



MODESTO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
RICHARD HEGGA
—ARTISTIC DIRECTOR—

About the Show

Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association

Holiday Candlelight Concert

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 8 pm
Our Lady of Fatima Church

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *conductor*

MSO Chorus

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *chorus director*

Opus Handbell Ensemble

Richard Colla, *artistic director*

Program

Camille Saint-Saëns

Prelude (from Oratorio De Noel)

John Rutter

What Sweeter Music

Ludwig Van Beethoven
arr. Andrew Duncan

Fanfare on Ode to Joy

featuring: Opus Handbell Ensemble

arr. Cathy Moglebust

The First Noel

arr. Tom Kennedy

Joy to the World

- Audience Sing-Along -

arr. Steven Pilkington

Coventry Carol

Gustav Holst

Christmas Day

Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 19, 2023





MODESTO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
NICHOLAS BRAGA
— MUSIC DIRECTOR —

Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. Daniel R. Afonso Jr.

Contrapunctus (from Art of the Fugue)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B Minor

II. Rondeau

VII. Badinerie

arr. Tom Kennedy

O Little Town of Bethlehem

- Audience Sing-Along -

D. Kantor
arr. J. Ferguson

Night of Silence

arr. Joel Raney, Arnold
Sherman

An Angelic Celebration

featuring: Opus Handbell Ensemble

Cathy Moglebust

Vivacio

arr. Tom Kennedy

Silent Night

- Audience Sing-Along -

George Fredrick Handel

Messiah

For Unto Us A Child Is Born

*Surely, He Hath Borne Our
Griefs*

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Gates

Hallelujah

Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 19, 2023





The Doubletree by Hilton Modesto is the official hotel of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra.

Photography, sound, or video recording of this performance is strictly prohibited. Please remember to silence all electronic devices and refrain from text messaging during the concert. Mobile devices may be used to read program notes during the concert.

Program and artists subject to change. E&OE.

Rosters

Orchestra Roster

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., conductor

Violin I

Ilana Blumberg, *concertmaster*
Dagenais Smiley, *associate concertmaster*
Matthew Oshida, *assistant concertmaster*

Violin II

Myriam Cottin-Rack, *principal*
Sarah Elert, *assistant principal*
Paul Kim

Viola

Pauline Moreira, *principal*
Valerie Tisdell, *assistant principal*

Cello

Timothy Loo, *principal*
Evan Kahn, *assistant principal*

Double Bass

Raymond Vargas, *principal*

Flute

Johanna Borenstein, *principal*

Oboe

A photograph of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra performing on stage. The musicians are seated and playing their instruments, with a conductor visible in the background. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, and there are Christmas decorations, including a tree and bells, in the upper right corner.

Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 19, 2023



Cat Cantrell, *principal*
Jason Kennedy, *english horn*

Bassoon

Carolyn Lockhart, *principal*

Trumpet

William Harvey, *principal*
Ben Gunnarson

Timpani

John Weeks, *principal*

Keyboard/Celeste

John Hillebrandt, *principal*

Roster as of 12/13/2023

MSO Chorus Roster

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., chorus director

Soprano

Michelle Cortez
Dee Ann Dutter
Meghan Fox
Sarah Harrell-Kline
Christie Hart
Dasia Intil
Kim Kunkel
Marian MacDonald
Karen Odell
Lizzie Sanders
Sheri Stambaugh*
Dawn Thomas
Sharon Wilson

Alto

Angelica Grishaw
Rebecca Long
Lisa Rae
Karin Reenstierna*
Belinda Rolichcek



**Holiday Candlelight
Concert**

December 19, 2023



MODESTO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
RICHARD COLLA
—ARTISTIC DIRECTOR—

Susan Sanders
Lisa Sarasqueta
Linda Scheller
Nancy Silva
Lisa Traugher
Hennie Van Konynenberg
Polly Vasché

Tenor

Jim Beggs*
Michael Cash
James Jacobs
Matthew Long
Steve Matthews
Bruce Merchant
Gregory Pyatt
Marcial Salvador
David Torres

Bass

John Boer
Geoffrey Cavazos
Giancarlos Delgado-Braun
Randy Klinkefus
Mike Larson
Carl Morris
Kevin Ringsby
Phil Swearingen
Burt Vasché^

