

Robbinsville School District  
Choral Music Department  
*proudly presents*

# The Road Home

*a choral concert*



Sunday, December 5th 2021 4pm  
Robbinsville High School Auditorium

# Robbinsville School District

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Curtis Wyers, Assistant Principal  
Debra Taylor, Interim Athletic Director  
Brian Williams, Choral Director

**Pond Road Middle School**  
Paul Gizzo, Principal  
Tawrye Mason, Assistant Principal  
Tom Brettell, Assistant Principal  
Maddie Murphy, Interim Choral Director

Thank you to everyone who made this concert possible! Additionally, a special thank you to Brian Murphy and the entire facilities staff for helping us book this space and keeping it in great working order.

At multiple points in this concert, the conductors may include a few moments of silence after a piece of music. Please hold your applause until the conductor has lowered their hands.



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# Robbinsville High School

proudly presents



April 1, 7pm

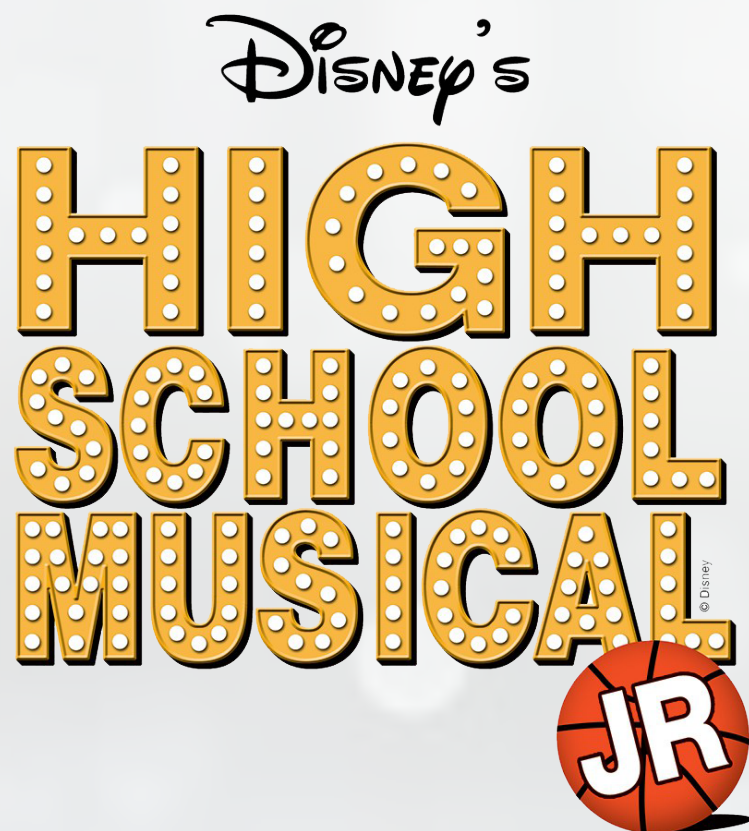
April 2, 7pm

April 3, 3pm

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# Pond Road Middle School

proudly presents



February 4th & 5th

## Meet the Directors



**Ms. Madison Murphy** is a 2021 graduate of Westminster Choir College of Rider University, where she earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education. After student teaching at Pond Road Middle School in the spring, Madison is thrilled to be able to join the PRMS family as a Long-Term Leave Replacement for Mr. PJ Heckman during the fall semester. Madison has performed in choirs all over the United States and around the world, most notably performing Bach's Mass in B Minor and Ravel's L'enfant et les Sortilèges with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Madison has sung with world renowned choral conductors such as Yannick Nézet-Séguin, James Jordan, Joe Miller, Amanda Quist, and more. These choral experiences have allowed Madison to share her passion and extensive knowledge of choir with the students of Pond Road Middle School this semester.



**Brian Williams**, a lover of choral music, first encountered this art form at the end of middle school and has been obsessed ever since. Part of the first graduating class at Robbinsville High School, he continued his studies at Westminster Choir College where he graduated with a Bachelors degree in Music Education and a Masters Degree in Teaching. This year marks Brian's tenth year teaching in the Robbinsville public schools. Outside of the curricular school day, Brian produces for and music directs the Woodbridge Community Players in the summer in addition to working as the music director at Kids and Teens in the Park. He has had the opportunity to work with ensembles and musical acts all over the state, and was honored to direct the first CJMEA middle school honors choir in 2018.



