



KOTZSCHMAR  
*Organ*

# Christmas

— WITH KENNERLEY —

DECEMBER 19, 2022 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM  
PORTLAND, MAINE

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY  
FRIENDS OF THE  
KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN



## ABOUT THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN

The mighty **Kotzschmar Organ** is one of the grandest and most celebrated pipe organs in the world. It is one of only two municipal organs in the United States, harnessing incredible power and range that “wows” musicians and audiences alike.

The organ has five keyboards, one pedal board, 305 keys, and 7,101 pipes. Its surprisingly spacious windchest can accommodate up to 50 people – and the organ chamber is big enough to hold about six tractor-trailers!

The Kotzschmar has a long and fascinating history, beginning with its construction in 1912 in what was then known as Portland City Hall Auditorium. Today, “the king of instruments” is a treasured fixture of Merrill Auditorium that inspires awe in people of all ages, near and far.

## ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN

Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ (FOKO) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, maintaining, and celebrating the organ through world-class performances and community engagement programs. Our work is made possible thanks to the support of many loyal friends, fans, and donors. To learn more and get involved, visit [foko.org](http://foko.org).

## Welcome!

I am delighted to welcome you to this year's *Christmas with Kennerley*. Music provides much needed light and beauty for the world, especially during these challenging times. The 7,101 pipes of the Kotzschmar Memorial Organ have been thrilling audiences for over 110 years, and we are excited to see what the next 110 years holds for us!

For this concert, I wanted to create a program that would showcase the traditional—and the fun—sides of the holidays. We will hear music in all sorts of styles – from medieval, Renaissance, jazz, and Broadway! Featured this year is the stunning mezzo-soprano, Briana Hunter, as well as the tuneful voices of the Windham Chamber Singers and Renaissance Voices. The Mighty Kotzschmar just loves it when the whole audience sings, and we will have plenty of opportunities to do just that, with the help of the Kotzschmar Festival Brass & Percussion ensemble.

Thank you for making *Christmas with Kennerley* a part of your holiday tradition. We look forward to seeing you for our upcoming concerts, in particular the spectacular program of music celebrating the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach on March 25, 2023. It's going to knock your socks off!

A very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your family!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James".

James Kennerley, municipal organist





A black and white photograph of several stage spotlights shining down from above, creating a dramatic effect with light rays and shadows.

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# Christmas

WITH KENNERLEY

Merrill Auditorium - Portland, Maine  
*Monday, December 19, 7 p.m.*

**JAMES KENNERLEY**, municipal organist

**BRIANA HUNTER**, mezzo-soprano

**RENAISSANCE VOICES**, Harold Stover, director

**WINDHAM CHAMBER SINGERS**, Richard Nickerson, director

**KOTZSCHMAR BRASS AND PERCUSSION**

**Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella**

Traditional French Carol  
arr. Keith Chapman (1945-1989)

**Joy to the World**

attrib. George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)  
arr. James Kennerley (b. 1984)

**ALL: Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

CHOIR: Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**ALL: He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

**Ding! Dong! Merrily on High**

Jehan Tabourot  
(1520-1595)  
arr. Mark Burrows (b. 1971)

**Chantons Noël**

Traditional French Carol  
arr. Mark Patterson (b. 1969)

**Windham Chamber Singers**

Dr. Richard Nickerson, director

**Villancico Mexicano**

Silvino Jaramillo  
(1924-2012)

**Kotzschmar Brass and Percussion**

**O Holy Night**

Adolphe Adam  
(1803-1856)

**O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion** (*Messiah*)

G. F. Handel  
(1685-1759)

**Briana Hunter, mezzo-soprano**

**For unto us a child is born** (*Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

**Kotzschmar Brass and Percussion**

**Hallelujah** (*Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

**INTERMISSION**

**Christmas Fantasy**

Werner Parecker  
(b.1979)  
(US première)

**The Blessed Son of God**

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

**Ríu ríu Chíu**

From Cancioneros de Uppsala  
(1556)

**Jim Bishop, baritone; Niki Norman, percussion**

**Hodie Christus natus est**

Giovanni Paolo Cima  
(c1570-1630)

**Renaissance Voices**

Harold Stover

**Capriol Suite**

Peter Warlock

(1894-1930)

i. Basse-Danse

ii. Pavane

arr. James Kennerley (b. 1984)

iii. Tordion

v. Pieds-en-l'air

vi. Mattachins (Sword Dance)

**Kotzschmar Brass & Percussions**

**Santa Claus is Coming to Town**

J. Fred Coots

(1897-1985)

