First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem Presents

CHRISTMAS *with* THE SAINT TIKHON CHOIR

Benedict Sheehan, *Conductor*

also featuring:
Chancel Ringers & Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
The Touring Choir of Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts
David MacBeth, *Music Director*

December 19, 2021 | 4:00pm

Glory & Only-Begotten Son — Vasily Titov (c.1650-c.1715)
From *Divine Service in G Minor* (c.1700)

The Lamb — John Tavener (1944-2013)
Chancel Choir

The Archangel's Voice — Nikolai Tolstiakov (1883-1958)
Fotina Naumenko, Soprano; Tabitha Lewis, Soprano; Talia Sheehan, Alto

There Is No Rose — Alan Smith (b. 1955)
Touring Choir

It Is Truly Meet — Benedict Sheehan (b. 1980)
From *Liturgy No. 2* (2021)

Rejoice, O Virgin — Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
From *All-Night Vigil, Op. 37* (1915)

Come, All Ye Shepherds — Trad. Bohemian, arr. John F. Wilson (1929-2014)
Chancel Ringers

To Be Sung on the Water — Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
Touring Choir

Praise the Name of the Lord — S. Rachmaninoff
From *All-Night Vigil, Op. 37* (1915)

Indodana — Trad. South African, arr. Michael Barrett & Ralf Schmitt
Touring Choir

The Coventry Carol — Trad. English, arr. Steve Pilkington
Chancel Choir

The Sussex Carol (Second Tune) — Trad. English, arr. B. Sheehan
From *A Christmas Carol* (2021)
Caleb Lewis, Baritone

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen — Trad. English, arr. Kevin McChesney
Chancel Ringers

Deck the Halls — Trad. Welsh, arr. B. Sheehan
From *A Christmas Carol* (2021)

Silent Night — Tune by Franz Xavier Grüber, arr. B. Sheehan
From *A Christmas Carol* (2021)
Fotina Naumenko, Soprano

Gabriel's Message — B. Sheehan
David MacBeth, Organ

The GRAMMY®-Nominated **Saint Tikhon Choir** is the professional vocal ensemble of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania, America's oldest Orthodox Christian monastery. Founded in 2015 by acclaimed conductor and composer Benedict Sheehan, the choir has rapidly "carved out a distinct place at the top of American Orthodox choirs" (*HRAudio*). Their recording of Benedict Sheehan's *Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* (Cappella Records, 2020) debuted at #2 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Charts, received a 2022 GRAMMY® nomination for "Best Choral Performance", and has garnered widespread recognition as "simply beyond praise for excellence" (*Fanfare*), "radiant…superb…a masterstroke" (*MusicWeb International*), "fresh and vibrant…spot on…a superb effort" (*Audiophile Audition*), "extravagantly beautiful" (*The American Organist*), and "a new standard for excellence in the American choral landscape" (*The Living Church Magazine*). In 2018 the choir joined four other leading ensembles and conductor Leonard Slatkin for a monumental world premiere of Alexander Kastalsky's long-lost *Requiem for Fallen Brothers* (1917) at the Washington National Cathedral. The project was heralded as one of the "Top Ten Performances of 2018" (*Washington Classical Review*) and "an unforgettable performance" (*Washington Post*). The recording of this historic project (Naxos, 2020) debuted at #1 on the Billboard Traditional Classical charts and received a 2021 GRAMMY® nomination for "Best Choral Performance." The Saint Tikhon Choir's most recent recording, Benedict Sheehan's *Vespers* (Cappella Records, 2021), has been hailed in early reviews as "moving…a masterpiece…nothing short of transcendent" (*ConcertoNet*), "stunning" (*Cinemusical*), and "choral singing at its most exquisite" (*HRAudio*). The Saint Tikhon Choir is made up of singers from across the United States and from a variety of faith traditions, but all come together with a common mission to foster and build up the American Orthodox choral tradition at the highest artistic level.

Members of
THE SAINT TIKHON CHOIR
Benedict Sheehan, *Artistic Director*

Sopranos
Lydia Given
Tabitha Lewis
Fotina Naumenko
Miriam Sheehan
Talia Sheehan
Zoe Turton

Altos
Tynan Davis
Amanda Jacobs
Timothy Parsons
Olivia Rehmet
Anastasia Serdsev
Irene Sheehan

Tenors
Brad Given
Fr. Mikel Hill
Damian Kulp
Anthony Maglione
Timothy Paproski

Basses
Dn. Michael Abrahamson
Andrew John Barrett
Stephen Jacobs
Paul Kappanadze
Caleb Lewis
Ryan Miller
Elias Rehmet
Thou Yang

This concert was made possible with additional generous support from:
St. Tikhon's Monastery
Anonymous
John Babiak
St. Alexander Nevsky Women's Association
Pdn. Michael & Mary Wusylko