



FESTIVE FLUTES



featuring the

**FIU Community
Flute Choir**

PROGRAM

Joy to the World.....Traditional

Christmas Suite.....Traditional

Arr. Joseph A. Saenz

- I. The Angel Gabriel
- II. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
- III. Carol of the Bells
- IV. Coventry Carol
- V. Patapan

Angels We Have Heard on High.....Traditional

Jolly on St. Nicholas.....Traditional

In the Bleak Midwinter.....Gustav Holst

Arr. R.H. Baptiste

Ding Dong Merrily on High.....Traditional Christmas Carol

Piccolo Quartet: K. Beauchamp, E. Cruz, M. Torres, J. Saenz

Deck the Halls.....Traditional

Piccolo Quartet: K. Beauchamp, E. Cruz, M. Torres, J. Saenz

Hallelujah Chorus.....G. F. Handel

Do You Hear What I Hear.....N. Regney, G. Shayne

Arr. Michael Sweeney

Silent Night & We Three Kings.....Nicole Chamberlain

Flute Duet: K. Beauchamp, J. Saenz

Up on the Housetop.....Traditional

The First Noel.....Traditional

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.....H. Martin, R. Blane

FLUTE CHOIR MEMBERS

Prof. Elissa Lakofsky, Flute

Federico Baez, Flute

Kenneth Beauchamp, Flute, Piccolo, Sub-Contrabass Flute in G

Len Brito, Flute

Bernice Ding, Flute

Michael Cooley, Flute

Erick Cruz, Bass Flute, Piccolo

Aldo Fernandez, Flute, Alto Flute

Jordan Mash, Flute

Grace Melendez, Flute

Jennifer Mina, Alto Flute, Bass Flute

Francisco Moreno, Flute

Jayda Oppenheim, Flute

Mavy Rifat, Flute

Bryan Morgan Smith, Flute

Joseph Saenz, Conductor, Piccolo, Flute

Matthew Torres, Bass Flute, Piccolo

Anya Wenglow skyi, Flute

Yoshino Yanagihara, Flute

PROGRAM NOTES

Joy to the World

A quintessential Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World" remains one of the most widely performed carols of all time. Attributed to Isaac Watts, the lyrics celebrate Christ's triumphant arrival as the King of Heaven and Earth. Though often associated with Christmas, its themes extend beyond the Nativity, speaking to universal joy and divine glory. The melody, adapted from a tune by George Frideric Handel, provides a jubilant and majestic foundation that uplifts singers and listeners alike, making it a perennial favorite in holiday programs.

Christmas Suite

Arranged by Joseph A. Saenz

This thoughtfully curated medley of carols takes listeners on a musical journey through the rich tapestry of Christmas traditions, drawing on European and English roots:

- *The Angel Gabriel*: A gentle, contemplative carol rooted in Basque tradition, this melody recounts the Annunciation, where the angel Gabriel tells Mary of her divine role. Its flowing lines and somber beauty reflect the mystery of the event.
- *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*: This robust English carol from the 16th century is a spirited call for comfort and joy, with its uplifting refrain serving as a reminder of the Nativity's significance.
- *Carol of the Bells*: This dynamic Ukrainian carol, originally composed by Mykola Leontovych, captivates with its driving rhythm and bell-like motifs, evoking the excitement and energy of the season.
- *Coventry Carol*: A haunting and poignant 16th-century melody, this carol reflects on the darker side of the Christmas story, the lamentation for the Holy Innocents. Its minor key and mournful tone lend depth to the holiday's narrative.
- *Patapan*: This lively French carol is filled with joy and rhythm, depicting the sounds of shepherds celebrating Christ's birth with their pipes and drums. Its buoyant energy brings a playful contrast to the suite.

Angels We Have Heard on High

An enduring French carol, "Angels We Have Heard on High" is renowned for its jubilant "Gloria in excelsis Deo" refrain, a reflection of the angelic chorus that heralded Christ's birth. The lyrics echo the shepherds' awe and joy as they receive the heavenly message, inviting listeners to join in their celebration. Its uplifting melody and cascading phrases make it a highlight of any holiday repertoire.

Jolly on St. Nicholas

This delightful traditional tune pays tribute to the beloved figure of St. Nicholas, the inspiration for Santa Claus. Playful and charming, the piece conjures images of stockings by the fire, cheerful jingles, and the anticipation of gifts. With its whimsical melody, this carol is a nod to the joy and magic of Christmas for children and the young at heart.

In the Bleak Midwinter

Composed by Gustav Holst, Arr. R.H. Baptiste

Based on the evocative poetry of Christina Rossetti, this carol explores the imagery of a cold and desolate winter, contrasted with the warmth of Christ's birth. Holst's simple yet emotive setting enhances the text's meditative quality, inviting introspection. The

arrangement by R.H. Baptiste retains the hymn's intimate character while introducing subtle harmonic textures that add depth to its serene beauty.

