

Ring in the thousand years of *peace*

Choral Society of Durham Chamber Choir

Rodney Wynkoop, artistic director

Bell Durham Handbell Ensemble

Mitchell Eithun, artistic director

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Durham

BELL DURHAM

Timbrel and dance

Kevin McChesney (b. 1963)

Total praise

Richard Smallwood (1948-2025)
arr. Mitchell Eithun (b. 1995)

Song of the flowers

Taiwanese folksong
arr. Kevin Mazimas Ko (b. 1979)

What the world needs now is love

Burt Bacharach (1928-2023)
arr. Eithun

CSD CHAMBER CHOIR

Dryads' bells

Stephen Chatman (b. 1950)

Bring me all your dreams

Christopher H. Harris (b. 1971)

Hold on

Traditional spiritual
arr. Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)

Hear my prayer

Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

Sing we and chant it

Thomas Morley (1557-1602)

Sing we and chant it (from *Jazz Madrigals*)

Morley
arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Flight of the bumble-bee (from *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*)

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)
arr. Ward Swingle (1927-2015)

COMBINED ENSEMBLES

Ring out, wild bells

Daniel E. Gawthrop (b. 1949)

Rodney Wynkoop conducting

I dream a world

André Thomas (b. 1952)

Mitchell Eithun conducting

The Bells

David York (b. 1958)

Rodney Wynkoop conducting

1. Silver bells
2. Wedding bells
3. Alarum bells
4. Iron bells

Use the QR code to view
this program online.



Texts

Bring me all your dreams **Christopher H. Harris (b. 1971)**

Bring me all your dreams,
you dreamers.
Bring me all your
heart melodies
that I may wrap them
in a blue cloud-cloth
away from the too rough fingers
of the world.

—Langston Hughes (1901–1967)

Hold on **Traditional spiritual** **arr. Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)**

Noah, Noah, let me come in,
door's all fastened and the windows pinned,
keep your hand on the plow! Hold on!

Noah said, "You done los' your track,
can't plow straight and keep a-lookin' back,"
keep your hand on the plow! Hold on!

Refrain:

Hold on! Hold on!
Keep your hand on the plow! Hold on!

Mary had a golden chain
ev'ry link was in my Jesus' name,
keep your hand on the plow! Hold on!

Keep on a-plowin' an' don't you tire,
ev'ry round goes higher and higher
keep your hand on the plow! Hold on!

Wanna go to heav'n, I'll tell you how,
keep your hand on the gospel plow,
keep your hand on the plow! Hold on!

I was blind and could not see,
Jesus opened my eyes for me,
keep your hand on the plow! Hold on!

Hear my prayer **Moses Hogan (1957-2003)**

O Lord, please hear my prayer,
in the mornin' when I rise.
It's your servant bound for glory.
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

O Lord, please hear my prayer,
keep me safe within your arms.
It's your servant bound for glory.
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.

When my work on earth is done,
and you come to take me home,
just to know I'm bound for glory,
and to hear you say well done.

Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

—M. Hogan

Sing we and chant it **Thomas Morley (1557-1602)**

Sing we and chant it,
while love doth grant it.
Fa la la...

Not long youth lasteth,
and old age hasteth.
Now is best leisure
to take our pleasure.
Fa la la...

All things invite us,
now to delight us.
Fa la la...
Hence care be packing,
no mirth be lacking.
Let spare no treasure
to live in pleasure.
Fa la la...

Sing we and chant it (from *Jazz Madrigals*) **Morley** **arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)**

[see above]

Flight of the bumble-bee **(from *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*)** **Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)** **arr. Ward Swingle (1927-2015)**

[no text]

Ring out, wild bells
Daniel E. Gawthrop (b. 1949)

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
the flying cloud, the frosty light:
the year is dying in the night;
ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
ring, happy bells, across the snow:
the year is going, let him go;
ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
for those that here we see no more;
ring out the feud of rich and poor,
ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
and ancient forms of party strife;
ring in the nobler modes of life,
with sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
the faithless coldness of the times;
ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
but ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
the civic slander and the spite;
ring in the love of truth and right,
ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
ring out the thousand wars of old,
ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
the larger heart, the kindlier hand;
ring out the darkness of the land,
ring in the Christ that is to be.

