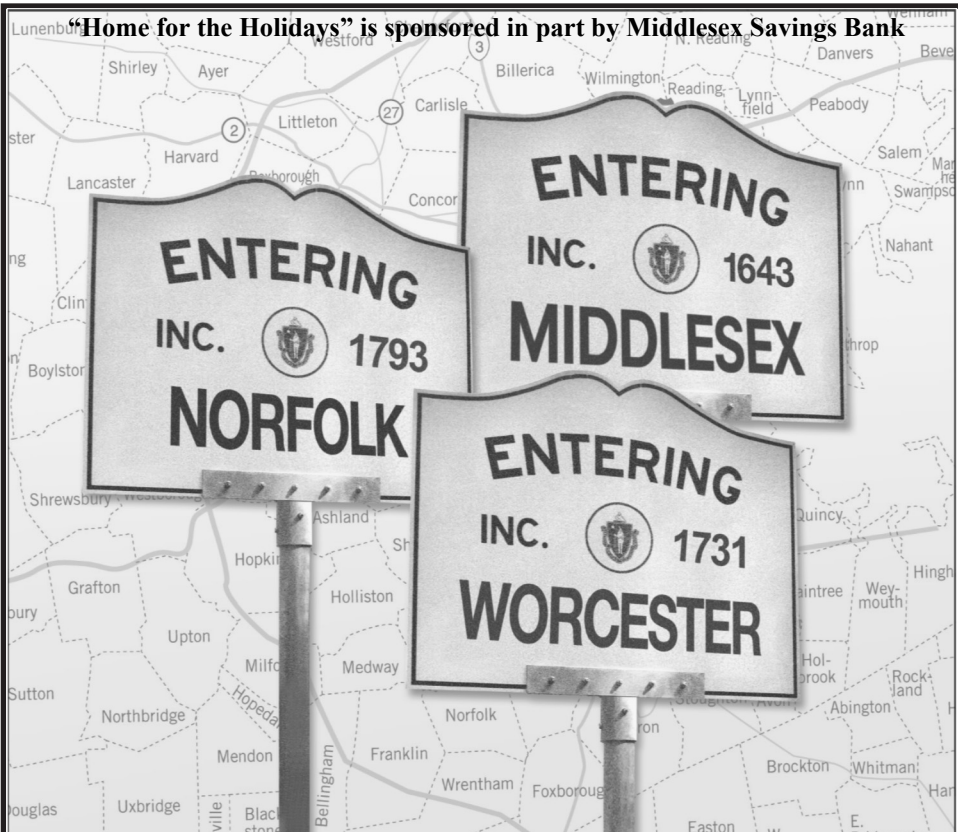
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