

**Danu Young Women's Choirs
Presents:**



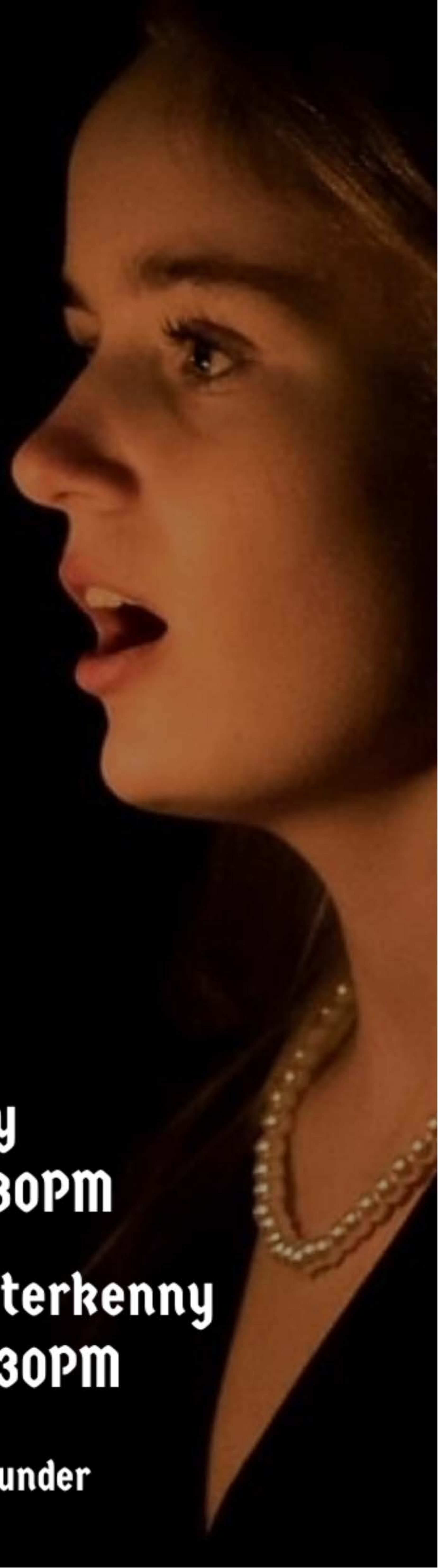
**The World in
Solemn
Stillness Lay**



**Ard's Friary
8 December 7:30PM**

**Conwal Church, Letterkenny
9 December 7:30PM**

**€15 Adults
€5 Children 13 and under**



Good Evening and Merry Christmas,

Thank you for joining us this evening at A World in Solemn Stillness Lay. Tonight we explore one of Christmas' numerous personalities. Many of us grow up thinking about Christmas as a time of joy and celebration. A time when family comes together and parties in our homes are filled with food and drink and merriment. How wonderful it is to be gifted this experience each year. Tonight however, we search for the solemn, more reflective, and majestic side of Christmas.



Tonight begins with Danu singing music arranged by Michael McGlynn. Born in 1964 in Dublin, Ireland, Michael is a composer/arranger and filmmaker who founded three connected vocal ensembles here in Ireland; Anúna, M'ANAM, and Systir. While Michael's music is performed worldwide, it is seldom performed here in Ireland. We are honoured to showcase his work this evening, making us the first non-McGlynn choir to sing this extensive of a collection in a single concert. These five songs explore ancient carols, texts and hymns that we hope will bring you a sense of calm, while allowing you to meditate in the dense and intricate harmonies that Michael has created.

The next segment of our concert features our newest choir Danín, 'little sisters' of their Danu counterparts. Danín brings to you four Christmas favorites from both popular and classical descent and will end with new song entitled *Carry the Light*. They are thrilled for their first performance ever with Danu Young Women's Choir and asked me to wish you the 'Merriest of Christmases!'

We will end tonight's program with three works by famed Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen. A classical composer, Kim was an avid follower of MTV and a huge fan of The Cure at ten years old. He also studied classical piano, sang as a chorister and received his education at the Music Conservatory in Trondheim. With a deep interests in numerous genres his musical career could have ventured down many paths, however, choral music became his greatest passion. It is easy to hear why. These works are not only beautiful, but allow us to take a moment together to appreciate our surroundings, our loved ones, and to truly reflect on what Christmas can mean on a multitude of different levels.

