

A Gospel Christmas

Kevin McBeth, conductor
Kennedy Holmes, vocals
St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus
Kevin McBeth, director

Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 7:30PM
Thursday, December 19, 2019, at 7:30PM

JOHN WASSON*Festival Fanfare for Christmas***JOHN LEAVITT**

“Festival Sanctus”
IN UNISON Chorus

TRADITIONAL
arr. Hayes

“Ain’t That Good News”
St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

TRADITIONAL
arr. Hogan

“Hold Out Your Light”
IN UNISON Chorus

LARS JANSSON
arr. Erikson

To the Mothers In Brazil: Salve Regina
St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus

WADE
arr. and orch. Duren

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Valencia Branch, soprano
Tiara Rooks-Thomas, alto
Glenn Ellis, tenor
IN UNISON Chorus

TRADITIONAL
arr. Goeller & Huntsinger

“The First Noel—Go Tell It On the Mountain”

STEVEN A. TAYLOR
arr. Cymbala

“Hallelujah, You’re Worthy to Be Praised”
IN UNISON Chorus

MARTIN
arr. Maness

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”
Kennedy Holmes, vocals

WALTER AFANASIEF
arr. Maness

“All I Want for Christmas Is You”
Kennedy Holmes, vocals
IN UNISON Chorus

INTERMISSION

TODD SMITH
arr. Holmes

“Noel”
IN UNISON Chorus

ISRAEL HOUGHTON
arr. Kirkland

“You Are Good”

TRADITIONAL
arr. Dilworth

“I Sing Because I’m Happy”
IN UNISON Chorus

GRUBER
arr. Williamson;
orch. Gill

“Silent Night, Holy Night”
Carol Henley, alto
Charles Stancil, bass
Nadia Maddex, soprano
Montel Moore, tenor
IN UNISON Chorus

PAUL DAVID WILSON
arr. Warren/Jackson/
Kibble/Hey/Chinn

“Hallelujah” from *Handel’s Messiah*:
“A Soulful Celebration”
Reginald Davis, bass
IN UNISON Chorus

BUDDY GREENE
arr. Maness

“Mary, Did You Know?”
Kennedy Holmes, vocals

ADAM
arr. Maness

“O Holy Night”
Kennedy Holmes, vocals
IN UNISON Chorus

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

These concerts are supported by **Bayer Fund**.
The concert of Wednesday, December 18, is supported by **AARP**.
Media support provided by **The St. Louis American**.



KEVIN MCBETH

Director, IN UNISON Chorus

Kevin McBeth was appointed Director of the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON Chorus in 2011. McBeth is the Director of Music at Manchester United Methodist Church in suburban St. Louis. He serves as full-time administrator for the Music Ministry, which includes 18 choral and handbell ensembles, involving nearly 500 children, youth, and adults. Kevin has also recently served as Adjunct Professor of Choral Music at Webster University. Over the past 20 years, he has conducted honor, festival, and touring choirs (choral and handbell) in the United States and Canada. Previous appointments include Assistant Conductor of the St. Louis Symphony Chorus and Music Director of the St. Louis Metro Singers. His 30-year career in church music has included appointments in churches in Houston, Texas and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

McBeth is a graduate of Houston Baptist University and has done graduate studies in Choral Conducting at the University of Houston. In addition to being a published composer and author, he was also choral music editor for Abingdon Press. McBeth has served on the board of the Iowa Choral Directors Association, the Missouri Choral Directors Association, and the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. He was also the Repertoire and Standards Chair for the Southwest Division of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). Influential teachers in conducting have been David Wehr, Robert Linder, and John Yarrington. A strong advocate for training future conductors, he has presented several workshops and interest sessions at the state and national levels.

McBeth has recently conducted concerts at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. Choirs under his direction have also performed at regional and national gatherings for choral and handbell music, including both state and division ACDA conventions, and at the American International Choral Festival. McBeth has prepared choruses for performances with Sarah Brightman, Josh Groban, John McDaniel, Andy Williams, Billy Porter, Take 6, Larnelle Harris, Jenifer Lewis, Wintley Phipps, and Hugh Smith. In the fall of 2002, the National Religious Music Week Alliance named him as one of the top ten Church Music Directors in the country. In the church music field, he has collaborated with Mark Hayes, John Leavitt, Hal Hopson, Joseph Martin, Howard Helvey, John Purifoy, Michael Burkhardt, Craig Courtney, David Morrow, and Jeffery Ames.

