

Christmas with the Symphony: 'Tis the Season

December 13, 2025 - 7:30pm & December 14, 2025 - 2:30pm

Program

Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 7:30pm Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2:30pm Mary W. Sommervold Hall, Washington Pavilion

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Nicholas Sharma, *Conductor* South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Chorus Dr. Timothy J. Campbell, *Chorus Director* Ben Gulley, *Tenor*

Giovanni Gabrieli Canzon per sonar septimi toni á 8 (arr. Reiny Rolock)

Michael Praetorius Es ist ein Rose entsprungen ?

Traditional (arr. Troy Armstrong) Adeste Fideles

Franz Joseph Haydn? Toy Symphony

Georges Bizet L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2 IV. Farandole

Traditional (arr. Mack Wilberg) Joy to the World

Charles Gounod Ave Maria (arr. Chris Hazell)

Felix Mendelssohn There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

Traditional Ding Dong! Merrily on High (arr. Mack Wilberg)

Adolphe Adam & O Holy Night
John Sullivan Dwight
(arr. Gary Fry)

INTERMISSION



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Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky The Nutcracker Suite
? Overture
Waltz of the Flowers

Ottorino Respighi

The Adoration of the Magi

Leroy Anderson

Sleigh Ride

Kirsa Sumey, Saturday guest

conductor

Irving Berlin White Christmas (arr. Roy Ringwald)

Nat King Cole The Christmas Song (arr. Bob Lowden)

John Williams Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas (from *Home Alone*)

Alan Silvestri God Bless Us Everyone & Glen Ballard

Multiple Authors Christmas Carol Sing-Along (arr. Dan Goeller)

Saturday's concert generously sponsored by **Nordby Family Foundation**

Sunday's concert generously sponsored by **Reliabank**



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The Nordby Family Foundation proudly supports the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, an integral part of our community.





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Guest Conductor



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Nicholas Sharma

conductor

Nicholas Sharma currently serves as the Resident Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. He has led performances with orchestras across North America, earning recognition for his versatility and musical artistry.

Recent conducting highlights include debut performances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, as well as serving as Assistant Conductor of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra for the 2024-25 season.

Sharma has assisted renowned conductors including Franz Welser-Möst, Paavo Järvi and Gustavo Gimeno, and has participated in masterclasses and summer festivals with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony, the National Academy Orchestra of Canada, and the Espen Music Festival. Here he has studied with distinguised conductors such as Michael Tilson Thomas, Stéphane Denève, Neeme Järvi, Robert Spano, Nicholas McGegan, Mark Stringer, and Boris Brott.

A native of the Toronto area, Sharma began his musical studies as a violinist. He holds a degree in violin performance from the Eastman School of Music, a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Oregon and a Doctorate (DMA) in Orchestral Conducting from the Eastman School of Music.

Guest Artist



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Ben Gulley

Tenor

Ben Gulley has been hailed as "outstanding" (*Opera News*) and "startlingly gifted" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*). Gulley's engagements for the 2025-26 season include Don José in *Carmen* with Knoxville Opera, Radames in *Aida* with Anchorage Opera, Canio in *Pagliacci* with Opera San Jose and Opera Las Vegas, and concert appearances with the Lancaster Festival, Orchestra Miami, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, and Symphony San Jose.

Recent artistic highlights include Romeo in *Roméo et Juliette* with Opera Idaho, Cavaradossi in *Tosca* with Sarasota Opera, the Prince in *Rusalka* at Portland Opera, Foresto in Verdi's *Requiem* with the Opera Festival of Chicago, Rodolfo in *La bohème* with Knoxville Opera and Canio in *Pagliacci* with Pensacola Opera, Edgardo in Opera Orlando's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Radames in *Aida* with Fort Worth Opera, and with Skylight Music Theatre as Quasimodo in *Hunchback of Notre Dame* and headlining "An Evening with Sir Time Rice."

Grand Rapids Additional concert engagements include Symphony Symphony (Carmina Burana), Kalamazoo Orchestra, Symphony San Jose, Fontana Chamber Arts (with NPR's Peter Dugan), Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra and Modesto Symphony Orchestra (Verdi's Requiem), Orchestra Iowa (Carmina Burana; Verdi's Requiem), Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Miami, Asheville Symphony, Hidden Tallahassee Symphony, Valley Music Seminars, Bruckner's Te Deum and Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde with the Belgian National Orchestra in Brussels and Namur, Belgium.

In 2016, Gulley released his debut solo album of original music, *In Between*, available on all major streaming services. From 2010-2014, Gulley was a member of the Sony/BMG Masterworks' *The American Tenors*, alongside Nathan Granner and Daniel Montenegro.

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Chorus



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South Dakota Symphony Orchestra Chorus

chorus members

Soprano

Katie Andersen Ashlynn Anderson Katie Begic Erin Burggraff Haley Dahl Nancy Durajczyk **Taylor Elmer** Heather Engberg Michelle Friesen Rachel Riez Claire Gillaspey Carmelita Guse Becky Hollan Katherine Howard Angela Loftesness Shannon McCrary Reilly Nelson Kelly Okerlund Ana Olivier Diane Rahn Courtney Renner Michelle Sawyer Catherine Schlimgen Susan Schrader Anna Stemsrud Elizabeth Trygstad Kasidy Tvedt

Alto

Natalie Allcock Kjerstin Aspaas Aubrey Baumann Lonna Beshai **Chistine Brandner** Megan DeBoer Mary DeVany Katie Eliason Kathryn Friesen Dawn Gutnik Serena Gutnik Elise Hasche Sarah Heckmann Araylla Hennigar Karen Jepperson Sydney Jessen Hannah Moravec



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Rachel Pierson
Alley Quanbeck
Mary Reiter
Mary Schuh
Rebecca Thompson
Lindsay Tjarks
Jennifer Tschetter
Coral Winter

Tenor

John Callies
Jason Douma
Paul Gillaspey
Joshua Guenther
Jace Larson
Mark Larson
Zander Larson
Alan Luense
Leslie Olive
Nicholas Petersen
Andrew Ridder
Rita Schwab-Parcel
Joel Tjarks
Eric Wicks

Bass

Joe Brejda Ted DeLange Jacob Fossing Joel Gullickson Bill Hungate **Brandon James** Chase Kramer Frederick Matthews James Moore Kaden Sivertsen Shawn Stemsrud **Daniel Stratton** Liam Swart Peter Tuff Collin Waltner Ryan Wilkison Tim Worthington Shane Wuebben Tyler Youngquist

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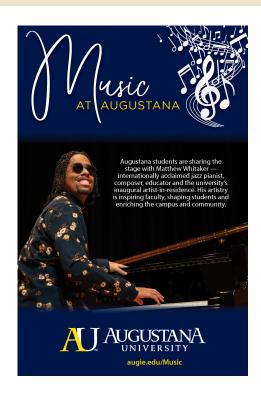
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We are proud to support the arts in South Dakota

The Wadsworth Investment Group

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