

# The Naperville Chorus

Kevin Kelly, Music Director  
presents

## Christmas with a *Flourish*



**A Ceremony of Carols**  
by Benjamin Britten

**Christmas Flourish**  
by Randol Alan Bass



**Christmas Classics**  
with the Pete Ellman Big Band

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 at 7:30 pm**  
**Wentz Concert Hall**  
**171 Chicago Avenue, Naperville**



The Naperville Chorus



We are grateful to the Special Events and Community Arts Fund of Naperville and the Illinois Arts Council for financial support. Support from Community United Methodist Church and North Central College is gratefully acknowledged.





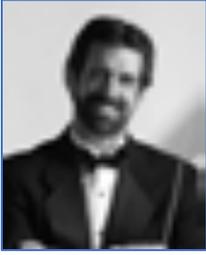
## **Kevin Kelly, Music Director & Conductor**

Kevin moved to the northwest Chicago suburbs in 2014, after 23 years living in Champaign-Urbana, where he served the musical community in multiple roles. In 1996, he founded The Prairie Ensemble, a professional chamber orchestra with a mission to “make first-rate music fun, approachable and affordable.” The Illinois Council of Orchestras honored Kevin three times for his work with the ensemble: as “Chamber Orchestra of the Year,” for “Programming of the Year” (twice) and for “Meritorious Service in Orchestral Conducting.” Kevin has conducted the East Central Illinois Youth Orchestra since 1993 and continues to commute to Champaign for Sunday rehearsals. After 13 years as a classical music host at public radio station WILL-FM in Urbana, Kevin served as host and producer of “Live and Local,” which featured interviews and frequent live performances by artists across many musical genres, theater and dance.

In fall 2015, Kevin became Artistic Director of the Allegro Community Chorus in Palatine and served for four years as Conductor at the Lake County Núcleo of Sistema Ravinia, an outreach program of the Ravinia Festival. He was Artistic Director of the Northwest Choral Society from 2018 to 2020. Before joining the Voices of Hope Community Chorus in August 2023, he was Artistic Director of the Sing to Live Community Chorus from 2021 to 2023. He was named Music Director of the Naperville Chorus in Fall 2025.

Kevin’s work with choirs included 17 years as choirmaster at Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church in Champaign, as well as collaborative performances between The Prairie Ensemble and the University of Illinois Concert Choir and Women’s Glee Club, Amasong, the Chorus of the Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana and the Central Illinois Children’s Chorus. Previously, he directed the Illini Statesmen Barbershop Chorus in Champaign-Urbana.

Kevin earned master’s degrees in orchestral and choral conducting from the University of Illinois and bachelor’s degrees in English and music history and criticism from Northwestern University. Post-college, he sang with several professional Chicago-area choral ensembles, including the Chicago Symphony Chorus, the Grant Park Symphony Chorus, The City Musick, Basically Bach, and His Majesties Clerkes (now Bella Voce). He studied conducting with Kenneth Kiesler, Paul Vermel, and Victor Yampolsky. Kevin lives in Elgin with his wife, Ayano Sakai, and their golden tiger tabby, Mugi.



**Jon Warfel, Naperville Chorus Assistant Director** In addition to his choral conducting activities, Jon Warfel maintains an active performing schedule as both a piano soloist and an accompanist. He received the Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from Northern Illinois University, where his teacher was Donald Walker and continued his studies at Northwestern University participating in Master Classes at the Ravinia Music Festival. In 1992, he was chosen Outstanding Young Alumnus of

Northern Illinois University.

As a pianist, Mr. Warfel has appeared as a guest soloist with the Chicago Grant Park Orchestra as well as other suburban orchestras. As a member of the Buffalo Shufflers, a “Roaring 20s” show band, Mr. Warfel has toured throughout the United States performing in symphonic pops concerts with 67 American orchestras. He performs regularly with flutist Carlyn Lloyd, and they can be heard on their most recent CD, *American Made*.

Mr. Warfel was on the faculty of Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois, and served as Music director for several churches in the Fox Valley area. He is currently employed as staff accompanist at North Central College, Naperville and accompanist/assistant director for both Naperville Chorus and the Elgin Master Chorale.

**Harpist Nichole Young** (M.M., Northwestern University; B.M., Northern Illinois University) performs with many ensembles across Illinois including the New Philharmonic, Elgin Symphony, and DuPage Symphony, and formerly served as Principal Harpist of the Peoria Symphony. Known for her expressive and versatile performances, she brings music to life across genres — from classical and French impressionist works to jazz and pop. In addition to her performing career, Nichole teaches harp at North Central College, the Fox River Academy of Music and Art, Oswego, and at the Chicago Academy for the Arts in Chicago, IL.

