

The CSUSB Music Department
Presents the 2022

Holiday Gala

NOV. 30 & DEC. 1, 7:30 PM
Obershaw

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Showcasing the CSUSB Coyote Music Society, CSUSB Cello Ensemble, CSUSB Symphony Orchestra, and guest artists The Guadalajara Kings, Jammie Hampton, Hazel Morales, Erick Valencia Sosa, and Keinan Hernandez, vocalists, Marlon Martinez, double bassist, Peter Roeleveld, pianist, Nathaniel Wallace, drummer, and Jessica Getman, narrator.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

... Welcome ...

On behalf of the CSUSB String & Orchestral Program it is our pleasure to welcome you to our annual Holiday Gala! This Gala has become a tradition in our department that we look forward to sharing with our campus and greater Inland Empire communities, and we are just so delighted that you are here with us this evening.

Over the last two and a half years, we have dealt with major challenges due to the pandemic, and this fall on September 11, our Performing Arts Building flooded and our Recital Hall and several of our instructional spaces were taken out of commission. That said, we are nothing if not resilient, and so we would like to especially thank Donal Galdamez, Senior Event Specialist for Special Events and Guest Services, for moving quickly to help us procure Overshaw for this week's Holiday Gala performances. We are grateful to still be able to present this show on our campus, and to be able to share our love of music with you, our audiences whom we treasure.

This year's Holiday Gala theme is *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and we hope you will enjoy feelings of warmth and nostalgia as we feature a spread of repertoire that includes classics such as *O Christmas Tree* and selections from *The Nutcracker*, holiday mashups such as *Christmas Quodlibet*, a narrated setting of the beloved poem *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by Clement Clark Moore, and more!

Our performance tonight is the beautiful culmination of several weeks of dedication, passion, and collaboration amongst our string faculty, staff, and students, and we are delighted to be showcasing our CSUSB Cello Ensemble under the direction of Esther Back, and our CSUSB Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Lucy Lewis. Our featured soloists for the evening include CSUSB alumni Jammie Hampton, Hazel Morales, Erick Valencia Sosa, and Keinan Hernandez, vocalists, Peter Roeleveld, pianist, and Nathaniel Wallace, drummer, in addition to our new CSUSB Double Bass faculty member, Marlon Martinez, guest artists "The Guadalajara Kings," and CSUSB Musicology/Ethnomusicology faculty member Dr. Jessica Gelman, narrator.

After the performance, please join us for a light reception with sweet refreshments and hot drinks, we would love to visit with you. And before you leave, please be sure to check out the wares of the CSUSB Glass and Clay Clubs in the lobby that are for sale.

But for now—please sit back, relax, enjoy, and thank you again for coming out to help us celebrate *"'Twas the Night Before Christmas!"*

With holiday cheer and warmest wishes,

The Faculty, Staff & Students
CSUSB Department of Music



Program

COYOTE MUSIC SOCIETY HOLIDAY GALA WELCOME

GUEST JAZZ COMBO ENSEMBLE

O Christmas Tree

Traditional
Arr. by Adam & Matt Podd
(b. 1986 -)

The Christmas Waltz

Words by Sammy Cahn/Music by Jule Styne
(1913 - 1993)/(1905 - 1994)
Arr. by Steve Zegree
(1953 - 2015)

Jammie Hampton, soprano
Hazel Morales, alto
Erick Valencia Sosa, tenor
Keinan Hernandez, bass
Marlon Martinez, double bass
Peter Roeleveld, piano
Nathaniel Wallace, drumset

CSUSB CELLO ENSEMBLE

The Cello Song: Inspired by Bach's Unaccompanied Cello Suite in G Major, No.1: Prelude

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

Arr. Steven Sharp Nelson
(b. 1977)

Christmas Quodlibet

Thomas Edward Flaherty
(b. 1950)

