

NEC Preparatory School
Little Penguins
Children's Choir
Chamber Chorus
& Youth Chorale

Laura Nevitt and Erica J. Washburn, directors

with

Chris Lockman and Hyojeong Ham, piano

Saturday, December 13, 2025

12:00 noon

NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Laura Nevitt, conductor
Chris Lockman, piano

NEC Little Penguins

Anonymous

Five Little Pumpkins

Traditional

Little Snowflakes

Folk Song

arr. Laura Nevitt

Sarasponda

NEC Children's Choir

Carlos Cordero

(b. 1992)

Vuela

Allister MacGillivray

(b. 1948)

arr. Stuart Calvert

Song for the Mira

Rylan Collins, flute

Teresa Jennings

(b. 1956)

Red Bird

American Folk Song

arr. Laura Nevitt

Shenandoah

Rylan Collins, flute

Ken Berg

(b. 1955)

"Galop", No. 3 from Solfege Suite

NEC Chamber Chorus

Antonio Vivaldi
(1678–1741)
arr. Victor C. Johnson

“Gloria in excelsis Deo” from *Gloria*

Samuel Barber
(1910–1990)

Sure on This Shining Night, op. 13 no. 3

John Hilton
(1599–1657)

Follow Me

Paul David Thomas
(b. 1981)

The Cold Winds Blow

Daniel Brinsmead
(b. 1988)

Dum Spiro Spero

Children’s Choir, Chamber Chorus and Youth Chorale

Howard Blake
(b. 1938)
arr. John Leavitt

Walking in the Air from *The Snowman*

Erica J. Washburn, conductor
Hyojeong Ham, piano

NEC Youth Chorale

Benjamin Britten
(1913–1976)

“This little Babe” from *A Ceremony of Carols*, op. 28

Jacob Narverud
(b. 1986)

Season of Light

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind
from *When Icicles Hang*

Louis Shriber '27 MM, conductor

Ken Darby
(1909–1992)
arr. Harry Simeone

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Jincheng Liu, tenor

Anonymous *Five Little Pumpkins*

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate,
The first one said, "Oh my, it's getting late."
The second one said, "There are witches in the air."
The third one said, "But we don't care."
The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run."
The fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun."
"Oo-oo," went the wind, and out went the lights,
And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight.

Traditional *Little Snowflakes*

Little snowflakes falling bright,
Drift across the field at night,
When the sun shines in the morning,
All the world is dressed in white.

arr. Nevitt *Sarasponda*

Sarasponda, sarasponda, sarasponda, ret set set.
A doh ray oh, a doh ray boom day oh
A doh ray boom day ret set set,
Ah say pah say oh.

Cordero *Vuela*

Ave,

Vuela alto,
Vuela libre,
Vuela!

Juntos podemos volar.

Podemos ser libres.
Podemos volar,
Juntos.

Carlos Cordero

Bird,

Fly high,
Fly free,
Fly!

Together we can fly.

We can be free.
We can fly,
Together.

MacGillivray *Song for the Mira*

Out on the Mira, on warm afternoons,
Old men go fishin' with black line and spoons
And if they catch nothin' they never complain.
I wish I was with them again.

As boys in their boats call to girls on the shore,
Talk to the ones that they dearly adore,
And into the evening the dancing begins.
I wish I was with them again.

Can you imagine a piece of the universe
More fit for princes and Kings?
I'll trade you ten of your cities
For Marion Bridge and the pleasure it brings.

Out on the Mira on warm summer nights
Bonfires blaze to the children's delight;
They dance round the flames singin' songs with their friends;
I wish I was with them again.

And over the ashes the stories are told
Of witches and werewolves and Oak Island gold.
Stars on the river-face sparkle and spin.
I wish I was with them again.

Can you imagine a piece of the universe
More fit for princes and Kings?
I'll trade you ten of your cities
For Marion bridge and the pleasure it brings.

Out on the Mira the people are kind.
They treat you to home brew and help you unwind.
And if you come broken they'll see that you mend.
I wish I was with them again.