### Sing with the Naperville Chorus



Even if you don't sing like the soloists (most don't) and especially, if you do sing like the soloists, consider joining the Naperville Chorus. The Naperville Chorus will begin rehearsals on Monday, September 8, 2025, for our Fall 2025 season. Rehearsals are from 7:30 to 9:30 on Mondays.

If you are interested in joining the chorus, please check our website at [www.NapervilleChorus.org](http://www.NapervilleChorus.org).

**The Naperville Chorus greatly appreciates the support of our contributors:  
Conductor's Circle (\$1,000 or greater)**

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Kimberly & Bryon Lynn

Robert & Deborah Utecht

We regret any omissions due to publishing deadlines

**Organizational Support**

The Naperville Chorus is *partially* supported by

- ***Illinois Arts Council Agency, a State of Illinois agency***, and grants from:
- ***SECA, the Special Events and Community Arts Fund of Naperville***
- ***National Endowment for the Arts***

**Acknowledgements**

*Community United Methodist Church*

Suzanne Wills and Senior Pastor Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton.

Jon Warfel, for all the little things he does for us that, together, are the big things. Without Jon, we would not be here today.

Our Volunteer Ushers

**Outreach Chorus**

The ***Outreach Chorus*** presents short programs at local retirement homes and nursing facilities. Last year the ***Outreach Chorus*** presented performances at seven different facilities. The programs present lighter music, primarily show music, to the residents of these facilities. If you would like to request the Outreach Chorus for a facility or would like to suggest a site, please contact us at our website [www.NapervilleChorus.org](http://www.NapervilleChorus.org).

## The Naperville Chorus

Kevin Kelly, Music Director

Presents

# Christmas with a *Flourish*

with the *Pete Ellman Big Band*

### **A Ceremony of Carols** Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

Naperville Chorus with Nichole Young, Harp

*Procession*

*Wolcum Yole!*

*There is no Rose*

*That yongë child*

*Balulalow*

Hannah Subgrunski

*As dew in Aprille*

*This little Babe*

*Interlude*

*In freezing winter night*

Catherine Philpott and Reed Pence

*Spring Carol*

Caitlin Henley and Jessica Johnson

*Deo Gracias!*

*Recession*

### **A Christmas Flourish** Randol Alan Bass (1953–)

*Methinks I See a Heavenly Host, Silent Night,*

*O Come All ye Faithful, Angels we have heard on high*

Catherine Philpott

Brass from the Ellman Big Band, Jon Warfel on Organ

## Intermission

### **Naperville Chorus and Pete Ellman Big Band**

*The Most Wonderful Time of the Year* Lyrics Eddie Pola, music George Wyle

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* Trad. Arr. Daniel Moore

Jimmy Wojtila

### **Selections by the Pete Ellman Big Band**

*Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane

*Ding Dong Merrily on High* Trad. Arr. Daniel Moore

### **Selections by the Pete Ellman Big Band**

*Up on the Housetop* Benjamin Hanby Arr. Daniel Moore

*Tropichristmas* Anderson, Noble and Moraine

## Upcoming Events

Monday January 5, 2026

Sunday April 19, 2026

Start of Naperville Chorus Spring Season

***Opera Choruses & Great Choral Classics***



The Chorus is reducing its carbon footprint by decreasing the size of our paper programs. Because one of the most informative parts of the program were the exhaustive and thoroughly researched program notes, we have posted them online along with a list of the officers, the history and performing history of the chorus, Please feel free to send your feedback on our concert or our ecofriendly program to: [Board@NapervilleChorus.org](mailto:Board@NapervilleChorus.org).

The online program can be accessed using the QR code or the url:

<http://napervillechorus.org/fall-2025-program/>

Dues and ticket sales are insufficient to support the chorus.

Donations and Sponsorships by Music Lovers  
can help bridge the funding gap.

Contributions to the chorus can be made by mail at:

**Naperville Chorus  
1212 S Naper Blvd.  
Suite 119-261  
Naperville, IL 60540**

or you can donate online using the Donation tab at:  
[www.NapervilleChorus.org](http://www.NapervilleChorus.org)

The Pete Ellman Big Band (PEBB) was formed in 2009 after Pete retired from the Illinois Air National Guard after 20 years of service. You can find out about them at <https://pebb.net/>. They regularly invite student jazz ensembles to join them and will provide guest clinicians. This is a way to get these budding musicians into a real-world environment, playing the music that they love on an auditorium stage in front of parents or classmates. Thousands of students have had this opportunity.