His orchestral conducting credits include performances with the Indianapolis

Symphony, Houston Civic Symphony, the New England Symphonic Ensemble, and with members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in a concert featuring Garrison Keillor. Most recently, McBeth conducted a Festival Chorus in his first European concert tour to Great Britain, and prepared choruses for a concert at Lincoln Center.

McBeth is the proud father of two talented sons, Cameron and Austin.



KENNEDY HOLMES

St. Louis native Kennedy Holmes made her stage performing debut at age 10, as Little Inez in The Muny's 2015 production of *Hairspray*. Since then, she has remained a local theatre constant with several additional performances at The Muny, Stages, and The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. She has also been a member of The Muny Kids and STAGES Performing Arts Academy Triple Threats programs. Holmes has performed in numerous local and national events as both a singer and stage performer.

Most recently, Kennedy earned global acclaim with a breakout performance of Adele's "Turning Tables," headlining Season 15 of NBC's *The Voice*. Throughout a magical run to the finals of the season, audiences and coaches Jennifer Hudson, Kelly Clarkson, Blake Shelton, and Adam Levine marveled at Holmes' talent, calling her, "Quite possibly the greatest singer to appear on the show." Ellen DeGeneres marveled at Holmes, saying simply, "This girl is incredible."

Offstage, Holmes is currently in ninth grade at the John Burroughs School. She enjoys volleyball, gymnastics, singing, dancing, acting, and spending time with her friends and family—including her mom, dad, and older brother.

A true triple threat, Holmes hopes to pursue a multi-faceted career on stage, screen, and in studio, but most of all she hopes to inspire. "I want everyone in the world to know, especially young girls like me, that anything and everything is possible. I've been incredibly blessed by my experiences and I'm going to use that to be the best that I can be."

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY IN UNISON CHORUS | 2019/2020

Kevin McBeth, <i>Director</i>	Elaine Dowdle	Tiffany McClenton
Harry Cecil, <i>Assistant Director</i>	Darrius Duncan*	Daniel McRath*
Beth Enloe Fritz, <i>Assistant Director</i>	Kim Durr	Vickie Minter
W. Christopher White, <i>Accompanist</i>	Isaac Edwards	Montel Moore*
Michelle Byrd, <i>Programs Coordinator</i>	Glenn Ellis	Mary Moorehead
	Michael Engelhardt	Harry Moppins
	Duane Foster	Calvin Parker
	Beth Fritz	Kimberly Payne
	Grace Fulford	Diane Peal+
	Ruth Gilliam+	Harry Penelton
	Cassandra Gilyard	Patricia Penelton+
Carlotta Algee-Stancil+	Gregory Green	Eric Pitts
Damon Ambus	Deborah Grupe	Wilatrell Rice
Brian Andrews	Leslie Hanlin	Linda Richie+
Joshua Barton	Cherise Harris	Tiara Rooks-Thomas
Glenda Bastain	Carol Henley	Kathleen Schroeder
Tom Baynham	Jared Hennings	Christopher Scott
Laketia Beasley	Dorothy Heyward	Teresia Simmons
Alison Bell	Natalie Hill	Denise Sleet
Sean Betts	Veda Hill-Guyse	Dwyane Smith
Juanita Blackshear	Sarah Hoth	Diane Smoot
Pamela Bolden	Lawrence Hudson-Lewis	Charles Stancil
Amelia Boler	Carole Hughes+	Bridget Stegall+
Preston Bosley+	Don Hutcherson	Wynton Stuart
Candice Boyd	Karen Hylton+	Althelia Thomas+
Valencia Branch*	Annie Jackson+	Karen Thomas-Stuart
Lynette Brunson+	Nathaniel Jackson	Sharon Thurman
Marvin Brunson+	Pearline Jamison	Lisha Tucker
Denise Brunson-Harris	Joyce Jefferson	Gracie Ward
Michelle Byrd	La'Matra Johnson	Kelly Ward
Rochelle Calhoun	Lisa Johnson	Martyl Webster
Harry Cecil	Stanley Johnson	Gwendolyn Wesley+
Beverly Charisse+	Barrie Jones+	Elsa Whitfield
Denise Clothier	Tericida Jones	Edward Whittington
Doris Coleman+	Jennifer Kelley	Glen Williams
Vernetta Cox	Patricia Land	Michele Sue Williams
Reginald Davis	Brenda Lane	
Janet Dickerson	Julie Lynch	
Charita Dones	Nadia Maddex*	* Young Artist
Maggie Dorsey+	Margaret McCabe	+ Charter Member