# From the Directors

**Maddie Murphy**  
Pond Road Middle School  
Interim Choral Director

In **What Sweeter Music**, Robert Herrick's Christmas text is beautifully set with an original melody of flowing lines, warm harmonic colors, and an expressive accompaniment by Mary Lynn Lightfoot. The middle section of the piece provides rhythmic interest before a traditional Christmas carol, The First Noel, is quoted to reach a final conclusion. Pond Road Middle School 8th Grader, Lillian Zheng, will be accompanying the choir for this piece.

**Pat-a-Pan** is a French Christmas carol in Burgundian dialect, later adapted into English. Its original title is "Guillô, Pran Ton Tamborin" ("Willie, Bring Your Little Drum"), which can be heard at the beginning of the piece. The name; "patapan" is meant to mimic the sound of the drum, and the accompanying lyric, "tu-re-lu-re-lu," the flute. This is similar conceptually to the carol "The Little Drummer Boy." The choir will be accompanied by a light rhythmic drum and melodic flute.

**Shalom Chaverim** is a beautiful, traditional Israeli folk song typically sung in a three-part round. The Hebrew text translates in English to "Peace, friends," though the word shalom has more depth and richness of meaning than can be contained in any single English word.

Brought to a new generation through this rhythmic, "Lion King" inspired African choral arrangement, the familiar **The Lion Sleeps Tonight**, a 1960's pop hit is still honored through the classic "O-Wim-Oweh" vocals which can be heard at the start of the piece. The composition then branches off into the well-known melody, embellished for modern audiences. Small group soloists will be featured throughout this piece.

**Brian Williams**  
Robbinsville High School  
Choral Director

In the last year and a half I have had the opportunity to work with amazing students on innovating new techniques to keep our passion alive in the midst of a global shutdown. While I am immensely proud of the products and music we created, I kept feeling this tug that something was missing. Singing in an ensemble, creating music live with the people around you, was this monumental gap in my life. **The Road Home** is a beautiful adaptation of a southern folk song explaining that yearning to find your place, and details the inevitable realization that only by doing what you love will guide you back on a road home. Chamber will finish it's set with **Daemon Irrepit Callidus** (the demon sneaks expertly), a thrilling and driving chromatic based piece detailing the lengths in which a demon will try to lure you into it's trap. The unsettled nature of the accompaniment and rapid tossing of melody across the choir paints a vivid picture of the struggle I'm sure we all went through last year while trying to record our parts for virtual choirs.

It is monumental news that we are able to sing together this year, and when designing this concert, I wanted to invoke the global feeling of excitement as we are all looking at (I'm knocking on wood when writing this so it counts) a return to normality in our lives. **Hands are Knockin'** weaves Arabic and English text together to ask the question: if someone was in need around you, would you help them? **O Come, All Ye Faithful's** arrangement by David Willcocks is by far one of my favorite for this time of year. It is simple and familiar, but is elevated by featuring a soaring soprano descant and deviant minor v chord hidden at the end. Adding the language of Ladino to the mix, **Ocho Kandelikas** is a fun counting song celebrating the joys of Chanukah. We then transition into the American folk song **Amazing Grace**, taking the well known tune and laying it over an expanded choral palette. Ola Gjeilo's setting of Christina Rossetti's **The Rose** sounds like a warm blanket wrapping around the room as the choir creates a lush, relentless soundscape as the melody hauntingly goads us forward. **Akekho Ofana No Jesu** is a South African Traditional that is used to bring people together. Between the rhythmic pulse and the call and response setting, this piece is a perfect way to close our first concert since the shutdown. I'd like to take a moment to thank you dearly for all your support: this concert has been a long time coming and without your encouragement to continue to create, I can guarantee there would not be as many dedicated musicians on this stage. Have a wonderful season, be safe, and see you next year!

# *The Performers*

## POND ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL 7th & 8th GRADE CHOIR

Jacob T. Dannenbrink, Elizabeth Davis, Marisa DiMeola, Heshu Elavarasan, Sanjita Ethiraj, Mahjanae Fowler, Izzie Ghen, Jennie Han, Emmalyne Holt, Kara Huang, Alexandra Janowitz, Stella Jiang, Guneet Kaur, Emily Kharb, Kat Kharitonov, Shruti Masamsetty, Chase Mathews, Bailey Mertz, Amanda Nunez, Nevil Patel, Anoushka Rajan, Swarup Rajesh, Swapna Ramachandran, Ivy Rizzo, Sanjana Shahade, Toby Stanton, Peter Stout, Barbara Tur, Olivia Wint, Emma Wong, Nolan Wood, Jenny Wu, Melanie L Zipp, Shahzeb Ahmed, Filipe Almeida, Shankha Chaudhuri, Ciara Graham, Jack Hanson, Kate Hobart, Arshiyaa Kuttin, Ayur Munipalli, Jonathan Ronen, Yatin Tadiparthi, Mahogani Andre, Ria Bokil, Avery Brenna, Ella (El) Dalagelis, Gwentyth Holt, Anwita Indukuri, Saara Khan, Sofia Latushka, Arianna Liebmman, Marium Lodhi, Ria Mahajan, Julia Myers, Kavya Nayak, Jillian Shenghit, Madison Tietjen, Kaitlynne Tighue, Brianna VanNest, Shelsia Vincent, Akshaya Vinod, Lillian Zheng