## A Ceremony of Carols

In 1939, the English composer Benjamin Britten, then 35, and his personal and professional partner, tenor soloist Peter Pears, came to North America – first to Canada, then the US, and back to Canada. As it turned out, the timing of their trip could not have been worse: Hitler’s forces took Poland on September 1 with little opposition, and by the next year, Britain was in the throes of The Blitz. Britten and Pears were advised by US authorities to settle for a long stay in America; the two did in fact stay into 1942 – by which time the US was also in the conflict -- but Britten felt uncomfortably isolated from his native country, even though, as a committed pacifist, he was not welcomed at home. In 1942, he and Pears headed to England via steamer; to keep his mind occupied (and to ease his seasickness!), Britten immersed himself in two projects: One was A Hymn to St. Cecilia (St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music; Britten was born on St. Cecilia’s Day, November 22). The other project involved setting several old English poems, initially intended as separate works: Britten had been inspired by “The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems”, edited by Gerald Bullett, which he found while in Canada. Britten set a selection of these poems in three parts (SSA), aiming for children’s-choir performance; once a young musician himself, he never lost his desire to help children, especially those who were musically talented. The work took a different form once Britten was settled back in England: He added three pieces – a processional, a nearly-identical recessional – both based on a Gregorian antiphon, “Hodie, Christus Natus Est” (today Christ is born) --, and an interlude centerpiece for solo harp, based on similar tunes. Multiple compositions were thus united as a cantata, *A Ceremony of Carols*, with texts in medieval English, modern English, and Latin. The poems represent fifteenth- and sixteenth-century composers -- Robert Southwell; James, John, and Robert Wedderburn; and William Cornysh, among them, and various anonymous texts, including the liturgical processional and recessional. While these carols are not in the same vein as those elsewhere in tonight’s program, Britten’s settings mesh well with the historicity of these texts. While the original version is also suitable for women’s ensembles, at the publishers suggestion, Julius Harrison created a four-part (SATB) version for mixed choir, which was approved by Britten in 1955. The Chorus has performed this work twice previously, in 1988 and 2010, and has included selections from it in other concerts over the past half-century.

### Christmas Flourish

Randol Alan Bass, 72, is a Fort Worth native and has been a singer, multi-instrumentalist, and conductor, as well as a prolific composer. His composing output includes many holiday works, including the one the Chorus sings tonight.

The Chorus has performed two other Bass works, “A Feast of Carols”, and “Christmas Ornaments”. “Flourish” provides settings of several carols: “Methinks I See a Heav’nly Host”, which uses the hymn tune “Shiloh”; “Joy to the World”, with the familiar tune attributed to G. F. Handel; the much-loved “Silent Night” – with a brief repetition in German, evoking Franz Gruber and Joseph Mohr’s original; and “Angels We Have Heard on High”, based on a French carol. Bass’ works are impressively orchestrated, and we hope you will ‘feel the season’ in this music.

J.R. Fancher

**Naperville Chorus Officers & Staff 2025-2026**

- Music Director..... Kevin Kelly
- Assistant Director and Accompanist..... Jon Warfel

**Board of Directors 2024-2025**

- President ..... Janan Szurek
- Vice President..... Gail Nelson
- Secretary ..... Signe Gleeson
- Treasurer ..... Keith Anderson
- Financial Secretary..... Cathy Kaduk
- Past President..... Elisabeth Case
- Operations..... John Zelman
- Directors-at-Large..... Jessica Hart, Richard Sohn,  
Pamela Whittles
- ADA compliance officer..... Sarah Sippy
- Membership ..... Nancy Sigel
- Friends of the Chorus ..... Andrew Galvan
- Marketing..... Vicky Lynch
- Grants..... Margaret Jonah
- Program..... Charles Jonah
- Music..... Cristin Adam

## Naperville Chorus

### Soprano

Alice Allman, Naperville  
Katie Brandonisio, Big Rock  
Mary Buchholz, Wheaton  
Elisabeth Case, Aurora  
Barbara Darrah, West Chicago  
Pamela Darrah, West Chicago  
Julie Galvan, Naperville  
Christine Guthrie, Naperville  
Joanne Hsu, Naperville  
Wilma Hunter, Woodridge  
Margaret M. Jonah, Darien  
Karma Krzysiak, Homer Glen  
Janet Lumsden, Naperville  
Vicky Lynch, Plainfield  
Kimberly Lynn, Naperville  
Gail Nelson, Aurora  
Kathleen Owen, Naperville  
Charlotte Perry, Woodridge  
Catherine Philpott, Naperville  
Tammra Prochaska, Naperville  
Katherine Richards, Naperville  
Kathy Roberts, Batavia  
Adrienne Rufo, Batavia  
Nancy Sigel, Naperville  
Miss S Sippy, Naperville  
Janan Szurek, Plainfield  
Kendall Trippi, Wheaton  
Jane Warfel, Naperville  
Pamela Whittles, Naperville