Now I'll conclude with a wish you go well,
Sweet be your dreams and your happiness swell.
I'll leave you here, for my journey begins,
I'm going to be with them again.

Allister MacGillivray

Jennings *Red Bird*

Red bird singing from the old pine tree.
Hidden in a stand of evergreens.

Horsedrawn sleigh movin' on its way in a winter scene.

Holly berries peeking through the snow.
Crimson like the feathers with their glow.
Ivy vines with their leaves entwined where the pine trees grow.

Red bird, sing for me,
from your perch in that tree.
Red bird, won't you stay?
Red bird, don't fly away.

arr. Nevitt *Shenandoah*

O Shenandoah, I long to hear you.
Away, you rolling river.
O Shenandoah, I long to hear you.
Away, I'm bound away, cross the wide Missouri.

Berg *Galop*

(Solfege syllables)

Vivaldi *Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory to God in the highest.

Barber *Sure on This Shining Night*

Sure on this shining night
Of starmade shadows round.
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder wandering far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

James Agee

Hilton *Follow Me*

Come, follow me.
Whither shall I follow thee?
To the greenwood tree.

Anonymous

Thomas *The Cold Winds Blow*

Clouded with snow
The cold winds blow,
And shrill on leafless bough
The robins with burning breast
Alone sings now.

The rayless sun,
Day's journey done,
Sheds its last ebbing light
On fields in leagues of beauty spread
Unearthly white.

Thick draws the dark,
And spark by spark,
The frost-fires kindle, and soon
Over that sea of frozen foam
Floats the white moon.

Walter de la Mare

Brinsmead *Dum spiro spero*

Dum spiro spero
While I have breath, I hope.

Sic parvis magna.
Per angust ad augusta.
Virtus tentamine gaudet.
Greatness is born of small.
Strength rises from the fall.

Daniel Brinsmead

Blake *Walking in the Air*

We're walking in the air, we're floating in the moonlit sky;
the people far below are sleeping as we fly.
I'm holding very tight, I'm riding in the midnight blue;
I'm finding I can fly so high above with you.

On across the world the villages go by like dreams,
the rivers and the hills, the forests and the streams.
Children gaze open mouthed, taken by surprise;
Nobody down below believes their eyes.

We're surfing in the air, we're swimming in the frozen sky,
we're drifting over icy mountains floating by.
Suddenly, swooping low on an ocean deep,
rousing up a mighty monster from his sleep.

We're walking in the air, we're dancing in the midnight sky
and everyone who sees us greets us as we fly.
I'm finding I can fly so high above with you.

Howard Blake

Britten *This little Babe*

This little Babe, so few days old,
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake
Though he himself from cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes.
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystacks his stakes;
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul with Christ join thou in fight;
Stick to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward,
this little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou willst foil thy foes with joy,
then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

Robert Southwell

Narverud *Season of Light*

Come sit by the fire and share stories of old,
bright visions of time and of wonders we're told.
Surrounded by comfort and stillness of night,
we live in the mem'ries of the season of light.

Come join in the cheer of the fresh falling snow,
where wonder and radiance set hearts all aglow.
For a moment on Earth all that's wrong turns to right
and we're warm in the spirit of the season of light!

Jacob Narverud

Rutter *Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind*

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh ho! sing, heigh ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly!
Then heigh ho the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That does not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:

Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remember'd not.

Heigh ho! sing, heigh ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly!
Then heigh ho the holly!
This life is most jolly.

William Shakespeare from As you like it

Darby *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*

'Twas the night before Christmas and all thru the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that Saint Nicholas soon would be there.
The children were nestled all snug in their wee little beds,
While visions of sugar plums danced in their wee little heads.
Mama in her 'kerchief and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, threw open the sash.
Then, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer;
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
that I knew right away that it must be Saint Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted, and called them by name:
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer! Now, Vixen!
On Comet! On Cupid! On Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!
Dash away, dash away, dash away all!"

So up to the housetops the coursers they flew,
with a sleigh full of toys, and Saint Nicholas, too.
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
All the clattering noise of each galloping hoof.
All bundled in fur, from his head to his foot;
His clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.

(The text continues on the following page. Please turn the page quietly.)

