

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

Please note that late entry or reentry of the West Building after 6:30 pm is not permitted.

For the convenience of concertgoers, the Garden Café remains open for light refreshments until 6:00 pm on Sundays.

Music Department
National Gallery of Art
Sixth Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC

www.nga.gov

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

COVER: Joseph Rubens Powell, *Winter*, watercolor and gouache over graphite on wove paper, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of John Nichols Estabrook and Dorothy Coogan Estabrook



The Seventy-second Season of
The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin
Concerts

National Gallery of Art
2,972nd Concert

Ensemble Galilei

December 22, 2013
Sunday, 6:30 pm
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

Program

“Winter Solstice”

Picardy, French Medieval

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Anders Norudde (b. 1960)

Konvulsionslåten

Sue Richards

The Celt

Thirteenth-century plainsong

Divinum Mysterium

Scottish Gaelic Carol

Tàladh ar Slànaigheir (Christ Child Lullabye)

Traditional Scottish

Away in the Manger (Flow Gently, Sweet Afton)

Taught to Hanneke Cassel by Antti Järvelä

Polonessa Spoof

Collected by John Jacob Niles (1892–1980)

I Wonder as I Wander

Traditional Irish from *O’Neill’s Music of Ireland* (1903)

At Midnight Hour

Joy Be With You

Sixteenth-century English

Greensleeves

Seventeenth-century French

Quelle est cette odeur agréable (Whence is that Goodly Fragrance)

Melchior Vulpus (1570–1615)

Jesu Kreuz, Leiden, und Pein

Ryan McKasson

Culloden

INTERMISSION

Traditional Irish, from *O’Neill’s Music of Ireland*

The Surround

Mark Kelly

Snowy Path

Jackie Moran

Half C

Traditional Catalan

Carol of the Birds

Eighteenth-century English

The First Noel

Carolyn Surrick

Winter’s Falling Light

James Proctor Harding (1850–1911)

Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

Willie Coleman

Farewell to Goirtín

Franz Gruber (1787–1863)

Silent Night

Sixteenth-century English

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

From *Piae cantiones* (1582)

Good King Wenceslas

The Musicians

ENSEMBLE GALILEI

One of America's unique Celtic and folk music ensembles, Ensemble Galilei was founded in 1990 by viola da gambist Carolyn Anderson Surrick, who writes: "We are musicians who bring a hundred different perspectives to our music making. We each have our own musical inner life; together we share the sum of our study and work. We are every teacher who encouraged us, every fiddler who thrilled us, every mentor who showed us the way. Some of us spent years in university and conservatory practice rooms, others spent countless days listening to the legends play, and nights in pubs learning tunes. From these very different elements this evening's concert was created. We find music that speaks deeply to us, and we honor the traditions and dialects of each musical language."

HANNEKE CASSEL

Named United States National Scottish Fiddle Champion in 1997, Hanneke Cassel holds a bachelor of music degree in violin performance from Berklee College of Music in Boston. She has been heard on the stages of the Boston Hatch Shell, Boston's Symphony Hall (opening for Judy Collins), the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Mountain Stage, and the Plaza Hotel. A native of Port Orford, Oregon, Cassel started playing classical violin when she was eight years old. At age ten she began studying the fiddle with Carol Ann Wheeler, and was competing in contests throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 1991 Cassel captured the United States National Scottish Junior Championship. An active member of the Boston music scene, she is featured on Darol Anger's CD *Diary of a Fiddler* on the Compass Records label.

RYAN MCKASSON

Fiddler Ryan McKasson claimed the National Scottish Junior Fiddle Championship in 1995 and went on to become the youngest National Scottish Fiddle Open Champion in 1996. He has shared the stage with Beck, Bjork, Elvis Costello, Gavin Friday, and composer Phillip Glass, among others. His Seattle-based band, McKassons, plays to packed houses, bringing an American sensibility to traditional Scottish folksongs that blend Celtic music with the spirit of folk-rock and bluegrass.

JACKIE MORAN

Born in Tipperary, Ireland, drummer Jackie Moran immigrated with his family to Chicago at age ten, where he quickly began drumming with the best players in the Irish music scene. Now preeminent in Chicago Irish music, Moran has been a founder and driving force of such influential bands as Bua, Comas, the Drovers, Wilding, and the Otters as well as the Trinity Irish Dance Company. In the recording studio and on the concert stage, he has accompanied the great artists of the Irish music scene and has appeared with Riverdance and in Hollywood films that feature Irish music, including *Backdraft* (1991), *Blink* (1993), *Traveler* (1997), and *The Road to Perdition* (2002).

SUE RICHARDS

A champion of traditional music and collector of folk melodies and dances, harpist Sue Richards studied classical harp in Ohio with Lucy Lewis and Jean Harriman, later turning to the Irish and Scottish music of her heritage. A four-time winner of the American National Scottish Harp Championship, she is now a Scottish Harp Society of America Distinguished Judge. She has toured in Ireland, Norway, Scotland, and Sweden, and has played for Presidents Bush and Clinton and Queen Elizabeth. A past president of the Scottish Harp Society of America and the Washington, DC, Folk Harp Society, Richards is a composer of original tunes and several books of arrangements.

CAROLYN ANDERSON SURRICK

A graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz and George Washington University, viola da gambist Carolyn Anderson Surrick is known affectionately to the members of Ensemble Galilei as “Navigatrix,” attesting to her uncanny ability to keep the group on the road and bring new projects to fruition. The ensemble has partnered with the Hubble Space Telescope Institute to create *A Universe of Dreams*, a program of poetry, images, and music; with the National Geographic Society on *First Person: Stories from the Edge of the World*; and most recently with the Metropolitan Museum of Art on their collaboration, *First Person: Seeing America*.

Program Notes

Occurring on either December 21 or 22, when the earth’s axis reaches the extreme of its tilt away from the sun, winter solstice is considered the first day of winter. This evening’s concert marks its occurrence yesterday at 12:11 pm, Eastern standard time. The world’s oldest religions, which have roots in the interdependence between prehistoric peoples and the changes in their natural surroundings, celebrate the equinoxes and solstices of the sun. Of those celebrations, the winter solstice is the one with the most storytelling and music-making, as it involves getting through the longest night of the year. Poems and carols of the winter solstice typically focus on signs of rebirth in nature, creatures and plants that remain alive and active in winter, and the joy of gathering in groups and feasting. In northern regions, ceremonies of light are also typical of winter solstice celebrations, as that night can be close to twenty-four hours long.

The importance to the ancient Irish of the winter solstice is exemplified by Newgrange, a prehistoric monument located about an hour north of Dublin. Predating the pyramids at Giza and Stonehenge, this 5,000-year-old tomb is designed in such a way that once a year, at the winter solstice, it fills with light, illuminating specially placed stones decorated with spiral-shaped artwork.

Early Christian leaders, needing to replace the feasts that were already a fixed part of the life of converts, placed Jesus’ birth date near the winter solstice. As years passed, Christian themes and practices became predominant, but there are some “Christmas” traditions that are actually older winter solstice traditions: the feasting (intended to nourish people for surviving the long winter ahead); the lighted Christmas tree (evergreens were collected and decorated with candles and shiny objects, symbolizing ongoing life and hope of the return of light); the twelve-day period of celebration (the time it took for days to become noticeably longer and nights correspondingly shorter); and the yule log (a large log for the fire, which would continue to burn until the deepest darkness of the solstice had passed).

Program notes by Stephen Ackert, head, music department, National Gallery of Art