### Alto

Cristin Adam, Naperville  
Patrice Basso, Naperville  
Janet Blubaugh, Naperville  
Meryl Bryant, Wheaton  
LuAnn Burkamper, Lisle  
Kelly Tenison Chen, Naperville  
Marilyn DiCola, Yorkville  
Debby Figi, Naperville  
Nicole Gagala, Mokena  
Laura Garvey, Naperville  
Signe Gleeson, Naperville  
Jessica Hart, Bolingbrook  
Leslie Hayward, Naperville  
Caitlin Henley, Romeoville  
Jillian Hentschel, Saint Charles  
Barbara Higgs, Naperville  
Caitlin Hire, Montgomery

Jessica Johnson, Aurora  
Rachel Johnston, Naperville  
Catherine Kaduk, Naperville  
Rita Mathern, Naperville  
Cheryl McGarrity, Warrenville  
Courtney Nash, Chicago  
Kelly Panfil, Naperville  
Nancy Rench, Naperville  
Theresa Schaul, Naperville  
Deborah Solarski, Naperville  
Hannah Subgrunski, Naperville  
Kelley Trombly-Freytag, Naperville

### Tenor

Dan Beebe, West Chicago  
Jerry Fialek, Bolingbrook  
Laura Herzing, Roselle  
John Hohner, Bolingbrook  
Charles Jonah, Darien  
Elizabeth Langan, Glen Ellyn  
Bill Morris, Woodridge  
Reed Pence, Downers Grove  
Gary Prochaska, Naperville  
Robert Scott, Oswego  
Richard Sohn, Naperville  
Bryan Stapleton, Naperville  
Shih-Perng Tsai, Naperville  
Joseph R. Weddle, Naperville  
Jimmy Wojtila, Elburn

### Bass

Keith Anderson, Aurora  
Randall Burkamper, Lisle  
Ed Chapman, Naperville  
James R Fancher, Naperville  
Andrew Galvan, Naperville  
James Kaduk, Naperville  
David Llewellyn, Naperville  
Dr. Alex Lumpkin, Naperville  
Matt Miksa, Naperville  
Jason Neerenberg, Glen Ellyn  
Jeffrey Niswander, Saint Charles  
Tom Roberts, Batavia  
Jared Rugen, Flossmoor  
Michael Rugen, Flossmoor  
Stephen Solarski, Naperville  
Clifford Whall, Naperville  
Jeff White, Carol Stream  
John Zelman, Naperville

## Naperville Chorus Performance History

The Naperville Chorus has been performing since 1976. Below is a list of performances since 2002. The complete list is on the website.