* *Section Leader*

^ *Chorus Manager*

Special thanks to Trinity United Presbyterian Church for providing rehearsal space for the MSO Chorus

Roster as of 12/08/23

Opus Handbell Ensemble

Richard Colla, artistic director

Lisa Traugher
Judy Aprile
Barbara Bort
Maggie Paton
Michele Brown
Darin Brown
Lori Smith

**Holiday Candlelight
Concert**

December 19, 2023





Susan Cole
Trevor Hutton
Carl Morris
Sally Price
Mary Wattenbarger
Kathie Mackie
Kenneth Mackie

Roster as of 12/08/23

MSYO Brass Ensemble

TRUMPETS

Josh Chapin
Aiden Rosebrough
Spencer Sousa
Elijah Tenn

FRENCH HORN

Emerson Burton
Emilia Sousa

TROMBONE/BARITONE

Lucas Barnard
Aaron Meraz
Jeremiah Tenn

TUBA

Katheryn Gutierrez
Yazmin Castro-Esquivel

Artist Biographies



Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 19, 2023



Daniel R. Afonso Jr.

Chorus Director

Daniel R. Afonso Jr. has served as conductor of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus since its foundation in 2001 and has prepared several choral works with the ensemble. He is also Coordinator of Vocal and Choral Studies at California State University, Stanislaus. Afonso received a B.M.E. degree from the Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UNI -Rio), a M.M. degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a D.M.A. degree in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa. Dr. Afonso is originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and has studied conducting with Carlos Alberto Figueiredo, Cees Rotteveel, Eph Ehly, and William Hatcher.

Dr. Afonso has performed with choral groups in Brazil, U.S., and Europe, and has previously taught music at the Conservatório Brasileiro de Música, Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UNI-Rio), and Doane College, Nebraska. In 1988, he won the first prize and the best performance of Villa-Lobos work award at the Concurso Villa-Lobos de Canto Coral, a national choral competition sponsored by the Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Afonso is strongly committed to the performance of new music and has commissioned and premiered many new choral works in the last few years, including several of his own works as well as works by young composition students. He had his New York debut in 2012, conducting Mozart's Requiem with members of the MSO Chorus and students from CSU Stanislaus at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

He is also a composer, arranger, and editor of choral music and has choral works published by earthsongs, Colla Voce, and Alliance Music Publications. He served as composer-in-residence with the San Francisco Choral Artists during their 2014-2015 season and has also written works for the Los Angeles Children's Choir, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, and other ensembles in the US and abroad. He has written innumerable arrangements for the Modesto Symphony Orchestra, including a new version of The Star-Spangled Banner for chorus and orchestra, recently premiered at the



**Holiday Candlelight
Concert**

December 19, 2023



opening concert for the 2015-16 concert season. Dr. Afonso is widely recognized for his research and performance of Brazilian choral music and continues to frequently present workshops and lectures about the Latin American choral repertoire.



Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 19, 2023



MSO Chorus

Formed in 2001, the Modesto Symphony Chorus is a regional ensemble of singers of all ages and experience who share a commitment to performing concerts of the highest artistic quality and enhancing the appreciation and enjoyment of choral music among members and audiences alike. Under the skillful and inspiring direction of Dr. Daniel R. Afonso Jr., the MSO Chorus rehearses weekly and performs throughout the season with the Modesto Symphony Orchestra and also for additional community events.



Richard J. Colla

Opus Handbell Ensemble Artistic Director

Richard J. Colla is artistic director and conductor of the Opus Handbell Ensemble, a post he has held since 1995. He is on the faculty at Modesto Junior College where he teaches *Introduction to American Popular Music*. Over the years, Richard has taught a variety of courses and has directed all the choral groups. In 2020, Richard retired from his position as Minister of Music and Worship at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Modesto where he had directed a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles since 1990.

Richard has also served as a member of the voice faculty at California State University, Stanislaus, and is an active adjudicator and lecturer. He has presented lectures on a variety



of topics including vocal technique and literature, choral literature and methods, as well as handbell techniques. He and his wife, Ginger, also conduct joint workshops in vocal techniques.

