



Danu Young Women's Choir Presents

# A Gift of Peace: a Christmas Celebration

Saturday, 17 December 2022

8:00 PM

St. Eunan's Cathedral  
Letterkenny, Donegal

**FREE ADMISSION  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Good evening and thank you for joining us in this magnificent space for our very first Christmas Celebration.



My name is Douglas Carnes and I am the Founder and Artistic/Executive Director of Danu Young Women's Choirs. It is beyond words to describe to you how incredibly blessed I feel to be writing a 'director's message' once again. The last time I saw my 300 students and my young women's choir in Minnesota was 3 years ago. The last live concert I conducted with one of my choirs was almost 4 years ago. When the Covid-19 pandemic was shocking our world, I felt silly that making music was at the forefront of my mind; surely there were bigger things to worry about. And although there were in fact much bigger things to worry about, when my students and my choirs, friends and family all started to yearn for a deeper connection during this horrible time it all started to come back to me that music does play a huge part in most of our lives.

Perhaps it's a memory from childhood – a favorite song on the radio, singing in an ensemble with friends or playing an instrument at home or at the pub, we ALL seem to have some connection to music. Then Zoom choirs, YouTube choirs and virtual choirs, 'in-your-car sing-a-longs' and socially distanced with masks ensembles...everything under the sun, started to make it accessible again to connect through music. You name it, it was being done somewhere by someone because being together in song was all that mattered. Rejoicing together through music to lift one another up was what got us through it all.

So tonight, we dedicate this performance to you, our community. A Gift of Peace. These songs were chosen to celebrate the miracle of Christmas, the beauty of friendship and blessing of family. You will hear some old Christmas favorites and some exciting new pieces as well. Please share in song with us during our audience sing-a-longs, and don't be shy to clap or holler if you hear something you love! Let us celebrate together!

Danu Young Women's Choirs was formed to give all young girls in our area a place to grow, to learn and to thrive while experiencing the highest level of choral music and community service. We are here to serve our communities and to sing for everyone that will listen. Enjoy reading through this program and please take a look at the final two pages and insert. We are so thankful for your patronage this evening and we hope that you too will become part of the Danu family.

To you with love, from Danu Young Women's Choir



Douglas Carnes  
Artistic and Executive Director

## About Danu Young Women's Choir

Change the world through music! After two years of conversation and planning, Danu Young Women's Choir was started in the summer of 2022 with the purpose of providing a safe and open environment for young women to be themselves while experiencing personal growth, and deepening bonds with like-minded individuals through the medium of excellent choral singing and community outreach. We strive to create an ensemble that provides entertainment and support for our local, national, and international communities. Currently comprised of girls aged 13 through Leaving Cert, Danu Young Women's Choir has started our journey with the senior choir. Within the next three years our organization plans to develop a middle choir aged 10-13 and our youngest choir aged nine and under. Make sure to follow us on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok @Danuyoungwomenschoir and check out our new website [www.danuyoungwomenschoir.com](http://www.danuyoungwomenschoir.com).

## About our Logo

Designed by a world-renowned New York City-based artist, the Danu Young Women's Choir logo leverages three intertwining symbols of femininity and forms the shape of a heart with Celtic "flowing swirls" motif at its core. It is a representation of the female union and strength in numbers. The heart represents love, the three crosses found at the bottom of the heart represent our three choirs and the circles represent wholeness.



DANU YOUNG WOMEN'S CHOIR

## About the Director

Douglas Carnes has been in the music scene his entire life. His love of music and passion for working with the youth in his community gave him the strong incentive to start the Danu Young Women's Choir here in Letterkenny, County Donegal.

Starting at a young age, Douglas's mother (the first of many strong female influences in his life) flew him to Kingston, Jamaica to learn how to play Latin and African percussion. This skyrocketed his trajectory for a lifetime of musical experiences.

Douglas graduated from Five Towns College (FTC) in Long Island, New York with his Bachelor's degree in Music Education and his Master's degree in Choral Conducting. While there, he played percussion on Disney's "The Lion King" on Broadway. Upon graduation, he was employed in Harlem, New York where he developed a choral curriculum for middle school-aged (11-15) students focused on healthy singing and building relationships through the barbershop choral art form.

This led Carnes to relocate to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2015 as the Artistic and Executive Director of the award-winning Great Northern Union Chorus. Then in 2019, he transitioned back to working with young adults as the Artistic and Musical Director of Sing Out Loud young women's choirs in Rochester, Minnesota. All the while, Carnes taught at St. Louis Park Middle School where he helped grow the choral department by over 300% and took those choirs to two international youth singing competitions.