- 2025 *Ein deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms
- 2024 *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff, *Gloria* by Jon Rutter and seasonal selections with the *Pete Ellman Band*.
- 2023 *Mass in Time of War (Paukenmesse)*, Joseph Haydn, *Requiem*, John Rutter, Choruses from G.F. Handel's *Messiah* and seasonal selections with the *Pete Ellman Band*.
- 2022 *Folksong Symphony* by Roy Harris, Suite from the *Tenderland* by Aaron Copland, with the DuPage Symphony; *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit* and *Soon-Ah Will be Done* arranged by William Dawson, *Swingin' into Christmas* with the *Pete Ellman Band*
- 2021 [Video](#) of *Sing out Your Joy*, *When Music Sounds*, and *America the Beautiful*
- 2020 *Covid 19*
- 2019 *King David* by Arthur Honegar, *Sing We Merrily Unto God* by Sidney Campbell, *Exultate Deo* by A. Scarlatti, *The Last Words of David* by Randall Thompson, *Cornerstone* by Shawn Kirchner. *Another Swingin' Christmas* with the Pete Ellman Big Band
- 2018 *Coronation Mass* by W.A. Mozart and *Dettingen Te Deum* by G. F. Handel. *Another Swingin' Christmas* with the Pete Ellman Big Band
- 2017 *Misa a Buenos Aires* by Martin Palmeri and *Magnificat* by Antonio Vivaldi. *A Swingin' Christmas* with Pete Ellman Big Band
- 2016 *Opera Choruses* with the DuPage Symphony Orchestra *Karolju* by Christopher Rouse, *Many Moods of Christmas* by Robert Shaw and *Carol Cantata* by Robert Russell Bennett.
- 2015 *Messa di Gloria* by Puccini, *Panis angelicus* by Franck, *Many Moods of Christmas Suite One* by Shaw, *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass* by Carol Barnett, *Stomp your feet & The Promise of Living* by Aaron Copland, *Folk Songs*.
- 2014 *Israel in Egypt* by George Frideric Handel, *Gloria* by John Rutter, *Christmas Cantata* by Daniel Pinkham
- 2013 *Saint Nicolas* by Benjamin Britten, *Christmas Day* by Gustav Holst, *A Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughn Williams, *A Feast of Carols* by Randall Alan Bass, *American Music* including selections by Randall Thompson, arrangements by Copland and arrangements of music by Foster.
- 2012 *Christmas Cantata* by Nils Linberg, Christmas Seasonal music, Opera Choruses.
- 2011 *Messiah* by G. F. Handel, *Alexander Nevsky* by Sergey Prokofiev with the *DuPage Symphony Orchestra* and *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff with *Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra*
- 2010 *Carols and Lullabies* by Conrad Susa, *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten, *Saint Cecilia Mass* by Charles Gounod and *Dona Nobis Pacem* by Ralph Vaughan Williams
- 2009 *Gloria* by A. Vivaldi, *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach, *Broadway on Chicago Ave* including music by Cole Porter and the Gershwins, and, with the Downers Grove Choral Society, Sherrill Milnes conducting, *Elijah* by Felix Mendelssohn

## History of the Naperville Chorus

The Naperville Chorus has been filling the western suburbs of Chicago with song for forty years. The chorus performs a broad repertoire, extending from the “Masters” Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Mozart and Vivaldi to 20<sup>th</sup> century pieces by Prokofiev, Rutter and Orff, to reggae-style Christmas carols, Broadway show tunes. We also premiered the motet composed to honor Naperville-native Commander Daniel Shanower, who was killed in the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

The origins of the chorus go back more than 90 years to the formation of the *Oratorio Society*, a collaboration between students and townspeople. The Society continued through the 1920s and 1930s. In the 1960s, Dr. Paul Warren Allen, of the North Central College Music Department, melded the vocal talents of students, college personnel, and community members into a forerunner of the Naperville Chorus. The North Central College Community Chorus flourished and performed contemporary and traditional choral works until 1971, when financial cutbacks at the college eliminated the Music Department.

In 1976, Robert O. Jaynes revived the concept of a community-wide chorus for Naperville, anchored by singers recruited to perform with the *Naperville Municipal Band* at the city’s celebration of the country’s bicentennial. Reincarnated as the *Naperville Community Chorus*, the group presented concerts semi-annually, and soon added appearances at the downtown Christmas tree lighting ceremony and at summer band concerts.

With the retirement of Mr. Jaynes in 1989, the chorus entered a new era. Professor Jeordano Martínez, of the restored Music Department at *North Central College*, accepted the chorus directorship, re-establishing the musical link between the community and the college.

At the end of 2022, Reid Taylor was selected as the Music Director of the Naperville Chorus, to replace Mr. Martínez on his retirement. In the spring of 2025, Dr. Peter Jarjisian acted as guest conductor. In the fall of 2025 Kevin Kelly was hired as Music Director. Other changes have included the moving of our rehearsal space from Wentz Hall in 2024 to Community United Methodist Church; however, we continue to perform at Wentz Hall.

With an expanded repertoire, the chorus has performed with other area choruses, the *DuPage Symphony Orchestra*, and the *Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra*, and have performed on tour in Central Europe, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland. In 2018, the Chorus participated in the *National Memorial Day Choral Festival* Washington D.C. and performed at the John K. Kennedy Center and for the opening ceremonies of the *National Memorial Day Parade* on Constitutional Avenue.

Throughout its history, the Naperville Chorus has been dedicated to the advancement of choral music, the encouragement of participation in choral singing, and the presentation of exciting performances that are appealing to today’s audiences. The chorus fulfills this mission through the support of its membership, as well as the continued support of *North Central College*, the *Special Events and Community Arts* fund of Naperville, the *Illinois Arts Council*, the *DuPage Community Foundation*, and the support of corporate sponsors, and individual benefactors.