

Date: Saturday, November 22, 2014

Event: Sinfonietta Pops Concert, “The Night That Peace Broke Out”

Where: Cecilian Auditorium, Conservatory Bldg. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Admission: \$10 adult, \$5 student, children under 10 free

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James N. Chesterson: 812-535-6440 or 812-243-2581

The Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra will present “The Night That Peace Broke Out” on Saturday, November 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the Cecilian Auditorium at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. This concert recalls musically that unique moment in December 1914 during the early months of World War I when an unofficial Christmas truce occurred between the German and British soldiers in the trenches. From the opening drum beats of *The British Grenadiers* to the quietly familiar strains of *Silent Night*, the audience is invited to a musical insight into history.

This Pre-Christmas concert holds many surprises and treats of different kinds. An extended intermission will feature an appearance by Saint Nicholas who will be bringing gifts for children attending the concert. Everyone will be invited to enjoy the free holiday refreshments that will be served. Back on the concert stage the Sinfonietta presents Leif Murray, a young Sullivan County native, who will perform the violin solo from *The Meditation from Thais* by Jules Massenet, considered one of the great pieces for violinists worldwide. Leif came to the Sinfonietta from the Crossroads of America Youth Orchestra last spring. He has been studying violin for 10 years and is currently a student of Dr. Paul Roby.

The lyrics to the Christmas hymn *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* were written by Christina Rossetti and set to music by Gustav von Holst. This arrangement by Robert W. Smith includes a special effect at the end with the musicians simulating a cold winter’s wind. A second selection by Holst is *St. Paul’s Suite* which he composed while Director of Music at St. Paul’s Girls’ School in London. Assistant Conductor Rodney Foster will conduct *St. Paul’s Suite*.

One of German composer Engelbert Humperdinck’s best known works is the opera *Hansel and Gretel*. The Sinfonietta will perform the *Sandman’s Song, Evening Prayer and Dream Sequence* from the opera. Another Christmas favorite by French composer Adolphe Adam is the *Cantique de Noel* known in English as *O Holy Night*. Everyone enjoys hearing a variety of Christmas favorites and Leroy Anderson’s *A Christmas Festival* is considered the granddaddy of all Christmas medleys.

Music Director James N. Chesterson chose the Chip Davis’ Mannheim Steamroller arrangement of *Silent Night*, with its hauntingly beautiful cello introduction, to conclude the concert. Tickets are available at the door. Admission for adults is \$10, students \$5 and children under the age of 10 are free. The Sinfonietta appreciates the grants from Arts Illiana, City of Terre Haute, Indiana Arts Commission, and the Wabash Valley Community Foundation to support their performances.