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Performed by the *Piccolo Quartet: K. Beauchamp, E. Cruz, M. Torres, J. Saenz*

With origins in a 16th-century French dance tune, this carol is a spirited celebration of Christmas. Its bell-like refrains and jubilant harmonies capture the excitement of the season, making it a delightful showcase for the piccolo ensemble. The high, bright timbre of the piccolos brings a fresh and effervescent interpretation to this classic piece.

Deck the Halls

Performed by the *Piccolo Quartet: K. Beauchamp, E. Cruz, M. Torres, J. Saenz*

A staple of holiday music, "Deck the Halls" epitomizes the festive spirit of Christmas. With lyrics encouraging merriment and seasonal decorations, the lively melody is enhanced by the unique arrangement for piccolo quartet. The interplay of the piccolos creates a playful and cheerful energy, adding a modern twist to this time-honored carol.

Hallelujah Chorus

Composed by G.F. Handel

From Handel's monumental oratorio *Messiah*, the "Hallelujah Chorus" is a triumph of choral writing. Its resounding declaration of Christ's eternal reign is conveyed through soaring melodies, intricate counterpoint, and powerful dynamics. Often performed as a communal celebration during the holiday season, this piece is a testament to Handel's genius and remains a cornerstone of Western classical music.

Do You Hear What I Hear

Composed by Noël Regney & Gloria Shayne, Arr. Michael Sweeney

Originally written during the Cold War as a plea for peace, this carol tells the story of the Nativity through the perspectives of various characters, from the wind to a shepherd boy. The haunting melody and evocative lyrics culminate in a message of hope and unity. Michael Sweeney's arrangement captures the piece's ethereal quality while adding contemporary harmonies that amplify its emotional resonance. Although written for a flexible concert band setting, this arrangement lends itself well to the standard flute choir.

Silent Night & We Three Kings

Arranged by Nicole Chamberlain

Performed by *Flute Duet: K. Beauchamp, J. Saenz*

These two duets present more beloved carols in a playful combination allowing two skilled flutists to demonstrate their collaboration and talent. "Silent Night," with its serene and tender melody, sets a contemplative tone, while "We Three Kings" introduces an exotic and mystical quality with its minor mode and rhythmic drive. The

interplay between the flutes creates a shimmering texture, embodying the quiet reverence and wonder of Christmas.

Up on the Housetop

One of the earliest secular Christmas songs, this playful tune captures the excitement of Santa's arrival. Its cheerful melody and rhythmic bounce mimic the sound of reindeer hooves on a rooftop, delighting audiences of all ages.

The First Noel

This traditional English carol narrates the story of the shepherds' encounter with the angelic announcement of Christ's birth. Its simple, flowing melody and heartfelt lyrics make it a beloved hymn that captures the sacred and humble origins of the Nativity.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Composed by Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane

First introduced in the 1944 film *Meet Me in St. Louis*, this sentimental classic evokes the warmth and intimacy of the holiday season. With its wistful melody and touching lyrics, it offers a reminder to cherish togetherness and find hope, even in challenging times.

CONDUCTOR



Joseph A. Saenz is a flutist, woodwind doubler, and music educator based in Miami, Florida. He received his Bachelor's in Music and Master's in Music from Florida International University. Saenz is currently the High School Band Director at Franklin Academy Charter High School in Pembroke Pines, Florida. Saenz also has experience teaching chorus, orchestra, and piano at the middle and high school level, and elementary music.

Saenz enjoys playing multiple instruments in musical theatre productions, community bands, and community/professional flute orchestras. He also enjoys arranging and composing for band, orchestra, choir and flute ensembles.

FACULTY



Elissa Lakofsky is a flutist and music educator based in South Florida. She is the principal flute with the Florida Grand Opera Orchestra, the Florida Classical Orchestra, and the Sunshine Pops Orchestra. She is also an avid chamber music performer and a member of the Florida Woodwind Quintet.

Lakofsky began her professional career with an appointment in the Chicago Civic Orchestra, the training orchestra of the Chicago Symphony. Since arriving in South Florida, she has performed as Principal Flute in many of Miami's highest profile orchestras, including Orchestra Miami, the Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet, and the Florida Symphonic Pops. In addition to her orchestral career, she has worked with opera artists such as Andrea Bocelli and Plácido Domingo, various jazz artists such as Peter Nero, and Latin artists Nestor Torres and Arturo Sandoval.

Lakofsky is a much sought after clinician and instructor and currently teaches at both Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University. As a soloist, she has performed with the Savannah Symphony, the Greater Miami Youth Symphony, Florida International University Wind Ensemble, Florida Atlantic University Wind Ensemble, Boca Symphonia, and Bay View Orchestra.

Lakofsky received her degrees in flute performance from the University of Michigan (BM) and Northwestern University (MM), where she studied with Walfrid Kujala. She later continued her studies with renowned flutists Julius Baker and Keith Underwood. She has participated in many summer music festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, the Bach Aria Group, and the Sarasota Music Festival. Lakofsky is also a past winner of the National Flute Association Competition.