Esther Back^, Director, cello I & cello I
Jason Sanchez-Cardenas, cello I & cello I
Karina Gomez-Torres, cello I & cello I
Ninah Chan, cello III & cello II
Caleb Baptist, cello II & cello I
Annabelle Su, cello III & cello II
Eliana Jeong, cello I & cello IV
Evan Hesskamp, cello VII & cello IV
Audrey Stanton, cello V & cello III
Leonardo Sgambelluri, cello V & cello III
Adilene Barrios, cello IV & cello III
Jingyi Lu, cello VII & cello IV
Shannan Bates, cello VII & cello IV
Andrew Rodriguez, cello VII & cello IV
Kellen McNeil, cello VII & cello IV
Circe Diaz Gamero, cello VI & cello IV

Program

THE GUADALAJARA KINGS

*A Medley of Silent Night, Rudolph
the Red-Nosed Reindeer,
Jingle Bells, &
Felíz Navidad!* Franz Xaver Gruber/John David Marks
(1787 - 1863)/(1909 - 1985)
James Lord Pierpont/José Monserrate Feliciano García
(1822 - 1893)/(b. 1945 -)

El Burrito Sabanero (El Burrito de Belén) Hugo Blanco
(1940 - 2015)

Fernando Gonzales, guitar and vocals
Jesse Flores, guitarrón
Ernesto Franco, Paraguayan harp

Intermission

CSUSB SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Bells of Christmas Arr. Bob Krogstad
(1950 - 2015)

"Ding Dong! Merrily on High!"
"The Bell Carol"
"Silver Bells"
"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"
"Jingle Bells"

There's Christmas in the Air Arr. Carl Strommen
(b. 1939)

"I'll Be Home for Christmas"
"Frosty the Snowman"
"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"
"Santa Claus is Coming to Town"

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
(1809 - 1847)
Arr. Ted Ricketts
(b. 1952)

Greensleeves Traditional
Arr. Matt Riley
(b. 1982)

Austin Terry, violin
Annabelle, cello
Peter Roeleveld, piano

Program

The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840 - 1893)

"Danse de la Fée-Dragée" ("Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy")
"Trepak" ("Russian Dance")

The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Bill Holcombe
(1924 - 2010)

Jessica Getman, *narrator*

A Christmas Carol (Main Title)

Alan Silvestri
(b. 1950)

Jammie Hampton, *soprano*
Hazel Morales, *alto*
Erick Valencia Sosa, *tenor*
Keinan Hernandez, *bass*



Our heartfelt gratitude to The Office of the President for their generous support of these Holiday Gala performances! Thank you so much for your support of the arts on our campus and in our community, you are a blessing to us.



CSUSB SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Lucy Lewis, director

1ST VIOLIN

Austin Terry, *concertmaster*

Linette Osorio

Amy Macias

Novalee Erickson

Anna Caracosa

Jude Rorie

Tiana Pham

Noah Bartlett

2ND VIOLIN

Heather Lee, *principal*

Edgar Villegas

Caitlin Fernandez

Ruben Sarmiento

Rubi Calderon

Vanessa Mata

Jayden Cabilao

Oscar Alvarado

Sarah Barrita

Kylee Horton

VIOLA

Gabriel Knights-Herrera, *principal*

Adam Arroyo

CELLI

Annabelle Su, *principal*

Jason Sanchez-Cardenas

Karina Gomez-Torres

Audrey Stanton

Evan Hesskamp

DOUBLE BASS

James McConnell, *principal*

HARP

Katelin Heimrick*

PIANO/CELESTA

Peter Roeleveld-

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Susan Addington, *principal*

Sierrah Perez-

CLARINET

Juan Del Real, *principal*

John Gerling-

BASS CLARINET

Jorden Robles-

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Veronica Manzanera, *principal*

