HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Directed by Rachel Jantzi
Conducted by Russell Adrian and Ken Rodgers

December 4, 2021
7 p.m., Hesston Mennonite Church
The script, *Home For Christmas*, was written and adapted by Hesston College theatre students J. Fleming, K. Gunn, P. Kolb, Q. Yoder and professor R. Jantzi. Original work was created by the cast through on-campus interviews, the cast’s personal stories and photographs, poetry and dance.

As our stories move from the secular to the sacredness of Christmas, we’ve come to the realization that while many of us are home or bound for home during the holidays, Christ never really was “at home.” Christmas is about the *homelessness* of the Almighty.

Each scene is labeled as a vignette which is a brief evocative description, account or episode.

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**VIGNETTE ONE**

That’s Christmas to Me

Katy Clark and Penny Clark

Bel Canto Singers

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**VIGNETTE TWO**

A la Media Noche “At Midnight”

Traditional Puerto Rico, arr. Joan Szymko

Global Voices

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**VIGNETTE THREE**

Away in a Manger

William J. Kirkpatrick, arr. Mack Wilberg

The First Nowell

Traditional English Carol, arr. Mack Wilberg

Bel Canto Singers and Global Voices

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**VIGNETTE FOUR**

Erev Shel Shoshanim “Evening of Roses”

Josef Hadar, arr. Jack Klebano

Global Voices

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**VIGNETTE FIVE**

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Molly Ijames

Kelly Miller, student conductor

Bel Canto Singers

Run, Shepherds!

Isaac Tice, student conductor

Victor C. Johnson

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**VIGNETTE SIX**

The First Nowell

Bel Canto Singers and Global Voices

arr. Mack Wilberg
That’s Christmas to Me  

The fireplace is burning bright, shining all on me,  
I see the presents underneath the good old Christmas tree,  
And I wait all night ’til Santa comes to wake me from my dreams,  
Oh, why? ’Cause that’s Christmas to me.

I see the children play outside, like angels in the snow,  
While mom and daddy share a kiss under the mistletoe,  
And we’ll cherish all these simple things wherever we may be,  
Oh, why? ’Cause that’s Christmas to me.  
I’ve got this Christmas song in my heart,  
I’ve got the candles glowing in the dark.

Katy Clark and Penny Clark

I’m hanging all the stockings by the Christmas tree,  
Oh, why? ’Cause that’s Christmas to me.

I listen for the thud of reindeer walking on the roof,  
As I fall asleep to lullabies, the morning’s coming soon.  
The only gift I’ll ever need is the joy of family,  
Oh, why? ’Cause that’s Christmas to me.

I’ve got this Christmas song in my heart,  
I’ve got the candles glowing in the dark,  
And then for years to come we’ll always know one thing,  
That’s the love that Christmas can bring,  
Oh, why? ’Cause that’s Christmas to me.

A la Media Noche “At Midnight”

A la media noche al rigor del hielo,  
Nace Jesu Cristo, redento del Cielo.  
A la media noche el gallo cantaba,  
Y en su voz decía ya Cristo ha na cido.

Entre pajas nace del cielo gran Rey,  
A su lado tiene la mula y el buey.  
El buey com humilde las pajas le e chaba,  
La maldita mula le descobijaba.

Su madre lomira sin poderle dar,  
Ni lecho ne cuna donde reposar.  
Tiernecito Niño me Jesus, mi Dios,  
Eres suave y dulce, eres todo amor.

Traditional Puerto Rico, arr. Joan Szymko

At midnight, amidst the severity of the cold,  
is born Jesus Christ, redeemer of the heavens.  
At midnight the rooster was singing and in his voice was saying,  
that Christ has been born already.

In the straw He is born from the heavens, great King.  
At his side he has the donkey and the ox.  
The ox, how humble. The straw was thrown about.  
The naughty mule was uncovering him.

His mother is looking at him without being able to give  
Him neither bed nor cradle where to rest.  
Tender Little Babe, my Jesus, my God.  
You are gentle and sweet. You are all love.
**Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.

