

Date: Saturday, November 17, 2012

Event: Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra concert "It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Christmas"

Where: Cecilian Auditorium, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Betty C. Martin or Jim Chesterson

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"It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Christmas" is a concert that is definitely for "kids from one to ninety-two" and will be performed by the Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra on Saturday, November 17th in Cecilian Auditorium at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College at 3:00 p.m.

The Sinfonietta is expecting a special early visit from St. Nicholas! St. Nicholas, considered by some to be the original Santa Claus, was a Bishop in the 3rd century known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need and his love for children. The December 6th anniversary of his death became a day of celebration and gift giving. Free refreshments will continue to be a tradition at this concert as will the special musical interlude by the string quartet at intermission.

The narrator for the concert is Dr. Tracy Richardson, Professor of Music Therapy at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. She has served as Director of Music Therapy since 1995 and is currently the Chairperson of the Department of Music and Theatre. She was instrumental in creating and launching the SMWC Master of Arts in Music Therapy, one of the few graduate music therapy programs in the nation. An active singer/songwriter/performer, Dr. Richardson has released a self-titled CD and has sung and played keyboard in bands for over 30 years.

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire" is definitively called "The Christmas Song". The lovely music and lyrics were composed by Mel Torme and Bob Wells and first recorded by Nat King Cole. To compliment this more modern version of a traditional Christmas is "The Coventry Carol", a Christmas carol dating from the 16th century based on the Christmas story from the gospel of St. Matthew.

"Frosty the Snowman" is a popular song written by Walter Rollins and Steve Nelson, and first recorded by Gene Autry and the Cass County Boys in 1950. Another favorite is "Sleigh Ride" a popular light orchestral piece composed by Leroy Anderson. The orchestral version was first recorded in 1949 by Arthur Fiedler and The Boston Pops Orchestra.

"Il Re Pastore" (The Shepherd King) is from an opera written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to an Italian libretto by Metastasio. The opera, sometimes referred to as a serenata, a type of dramatic cantata, was first performed in Salzburg in 1775. "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" is a Christmas carol which originated from the Provence region of France in the 16th century. In the carol, visitors to the stable have to keep their voices down so the newborn can enjoy his dreams. The orchestra will play an arrangement by Chip Davis of Mannheim Steamroller fame.

Tickets may be purchased at the door. Admission is \$10 adults, \$5 students, children under 10 free. The Sinfonietta gratefully acknowledges grants from Arts Illiana, a regional partner of the Indiana Arts Commission, the Wabash Valley Community Foundation, City of Terre Haute, and a media sponsorship with WFIU. For further information please contact the Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra at 812-535-6440 or its website www.terrehautecommunityband.org.