Alonzo Hernandez-Diaz

Christian Cardenas*

BASSOON

Kellen McNeil, *principal*

FRENCH HORN

Brian Hollett^, *principal*

Luke Hilland*

TRUMPET

Kalomo Johnson, *principal*

Adam Pacheco-

Brady Omar

Jocelyne Esparza-

TROMBONE

Phillip Soriano, *principal*

TUBA

Jorge Trevino, *principal*

PERCUSSION

David Lemoine *principal*

Jacob Shadle

Francisco Sanchez

Roman Gallegos

*Guest artist

^Faculty/Staff

-Alumni

Bios

ESTHER BACK is an acclaimed cellist known not only for her solo, orchestral, and chamber performances but also as an avid educator and outreach advocate. A pupil of world-renowned Baroque cellist and viol player Jaap ter Linden, Back studied at Frankfurt U. as a youth and came to America years later. Dirk Tenbrock of the *Trierischer Volksfreund*, referring to Back's Baroque cello playing, wrote "Deep-rooted musicality, passion, and interpretive beauty meet Baroque music." An avid teacher, Back serves as a faculty member at CSU/San Bernardino and has a large private studio; her students have won top awards at various music competitions. In addition, she is the founder, artistic director, and conductor for the CSUSB Cello Ensemble. Under her numerous years of direction, her former Orange County Cello Ensemble—which she also founded—performed live on 88.9 KUCI frequently, as well as at Walt Disney Concert Hall and prestigious venues in France. Back also produced the recording, *Miracle of the Cellos*. She is tenured as cellist with the San Bernardino Symphony and plays with other noteworthy ensembles. She holds BM (CSU/Fullerton) and MM (U. of Redlands) degrees and is working toward DMA and PhD degrees at Claremont Graduate U.

JAMMIE HAMPTON graduated with a degree in Vocal Performance from CSUSB. Jammie has been singing and performing for over thirty years. She is experienced in a variety of vocal styles including opera, musical theater, jazz, pop and gospel. She has been teaching voice and piano for twenty-five years. Jammie can be heard on the world premiere recording of Manuel del Pópulo Vicente García's opera, *Le Cinesi* (Harmonicorde, 2009). She has also played the roles of Sarah in *Guys and Dolls*, Polly Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera*, Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes* and Asaka in *Once on this Island*. Her newest adventure is her podcast called, *The Jammie Hampton Show*, where she talks about parenting, being a stepmom, divorce, baby loss and how to navigate life with the curve balls that are thrown at us. Listen wherever you listen to podcasts. You can find Jammie on FB, IG and YouTube @JammieHampton. She is a mom and wife to her soul mate and she is so excited to perform at CSUSB again!

CSUSB alumni **KEINAN HERNANDEZ** graduated with a BA degree in Music Education. Keinan is well versed in a variety of vocal projects ranging from the 2015 E3 conference opening ceremony in Los Angeles to opera premieres in various Southern California cities. He has appeared in many CSUSB operas including a Tarantino inspired variation of Gaetano Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins*, and the west coast premiere of Robert Xavier Rodriguez's *Monkey See, Monkey Do*, a children's opera. A San Bernardino local, Mr. Hernandez is regularly

a guest artist with the CSUSB Performing Arts department and always delighted to get the chance to share his passion for vocal music with the community.

GUADALAJARA KINGS With their signature combination of harp and guitar, the Guadalajara Kings have been captivating audiences for over three decades. Together they blend music and rhythms from their Mexican, South American, and Caribbean roots to create a unique Latin sound. Over the years they have recorded three albums, and have performed for and with many popular names. Most recently they have taken up residencies at various venues in the Coachella Valley.

DR. LUCY LEWIS currently serves as the Music Director and Conductor of the Orchestral Studies Program at California State University, San Bernardino. She is a dedicated interdisciplinary collaborator, and her innovative season programming has featured the CSUSB Opera Theatre Program, Concert Choir & Chamber Singers, and Vocal Jazz Program, in addition to multiple guest artists. An avid supporter of the development of young musicians, Dr. Lewis founded the CSUSB Young Artist Competition and annually commissions new works by the faculty and students of the CSUSB Composition Program. Dr. Lewis is frequently engaged as an orchestral clinician and has guest conducted orchestras in California, Michigan, Tennessee, Maine, and Florida. In the fall of 2019, Dr. Lewis led the CSUSB Orchestra on an international tour to South Korea where they performed in the Seoul Center for the Arts IBK Chamber Hall. An active soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician, Dr. Lewis has performed in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, and Africa. Dr. Lewis holds a cognate in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Iowa and serves on the board of the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra.