Richard has been active as a bass-baritone soloist and has appeared extensively in recital, oratorio and opera performances. Richard served a four-year term (1993-1997) as the California State Chair for Repertoire and Standards of Music in Worship for The American Choral Director's Assoc. (ACDA). He has also published articles in *The NATS Journal* for the National Association of Teachers of Singing, *The Cantate California for the American Choral Director's Assoc.*, and *The Journal* for the Choral Conductor's Guild. Richard received his Bachelor of Music degree with honors from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in vocal performance, and his Master of Music degree at the University of Illinois in choral conducting.

Richard and his wife, Ginger, were honored as the recipients of the 2007 *Excellence in Arts Awards for Music* by the Stanislaus Arts Council. Richard's choir at Trinity (Koinonia Choir) was invited to participate in a performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* in New York's famous Carnegie Hall in 2005 with the composer conducting. The Choir and Opus Handbell Ensemble toured to England where they performed Handbell and Choir concerts in June (2008). Richard has also taken his choir on tours to Italy in 2012 and Austria in 2015.

Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 19, 2023



Opus Handbell Ensemble

Opus Handbell Ensemble, Inc., a non-profit organization, has been a group of aspiring musicians in Modesto since 1992. They are currently 13 ringers strong, and have been under the artistic direction of Richard J. Colla since 1995. With over 140 combined years of ringing experience, they perform on five octaves of Malmark handbells, four-plus octaves of Malmark tone chimes and occasionally, a selection of Whitechapel handbells.



Handbells are a unique instrument requiring precision eye-hand coordination, music reading ability and a willingness to work as a team. Repertoire for this art form ranges from classical Bach to Heavy Metal and Rock 'n' Roll. Opus is known throughout the handbell community for reflecting, in bronze, the artistic interpretation of the director. They bring musicality and depth to a performance beyond the expectations of the listening and viewing audience.

Opus has spearheaded the art of handbell ringing in the Central Valley with themed concerts throughout the year. Opus has also hosted and conducted local workshops to raise the level of awareness of handbell ringing in the Modesto community. One of their greatest joys has been to take this artistic medium into the music mainstream through local schools by broadening the dreams of students who have never seen or heard a handbell choir.

Opus has played on the Community Concert Series in Porterville, four years on the Manteca Kindred Arts Council Concert Series and three years on the Sonora St. James' Concert Series. They also played on two occasions for the Evensong Series in Lodi. These fine musicians have attended festivals and workshops from Riverside to the Bay Area. They were a featured choir to ring at Pinnacle 2000 in Las Vegas, and the Handbell Musicians of America Area Twelve Conference at Belmont in 2006. In June of 2008, Opus joined the Trinity United Koinonia Choir in Coventry, England for an International Choir Festival tour.

Opus has been the host ensemble along with seven other handbell groups for the Modesto Salvation Army Bells of Blessing benefit concert since 2010. For the first time, by an audition process, Opus was chosen to be the featured Showcase Ensemble for the Handbell Musicians of America Area Twelve Bell Odyssey Conference held at UC Davis, in June of 2010. They were honored again in 2016, as a Showcase Ensemble for Area Twelve Handbell Hop Conference held in Modesto.

Opus was featured on the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert at the Gallo Center in 2007, 2008 and 2010. They were also featured guest musicians at the Modesto Symphony's Candlelight Concert held at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in 2009 through the present. In 2012 Opus presented a handbell drama/concert as part of the Arts Education Program of the Gallo Center for the Arts and paired it with an evening public concert through 2016. The Gallo Center contracted Opus again in 2018, as part of their holiday programs.

For more information contact Opus' booking coordinator Lisa Traugher at 209-527-2214 or visit our website at



Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 19, 2023



opushandbell.org

Celebrating Support

Thank You

The MSO acknowledges with gratitude the following donors and sponsors whose generosity allows the orchestra to reach new heights in music and education. With your continued support, we are making a difference together and enriching the lives of our community, one note at a time.

For a full listing of donors & sponsors, [click here.](#)

The DoubleTree by Hilton™ Modesto is the official hotel of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra.

Photography, sound, or video recording of this performance is strictly prohibited. Please remember to silence all electronic devices and refrain from text messaging during the concert.

Mobile devices may be used to read program notes during the concert.

Program and artists subject to change. E&OE.

Holiday Candlelight Concert

December 19, 2023



