



# CHRISTMAS WITH KENNERLEY

MERRILL AUDITORIUM  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024 • 7:00 PM

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!

Welcome to Christmas with Kennerley! For 112 years, the 7,101 pipes of the Kotschmar Memorial Organ have filled hearts with awe and delight, and we are thrilled to share the magic and joy of holiday music with you tonight.

This year's program celebrates the many sides of the holidays—traditional, festive, and everything in between, with a strong emphasis on local talent. You'll enjoy a rich variety of musical styles, from Baroque and Renaissance to jazz and spirituals. Our featured soloists include the extraordinary Portland soprano Molly Harmon and Erin Ovalle, lifestyle media personality and founder of MaineLife.

We are honored to welcome the supremely talented Madrigal Singers from Greely High School in Yarmouth, brilliantly directed by Sarah Bailey. Supporting and uplifting young performers is a cornerstone of our mission, and we are delighted to see them shine on this magnificent stage. And, of course, no Christmas with Kennerley would be complete without the dazzling brass and percussion of the Kotschmar ensemble.

Thank you for making Christmas with Kennerley a cherished part of your holiday tradition. We look forward to seeing you for our upcoming Backstage Pipe tours and concerts, in particular the spectacular program of music celebrating the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach on Saturday, March 22, 2025. It's going to knock your socks off!

A very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!

*James*



# CHRISTMAS WITH KENNERLEY

Merrill Auditorium - Portland, Maine

*Monday, December 23, 2024*

**JAMES KENNERLEY**, municipal organist

**MOLLY HARMON**, soprano

**GREELY HIGH SCHOOL MADRIGAL SINGERS**, Sarah Bailey, director

**ERIN OVALLE**, narrator, Maine Life Media

**KOTZSCHMAR BRASS AND PERCUSSION**

**Joy to the World**

attrib. George Frideric Handel  
arr. James Kennerley

**Kotzhscmar Brass and Percussion**  
**James Kennerley, organ**

**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.**

**Carol of the Bells**

Ukrainian folk song  
arr. Mykola Leontovych

**Frosty the Snowman**

Walter "Jack" Rollins and Steve Nelson  
arr. Patrick D. Finley

**Ríu, Ríu Chiu**

16th C. Spanish Carol  
arr. Erica Phare-Bergh

**Stille Nacht**

Franze Gruber and Joseph Mohr

**Greely High School Madrigal Singers**

Sarah Bailey, director  
Emmalynn Craft, soloist  
Michael Albert, recorder  
Lily Pollock, descant

**O Holy Night**

Adolphe Adam

**Molly Harmon, soprano**  
**James Kennerley, organ**

**Overture to the Royal Fireworks**

G. F. Handel  
arr. James Kennerley

**Kotzschmar Brass and Percussion**  
**James Kennerley, organ**

**Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah)**

G. F. Handel

|: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|  
|: For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! :|  
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.  
|: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! :|  
The kingdom of this world  
Is become the kingdom of our Lord,

And of His Christ, and of His Christ;  
And He shall reign for ever and ever,  
For ever and ever, forever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,  
|: King of kings, and Lord of lords, :|  
And Lord of lords,

And He shall reign,  
And He shall reign forever and ever,  
King of kings, forever and ever,  
And Lord of lords,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And He shall reign forever and ever,  
|: King of kings! and Lord of lords! :|  
And He shall reign forever and ever,  
King of kings! and Lord of lords!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

## INTERMISSION

### Improvisation on Christmas Melodies

**Sweet Little Jesus Boy**

Robert MacGimsey

**Molly Harmon, soprano  
James Kennerley, organ**

**Santa Claus is Coming to Town**

arr. Elliot/Chase/Kennerley

**Molly Harmon, soprano & Kotzschmar Brass and Percussion  
James Kennerley, organ**

**'Twas The Night Before Christmas**

Anthony DiLorenzo  
arr. James Kennerley

**Erin Ovalle & Kotzschmar Brass and Percussion  
James Kennerley, organ**

**'Twas The Night Before Christmas**

Anthony DiLorenzo  
arr. James Kennerley

**Christmas Singalong**

John Finnegan

**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**

Cast: 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!**

**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.**

Cast: It came upon the 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 heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

**ALL: Hark! The herald-angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
With the 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!**

**ALL: 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.**

Cast: The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.



**ALL: Deck the hall 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!  
Fill the meadcup, drain the barrel,  
Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!  
Troul the ancient Christmas carol,  
Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!**

**ALL: 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,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**ALL: 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,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.**

***Give a Gift***  
*Thank You*





**JAMES KENNERLEY**, *municipal organist*

Hailed as “a great organist” displaying “phenomenal technique and sheer musicality” (Bloomberg News), James Kennerley is a multi-faceted musician who works as a conductor, keyboardist, singer, and composer. His performances are known for their illustrious flair, 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.