MARLON MARTINEZ Hailing from Los Angeles, Marlon Martinez is a young virtuoso bassist and composer who has toured with a wide range of artists, notably Stewart Copeland, Mike Garson and Quatuor Ébène. Marlon is the protégé of mentor Stanley Clarke, a classical graduate of the Colburn Conservatory of Music, and he studied with legendary jazz bassist Ron Carter in New York City. Marlon is the music director and composer of his LA big band, Marlonius Jazz Orchestra. As a recipient of Colburn School's 2020 New Venture Competition, and as a Colburn Amplify Series artist-in-residence, Marlon has recorded a special tribute to Billy Strayhorn with Marlonius Jazz Orchestra in 2022, with music materials provided by Billy Strayhorn Songs, Inc. Marlon's classical orchestral experience includes the Verbier Festival Orchestra, New West Symphony, and San Diego Symphony. Marlon's 2017 debut album Yours Truly is available worldwide with reviews by All About Jazz and L.A. Jazz Scene.

HAZEL MORALES attended CSUSB in 2008, where she majored in both Music Education and Vocal Performance. She has since sang solos in

Beethoven's Mass in C Major, and John Rutter's *Magnificat*. She has been a member of the VVC Master Arts Choral since March of 2017, and joined

PETER ROELEVELD is founder of Bach To The Basics. He founded this business because he wanted to give students the best tools to learn a new instrument or to improve upon one that they have already started. He has been teaching a variety of instruments for over 10 years, however piano is his instrument of most passion. He studied Piano Performance at both Riverside City College and California State University, San Bernardino. Music is what he lives and breathes every day and his passion for it is what drew him to teaching.

ERICK VALENCIA-SOSA is an alumni of CSUSB's music program who has lead principal roles in the opera productions for Astor Piazzolla's *Maria de Buenos Aires*, Robert Xavier Rodriguez's *La Curandera* & Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. His years of work with CSUSB's Chamber Singers & Vocal Jazz Ensemble, in which he has won two sequential soloist awards at the Reno Jazz Festival for 2017 & 2018, has elevated him to the intersection of multimedia arts technology. Valencia Sosa continues to improve infrastructure, workflow and pipelines for both recording and creative visual production studios throughout the SoCal region of Inland Empire & Los Angeles.

NATE WALLACE is a multi-talented musician, drummer, artist, and producer. He graduated from CSUSB with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and recently completed his Masters degree in Creative Media and Technology with an emphasis in Songwriting and Production at Berklee NYC.



Program Notes

O CHRISTMAS TREE arranged by Adam & Matt Podd

O Christmas Tree, or *O Tannenbaum*, is a traditional German Christmas carol. A tannenbaum is a fir tree, and although most Christmas trees today are spruces rather than firs, the qualities of the evergreen have inspired many “Tannenbaum” songs throughout the years. The carol’s best-known text was penned in 1824 by a German organist and teacher, Ernst Anschütz, and was set to an old folk tune. The lyrics refer to the fir’s evergreen qualities as a symbol of constancy and faith. There are many English translations of the carol. A popular translation of the first verse reads as follows:

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green delight us!
They’re green when summer days are bright,
They’re green when winter snow is white.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your branches green delight us!*

- Note from C. Alan Publications “O Christmas Tree”
<https://c-alanpublications.com/o-christmas-tree/>

THE CHRISTMAS WALTZ by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne, arranged by Steve Zegree

“The Christmas Waltz” is a Christmas song written by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne for Frank Sinatra, who recorded it in 1954 as the B-side of a new recording of “White Christmas”, in 1957 for his album *A Jolly Christmas* from Frank Sinatra, and in 1968 for *The Sinatra Family Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

Cahn recalls, “One day during a very hot spell in Los Angeles the phone rang and it was Jule Styne to say, ‘Frank wants a Christmas song.’” Cahn resisted. “Jule, we’re not going to write any Christmas song. After Irving Berlin’s ‘White Christmas’? The idea’s just ridiculous.” Styne was emphatic, however. “Frank wants a Christmas song.”

