



ALTON SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

JOYOUS  
JINGLES  
AND  
JOLLIES



DECEMBER 9, 2023  
7 P.M.  
HATHEWAY HALL, LCCC  
CAMPUS  
CONCERT SPONSOR:  
LIBERTY APPLE ORCHARD



## **Wm. Shane Williams**

### **Conductor**

Maestro Wm. Shane Williams is celebrating his 11th season as Music Director/Conductor of the Alton Symphony. He is a charismatic and versatile conductor, versed in a wide gamut of musical styles, carrying a vision to Make Music Come Alive for All playing under his baton.

His skills and gifts have allowed him conducting opportunities in the United States and abroad: the Zapadocesky Symphony Orchestra of the

Czech Republic, the St. Louis Philharmonic, the Illinois Symphony, the Kirkwood Symphony, the Alton Symphony, the University City Orchestra, and the Gateway Chamber Orchestra, to name a few. Maestro Williams has had the privilege of working with Grammy Award winning violinist Mark O'Connor. Shane is a regular guest conductor, performer, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the region.

His previous conducting posts include the Alton Summer Chamber Series, the Young People's Concert Orchestra at the Webster Community Music School, the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony, Pops Conductor of the Alton Symphony and Resident Conductor of the Award-winning St. Louis Brass Band.

As a professional musician, Maestro Williams has performed with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra (noted performances at Carnegie Hall), Opera Theater St. Louis, the Illinois Symphony, the Nashville Symphony, Winter Opera St. Louis, the Joffrey Ballet, Ice Capades, Moody Blues, the Elvis Show, the Three Irish Tenors, Opryland USA, Burt Bacharach, Roger Williams, Dionne Warwick, Tommy Tune, Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith and many others.

Maestro Williams serves on the music faculty at Missouri Baptist University where he teaches conducting and oversees the instrumental programs. As an educator, Mr. Williams has taught public, private, and homeschool. In 2002, he founded the SCCYO Summer String and Woodwind Workshops and Audition Preparation Workshops (APW). As well, he has previously served on the music faculty of the Masterworks Music Festival for many years.

Maestro Williams holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Austin Peay State University, a Master of Percussion Performance from the St. Louis Conservatory of Music, and a Master of Music degree in Conducting from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He has completed doctoral studies at Lindenwood University.



## ***Vincent Piazza***

### ***Concertmaster***

A native of Alton, IL, Vincent Piazza began studying violin at the age of nine in the Alton public school system. After studying with Elizabeth Jankowski through high school, he enrolled at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, studying with Peter Schaffer and Pacifica Quartet member Sibbi Bernhardsson. Also, during his years at the University of Illinois, Vincent was a student of Italian, receiving a minor and studying in Catania, Sicily. Vincent also holds a Master's degree from Boston University studying violin with Bayla Keyes.

Vincent's summer highlights have included the National Repertory Orchestra, the Round Top Festival Institute and the Tónlistarhátíðar unga fólksins string quartet seminar in Iceland. In 2007 he toured China as a member of the Sinfonia da Camera.

Vincent has a long history with the Alton Symphony Orchestra. He was a member of the Alton Junior Youth Symphony, the Alton Youth Symphony, and, during high school, the Alton Symphony. He enjoyed playing in many ensembles. While playing with the Alton Symphony in high school, he also performed with the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Alton High School Symphonic Orchestra.

Today, Vincent works at St. Louis College of Pharmacy in the Office of Institutional Advancement. He freelances in the St. Louis area and teaches privately. He resides in Edwardsville with his wife Jenna and their five children, Rachel, Allegra, Luca, Giuliana and Matteo. Rachel and Luca play violin, Allegra plays cello, and Gigi plays piano.

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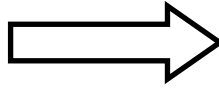
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ENTER THE  
"CONDUCTOR  
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CHANCE TO  
CONDUCT  
*Sleigh Ride*  
ON STAGE AT ASO'S  
CONCERT ON  
DECEMBER 9



Louis Chen, age 9, is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in Kehrs Mill Elementary in St. Louis, Missouri. Louis started violin lessons at age 5 and has been a student of Joseph Kaminsky and Pavel Ilyashov.

Louis was the 1st Place winner for violin solo in grade 1-3 division in the 2022 MMTA State Strings Audition.

Louis has been playing in String Orchestra and Young People's Concert Orchestra at the Webster University Community Music School.

Besides music, Louis loves drawing and playing tennis and soccer.

He is ASO's 2023-2024 Deborah Fox Guild Winner.

# “Music For All Scholarship” 2023 Recipients

Each year ASO awards scholarships to two students in the greater Alton area for \$400 to fund private lessons for students in financial need.