In 2023, James was named Minister of Music at the historic Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church in Falmouth, Maine, where he directs the choir, performs on the fine Casavant pipe organ, and continues to make the church a focus for musical performances throughout the year. In 2019, James was named Director of Music at Saint Paul’s Church, Harvard Square, overseeing 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 and the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in New York City. 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 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 is a featured artist on recordings including Handel's *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*, Monteverdi *Vespers*, and Julian Wachner's *The Snow Lay on the Ground* with the Grammy - nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street. Mr. Kennerley is 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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**MOLLY HARMON**, *soprano*

**Molly Harmon** is a sought-after soloist and chorister in Southern Maine, performing with groups like ChoralArt, St. Mary Schola, and Classical Uprising. A native of Portland, she is excited to be featured in Christmas with Kennerley this year. Recent highlights include the role of Dido in Dido and Aeneas with St. Mary Schola, soprano soloist in Vaughan Williams's Serenade to Music with the PSO, and the premiere of Mozart Requiem Renewal with Classical Uprising. Molly is also passionate about ensemble and chamber music, with recitals featuring works by Strauss, Britten, and Whitacre. She resides in Portland, where she maintains a growing voice studio.



**ERIN OVALLE,** *Maine Life Media*

Erin Ovalle is a dynamic television host, producer, and entrepreneur. As the founder of the production company Maine Life Media, which produces several Emmy-nominated television programs—most notably the popular lifestyle show *MaineLife*—Erin has spent nearly a decade uncovering the stories that define Maine’s unique character. Now entering its 10th season, *MaineLife* continues to captivate audiences with its exploration of the state’s vibrant communities, local businesses, and hidden gems. With a background in broadcast journalism and a deep love for her home state, Erin’s authenticity and enthusiasm make her a trusted voice and beloved personality in Maine’s media landscape.



## GREELY HIGH SCHOOL MADRIGAL SINGERS

The **Greely High School Madrigal Singers** are a select choir chosen by audition. Each year they perform a wide variety of music at school concerts and throughout the community. Annual highlights include many Christmas caroling performances and singing the national anthem for the Portland Sea Dogs. Individual singers are also highly accomplished, achieving musical goals such as: acceptance to honors festivals at the regional, state, eastern and national levels; lead roles in musical theater productions; proficiency on a musical instrument; writing musical compositions and arrangements. The Madrigal Singers are honored to be invited to participate in Christmas with Kennerley 2024!

### SINGERS

#### **Soprano**

Marinna Emery  
Caroline Hester  
Lily Pollock

#### **Alto**

Emmalynn Craft  
Cora Mohr  
Simone Sites

#### **Tenor**

Charles Devine  
Christopher Gilbert  
Andrew Perfetti

#### **Bass**

Chase Bilodeau  
Grady LeFebvre  
Arman Kethavath





**Sarah Bailey** has been conducting choirs for more than 20 years. She is currently the director of choirs at Greely High School in Cumberland, music director for Greely Drama, chorus master for Portland Ballet, children's chorus master for Opera Maine, and co-director of the Portland Symphony Orchestra Children's Chorus. She has previously served as chorus master for Opera Maine and Maine State Ballet, and has been a guest conductor with several local organizations and regional festivals throughout Maine.

Her ensembles can be found performing at various local venues throughout the year, including an annual appearance singing the national anthem for the Portland Sea Dogs. Ms. Bailey is active in her professional organizations, having held multiple offices with Maine Music Educators Association at the district and state levels. She has been honored by her administrators with multiple teaching awards and by her peers with nominations for MSAD 51 Employee of the Year and the Maine ACDA Distinguished Choral Director Award.

Off the podium Ms. Bailey is also a locally-known classical soprano, performing with groups such as: ChoralART, Maine Music Society, Midcoast Symphony Orchestra, Bach Virtuosi Festival, and the White Mountain Bach Festival.

Ms. Bailey holds a BM in Music Education (Magna Cum Laude) from Houghton University and a MM in Choral Conducting (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of Southern Maine. She lives in North Yarmouth with her husband Stuart and cat Cupcake.

## KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN BRASS & PERCUSSION

### **Trumpet:**

Joseph Foley  
Betty Rines  
Dana Russian

### **Tenor Trombone:**

Liam Glendening  
Mark Manduca

### **French Horn:**

Lauren Winter  
Michael Bellofatto

### **Bass Trombone:**

Alan Carr

### **Percussion &**

### **Timpani:**

Joseph DeMarco  
Nancy Smith  
Richard Kelly

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*Thomas Cattell  
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