The two met in Styne’s apartment to begin work on the project, and Cahn asked the composer, “‘Hey, Jule, has there ever been a Christmas waltz?’ He said no. I said, ‘Play that waltz of yours.’ He did so,” and Cahn began work on the lyrics of “The Christmas Waltz”, which many other artists have also recorded.

- Note from Wikipedia “The Christmas Waltz”
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Christmas_Waltz

Program Notes

THE CELLO SONG: INSPIRED BY BACH'S UNACCOMPANIED CELLO SUITE IN G MAJOR, NO.1: PRELUDE by Johann Sebastian Bach, arranged by Steven Sharp Nelson

The Cello Song is based on one of the most recognizable classical pieces ever written, J.S. Bach's *Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 1: Prelude*. Adding some original material and 7 more cello parts, Steven Sharp Nelson of The Piano Guys has created a cool new sound that embellishes all the features that have made Bach's work so popular. The 7 new parts include drawn-out melodies which soar above fast arpeggios, strumming chords from a guitar-like part, shaker sounds (accomplished by rubbing the sides of the cello), tremolo, and a cello-banging percussion part!

- Note from A-MUSED "The Cello Song-Bach Inspired"

<https://www.philipchircop.com/post/15104426360/the-cello-song-bach-inspired-the-cello-song-is>

CHRISTMAS QUODLIBET BY THOMAS EDWARD FLAHERTY

A "quodlibet" simply refers to a piece that combines two or more independent melodies. Often these melodies are familiar tunes and the charm of the form is that the listener doesn't expect them to fit together.

- Note from John Burge "The Christmas Quodlibet (2007)"

<https://johnburge.ca/item/view/114>

A MEDLEY OF SILENT NIGHT, RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER, JINGLE BELLS, & FELÍZ NAVIDAD! BY FRANZ XAVER GRUBER, JOHN DAVID MARKS, JAMES LORD PIERPONT, AND JOSÉ MONSERRATE FELICIAN GARCÍA

This is a delightful melody of some of the most recognizable tunes from the Christmas holiday season. Enjoy this arrangement done by The Guadalajara Kins for this evening's performance.

EL BURRITO SABANERO (EL BURRITO DE BELÉN) BY HUGO BLANCO

[*El Burrito Sabanero*] was written by Venezuelan composer Hugo Blanco, and it was recorded in 1976 by a children's group called *La Rondallita*. And it's one of those ubiquitous songs that you can't really get away from. You hear it at choirs, parties and even shopping malls. It has very simple lyrics. Like a lot of children's music, the lyrics are repeated over and over - *with my little burro, I'm on my way to Bethlehem* - burrito in the song, of course, being little burro or donkey.

- Note from NPR "Moreno's 'El Burrito Sabanero', Welcomed Update to a Holiday Song"

<https://www.npr.org/2014/12/23/372623556/gaby-moreno-s-el-burrito-sabanero-welcome-update-to-a-holiday-song>

Program Notes

THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS ARRANGED BY BOB KROGSTAD

The distinctive and creative style of Bob Krogstad's arranging is apparent once again with this delightful and heartwarming holiday showcase for orchestra. With the clever weaving of several classic carols and holiday songs, this medley sparkles from beginning to end. Songs are: *Carol of the Bells*; *Ding Dong Merrily on High*; *Jingle Bells*; *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*; and *Silver Bells*.