I drew in my head and was turning around,
When down the chimney he came with a bound!
A bag full of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a little old peddler just op'ning his pack.

His eyes how they twinkled so gay!
His dimples how merry were they!
His cheeks were like roses, when kissed by the sun!
His nose, like a cherry, all wrinkled with fun!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow!
The beard on his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a little old pipe! He held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke went around, and around his head like a wreath.
Oh! He was so jolly and plump, a right jolly old elf.
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly.

He gave me a wink of his eye and a twist of his head
A chuckle and a smile I knew all the while I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work.
He filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk,
And laying a finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim 'ere he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

'Tis the night after Christmas and all thru the house,
Not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse.
The presents are scattered and broken I fear
And Saint Nicholas won't come again for a year.
The children are nestled all snug in their wee little beds,
While mem'ries of sugar plums dance in their wee little heads.
Mama in her 'kerchief, Papa in his cap,
Are settled at last for a long winter's nap

Clement Clark Moore

NEC Preparatory School Children's Choruses

Laura Nevitt, director

Estel Haejin Park '27 MM, student manager

Chris Lockman, rehearsal accompanist

Little Penguins

Danyl Do
Emilia Bello Gomez
Sophia Gu
Gianna Gunjal
Eleanor Kay

Eden Metzger-Wiegel
Everest Metzger-Wiegel
Juan Steven Tejeda Noboa
Theodore Schwartz

Winston Shelburne
Hanalei Suarez
Naina Vaidya
Franklin Yue
Della Zand

Children's Choir

Grethe Fabulich
Ethan Hu
Dhruv Jubbal
Augustus Kanwar

Beatrice Leka
Lillian Mayo
Arielle Meng
Elyza Oglice

Esthera Oglice
Isabella Sevigny
Judá Soto
George Wang

Chamber Chorus

Grace Callahan
Abigail DSouza
Ruth Gao
Eliza Gastrock
Julian Hirshfield

Christina Huang
Anastasia Mikhailov
Linh Nguyen
Olivia Obholzer

Lilli Salter
Jai Sathiraju
Seraphina Stump
Max Tran
Eric Wu

NEC Preparatory School Youth Chorale

Erica J. Washburn, director

Louis Shriber '27 MM, student manager

Hyojeong Ham, rehearsal accompanist

Youth Chorale

Vivian Cain-Weingram
Arthur Chen
Lindsay Kwon
Michelle Li
Jincheng Liu

Robert Moorman
Claire Park
Estel Haejin Park
Alla Petrosyan
Noah Seccina-White
Louis Shriber

Hanna Sophia Suzuki
Liana Tolu
Chloe Trejo
Sophia Xia
Antian Annie Zhao

Laura Nevitt is a conductor, composer, and educator based in Boston. As a fierce advocate for new music, they love working with composers, and have conducted over 30 premieres of new works. She is also especially passionate about giving voice and space to gender marginalized musicians and poets through choral and vocal music.

She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Lilith Vocal Ensemble, Children's Choir and Chamber Chorus Director at New England Conservatory Prep, a

Teaching Artist with Boston Lyric Opera, Handel & Haydn Society, and NEC Prep, and Music Director at First Parish UU in Needham, MA, where she is also Artistic Director of the “To the Fore” Concert Series, focused on bringing historically marginalized voices to the forefront.

Their compositions are frequently performed by musicians across the country, some highlights being the Handel & Haydn Society Youth Choruses, Choral Arts Initiative, the Evelyn Duo, Voices Boston Children’s Choir, Boston Conservatory Choir, Nightingale Vocal Ensemble, Lilith Vocal Ensemble, BRACE New Music Choir, Opera on Tap Boston, the UofSC Concert Choir, sparks & wiry cries’ songSLAM, Source Song Festival, and the Detroit Women’s Chorus.

Conductor and mezzo-soprano **Erica J. Washburn** has been Director of Choral Activities at New England Conservatory since 2009. Known for her student-centric approach to classroom and rehearsal instruction, and commitment to the performance of new music, she is the recipient of several outstanding alumni awards, including the distinguished honor of induction to the Westminster Choir College Music Education Hall of Fame, and the 2025 recipient of the New England Conservatory Louis and Adrienne Krasner Teaching Excellence Award.