In our turbulent world we are reminded tonight that being in this space together, warm, listening to these children who have worked tremendously hard to bring you an evening of respite, is a blessing. The world is an incredibly magnificent wonder, filled with the most amazing people, places and opportunities. Sometimes it is easy to forget that. Let us remember the amazement that our world offers this evening as we listen to the angels sing.

Merry Christmas with love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Carnes'.

Douglas Carnes

About Danu Young Women's Choir

Started in the summer of 2022, Danu Young Women's Choir began 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 thirteen through Leaving Cert, Danu Young Women's Choir has started our journey with the senior choir. Currently comprised of two choirs - Danu and Danín - we will be complete this march when our youngest choir (aged nine and under) takes wings. Make sure to follow us on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok @Danuyoungwomenschoir and visit our website www.danuyoungwomenschoir.com.

Douglas Carnes - Executive and Artistic 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 a strong incentive to start 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 journey as the founder of Danu Young Women's Choir. For more information please visit www.douglascarnes.com

Dr Helen Haughey - Accompanist

Helen Haughey is originally from Muff in Inishowen, and now lives in Redcastle. She began her piano studies at the age of 7 with Helen Keaveney, and studied with James MacCafferty, and Sr Eveleen in Loreto Milford before winning a scholarship to the RIAM, where she studied for many years with Professor Brian Beckett. She holds licentiates in piano performance and teaching from the RIAM, and from Trinity and Guildhall schools of music in London. She studied music and composition in Trinity College, Dublin, where she was awarded a PhD in Musicology in 2001.

One of Helen's main interests is accompanying: she has worked at feiseanna, auditions and concerts, has broadcast for RTE, and performed at the NCH. She works with many primary schools in Inishowen, where she is also director of music in Carndonagh Parish, and the musical director of Carndonagh Musical Society.

Guadete

1582

Soloist Mia Kelly

Gaudete, gaudete Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine gaudete

Rejoice, rejoice Christ was born
Rejoice in the Virgin Mary

Tempus ad est gratiae hoc quod optabamus
Carmina laetitiae devote redamus

The time is at hand for the grace that we wished
for
Let us devoutly return songs of joy

Deus homo factus est natura mirante
Mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante

God was made man by nature's wonder
The world has been renewed by the reign of
Christ

Ezekelis porta clausa per transitor
Unde lux est orta salus invenitor

Ezekelis' gate is locked by means of a transitor
From whence the light has sprung salvation
finder

Ergo nostra contio psallat jam in lustro
Benedicat domino salus regi nostro..

So let's play our assembly now on the map
Salvation bless the lord our king

DANÍN

Pat-a-Pan

Traditional French Carol

Arr. Andy Beck b.1986

Joy to the World!

Arr. PINKZEBRA

Solstice

Randall Thompson b.1899

This is the time when the days have shortened and
the nights grow steadily more important, And in
mid afternoon, across the park the towers start to
twinkle in the thickening dark.

It's the solstice, the solstice, the times when the
sun stands still, outside you, inside you, you
feel a bitter chill. It's the solstice, the solstice,
when the cold north wind could kill; but hold
your breath and it's Christmas, Peace on Earth,
and the all good will. Peace on Earth, and to all
good will.

And you look out at the glitter and the sidewalk
and the stars, and the Christmas shoppers
hurrying past neon lighted bars, And you're glad
to have a daughter who can set you on the track,
and to dine a duex at Christmas time for the sun
is coming back,

Velvet Shoes

Randall Thompson b.1899

Carry the Light

Arr. Andy Beck b.1986

Soloist Guilienne Amber Basilio

I Will Light Candles This Christmas

words by Howard Thurman

CEOLTÓIRÍ CANÓLA

How Great Thou Art

Arr. by GQ

What is Peace?