- Note from J.W. Pepper "The Bells of Christmas"

<https://www.jwpepper.com/The-Bells-of-Christmas/10033604.item#.Y4dylC2B10s>

THERE'S CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR ARRANGED BY CARL STROMMEN

The classics of the Holiday come to life in this orchestral version of some of the most familiar and enduring popular songs of the Christmas season. From the opening "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and the poignant "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" to the lively "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Frosty the Snowman," audiences both young and old will delight in recapturing the memories and meaning of this very special time of year.

- Note from Belwin String Editor Bob Phillips

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING BY FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY, ARRANGED BY TED RICKETTS

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is an English Christmas carol that first appeared in 1739 in the collection *Hymns and Sacred Poems*. The carol, based on Luke 2:14, tells of an angelic chorus singing praises to God. As it is known in the modern era, it features lyrical contributions from Charles Wesley and George Whitefield, two of the founding ministers of Methodism, with music adapted from "Vaterland, in deinen Gauen" by Felix Mendelssohn.

Wesley, who had written the original version as "Hymn for Christmas-Day," had requested and received slow and solemn music for his lyrics, which has since largely been discarded. Moreover, Wesley's original opening couplet is "Hark! how all the welkin rings / Glory to the King of Kings". The popular version is the result of alterations by various hands, most notably by Whitefield, who changed the opening couplet to the familiar one. In 1840—a hundred years after the publication of *Hymns and Sacred Poems*—Mendelssohn composed a cantata to commemorate Johann Gutenberg's invention of movable type printing, and it is music from this cantata, adapted by the English musician William H. Cummings to fit the lyrics of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", that propels the carol known today

- Note from Wikipedia "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hark!_The_Herald_Angels_Sin

Program Notes

GREENSLEEVES ARRANGED BY MATT RILEY

It is generally agreed that the melody we know as *Greensleeves* is probably the second oldest piece of secular music in our Western culture, its origins having been traced back to about 1360. While we are not certain this was the original title, it is known that in the latter 14th century, English ladies wore gowns with great billowing sleeves, and the lyrics that have come down to us speak of a lover's lament over his lady's cruel treatment of him by a lady clad in a dress of green sleeves.

By the time of William Shakespeare, this song had already become a classic and he made use of it in two of his plays, most notably in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Over 300 years later, the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams used this melody as an intermezzo between two acts of his opera *Sir John in Love*, which was based on the same play. Since then the tune has been adapted as the basis for at least one Christmas carol (*What Child Is This?*), several popular songs, and even by the Swingle Singers on one of their albums. In addition, it has been performed instrumentally by groups of all sizes and styles from full symphony orchestra to small jazz and rock groups.

- Note from The Wind Repertory Project "Greensleeves"
<https://www.windrep.org/Greensleeves>

"DANCE OF THE SUGARPLUM FAIRY" AND "TREPAK" FROM THE NUTCRACKER SUITE, OP. 71A BY PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY

In Act I of *The Nutcracker*, the young Clara receives a giant Nutcracker as a Christmas gift. When everyone else is in bed, she steals back into the living room, where the Nutcracker springs to life and leads a battalion of gingerbread men in battle against an invading army of mice. The Nutcracker is confronted by the Mouse King himself, and he appears about to meet his fate when Clara hurls her slipper at the rodent-monster and kills him. The mice, leaderless, flee, and the Nutcracker is transformed into a gallant Prince. As reward for saving his life, he invites Clara to visit his kingdom. She accepts.

Act II is set in the great hall of the castle. At a sign from the Sugar-Plum Fairy, a sumptuous banquet appears. Clara is ushered to a throne at the head of the table, and a divertissement in her honor begins, which includes a Trepak, the fiery traditional dance of the Russian cossacks.