Haven Gillespie

(1888-1975)

**Briana Hunter, mezzo-soprano**

**Christmas Singalong**

John Finnegan

(1926-2012)

**ALL: Jingle bells, jingle bells**

**Jingle all the way**

**Oh, what fun it is to ride**

**In a one-horse open sleigh,**

**Jingle bells, jingle bells**

**Jingle all the way**

**Oh what fun it is to ride**

**In a one-horse open sleigh**

CHOIR: Dashing through the snow

In a one-horse open sleigh

O'er the fields we go

Laughing all the way

Bells on bob tail ring

Making spirits bright

What fun it is to ride and sing

A sleighing song tonight!



**ALL: Oh, Jingle bells, jingle bells  
Jingle all the way.  
Oh! what fun it is to ride  
In a one horse open sleigh.  
Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way;  
Oh, what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh!**

---

CHOIR: It came upon a midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heavens all-gracious King.  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

---

**ALL: Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
With angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.**

---

**ALL: Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace!  
Sleep in heavenly peace!**

---

CHOIR: 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  
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

---

**ALL: Deck the halls with boughs of holly,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
'Tis the season to be jolly,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
Don we now our gay apparel,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol.  
Fa la la la la, la la la la**

---

**ALL: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
O come and behold Him  
born the King of Angels:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3x)  
Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3x)  
Christ the Lord.**



**JAMES KENNERLEY**, *municipal organist*

Hailed as “a great organist” displaying “phenomenal technique and sheer musicality” (Bloomberg News), James Kennerley is a multi-faceted musician, working as a conductor, keyboardist, singer, and composer. His performances are known for their illustrious flair and thrilling virtuosity, subtlety and finesse, drawing on the full resources of the instrument. James’ YouTube performances have enjoyed worldwide popularity and millions of views globally. His concert engagements this season take him to Boston’s Symphony Hall, Montreal’s Maison Symphonique, an international tour to Rome, Florence, and Venice, and even Fenway Park!

In 2019, James was named Director of Music at Saint Paul’s Church, Harvard Square, presiding over the world-famous choir of men and boys. He was appointed the Municipal Organist of Portland, Maine, in 2017, following a unanimous vote from the Search Committee and the City Council. A native of the United Kingdom, he has held Organist and Choirmaster positions at Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church, New York City and the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Times Square. He is also part of a team of musicians at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City, one of the foremost centers of Jewish Music and Liturgy in the world. Mr. Kennerley made his Carnegie Hall solo début in 2016 with the celebrated ensemble the Sejong Soloists. Performances last season included concerts at Alice Tully Hall, the Frick Collection, the Metropolitan Museum’s MetLiveArts series, and in the Lincoln Center



White Light Festival. He has also given concerts at Washington National Cathedral, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Princeton University, the Royal Albert Hall, Saint Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and other major venues throughout the United States and Europe. He was a featured artist on recordings with the Grammy - nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street including Handel's *Messiah and Israel in Egypt*, and Monteverdi *Vespers*, as well as a recording of Julian Wachner's *The Snow Lay on the Ground*. Mr. Kennerley was a prizewinner at the 2008 Albert Schweitzer International Organ Competition, and a finalist at the inaugural (2013) Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition.

Mr. Kennerley holds degrees from Cambridge University and The Juilliard School. He has studied the organ with David Sanger, Thomas Trotter, and McNeil Robinson, and harpsichord with Kenneth Weiss, Peter Sykes, and Richard Egarr. He holds the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists diploma.



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**BRIANA HUNTER**, mezzo-soprano