As a conductor, Washburn has worked with Kansas City, MO based Cardinalis, the Yale Schola Cantorum, the East Carolina University Women’s Chorale, the Eastman Women’s Chorus. and the Cornell University Cornell Chorus. She is a sought-after guest clinician who frequently leads state and regional festival choruses, and spent five summers as a conductor and voice faculty member for the New York State Summer School of the Arts School of Choral Studies. Under her direction the NEC choirs have been featured on several live and pre-recorded broadcasts, including the North Carolina based station WCPE Great Sacred Music, WICN Public Radio, and WGBH Boston. The choirs can also be heard in collaboration with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project on the BMOP/Sound recording *Paul Moravec: The Blizzard Voices* and, most recently, with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and the Boston Symphony Orchestra on their Deutsche Grammophon recording of Shostakovich Symphony No. 13.

Washburn’s stage credits include appearances as Madame Lidoine in Francis Poulenc’s *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Rebecca Nurse in Robert Ward’s *The Crucible*, Mother/Allison in the premiere of Lee Hoiby’s *This is the Rill Speaking* and others. Her recital and orchestral solo credits are numerous, and her live premiere from Jordan Hall of the late Richard Toensing’s *Night Songs and Evening Prayers* with the New England Conservatory Symphonic Winds can be heard on Albany Records.

Chris Lockman is a North Carolina native, professional pianist, composer, and audio producer with deep roots in collaborative music-making. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Audio Production from Full Sail University. Along with his work at New England Conservatory, he currently serves as a staff pianist at Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Associate Conductor at VOICES Boston, and Assistant Music Director/Pianist at First Parish in Needham.

Chris began his career in NC as an accompanist for Mitchell Community College and Catawba Valley Community College. Since then, he has played for a wide array of public schools, taught private piano and voice students, music-directed over 30 musicals, and contributed to countless theatre productions as both a pit orchestra musician and actor. With over 25 years of piano experience and vocal training dating back to his teens, Chris has become a versatile and highly sought-after collaborator for choirs, soloists, and ensembles spanning a wide range of musical genres.

Hyojeong Ham is a versatile collaborative pianist and artistic mentor known for her lyrical sensitivity and expressive depth. Beginning in her teens, she accompanied award-winning choirs at international festivals and later served as a pianist for several leading civic choirs in South Korea. Expanding her work in the United States, she toured South Texas with Opera San Antonio, was selected as a CLA France Artist, and served as Vocal Collaborative Pianist and Opera Scenes Music Director at the Interlochen Center for the Arts—where she has also been invited to return for the summer of 2026.

She is currently pursuing a Graduate Diploma in Collaborative Piano (Vocal Specialization, Opera Emphasis) at the New England Conservatory, collaborating with the Symphonic Choir, Prep Youth Chorale, and Vocal Theater Lab.

NEC Expanded Education Department Administration

Katherine Luellen
Chief Growth Officer

Emma Jenks
Program Manager

Sean Buchsbaum
Executive Director of the Preparatory School

Jasmine Caamaño
Enrollment Coordinator

Christopher Bush
*Director of Adult Education
& Digital Programs*

Sheila Esquivel
Director of Education

Christine Cestari
*Managing Director,
Enrollment & Program Operations*

Juliano Dutra Aniceto
Director of Orchestras

Vanessa Trien
Director of Early Childhood Education

Anna Kevelson
Assistant Director of Programs

Hitomi Koyama
Artistic & Educational Advisor

Jenna Driscoll
Program Manager

Jack Armstrong
*Assistant Director
of Recruitment and Enrollment*

John Fulton
Program Manager

Laura Garcia
Office Administrator

Support the future of music at NEC!

Your gift can unleash the power of music by expanding scholarships, fostering innovation, and bringing music's impact and transformative reach to all.

Make a gift today at necmusic.edu/givenow

Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts;
contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room. Latecomers will
be seated at the discretion of management.

Stay connected



necmusic.edu/tonight