- Note from Miller Symphony Hall "Program Notes"
https://www.millersymphonyhall.org/images/aso/19-11-9_Classical_2.pdf

Program Notes

THE CHRISTMAS SONG (CHESTNUTS ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE)

BY ROBERT WELLS AND MEL TORMÉ

"The Christmas Song" (commonly subtitled "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" or, as it was originally subtitled, "Merry Christmas to You") is a classic Christmas song written in 1945 by Robert Wells and Mel Tormé.

According to Tormé, the song was written in July during a blistering hot summer. In an effort to "stay cool by thinking cool", the most-performed (according to BMI) Christmas song was born. "I saw a spiral pad on his (Wells's) piano with four lines written in pencil", Tormé recalled. "They started, 'Chestnuts roasting..., Jack Frost nipping..., Yuletide carols..., Folks dressed up like Eskimos.' Bob didn't think he was writing a song lyric. He said he thought if he could immerse himself in winter he could cool off. Forty minutes later that song was written. I wrote all the music and some of the lyrics."

The Nat King Cole Trio first recorded the song in June 1946. At Cole's behest – and over the objections of his label, Capitol Records – a second recording was made in August utilizing a small string section. This version became a massive hit on both the pop and R&B charts. Cole again recorded the song in 1953, using the same arrangement with a full orchestra arranged and conducted by Nelson Riddle, and once more in 1961, in a stereophonic version with another full orchestra arranged and conducted by Ralph Carmichael. Cole's 1961 version is generally regarded as definitive, and in 2004 was the most-loved seasonal song with women aged 30–49, while the original 1946 recording was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1974. In 2022, the 1961 Nat King Cole recording was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the United States National Recording Registry as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

- Note from Wikipedia "The Christmas Song"
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Christmas_Song



Program Notes

'Twas the Night Before Christmas BY BILL HOLCOMBE

Clement Clarke Moore, an American poet born in New York City in 1779 is credited with the writing of *A Visit To St. Nicholas* for his children in 1822. It was first published anonymously in the *Troy (New York) Sentinel* in 1823. Moore was educated at Columbia College (now Columbia University). Clement Clarke Moore passed away in 1863, but his poem which begins- "Twas the Night Before Christmas" will live on forever. This music was commissioned for a Christmas Concert by the Philly Pops conducted by Peter Nero, and was designed to feature the Phillie's star pitcher Tug McGraw. Since the premiere in the 80's, many orchestras have featured a prominent citizen as the narrator: Radio and TV personalities, politicians, principals of schools, etc.

- Note from composer Bill Holcombe

A Christmas Carol (Main Title) BY ALAN SILVESTRI

From the popular 2009 movie *A Christmas Carol* (starring Jim Carrey as Scrooge), Alan Silvestri's sparkling main theme is really more of an overture, mixing in familiar carols with memorable original themes. Beautifully paced, this is a real holiday treat for the concert stage!

- Note from Hal Leonard "A Christmas Carol (Main Theme)"

<https://www.halleonard.com/product/4006039/a-christmas-carol-main-theme>



Happy Holidays

From the CSUSB Music Department

Join a CSUSB Music Ensemble!

The Music Department hosts a large and diverse number of performing ensembles. Ensembles provide significant service to the university, performing for many university events and providing a musical outlet for students in other majors. They also provide significant community service, through performances and other educational activities in area schools as well as performances for many civic and cultural events off campus. Most importantly, the Music Department's ensembles foster artistic excellence among music majors, earning awards at national festivals and invitations to perform internationally, as well as drawing thousands of audience members to campus each year. Our ensembles tour regularly, traveling to destination as near as area schools and far as Europe and Asia. Recent activities include tours in Korea, Italy and Spain, appearances at the jazz festival in Reno, Nevada, Bangkok, Thailand, and performances at the California Music Educators Association conference. Major ensembles include Band, Choir, Opera, Orchestra, and Jazz. Chamber groups include Brass, Clarinet, Cello, Mariachi Los Coyotes, Flute Choir, Guitar, New Music, Percussion, Saxophone and String Chamber Music.