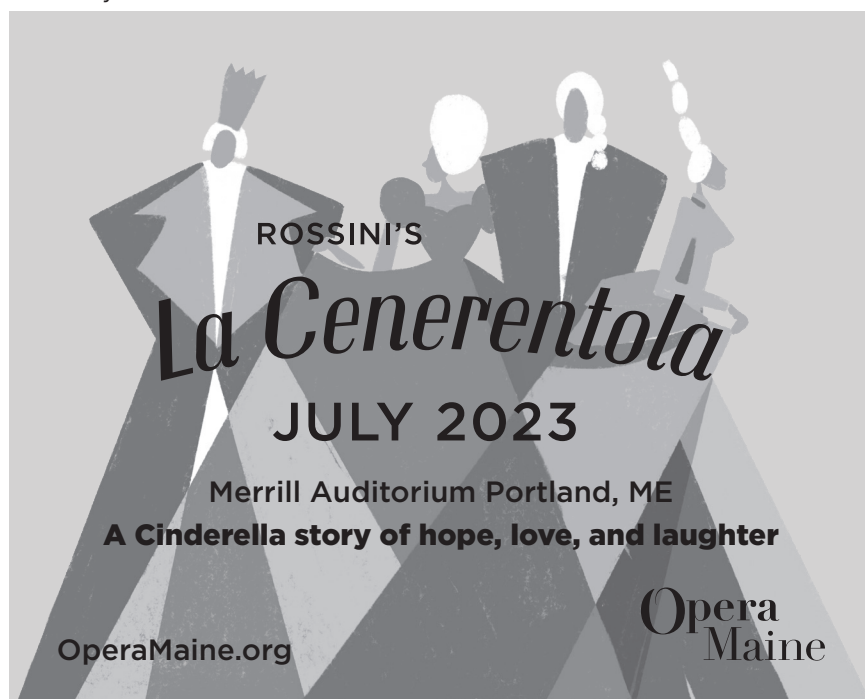
**Briana Hunter** has been hailed by Opera News as “a mesmerizing mezzo-soprano with a fiery theatrical presence and dynamic vocalism.” Ms. Hunter’s 2021/2022 season began with two major New York City debuts: first at the Metropolitan Opera as Ruby/Woman Sinner in a new production of Terence Blanchard’s *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, followed by her Carnegie Hall debut with The Orchestra Now in a performance of Julia Perry’s *Stabat Mater*, under the auspices of the Bard Musical Festival. In January of 2022 she sang the title role in *Carmen* with Opera Idaho, and reprised her critically acclaimed portrayal of Mother in Jeanine Tesori’s *Blue* in February at Seattle Opera and with Pittsburgh Opera in April. On the concert stage, she enjoyed appearances at the Madison Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis*, as well as the Charlotte Symphony for Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9*. Other recent engagements include leading roles with Opera Orlando, Santa Fe Opera, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mostly Mozart Festival, Opera Columbus, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Opera Birmingham, and the Kennedy Center.

Ms. Hunter created the roles of Mother in Jeanine Tesori’s *Blue* at the Glimmerglass Festival and Dee Dee Reyes in Hillard and Boresi’s *The Last American Hammer* with UrbanArias. Additional recent performances include multiple roles in Augusta Read Thomas’ *Sweet Potato Kicks the Sun* with the Santa Fe Opera; Hannah Before in Laura Kaminsky’s *As One* at the Kaufman Music Center with New York City Opera and American Opera Projects; Annie and Strawberry Woman in *Porgy and Bess* at the Glimmerglass Festival; and Giovanna in *Rigoletto* and Gertrude Stein in Ricky Ian Gordon’s *27* at Michigan Opera Theatre, for which she won the Encore Michigan award for Best

Performance in an Opera. She made her Lincoln Center Theater debut for a workshop of *Intimate Apparel* by Ricky Ian Gordon and Lynn Nottage, directed by Bartlett Sher, and returned for a gala performance of *Camelot* starring Lin-Manuel Miranda.

An accomplished stage actress, Ms. Hunter has worked with Tony and Academy Award winning playwright Mark Medoff in a production of his play *Gunfighter-A Gulf War Chronicle*, in addition to developing and starring in an original double bill titled *Infinite Variety/For Every Passion Something* under the direction of the Royal Shakespeare Company and presented in a two-week run at the Fringe Festival in Scotland. At the Manhattan School of Music, she performed in the institution's first ever production of *The Vagina Monologues* in addition to singing with the American Musical Theater Ensemble for productions of *Godspell* and *Ragtime*.

Ms. Hunter is a Lotte Lenya Competition finalist and winner of the Lys Symonette Award from The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music. She participated in the I SING BEIJING program where she performed at The National Center for the Performing Arts. Ms. Hunter holds an M.M. from Manhattan School of Music and a B.A. from Davidson College. Originally from Malvern, Pennsylvania, she currently resides in New York City.