From the U.S. to Asia, and now Europe, Carnes has worked as a choral clinician, educator, coach, and performer, but his heart and soul will always live in his work with young people singing. Now living with his wife Taryn and son Cillian in Co. Donegal Ireland, Carnes is pursuing his Doctor of Music Performance at The Royal Irish Academy of Music (Trinity College Dublin.) He is thrilled to be embarking on this new journey as the founder of Danu Young Women's Choir. For more information please visit [dougascarnes.com](http://dougascarnes.com)

## A Gift of Peace

Douglas Carnes – Founder and Artistic/Executive Director

Helen Haughey– Accompanist

### Prelude

Harp – Richard Allen

### This Christmastide

Donald Fraser b.1947

The words of our first selection encapsulate the feeling of our entire celebration. Truth, and love, and hope abide this Christmastide. Composer Donald Fraser, originally born in the UK, had an amazing career that started at the age of 13 singing for his local Parish Church. After attending the Royal College of Music for composition he went on to work in film, radio, theater, and classical music performance as both a conductor and a composer. The sweeping upward arpeggios that can be heard from the piano give this piece an ethereal feeling and one that lifts the spirits.

*Green and silver, red and gold,  
and a story born of old Truth  
and love and hope abide this  
Christmastide, this  
Christmastide.*

*From a simple ox's stall came  
the greatest gift of all. Truth  
and love and hope abide this  
Christmastide, this  
Christmastide.*

*Let the bells ring loud and  
clear, ring out now for all to  
hear. Truth and love and hope  
abide this Christmastide, this  
Christmastide.*

*Green and silver, red and gold,  
and a story born of old  
Peace and love and hope abide  
this Christmastide, this  
Christmastide.*

*Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and the  
gently falling snow  
Truth and love and hope abide  
this Christmastide, this  
Christmastide.*

*Children sing of peace and joy  
at the birth of one small boy.  
Truth and love and hope abide  
this Christmastide, this  
Christmastide.*

*Trumpets sound and voices  
raises in an endless stream of  
praise. Truth and love and hope  
abide this Christmastide, this  
Christmastide.*

### Beautiful Savior

Joseph Seiss b.1823 d.1904

Soloist - Katie Coyle

### O Holy Night

Julie Gaulke b.1966 d.1976

Small Ensemble: Síne Cuevas Ní hAodha, Dana Manlagnit, Sophia Basilio, Katie Coyle, Eimear McTeague Tiegán Robb, Gráinne Friel, Leah Mullen, Mia Kelly, Sam King

### Angels Carol

John Rutter b.1945

### AUDIENCE SING – A – LONG

#### Angels We Have Heard on High

James Montgomery b.1771 d.186

*Angels we have heard  
on high sweetly  
singing o'er the  
plains. And the  
mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous  
strains...*

*Shepherds, why this  
jubilee? Why your  
joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome  
tidings be which  
inspire your heavenly  
song?.*

*Come to Bethlehem and  
see, Christ whose birth  
the angels sing. Come,  
adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the  
newborn King...*

*See him in a manger  
laid, whom the choir  
of angels' praise.  
Mary, Joseph lend  
your aid, while our  
hearts in love we  
raise...*

*Gloria...*

*.Gloria...*

*Gloria...*

*Gloria...*

## **Balulalow**

Benjamin Britten b.1913 d.1976

*Soloist – Mia Kelly*

*Harp – Richard Allen*

Balulalow is an excerpt from a much larger work by English composer Benjamin Britten. Written as a major choral work entitled Ceremony of Carols, Britten wrote the work for women's choir and harp. The text was published by the Wedderburn brothers who were 16th century Scottish poets in their "Oxford book of Carols" as piece number 181.