— *Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)*

I dream a world
André J. Thomas (b. 1952)

Of such I dream.

I dream a world where man
no other man will scorn,
where love will bless the earth
and peace its paths adorn.

I dream a world where all
will know sweet freedom's way,
where greed no longer saps the soul
nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,
whatever race you be,
will share the bounties of the earth
and every man is free.

Where wretchedness will hang its head
and joy, like a pearl,
attends the needs of all mankind--
of such I dream, I dream a world.

— *Hughes*

The Bells

David York (b. 1958)

I. Silver Bells

Hear the sledges with the bells—
Silver bells!
What a world of merriment their melody foretells!
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
in the icy air of night!
While the stars that oversprinkle
all the heavens, seem to twinkle
with a crystalline delight;
keeping time, time, time,
in a sort of Runic rhyme,
to the tintinabulation that so musically wells
from the bells, bells, bells, bells,
bells, bells, bells—
from the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.

II. Wedding bells

Hear the mellow wedding bells,
golden bells!
What a world of happiness their harmony foretells!
Through the balmy air of night
How they ring out their delight!
From the molten-golden notes,
and all in tune,
what a liquid ditty floats
to the turtle-dove that listens, while she gloats
on the moon!
Oh, from out the sounding cells,
what a gush of euphony voluminously wells!
How it swells!
How it dwells
on the Future! How it tells
of the rapture that impels
to the swinging and the ringing
of the bells, bells, bells,
of the bells, bells, bells, bells,
bells, bells, bells—
to the rhyming and the chiming of the bells!

III. Alarum bells

Hear the loud alarum bells—
brazen bells!
What tale of terror, now, their turbulency tells!
In the startled ear of night
how they scream out their affright!
too much horrified to speak,
they can only shriek, shriek,
out of tune,
in a clamorous appealing to the mercy of the fire,
in a mad expostulation with the deaf and frantic fire,
leaping higher, higher, higher,
with a desperate desire,
and a resolute endeavor
now—now to sit or never,
by the side of the pale-faced moon.
oh, the bells, bells, bells!
What a tale their terror tells
of Despair!

How they clang, and clash, and roar!
What a horror they outpour
on the bosom of the palpitating air!
Yet the ear it fully knows,
by the twanging,
and the clanging,
how the danger ebbs and flows;
yet the ear distinctly tells,
in the jangling,
and the wrangling.
How the danger sinks and swells,
by the sinking or the swelling in the anger of the bells—
of the bells—
of the bells, bells, bells, bells,
bells, bells, bells—
in the clamor and the clangor of the bells!

IV. Iron bells

Hear the tolling of the bells—
iron bells!
What a world of solemn thought their monody compels!
In the silence of the night,
how we shiver with affright
at the melancholy menace of their tone!
For every sound that floats
from the rust within their throats
is a groan.
And the people—ah, the people—
they that dwell up in the steeple,
all alone,
and who tolling, tolling, tolling,
in that muffled monotone,
feel a glory in so rolling
on the human heart a stone—
they are neither man nor woman—
they are neither brute nor human—
they are Ghouls:
and their king it is who tolls;
and he rolls, rolls, rolls,
rolls
a pæan from the bells!
And his merry bosom swells
with the pæan of the bells!
And he dances, and he yells;
Keeping time, time, time,
in a sort of Runic rhyme,
to the pæan of the bells—
of the bells:
keeping time, time, time,
in a sort of Runic rhyme,
to the throbbing of the bells—
of the bells, bells, bells—
to the sobbing of the bells;
keeping time, time, time,
as he knells, knells, knells,
in a happy Runic rhyme,
to the rolling of the bells—
of the bells, bells, bells—
to the tolling of the bells,
of the bells, bells, bells, bells—
bells, bells, bells—
to the moaning and the groaning of the bells.

—Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)

Choral Society of Durham Chamber Choir

David Cole, rehearsal accompanist

Soprano

Claire Abram
Lauren Ataei
JaBria Bishop
Alexandra Bursac
Claire Diefenderfer
Victoria Grice
Carol Hardman
Hannah Haverkamp
Sharon Kinsella
Kendall Kirk
Lizzie Mabe
Hannah Murrow
Anne Parks

Ilana Pilato
Laura Ponturiero
Karen Rivers
Melissa Smigelsky
Arienne Smith
Jen Plumb Vilardaga
Nicole Wilken

Alto

Amanda Cook
Carolyn Davis
Sarah Fitzpatrick
Deb Lackey
Nancy Knittle

Mary Martin
Mary Parker
Angie Pegram
Kris Phend
Sarah Poythress
Kristi Webb

Tenor

David Dodson
Justin Fries
Milo Fryling
David Heist
Dave Lackey
Teddy Smith

Andy Stewart
James Thrall

Bass

Warren Bein
David Cole
Alex Engler
Mark Garbrick
Michael Harris
James Junker
Nick Ringelberg
Jeff Sapyta
Greg Thomas

Artistic Director



Rodney Wynkoop is in his 40th year as conductor and artistic director of the Choral Society of Durham. He is also the director of the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Durham, a professional-level chamber choir, as well as music director of the Triangle Choral Exchange, a group dedicated to singing and sharing music with choirs of other countries. He retired in 2022 from Duke University, where he directed the Duke University Chorale for over 35 years, conducted the Duke Chapel Choir for almost 30 years, and held the title of Director of University Choral Music. He also taught choral conducting and served as Director of Performance in the Duke University Music Department.

Dr. Wynkoop has led his choirs in performances at Carnegie Hall several times, most recently in 2023 to perform Michael Bussewitz-Quarm's *Where We Find Ourselves*. Under his direction, the Vocal Arts Ensemble has performed by invitation at one National Convention and numerous Southern Division Conventions of the American Choral Directors Association.

His choirs have taken several concert tours to European countries and to Cuba, China, Russia, South Africa, and various locations in South America. Annual Messiah performances under his direction at Duke Chapel also reached an international audience when they were twice streamed globally by Trans World Radio. He has conducted world premiere performances of contemporary works by James MacMillan, René Clausen, Mark Kilstofte, and others, as well as newly discovered works by Mendelssohn and Ives.

In 2021, to honor his 35 years as their artistic director, the Choral Society of Durham established the Wynkoop Fellowship Program, dedicated to ensuring that membership in the group is equally accessible to everyone. His other awards include the NC-ACDA's Lara Hoggard Award for Distinguished Service in Choral Music in North Carolina and Duke's Meritorious Service Award for Executive Leadership. Dr. Wynkoop received his bachelor's degree in music from Yale University and his doctorate from the Yale School of Music. Prior to coming to Duke, he held conducting positions at Yale, the University of Chicago, and Mount Holyoke College.



The Choral Society of Durham (CSD) builds and celebrates community through choral music. Now in our 77th year, CSD has developed a reputation for excellence in performing significant choral works with professional orchestras and regionally and nationally known soloists. In 2020, we made a major strategic commitment to

broaden our reach by diversifying our music repertoire, collaborations, venues and recruitment efforts. This commitment is reflected in our mission:

- To unite singers and audiences in the joy of high-quality performance of time-honored choral masterworks and an ever-broadening range of excellent repertoire from many traditions
- To strengthen our community by engaging with the rich diversity of its people and building transformative connections as a force for unity

Artistic director Dr. Rodney Wynkoop, who has led CSD since 1986, is deeply passionate about and committed to enabling more people from diverse backgrounds to experience the joy and enrichment of high-quality choral music. Toward this end, CSD has in recent years collaborated with a variety of performing groups: NC Central University Choir, the Durham Medical Orchestra, Mallarmé Music, Durham Children’s Choir, and several high school choirs in Durham.

Our adventurous repertoire, ranging from the Renaissance to the present, from classical to gospel and jazz, attracts enthusiastic audiences and loyal supporters. Our annual holiday concert in Duke Chapel often brings together traditional music from other cultures with more standard concert repertoire. Our other concerts have featured gospel music (André Thomas’s *Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy* and shorter works), minimalist music (Philip Glass’s *Itaipu*), spirituals, and folk music, as well as time-honored classics like Bach’s *Mass in B Minor*, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, and the Requiems of Brahms, Mozart, and Verdi. The Choral Society’s select Chamber Choir also presents performances each year, both at traditional concert sites and in smaller, less formal locations. For the past several years we have been making recordings of some of our performances available on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@ChoralSocietyofDurham). We hope you enjoy these videos, and invite you to subscribe to our channel so you will be notified about new videos and live streams of our concerts.