## **WINDHAM CHAMBER SINGERS**

**The Windham Chamber Singers** are thrilled to return to live performances! The choir gained international attention in 1996 by winning the Prize of Vienna at the 25th International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria. Since then, they have captured the hearts of audiences everywhere. Their accomplishments have been recognized on the NBC Nightly News and National Public Radio. The Chamber Singers have appeared on CBS This Morning, the Today Show, and in their own prime time holiday special broadcast on WGME TV. The choir has performed at major venues including Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Notre Dame Basilica (Montreal) and the White House. The Chamber Singers have appeared in concert with artists including John Rutter, Josh Groban, Kenny Rogers, Andy Williams, The Celtic Tenors, Dougie MacLean, and Sean Slaughter and Master Stroke Queen Tribute. Their American Family Holiday concerts have become a holiday tradition in the Lakes Region and have featured renowned guests such as Jodi Benson, Noel Paul Stookey (Peter, Paul and Mary), Sutton Foster, Norm Lewis, Lindsay Mendez, and Mandy Gonzalez. They have made 4 guest appearances at the Magic of Christmas concerts with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, most recently in December, 2018.

The choir has released 5 CDs on the Pine Point label and has appeared on numerous other recordings, either as background singers or as contributors on compilation recordings. In June, 2018, they celebrated the 30th anniversary of the choir with a 2-day reunion that welcomed back hundreds of alumni.

The anniversary was recognized with the commission of a new piece, "Find Where the Beauty Is" by award winning composer, Jim Papoulis.

Each year the choir tours the Northeast, presenting assemblies and workshops at area schools in addition to public concerts. In April, 2023, they will spend 5 days performing throughout New England.

**Richard Nickerson** was recently named Artistic Director for the Maine Music Society. He has been Director of Choral Activities at Windham High School in Windham, Maine for the past 35 years where he conducts 2 choirs and teaches courses in music theory, guitar and music industry.

A frequent guest conductor and clinician, he has made guest appearances in 18 states, 4 Canadian provinces and 8 European countries. He served for 8 seasons (2007-2014), as the conductor of the "Magic of Christmas" Chorus with the Portland Symphony Orchestra. He also spent 8 years (2001-2009), as the Artistic Director of the Boy Singers of Maine. He served from 2009-2020 as Minister of Music at the North Windham Union Church. His choirs have performed for many dignitaries, including 3 US Presidents. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1998 and returned in 2016 to conduct the Maine Festival Chorus.

## SINGERS

### **Soprano**

AnnMarie Andrews  
Laura Bearce  
Corey Brackett  
Oliver Coleman  
Rowan Cummings  
Karly Day  
Annaelle Kirezi  
Sophie Koutalakis  
Anna Lane  
Victoria Leavitt  
Vicotira Lin

### **Alto**

Bella Bragdon  
Ava Dickson  
Kaitlyn dickson  
Alexandra Funk  
Madelyn Hancock  
Ashley Littlefield  
Francesca Lomonte  
Greta Paulding  
Molly Plati  
Morgan Policano

### **Tenor**

Nicholas Devenport  
Stuart Gabaree  
Benjamin Groff  
Jacob Lowberg

### **Bass**

Theodore Becker  
Ralph Leavitt  
Lochlin Post van der Berg  
Bryce Smith  
William Yates



**Renaissance Voices** was founded in 1995 by a group of Maine singers on tour in London. The original idea for an auditioned, Portland-based, a capella ensemble is still its model today. Although the group's emphasis remains the a cappella performance of early European music, in recent years its repertoire has broadened to include other periods from the Middle Ages to the present day, including many works by women composers and premieres of new works. Harold Stover has been its conductor since 2001. A native of Latrobe, PA and a graduate of the Juilliard School in New York City, he has served churches in New York and Portland where he directed both liturgical and concert works. He presently serves as the Organist and Director of Music of the Episcopal chapel of St. Peter's by-the-Sea in Cape Neddick. His career as an organ recitalist includes several concerts on the Kotschmar Organ, and appearances on most major New York recital series, at Westminster Abbey in London, the National Cathedral in Washington, Harvard and Princeton universities, and many other distinguished venues. He has been active in FOKO since 1995, served as its president from 2003 until 2006, and presently sits on its board of directors.

## SINGERS

### Soprano

Joanna Clymer  
Joanne deKay  
Alison Violette  
Rhee Michelle  
Julia Smucker  
Alison Violette  
Breda White  
Rita Zanichkowsky

### Alto

Dawn Anderson  
Jean Bryenton  
Tracy Hawkins  
Megan Holt  
Lisa Jacob  
Eleanor Roberts  
Penny Winter

### Tenor

Clarissa Brown  
Bernie Horowitz  
Curtis Maurand  
Nina Miller  
David White

### Bass

Jim Bishop  
Juergen Renger  
Woody Howard  
Kirk Read





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Oct 16, 2022

VentiCordi Chamber Music  
Nov 13, 2022

PSQ Concert II  
Dec 4, 2022

Winter Solstice Concert:  
"Art of the Fugue"  
Free "Gift to the City"  
Dec 21, 2022