## LION SLEEPS TONIGHT SOLOISTS

Group 1 - Kara Huang, Shanka Chaudhuri, Izzie Ghen  
Group 2 - Emmalyne Holt, Jillian Shenghit, Sanjita Ethiraj  
Group 3 - Ayur Munipalli, Elizabeth Davis, Gwentyth Holt  
Group 4 - Ria Mahajan, Julia Myers, El Dalagelis

## ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

Anthony Adamo, Mahi Amin, Achyut Anoop, Prithvi Arumugam, Samantha Baron, Ava Blando, Rithika Bodicherla, Sabrina Breden, Angella Brown, Maris Brown, Leah Caiola, Isabella Crapanzano, Sidney Davis, Kami Enciso, John Exner, Emanuel Flores, Melina Fusco, Ella Gallagher, Bridget Godfrey, Rachael Godfrey, Lindsay Goyden, Alyce Heller, Summer Heyburn, Terrence Ho, Felicity Holt, Courtney Horvath, Shreeya Iyer, Sahana Iyer, Brianna Krail, Katie Kratz, Wren Lieberman, Elliora Liebmman, Abigail Moir, Nida Mubarak, Sandhya Muthukumaran, Kate Myers, Anusha Nandan, Amelie Perez, Anusha Qaisar, Harini Ramesh, Isabella Riether, Jonathan Roy, Sumedha Sabbani, Shreya Savur, Saanvi Sawkar, Abby Scatena, Ashley Semmel, Brandon Semmel, Brianna Semmel, Ethan Shaev, Ria Sharma, Ashley Spilatore, Ryan Stanton, Crow Sussman, Addis Tafesse, Hailey Tkacs, Aanya Tummala, Catalina Vasquez, Natalie Villegas, Emily Volchansky, Sylvia Wahby, Sris Wilfred, Allyson Wolochuk, Sivapriya Yallapragada, Shruthi Yarraguntia

## ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR

Anthony Adamo, Ava Blando, Isabella Crapanzano, Ella Gallagher, Bridget Godfrey, Shreeya Iyer, Wren Lieberman, Nida Mubarak, Saanvi Sawkar, Anusha Qaisar, Isabella Riether, Abby Scatena, Ashley Spilatore, Allyson Wolochuk

**Thank you for  
your continued support  
of the performing arts  
in Robbinsville!**



**Amazing Grace**  
New Britain  
Arr. Robert T. Gibson  
Text by John Newton

Felicity Holt, soprano

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now I'm found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

**The Rose**  
Ola Gjeilo  
Text by Christina Rossetti

The lily has a smooth stalk,  
Will never hurt your hand;  
But the rose upon her brier  
Is lady of the land.

There's sweetness in an apple tree,  
And profit in the corn;  
But lady of all beauty  
Is a rose upon a thorn.

When with moss and honey  
She tips her bending brier,  
And half unfolds her glowing heart,  
She sets the world on fire.

**Akekho Ofana No Jesu**  
South African Traditional  
arr. Daniel Jackson  
Ethan Shae, tenor

(There is no one like Jesus)

Akekho ofana no Jesu  
Akekho ofana naye

Siyahamba akekho  
Siyafuna akekho  
Siyajika akekho

There is no one like Jesus

We search - there is no one  
We turn - there is no one  
We walk - there is no one

# The Road Home

*a choral concert*

## Pond Road Middle School 7th & 8th Grade Choir

Maddie Murphy, Director  
Peter deMets, piano

**What Sweeter Music?**  
Mary Lynn Lightfoot  
Words By: Robert Herrick

Lillian Zheng, piano

What sweeter music can we bring?  
What sweeter music, than a carol for to sing  
The birth of this our Heavenly king?  
Awake the voice, awake the string  
Awake the heart and ear and eye  
Awake and sing!  
Everything awake and sing, O sing!  
Noel, noel. Sing we all a joyful noel.