words by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Peace is not a silent state That comes upon us from within- Serene, detached, oblivious.	Peace is not a fore like rain That comes, unbidden, from above- Gentle, enfolding, natural.	Peace is fire! Yea, peace is fire! And peace is passion! Peace requires a strength of will, A certain courage, a heart of iron A force abiding to fulfill.	Peace is not a foregone fate; For peace, like war, must be waged- Mindfully, deliberately, With arm ever ready, And eyes wide open..
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Christmas Night

words by Stig Nilsson, English version by Euan Tait

We see a light, on Christmas night, and see, a path now opens wide! The lost, the stranger calls to us: the wounded heart so needs us now. Alive to love, the angels' song, we'll travel where love leads. Long locked away, our deepest song now dances like a child. We see a light, this joyful Christmas night.	Then faith awakes, on Christmas night, and we become love's answering voice! the water flows, the mountains move, we see much more than ruined lives. Alive to love, the angels' song, we'll travel where love leads. Long locked away, our deepest song now dances like a child. Our faith awakes, this star-fire Christmas night!	Let hope arise this Christmas night, our hearts made great by love's new dawn! A boundless love, a singing light, that fills and touches all earth's lives! Alive to love, the angels' song, we'll travel where love leads. Long locked away, our deepest song now dances like a child. Let hope arise, this love-lit Christmas night.
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Silent Night

ALL DANU YOUNG WOMEN'S CHOIR - ALUM INVITED TO JOIN

THANK YOU

- Singers, musicians, parents, families and friends of Danu Young Women's Choirs members
- Board of Directors and Volunteers for Danu Young Women's Choir
- Ards Friary and Conwal Parish Church
- The Carnes Family
- Colaiste Ailigh facilities staff, faculty, and administration
- Loreto Milford Staff and facilities for use of their risers
- *John Soffe Photography

Merry Christmas



Danu

** indicates section leader*

^ indicates leaving cert students

SOPRANO 1

Aimee McNamee
Amy Doherty
Aoife O'Keeffe
^Caoimhe Parke
Ella Homer
Grace Gavigan
Grace Mc Donough
Ida-Beatrice Kingue

Jiya Jino
Keyasha Uragoda
Lilykate Ni Chnaimshi
*Mia Kelly
Ríona Bonner
Siun Farrelly
^Sophie Gallagher
*Tara Burke

SOPRANO 2

*Alice OConnors
Amyleigh Robb
Annie Gallagher
Ava Kearney
Clíodhna Mulkearns
Dekota Toyne
Gráinne Friel
Grainne Gallagher

Hannah McGrory
Jennifer Chudley
Sabhdh Breathnach
^Sam King
Sophia Eirene Basilio
^Sophie Fitzsimmons
Sorcha Ni Aragain
^Tara Gildea
*^Tiegan Robb

ALTO

Alisha Crawford
^Ally Kane
^Caitlin McGee
Dana Manlagnit
Eimear ui Thaidhg
Hannah Lynch
Holly Tinney

*Katie Coyle
Kylah McGinley
Loren Connolly
Orla Fabisiak
Orlaith McTeague
Roisin Bradley
*Síne O hAodha
Yagmur Ekici

Danín

Ailbhe Breen
Ailbhe Waters
Amelie Mc Fadden
Aoibhe Higgins
Aoife Breathnach
Aoife Morga
Caera Ward

Caidlha Conlon
Caoimhe O' Doherty
Ciara McTeague
Clodagh Gallen
Eden Conlon
Elina Duffy
Ella Brennan
Emma Riddett

Fiadh Davies
Guilienne Amber Basilio
Kamilla Figueroa
Laoise Burke
Lucy Fabisiak
Megan Homer
Mollie McAviney
Ruth Homer

Danu Young Women's Choirs Board of Director

Artistic and Executive Director - Douglas Carnes (e) DYWCdirector@gmail.com

Treasurer - Rachel Mac Namara (e) DYWCtreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary - Ríana Lynch

Member at Large - Breda Bows

Member at Large - Marie McTeague

Member at Large (Singer Representative) - Síne o hAodha

NYC

SEND OFF CONCERT

7 Jan 2024

7 PM

Coláiste Ailigh Hall

Free to all!

FEATURING
GEOLTÓRÍ
CANÓLA

Auditions Open

Danín

(Ages 10 - 13, auditions in January)

Faithín

(9 and under, no audition
necessary, begins in March 2024)

visit danuyoungwomenschoir.com for more info