Lantz-Kargul Duo  
February 12, 2023

Welcome to Chamber Music  
Mar 26, 2023

PSQ Concert III  
Apr 16, 2023

PSQ Concert IV  
May 14, 2023

*The 2022-2023 Portland String Quartet concert series is presented by the Portland String Quartet Society (formerly LARK Society for Chamber Music). For tickets & more details, please visit us online at: [www.portlandstringquartet.com](http://www.portlandstringquartet.com)*

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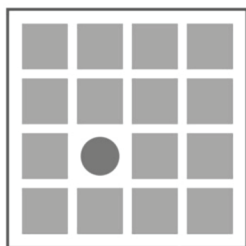
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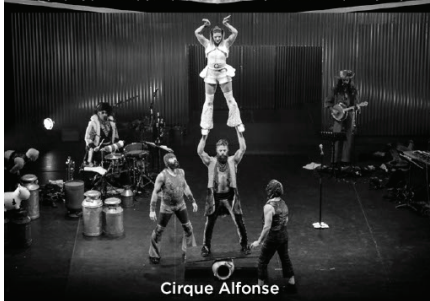
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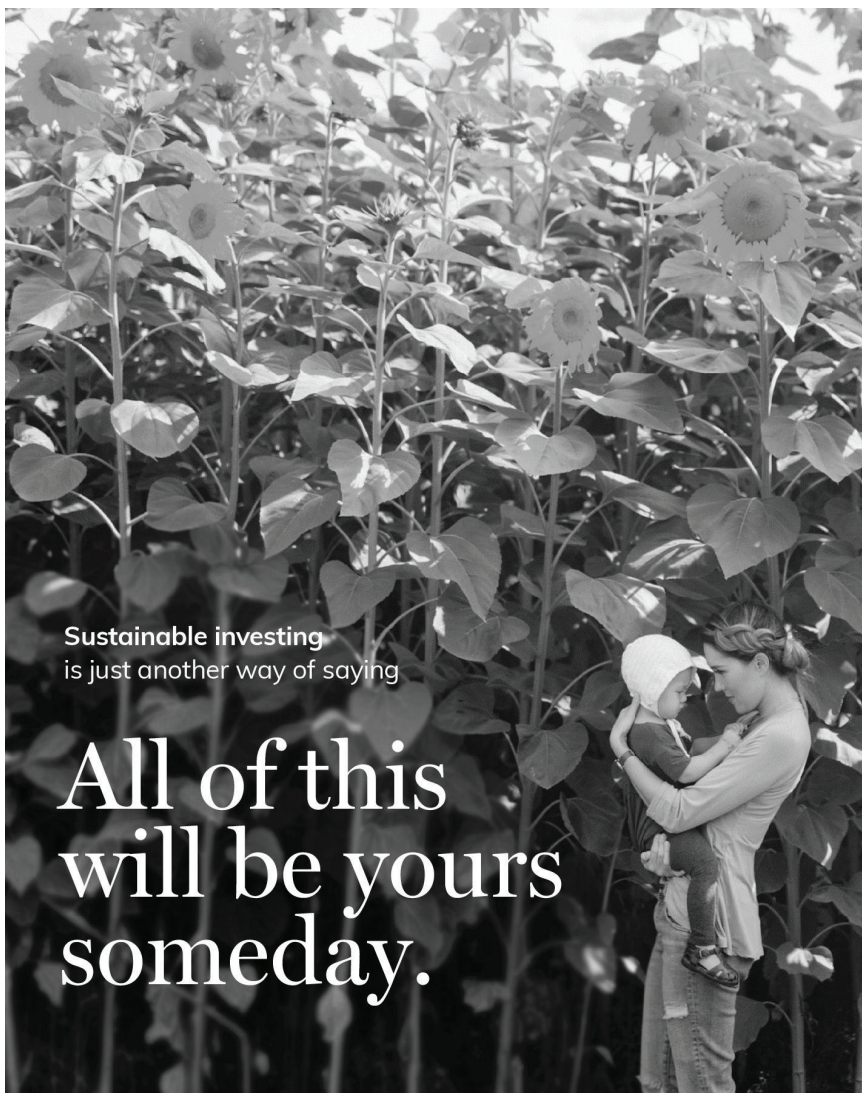
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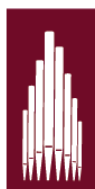
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