

Pacific Symphony: Volunteer Challenge #47 - We Wish You Bright and Merry Holidays!

From: Abby Edmunds (aedmunds@pacifichsymphony.org)

To: aedmunds@pacifichsymphony.org

Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020, 02:43 PM PST

Hello, Pacific Symphony Volunteers!

Oh, the weather outside is frightful....Really? Not here in California, it isn't! We are so fortunate to experience only the very best weather this holiday season. I have been looking ahead at weather reports for the next few weeks and there is NO RAIN or snow on our horizon from what I have seen online. So, as I wish you a holiday that is merry and bright, I also want to wish you clear skies, sunny days, beautiful sunsets and sunrises and, hopefully, an amazing time seeing the rare "Christmas star" that will be lighting up our sky next Monday, December 21st for winter solstice!

The "Christmas star" has not been seen so clearly since March 4th, 1226. This rare phenomenon occurs only when Jupiter and Saturn get very close and appear to nearly collide, giving the impression of a double planet when viewed from Earth. In reality, these two planets will be millions of miles apart, but will appear to unite as one. I have been told that to see the star, at its best, one should go outside 45 minutes after sunset and look high in the night sky. Please let me know if you see it and what you think of this amazing occurrence!



I have some interesting musical highlights for you today, as well! For your listening pleasure, here is the stirring choral and symphonic version of **See, The Conquering Hero Comes** from George Frederic Handel's oratorio, *Judas Maccabeus*, composed in 1746. Judas Maccabeus was the leader of the revolt by the Israelites against the Assyrian Greeks in 166 BCE that ultimately ended in military triumph and the reconsecration of the Jerusalem Temple, which the holiday of Hanukkah celebrates. This may be the only piece by a well-known Baroque composer

which is associated with the "Festival of Lights". Although it is sung in English, there is unfortunately no text displayed.

Click here to hear *See, The Conquering Hero Comes*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p1BedwyFKY&list=RDhJfU1Vy3rU&index=10>

Next, I want to share with you a piece by Chris Rice, ***Welcome to Our World*** (A Christmas Song.) Chris is an American singer and songwriter who composes and sings contemporary Christian, contemporary folk, and adult contemporary music. Initially beginning his writing career in the 80's, he first wrote songs that were recorded by well-known recording artists. Then, in 1996, he got his own record deal and the rest is history!.

Click here to hear *Welcome to My World*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrgwL5r7IcU>

Welcome to Our World by Chris Rice

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised, we've been waiting
Welcome Holy Child

Hope that You don't mind our manger
How I wish we could have known
But long-awaited Holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home
Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking Heaven's silence
Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny...

Lastly, just because I am a huge Andrea Bocelli fan, here is a song for his wife called *Return To Love*. Hear Andrea singing with his friend and recording artist, Ellie Goulding.

Click here for *Return To Love*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLCdOc3IzCY>

I hope you have the loveliest of holidays, that you have time to enjoy the simple things we all take for granted when we are in a hurry, and that you look with joyous anticipation to the promise of a wonderful New Year! Until I see you again, please stay well. Stay safe. Know how much I miss you.

Warmest regards,

Abby

Abby Edmunds

Director of Volunteer Services | Pacific Symphony

t: (714) 876-2353 | **m:** (949) 933-4842 | **e:** aedmunds@PacificSymphony.org

Charlie and Ling Zhang Center for Musical Arts and Education

17620 Fitch, Suite 100 | Irvine, CA 92614

Reception: (714) 755-5788 | **Tickets:** (714) 755-5799

PacificSymphony.org | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#)

Have you heard of AmazonSmile? When you select Pacific Symphony as your supporting charity and complete your Amazon orders at <https://smile.amazon.com> Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to charity, at no cost to you. This is not a round up for charity program. Smile works with your current Amazon account. The only catch is you have to remember to complete your purchase through smile.amazon.com. Purchases from www.amazon.com and installed Apps will not qualify. However, items placed in your cart from amazon.com and installed Apps will carryover to your smile.amazon.com cart. Shop your way, but complete your purchases at smile.amazon.com to support Pacific Symphony. It's that easy!





image001.jpg

665.7kB