**William J. Kirkpatrick, arr. Mack Wilberg**

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

**The First Nowell**

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

**Traditional English Carol, arr. Mack Wilberg**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

**Erev Shel Shoshanim “Evening of Roses”**

Erev shel shoshanim
Netse na el habustan
Mor besamim ulevona
Lenaglech mifian

Shachar homa yona
Roshech male telalim
Pich el haboker shoshana
Ektefenu li

Layla yored le’at
Veru’ach shoshan noshvah
Hava elhash lach shir balat
Zemer shel ahava

**Josef Hadar, arr. Jack Klebano**

Evening of roses
Let us go out to the grove
Myrrh, perfumes and Frankincense
Is the carpet under your feet

Dawn and the dove coos
Your hair is full of dewdrops
Your lips are as roses unto the morning
I will pick them for myself

Night falls slowly
And a wind of rose blows
Let me whisper a song for you slowly
A song of love
Run, Shepherds!
Run, shepherds, run and see the Baby!
Run, shepherds, to Bethlehem!
Run, shepherds, run and see the Baby!
See that Baby, born the Great I AM!

There’s a star in the East on Christmas mourn.
It will lead to the place where the Savior’s born.
If you take good heed to the angel’s words,
You’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds.

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray.

Refrain:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav’nly Father a blessed angel came.
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,

how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name.

“Fear not,” then said the angel, “let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior, the true and radiant light,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan’s pow’r and might.”

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
This sacred time of Christmas tide all others now deface.
**Cast:**
Josh Fleming, Raymore, Mo.
Kayla Gunn, Hillsboro, Kan.
Phoebe Kolb, Milford, Neb.
Quinn Yoder, Cleveland, Ohio
Artist: AnDena Collins, Hutchinson, Kan.

**Tenor**
Luke Allison, Freeman, S.D.
Jack Shingler, Creston, Ohio
Isaac Tice, Buhler, Kan.

**Soprano**
Anna Banman, Lenexa, Kan.
Shinju Baxter, Sedgwick, Kan.
Bethany Masters, Kidron, Ohio
Kelly Miller, Archbold, Ohio
Addy Powers, Buhler, Kan.
Miles Rash, Newton, Kan.
Rachel Teeter, Hesston, Kan.

**Alto**
Meg Beyer, Harrisonburg, Va.
Alyssa Burkholder, Goessel, Kan.
Alisha Dorsing, Royal City, Wash.
Madison Higdon, Hurley, S.D.
Kara Longenecker, Harrisonburg, Va.
Ginny Miller, Harrisonburg, Va.
Alyssa Nolt, Dalton, Ohio
Sadie Oesch, Caldwell, Idaho

**Bass**
Abraham Cadillo Quispe, Yokohama, Japan
Sam Groff, Harrisonburg, Va.
Jesse Kanagy, Lancaster, Pa.
Aidan Swartzendruber, Henderson, Neb.

**Stage Manager:** Alexis Driscoll, Sedgwick, Kan.
**Multimedia Operator:** Mark Leard, Agoura, Calif. and Kaylee Manning, El Dorado, Kan.
**Soundboard Operator:** Alexis Driscoll
**Multimedia Designers:** Rachel Jantzi and Alexis Driscoll
UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS
Dec. 7: Sunflower Performing Arts: Canadian Brass, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22: Sunflower Performing Arts: VOICES8, 7:30 p.m.
March 2 to 6: Spring Musical: James and the Giant Peach, Black Box Theater, Keim Center
April 1 to 3: Mennonite Schools Council Choral Festival

Stay informed! Email finearts@hesston.edu to receive monthly updates about upcoming performances.
RUSSELL ADRIAN, D.M.A., joined the Hesston College music faculty in 2015. He conducts the Bel Canto Singers, teaches music theory and has led two International Chorales on three-week tours of Europe. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in conducting from the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis), Master of Music degree in choral conducting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and graduated from Bethel College (North Newton, Kan.) with degrees in music and mathematics. In addition, Russell serves as the artistic director of The Summer Singers, a chamber vocal ensemble based in Minneapolis, Minn. He resides in rural Goessel with his wife, Camille, and three children, Hannah, Micah and Elijah.

RACHEL JANTZI, M.A., has been at Hesston College since 2010 as faculty, and as the Director of Theatre since 2015. She has directed more than 30 shows while at Hesston. Rachel teaches Acting I and II, Stage Makeup, Intro. to Theatre Design, Speech and First Year Seminar. She also heads the popular Hesston College Summer Theatre Camp attended by area high school and middle school students. Rachel has worked in both academic and professional settings as an actor, improvisor, costume designer, choreographer, director and in voiceover.

KEN RODGERS, M.A., has been on the faculty of Hesston College since 1988. He conducts Global Voices choir and teaches organ and Music Appreciation classes. A native of central Kansas, Ken graduated from Hesston College in 1985, Goshen (Ind.) College in 1987 and the University of Kansas (Lawrence) with a master’s degree in church music in 1998. He is also a frequent accompanist for various groups, including the annual Hesston College musical.