Joshua McCune



Lyla Hahn

*“Joyous Jingles and Jollies”*

*December 9, 2023*

National Anthem

Francis Scott Key  
John Stafford Smith

Christmas Festival

Leroy Anderson  
(1908—1975)

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

arr. Jeff Brubaker  
(b. 1958)

O Holy Night

Adolphe Charles Adam  
(1803—1856)

Violin Concerto in E minor

Anatoli Komarowski  
(1909—1955)  
*Louis Chen, Violin*  
*Deborah Fox Guild Winner*

*INTERMISSION*

The Polar Express

Alan Silvestri/Glen Ballard

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson  
(1908—1975)

White Christmas

Irving Berlin  
(1888—1989)

Christmas Sing-a-Long

John Finnegan



# Musicians

## **Violin I**

Vincent Piazza, *Concertmaster*

*Dr. Frank M. Boals Chair*

Nicholas Monahan

Sister Marie-Therese Swiezynski

Allison Woerner

## **Violin II**

Kim Gindler, *Principal*

*John Simmons Chair*

Connie Clayton

Casey Hansen

Natalie O'Randó

Patricia Rowold

Carolyn Simansky

Finley Stevenson

## **Viola**

Ingrid Popp, *Principal*

Julia DeLong

Jean Heil

Macey Heimbürger

Anthony Jensen

Ian Kim

## **Cello**

Gary Lee, *Principal*

Robert Flick

Lars Gindler

Jerre Honke

Harry Mueller

Sam Mundell

Elyse Tillman

## **Bass**

Andrew Tinge

## **Flute**

Linda Atkinson

Tami Flick

Martha Pfister

## **Oboe / English Horn**

Cathy Woelbling Paul, *Principal*

*Dr. Scott Hawley Chair*

Brandon Thompson

## **Clarinet**

Jenna Piazza, *Principal*

*Anthony Lordi Chair*

Melissa Bock

Leah Cook

## **Bassoon**

Sheila Acuncius, *Principal*

Greg Van Asch

## **Horn**

John Lindley, *Principal*

*Allen Biggs Chair*

Matthew Geary

Sydney Reynolds

Jessica Poddig

## **Trumpet**

Christopher Dressler, *Principal*

*Dr. Christopher Langdon Chair*

Rick Acuncius

Isaiah Christner

## **Trombone**

Marquita Reef

Larry Ashlock

Chris Galloway

## **Tuba**

Ben Duane

## **Percussion**

Wade Cermak-Hernandez

Conner Capporal

Abigail Stephens

## **Piano**

Sarah Walseth

Librarian—Gary Lee

Technical Coordinator, Hatheway Hall—  
Brian McKinney

Properties—Natalie O'Randó

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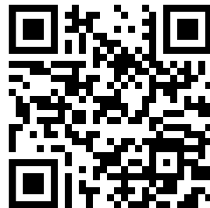
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## *Program Notes by Anthony Jensen*

### Christmas Festival (1950)

Christmas Festival was written for the Boston Pops Orchestra as a special record for Christmas records. Instead of intending the work as a medley, Anderson composed the work as a concert overture using the thematic material of several different Christmas songs, carols, and other related music. Due to the limitations at the time of recording technology, the original length of the work of 8 minutes meant that it posed a unique challenge; the entire piece wouldn't be able to fit on one side of a 78rpm record. In Anderson's words, Christmas Festival "had to go on two sides of a record, it was necessary to write so there was a spot in the middle where you could make a logical break, and at the same time also pick up again for the other side, and it had to be as satisfactory as it could for that purpose; but, at the same time, it had to be done so it wasn't noticeable when you played the whole thing all the way through."

### How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966-2000)

This arrangement features music from both the original 1966 TV special composed by Albert Hague, including popular tunes like "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas," set alongside excerpts from the 2000 live-action film composed by James Horner. Ted Geisel had always shown reluctance regarding adapting his adaptations of his work outside of the contexts of his own books. However, due to his experience in animation during World War II, several animated cartoons of his work were created mainly during the end of his career. It took no small amount of effort on the part of director Chuck Jones to convince Geisel to adapt *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* as a television special, giving all of us a wonderful and timeless classic of Christmas media.

### O Holy Night (1843)

At the end of 1843, the church organ in the town of Roquemaure, France had finished undergoing renovation. To commemorate the event, a poet, Placide Cappeau, was asked to write a Christmas poem under the name, *Cantique de Noël*. This poem was given to the composer Adolphe Adam, who composed the music later that year, and the song was premiered in 1847 by Emily Laurey. A translation by John Dwight under the name "O Holy Night" reached the United States where it gained popularity, particularly in the North due to the Abolitionist Movement. Today, the song has been recorded and arranged for many different artists and ensembles.