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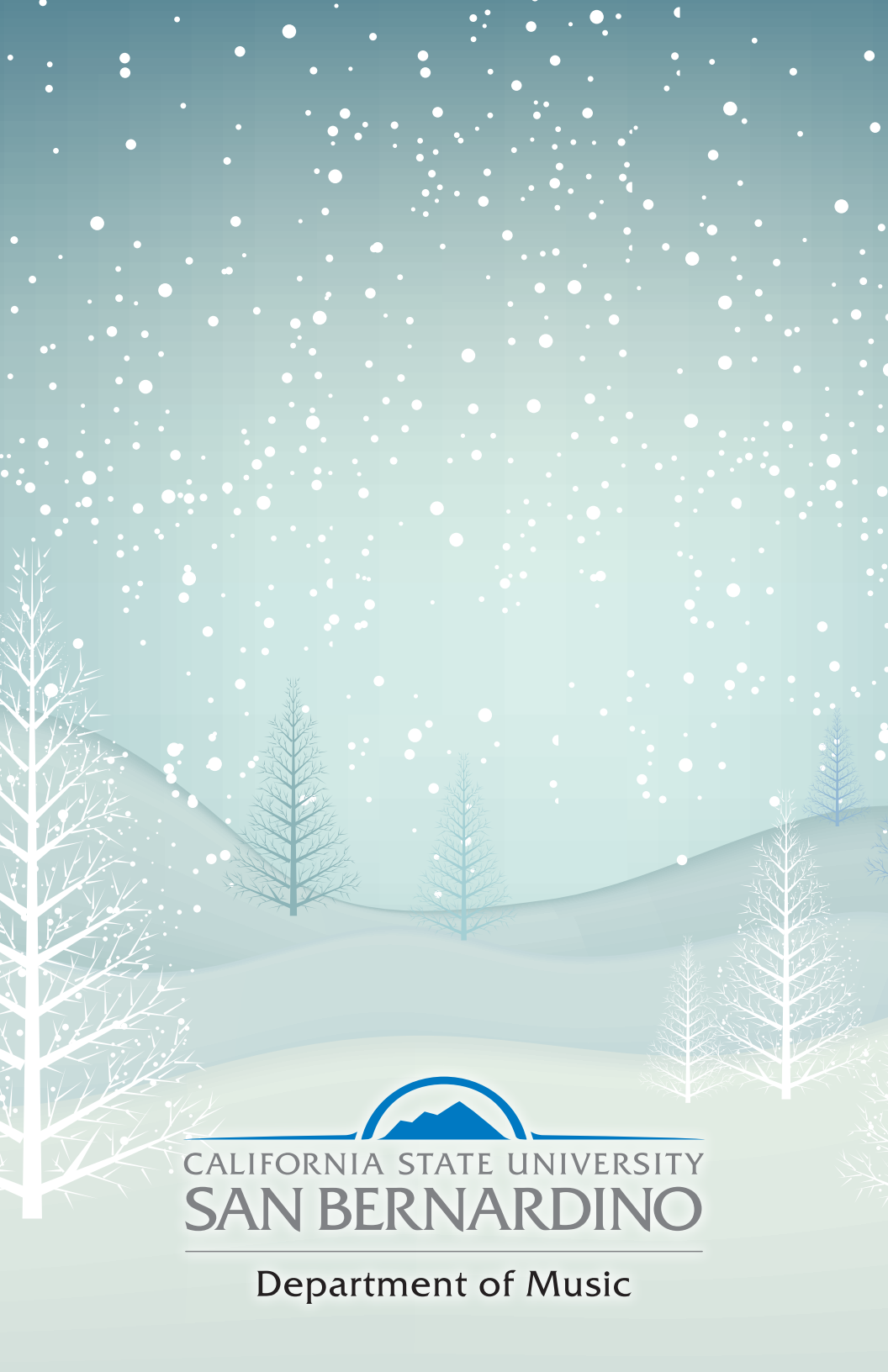
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