For more information about the Choral Society of Durham, including details about auditions, rehearsals, sing-alongs, concerts and ticket sales, visit www.choral-society.org, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Bell Durham Handbell Ensemble



Artistic Director

Mitchell Eithun is a church musician, composer, and mathematician. He has over 80 published pieces of handbell music and has written commissioned works from prominent community and church handbell ensembles. Mitchell is interested in developing innovative handbell rehearsal techniques and writing about the history of church

music. Currently Mitchell is the handbell editor for Beckenhorst Press, a carillonneur at Duke University Chapel, and the founding director of Bell Durham, a community handbell ensemble in Durham, North Carolina. He recently completed a Master of Divinity with a focus in Theology and the Arts from Duke Divinity School. Mitchell also holds a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and computer science and a minor in music from Ripon College and a Master of Science in computational mathematics from Michigan State University. In his past life he was a high school mathematics teacher. Mitchell is an associate member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America and a seminar instructor for the Handbell Musicians of America. In his spare time, he enjoys trying new food and traveling to new places.

Philip Cress
Lesley Chao
Ellen Whiteman
Kat Bendt
Robin Barbour
Sharon Albrecht
Jerri Bland
Laura Wingler

Em Fitzpatrick
Rhonda Welfare
Katie O'Donnell
Ruth Stevens
Hope Arrowood
Allison Escher
Sterling Smith

BELL DURHAM



Founded in 2023, Bell Durham is Durham’s first community handbell ensemble and is led by artistic director Mitchell Eithun. Our mission is to share high-quality handbell music at local events and venues. To learn more about Bell Durham, visit belldurham.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. If you would like to host a Bell Durham concert or audition for the ensemble, contact us at ring@belldurham.org. Bell Durham is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt Corporation and operates due to the generosity of donors.

For their generous support, we thank the 2025-26 Season
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(as of April 7, 2026)

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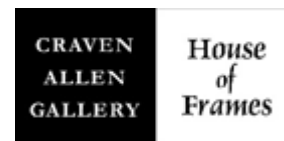
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Upcoming events

We hope you'll continue to support the Choral Society of Durham and Bell Durham Handbell Ensemble by attending one or more of our scheduled events.

Choral Society of Durham

Spring Concert - Verdi *Requiem*

Sunday, May 17 - 4:00 PM
Baldwin Auditorium, Duke University
*Accompanied by a full orchestra
and professional soloists*



*Use the QR code
to purchase
your tickets*

3rd Annual Durham Community Sing

Saturday, May 30 - 10 AM-3 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church, Durham
*The Community Sing is an opportunity for singers
and listeners to join together in song!*



*Use the QR code
to register to
participate in the
Community Sing*

Bell Durham

Songs of Hope

Saturday, May 2 - 3:00 PM
Durham Main Library (300 N. Roxboro St.)

Visit www.belldurham.org for more information.

Keep choral music vibrant in our community!

We are grateful to our donors, business sponsors, granting organizations, and you – our audience! The Choral Society of Durham is made up of individual voices joined together in song; likewise, we depend upon donations joined together in support of our work. Your tax-deductible gift will help us continue to offer high-quality choral performances with professional orchestras and soloists, while keeping ticket prices affordable.

Beginning in the 2026 tax year, even those who take the standard tax deduction are able to deduct cash donations to non-profits (like us!)—up to \$1,000 for single filers or \$2,000 for those filing jointly. (We are sorry, but donations via donor-advised funds are ineligible for the deduction). We hope that this change will make donating to CSD even more appealing, because in addition to supporting our high-quality performances, donors can benefit on their tax returns once again. Thank you!

*If you'd like to join us as a donor, use the QR code provided here,
visit choral-society.org, or call 984-208-3109 for more information.*



CHORAL SOCIETY
OF DURHAM



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