*O my deir hert, young Jesus sweit  
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit  
And I sall rock thee in my hert  
And never mair from thee depart*

*But I sall praise thee evermoir  
With sangis sweit unto thy gloir;  
The knees of my heart sall I bow  
And sing that richt Balulalow.*

## **Christmas Lullaby**

John Rutter b.1945

## **Still, Still, Still**

Vinzenz Maria Süß b.1802 d.1868

*Whistle – Aobha Ní Aragáin*

## **- Instrumental Interlude -**

*Harp – Richard Allen*

## **The First Noel**

Dan Forrest b.1978

## **AUDIENCE SING – A – LONG**

### **Joy to the World**

Traditional

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

## **Rise Up Shepard and Follow**

Rollo Dillworth b.1953

*Soloist – Sophia Basilio*

## Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Audrey Snyder b.1953  
*Percussion – Gary Raymond*

## O Come All ye Faithful

Dan Forrest b.1978

## Welcome Christmas

Andy Beck b.1986

## And Suddenly

Michael Engelhard b.1952  
*Trumpet 1 – Robert Goodman, Trumpet 2 – Ian Behan*  
*Trombone – Laurence Quigg, Alto Sax – Olivia Goodman*  
*Bass – Ray Ocnaimshi, Drums – Gary Raymond*

## Silent Night

Andy Beck b.1986

We end our Christmas celebration this evening with the start of a new tradition. As hundreds of girls will go through our choirs, we want each and every one of them to always find “home” in our music. Each year all our alumni will be welcome back to our Christmas Celebration and invited to sing our final selection – a custom arrangement of Silent Night. This piece is particularly special because we were introduced to it by the choir we have based our organization on: Sing Out Loud in Rochester, Minnesota. The poem originally written by Austrian priest Joseph Mohr was written as a reminder of hope after his home community was demolished and torn apart after 12 years of war-torn violence. This evening we end our program by inviting the miracle of Christmas, peace, love and unity into our lives.

*Silent night, holy night!*  
*All is calm, all is bright.*  
*Round yon Virgin, Mother and*  
*Child. Holy infant so tender and*  
*mild, Sleep in heavenly peace,*  
*Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!*  
*Shepherds quake at the sight.*  
*Glories stream from heaven afar*  
*Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,*  
*Christ the Savior is born!*  
*Christ the Savior is born*

*Silent night, holy night!*  
*Son of God love's pure light.*  
*Radiant beams from Thy holy*  
*face With dawn of redeeming*  
*grace, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth*  
*Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.*

## Danu Young Women's Choir

Amy Doherty  
Aoife O'Keeffe  
Ava Munnely  
Caoimhe Parke  
Ella Homer  
Grace Gavigan  
Keyasha Uragoda  
Leah Mullen  
Mia Kelly  
Riona Bonner  
Siun Farrelly

Tara Burke  
Aimee McNamee  
Alice OConnors  
Alisha Gallagher  
Amyleigh Robb  
Annie Gallagher  
Ava Kearney  
Carla Bousonville  
Dekota Toye  
Eimear McTeague  
Gráinne Friel

Grainne Gallagher  
Hannah McGrory  
Kate Doherty  
Sam King  
Sophia Basilio  
Sophie Fitzsimmons  
Sorcha Ni Aragáin  
Ally Kane  
\*Aobha Ní Aragáin  
Dana Manlagnit

Hannah Lynch  
Holly Tinney  
Katie Coyle  
Orla Fabisiak  
Róisín Ní Bhrolacháin  
Sine Cuevas Ní hAodha  
Tiegan Robb  
Yagmur Ekici

*\*Leaving cert student*





Under the age of 14?  
INTRODUCING...

DANÍN

Age 10-13  
Auditions this summer  
Rehearsal start in September



FAÍTHÍN

Age 9 and under  
No audition required  
Rehearsals start March 2024

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**INTERESTED IN JOINING DANU?**

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Low pressure  
auditions  
Jan 8th and 10th

Open to girls  
aged 14 - 18

Sunday evenings  
6 - 8:30pm  
Letterkenny

*Spring season starts Jan 13th*

For more information or to schedule an audition

Email - [DYWCdirector@gmail.com](mailto:DYWCdirector@gmail.com)

Call/text - 087.409.1655

Follow us @danuyoungwomenschoir

## THANK YOU

Your support means the world!

- To the staff and clergy of St. Eunan's Cathedral
- To the staff and students at all participating schools especially Colaiste Ailigh for use of their beautiful building and Milford Loreto for the use of their risers.
- To the Board of Directors and Parents/Guardians of Danu Young Women's Choir
- To Breda Bows for her amazing crafting
- To all DYWC Volunteers and Donors
- Re-Act Videography
- Amelie McFadden Videography
- Browne Printing
- Pearl Alterations
- Aaron McGlinchey Audio
- To the Carnes Family
- most of all, to the singers of Danu Young Women's Choir. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE  
21 . 05 . 2023

Her  
Song

A Celebration of Female Voices in Music

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