### Violin Concerto No. 1 in E Minor (1947)

Anatoli Komarowski was a Russian and Soviet composer. He graduated from the Rachmaninov Music School for violin performance in 1929 and studied at the Moscow Conservatory for composition under Wissarion Shebalin from 1937 to 1941. Throughout his life, he held several notable posts, including the director, composer, and conductor for the Theater der Satire in Novosibirsk, the concertmaster at the Moscow theatre "Roma" and the musical director at the Dramatic Theatre in Tula. He also led an ensemble on the Kaliningrad front during World War II and would later serve as the musical director of the Moscow Musical Art Museum and the Moscow Dramatic Theatre during the Soviet Union.

The Violin Concerto No. 1 was composed during his tenure as the musical director of the Moscow Musical Art Museum, a post which he held from 1946-7. Beyond this information, there is precious little known about the historical side of the work.

### Concert Suite from The Polar Express (2004)

The film, *The Polar Express*, is based on the 1985 book of the same name by Chris Van Allsburg. Set during a Christmas Eve in the 1950s, a young boy steps on a mysterious train bound for the North Pole to meet Santa Claus and see the workshop. The film is dedicated to the memory of Michael Jeter, as this was his final appearance in film before his death in 2003. At time of release, it was the first all-digital capture film as well as the highest grossing animated film worldwide. The soundtrack features the song "Believe", which was nominated for an Academy Award at the 77th Academies for Best Original Song, and later gained a Grammy Award in 2006 for Best Song Written for a Motion Picture. Notably, most of the score featured in the film has not been officially released to the public at any point, and the soundtrack that was released only includes the songs featured in the film.

### Sleigh Ride (1946-8)

*Sleigh Ride* was composed as a light orchestra standard by Leroy Anderson in 1946 to 1948, and later arranged for ensembles such as wind band and piano. Later versions of the work would add vocal parts and lyrics, done first by lyricist Mitchel Parish and the Andrew Sisters in 1950, which would become immensely popular. The work remains a staple of Christmas programs, and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) ranks it as one of the most consistently popular songs written by any ASCAP member, as well as the most popular Christmas song from 2009 to 2012 based on performance data from 2,500 radio stations.

### White Christmas (1942)

Berlin's 1942 hit was written for the musical film *Holiday Inn*, though it was originally conceived to be a part of the film *Top Hat* in 1935. Fred Astaire, one of the leads in the film, loved the melody of the song and wanted it to play a part in *Top Hat*, but the director Mark Sandrich ultimately passed on it. *Holiday Inn* features songs written for each holiday of the year, and "White Christmas" was not intended to be the hit from the film; instead, the Valentine's Day song, "Be Careful, It's My Heart," was intended to fill that role. At the first rehearsal of the song in 1941, singer Bing Crosby was immediately taken aback by the song, telling Berlin that "I don't think we have any problems with that one," despite Berlin's initial reservations about writing a song about Christmas due to his Jewish upbringing.

Since the 1942 release of *Holiday Inn*, "White Christmas" has sold over 100 million sales and over 500 versions of the song have been recorded. Some notable examples include versions sung by Frank Sinatra, Michael Bolton, Michael Bublé, and many, many more. Bing Crosby's version remains the best-selling single in terms of physical media to date, and the song itself is the best-selling single when all of the other versions are also accounted for.

### Christmas Singalong (1990)

John Finnegan's Christmas Singalong is a traditional Christmas sing-along for orchestra and audience. Come raise your voices in joy and excitement for the holidays with a selection of carols to sing with us!

- Jingle Bells
- Joy to the World
- It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- Silent Night
- Deck the Halls
- O Come, All Ye Faithful

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THE ALTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

# *SIPS & STRINGS*

Jacoby Arts Center

Alton, Illinois

February 23, 2024 at 6pm

# *Alton Symphony Orchestra*

## *2023—2024 Season*

“The Musical Landscapes of European Minds”  
October 28, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Featuring Shostakovich no.2 with Brett Klaus on piano, English Folk Song Suite, Moldau, and Night on Bald Mountain.

“Joyous Jollies and Jingles”  
December 9, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Celebrate the season with ASO! Hear the classic Sleigh Ride, White Christmas, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and Christmas Festival.  
Concert Sponsor: Liberty Apple Orchard

“An Afternoon of Musical Pops”  
February 18, 2024 at 3 p.m.

Join us for The Sound of Music, Swan Lake Overture, Phantom of the Opera, West Side Story. With performances from the seniors of the Alton Youth Symphony and our Marie Stillwell Concerto Competition Winner!

“Dance Dance Dance”  
April 27, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Dance with ASO to Orpheus in the Underworld, Bacchanale, Le Tombeau de Couperin (Ravel), and more!