**Pat-a-Pan**  
Traditional  
Arr. Greg Gilpin

Willie play your little drum,  
Robin take your flute and come.  
We can hear the tune you play,  
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a pat-a pan  
We can hear the tune you play  
On this joyous Christmas day

**Shalom Chaverim**  
Israeli Folk Song

Shalom Chaverim  
Lehitriot  
Peace, friends

Goodbye, my friends  
Be Safe, my friends  
Have peace  
Till we meet again

**The Lion Sleeps Tonight**  
Lyrics and Revised Music  
by George David Weiss,  
Hugo Peretti, and Luigi  
Creatore  
Arr. Alan Billingsley

O-Wim-o-weh  
In the jungle, the mighty jungle,  
The lion sleeps tonight  
In the village, the peaceful village,  
The lion sleeps tonight  
Hush, my darling, don't fear my darling  
The lion sleeps tonight



# Robbinsville High School Chamber Choir

Brian Williams, Director

## The Road Home

Tune: “Prospect” from  
Southern Harmony 1835  
Adapted by Stephen Paulus  
Text by Michael Dennis  
Browne

Tell me where is the road I can call my own,  
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?  
All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know  
There’s a way, thee’s a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,  
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,  
Through the air there’s a calling from far away,  
There’s a voice, I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away is the call,  
With love in your heart as the only song;  
There is no such beauty as where you belong,  
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

Anusha Qaisar, soprano

## Daemon Irrepat Callidus György Orbán

Daemon irrepat callidus,  
Illicit cor honoribus.  
Daemon ponit fraudes inter  
cantus altus  
Quid-quid amabile  
Daemon dat cor Jesu minus  
aestimat.

Caro venatur sensibus;  
Sensus adhaeret dapibus;  
Inescatur, impingatur dilatatur.  
Quidquid amabile Caro dat,  
Cor Jesu minus aestimat.

Adde mundorum milia,  
Mille millena gaudia;  
Cordis aestum non explebunt,  
non arcebunt.  
Quidquid amabile Totum dat,  
Cor Jesu minus aestimat.

The Demon sneaks expertly  
Tempting the honorable heart;  
He sets forth trickery amidst praise,  
song and dance.  
However amiably the Demon acts,  
It is still worth less than the  
heart of Jesus.

The Flesh is tempted by sensuality;  
Gluttony clings to our senses;  
It overgrows, it encroaches, it stretches.  
However appealing the Flesh is,  
It is still worth less than the heart of Jesus.

Though the Universe may confer  
Thousands upon thousands of praises,  
They neither fulfill nor put out the  
desire of the heart.  
However appealing the whole universe is,  
It is still worth less than the heart of Jesus.

# Robbinsville High School Concert Choir

Brian Williams, Director

Molly Biscocho, violin  
Steven Ridge, violin  
Caty Butler, cello  
Meghan Doyle, guitar  
Peter deMets, piano

## Hands are Knockin’ Kyle Pederson

Naftahhu athhanana,  
alhamdulillah  
Naftahhu qulubana,  
alhamdulillah  
Namuddu aydeeyana,  
alhamdulillah

Prithvi Arumugam, tenor  
Rachael Godfrey, alto

We open our minds,  
thanks to God (Alleluia)  
We open our hearts,  
thanks to God (Alleluia)  
We reach out our hands,  
thanks to God (Alleluia)

Hands are knockin’,  
Brother, will you let them in?  
Hands are knockin’,  
Sister, will you let them in?

## O Come All Ye Faithful Traditional Carol Arr. David Willcocks

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him Born the king of angels:  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the virgin’s womb,  
Very God, begotten, not created:  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv’n:  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

## Ocho Kandelikas Ladino Song for Chanukah By Flory Jagoda arr. Joshua Jacobson

Bridget Godfrey, alto

(Eight Candles)

Hanuka linda ‘sta aki,  
Ocho kandelas para mi.

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas,  
Tres kandelikas, kuarto kandelikas,  
Sintju kandelikas, seysh kandelikas,  
Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas  
para mi.

Los pastelikos vo kumer,  
Con almendrikas i la miel.

Muchas fiestas vo fazer,  
Con alegrías i plazer

Beautiful Chanukah is here,  
Eight candles for me.

One candle, two candles,  
Three candles, four candles,  
Five candles, six candles,  
Seven candles, eight candles  
for me.

I will eat the little pies,  
With almonds and honey.

I will give many parties,  
With happiness and pleasure.