

HESSTON COLLEGE THEATRE AND MUSIC PRESENT

# 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

### **VIGNETTE TWO**

A la Media Noche "At Midnight"

Traditional Puerto Rico, arr. Joan Szymko

Global Voices

### **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

### **VIGNETTE FOUR**

Erev Shel Shoshanim "Evening of Roses"

Josef Hadar, arr. Jack Klebano

Global Voices

### **VIGNETTE FIVE**

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Molly Ijames

Kelly Miller, student conductor

Bel Canto Singers

Run, Shepherds!

Victor C. Johnson

Isaac Tice, student conductor

### **VIGNETTE SIX**

The First Nowell

arr. Mack Wilberg

Bel Canto Singers and Global Voices

## TEXT AND TRANSLATIONS

### 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.

### 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 nacido.*

*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 descubijaba.*

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

### 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.

### 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.

## 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

## Erev Shel Shoshanim “Evening of Roses”

*Erev shel shoshanim  
Netse na el habustan  
Mor besamim ulevona  
Leraglech miftan*

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

*Layla yored le'at  
Veru'ach shoshan noshvah  
Hava elchash lach shir balat  
Zemer shel abava*

## 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.

## 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!

## 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!

**Victor C. Johnson**

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn.  
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,

**Molly Ijames**

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.

**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.

**Tenor**

Luke Allison, Freeman, S.D.  
Luke Huyard, Harrisonburg, Va.  
Jack Shingler, Creston, Ohio  
Isaac Tice, Buhler, Kan.

**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

**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.



*VOCES8*



*Canadian Brass*

### **UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS**

Dec. 7: Sunflower Performing Arts: Canadian Brass, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 22: Sunflower Performing Arts: VOCES8, 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](mailto: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, improviser, 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.