

WESTON SILVER BAND

Music Director: Larry Shields

Soprano

Ron Heintzman

Solo Cornet

Brad Norton

Rob Weymouth

Steve Arsenault

Michelle Weymouth

Repiano

Ben Cheverie

Rachel Malach

2nd Cornet

Jared Steuernol

3rd Cornet

Laura Van Staveren

Flugelhorn

Cathy Webb

Tenor Horn

Holly Cheverie

Karli Allen

Colin Westover

Kathleen McIntosh

John Van Esterik

Baritone

Theresa MacDonald

Norm Buckley

Euphonium

Robert Miller

Leonidas Varahidis

Trombone

Emma Metzger

Craig Lewis

Lydia Vamvouras

Jordan DaPonte

Phil Rayment

Eb Bass

Avi Jacobus

Andrew Nowry

Bb Bass

Ian Feenstra

Dave Brown

Percussion

Jonathan Hann

Justin Han

Adam Taylor

Len Marshall

Gord Mayer

Weston Silver Band (WSB) traces its continuous history back to 1921 when it was created as the Weston Boys' Band. Under the baton of Music Director

Larry Shields, the band's membership is made up of accomplished brass players from Toronto and surrounding areas.

Through excellent artistic and educational performances for musicians and communities, the WSB actively seeks to promote the brass band tradition as an important part of the cultural heritage of the Province of Ontario as well as a dynamic and unique voice for contemporary composers and arrangers.

For more info visit westonsilverband.ca



THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS

Engineer: Ed Marshall, Marshall Arts Productions
Design & Artwork: Theresa MacDonald, Rocking Horse Creative
WSB Logo: Graham Lindsey, Wavelengthmedia.ca

Recorded at The Salvation Army Meadowlands, Ancaster, Ontario
Mastered at Marshall Arts Productions in Elora, Ontario

1. **The Proclamation Of Christmas** (Stephen Bulla) 5:57
2. **The Holly And The Ivy** (Trad., arr. Douglas Court) 3:09
3. **Jesous Athonia** (Jean de Brébeuf, arr. Morely Calvert) 4:11
4. **Winter's Snow** (Trad., arr. Philip Rayment) 4:36
5. **Carol Of The Bells** (Trad., arr. Brad Harrison) 3:57
Brad Norton, Steve Arsenault, Michelle Weymouth, Ben Cheverie - cornets
6. **Silent Night** (Trad., arr. Philip Wilby) 4:26
Brad Norton - cornet
7. **Midnight Sleighride from 'Troika'** (Sergei Prokofiev, arr. Ray Farr) 2:33
8. **Coventry Carol** (Trad., arr. Robert Collinson) 3:30
Brad Norton, Rob Weymouth - cornets
9. **The Shining Star** (Peter Graham) 3:43
10. **The Christmas Song** (Mel Tormé/Robert Wells, arr. Philip Sparke) 4:09
11. **Jingle Bells** (James Pierpoint, arr. Derek Ashmore) 2:02
12. **A Soulful Hallelujah** (G.F. Handel, arr. Harold Burgmayer) 4:29
13. **Away In A Manger** (Trad., arr. J. Scott Irvine) 4:57
14. **O Holy Night** (Trad., arr. Keith Wilkinson) 5:14
Robert Miller - euphonium
15. **Once In Royal David's City** (Trad., arr. Philip Sparke) 5:21
16. **Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas** (R. Blane, arr. William Himes) 3:23



THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS

The Proclamation of Christmas - Stephen Bulla's arrangement of 5 well known Christmas Carols, is an excellent opening for Weston Silver Band's celebration of the festive season. The Christmas season coincides with the midwinter solstice and the return of the light, literally and figuratively with the birth of Christ.

Blending Druidic tradition and Christianity we have Doug Court's arrangement of **The Holly and the Ivy**. The lyrics date to the 1700's, and describe the ancient custom of singing contests pitting male and female, resolved under the mistletoe!

When Jesuit missionaries arrived in the New World, they translated the story of their religion into the framework of the aboriginal peoples. **Jesus Ahathonia** - the Huron Carol - was written by Jean de Brébeuf, and we present it in this splendid arrangement by former WSB bandmaster Morley Calvert.

Playing bass trombone on this recording, Phil Rayment is an accomplished musician and conductor who wrote **Winter Snow**, this excellent arrangement of the tune *See Amid the Winter's Snow*.

In the old Ukrainian calendar, the New Year occurred in April. **Carol of the Bells** by Leontovych describes a spring swallow flying into the house to proclaim a bountiful New Year. Even though they adopted the Julian calendar so that the New Year is now in the winter, they kept the good music. Brad Harrison provided this arrangement for brass band.

Written for Christmas Eve 1818 by Francis Xaver Gruber with words by Father Joseph Mohr, Philip Wilby has arranged **Silent Night** as a cornet solo beautifully presented by our soloist Brad Norton.

Troika, or the Midnight Sleighride, is taken from Sergei Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé Suite*, a story based upon a linguistic misunderstanding which leads to creation of a fictitious but very adventurous soldier. This jazzy up tempo arrangement comes from Ray Farr.

The Gospel according to Matthew refers to the Massacre of the Innocents, when Herod hears the news of the birth of Christ and orders the death of every male child under the age of two. **The Coventry Carol** is taken from a 16th century play called *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors* and relates the lament of a

mother for her doomed child. Possibly one of the most mournful of Christmas carols, this beautiful melody is arranged by Robert Collinson.

From the pen of Peter Graham, **The Shining Star** is a Christmas march which incorporates several carols including *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*.

The Christmas Song, written by Mel Tormé/Robert Wells, was first recorded by Nat King Cole in 1946 although the 'definitive' full string orchestra recording didn't appear until 1961. This version is arranged for brass band by Philip Sparke.

In 1857 James Pierpoint wrote **Jingle Bells** as a Thanksgiving celebration for his Boston Sunday School. Derek Ashmore contributes this arrangement in its more familiar Christmas iteration.

A Christmas standard, Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* is given a splendidly novel arrangement by Harold Burgmayer - **A Soulful Hallelujah**. And while tradition has it that we stand when the selection begins, we think you will not only stand but begin to dance in celebration.

The origin of the words is unknown, and there are two distinct tunes associated with **Away in a Manger**. J. Scott Irvine, tuba player with the True North Brass, has contributed this unique arrangement which he describes as a 'very rough draft', although we know better.

Euphonium soloist Robert Miller brings us the beautiful melody **O Holy Night**. The words were written in 1847 by the mayor of Roquemaure, France who then asked his friend Adolphe Adam, composer of the opera *Giselle*, to write the music.

The poem written by Cecil France's Humphrey Alexander was put to music by Henry Gauntlet. In a haunting descant it opens the King's College Cambridge Christmas Eve festival of lessons and carols. Philip Sparke created this stirring arrangement of **Once in Royal David's City** which brings our Christmas festival nearly to its end.

On behalf of the entire band and our board of directors, please accept this advice from the MGM Musical *'Meet Me in St Louis'* and **Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas**, our final selection arranged by William Himes.

- Norm Buckley