

ORLANDO SINGS

# Solaria Solstice

SOLARIA SINGERS

ANDREW MINEAR, *conductor*

DECEMBER 21 | 8 PM

THE HARRIETT COLEMAN CENTER  
FOR PERFORMING ARTS



## A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Solaria Fans and Friends of Orlando Sings,

For the fourth year, we gather to celebrate the winter solstice with song. Inspired by the turning of the seasons and the wonders of the universe, music connects the celestial and the personal—distilling cosmic rhythms into the pulse of our hearts and the energy of every atom in our bodies. Annual traditions and holidays become touchstones in this eternal cycle, bringing moments of joy, reflection, and, for some, difficulty. As *New York Times* “Cosmic Affairs Correspondent” Dennis Overbye reminds us, “you trust that the steady rise and fall of stars heralds order, only to be ambushed by surprise and confusion.”



This season, we remember—treasured times with loved ones and the enduring light they leave behind. My own memories drift to Thanksgiving at the kids’ table with my cousins, Christmas feasts at my grandparents’ magical home, and this year, the candle I will light for the late mother of my children. Even in loss, the light of love shines always.

In the darkest nights, we hold to the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Tonight’s program acknowledges the night and then shines a radiant light, ushering us from the year’s end into a new journey around the Sun and the promise of bright days ahead.

The timing of this season is no coincidence. Christmas aligns with ancient celebrations of the solstice—the Roman festival of Sol Invictus (“The Unconquered Sun”) and Saturnalia, rejoicing in the return of light. Early Christians chose this time to honor Jesus, the “Light of the World,” bringing hope into darkness. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, also celebrates light and resilience during the year’s darkest days.

As this tradition stretches back centuries, so does the art of choral music. Tonight’s program spans ancient melodies (“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”) and new creations, including Orlando Sings’ first-ever commissioned work: Northern Winter Songs by Moira Smiley. This interplay of ancient and modern, light and dark, joy and sorrow, indeed reflects the essence and fullness of life itself.

May tonight fill you with hope, resilience, and the courage to embrace new beginnings, knowing the best is yet to come. May your heartbeats reverberate the profound message: “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!”

Thank you for being part of the journey tonight.

With gratitude,

Andrew Minear, D.M.A.

Artistic and Executive Director

*Scan for detailed program notes and singer bios.*



# ORLANDO SINGS ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

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Penny Walsh

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JC Fullerton

Connie Gentle

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Jessica Hamilton

Maria Hayes

Melissa Hoist

Madison Hubbart  
Henrietta Katzen  
Malcom Katzen  
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Zerrin Martin  
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Evan and Nick Powers  
Ezra Prather  
Karen Reid  
Beverley D. Rinaldi

Peter and Jennifer Rodrigues  
Susan Schafer  
Virginia Schenck  
Joanne Schott  
Miranda Schubert  
Sandy Scott  
Theresa Smith-Levin  
Alex Swartzel  
NeShea Thompson  
Patrice and Ken Thompson  
Michelle Toro  
Ledeane Williams  
Sarah Wright-Killinger

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We are so grateful for your support.



# A SOLARIA SOLSTICE

ORLANDO SINGS SOLARIA SINGERS

Andrew Minear, *conductor*

Ledeane Williams, *piano*

## PROGRAM

### I. PROLOGUE: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

A Light Within

Sean Ivory

### II. LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Sing Christmas!

Philip Lasser

O Come, O Come Emmanuel/O Come All Ye Faithful\*

arr. Dragomir Page

Lux Aurumque

Eric Whitacre

The Chanukah Song (We Are Lights)

Stephen Schwartz/arr. Nowlin

Jingle Bells

arr. Dragomir Page

### III. DARKNESS

A Silence Haunts Me

Jake Runestad

### IV. PEACE AND LIGHT AFTER LOSS

Khutso

Mokale Koapeng & Roderick Williams

Jeremy Fratti, *saxophone*

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Robert T. Gibson

### V. WINTER'S LIGHT

Northern Winter Songs\*

Moira Smiley

1. Will You Slow As I Slow? [*a snow-dusted, plaintive call to winter slowness*]

2. High Cold Blow [*a wild, outdoor setting of 9th c. Irish Gaelic poem as translated by Flann O'Brien*]

3. Under The Winter Sun [*a pond skate under winter sky*]

4. Now Eternal [*a prayer for presence and patience*]

Samantha Barnes Daniel, *soloist*

5. Whose Woods [*a setting of 1922 poem by Robert Frost*]

## VI. MUSIC WITH MOIRA

Days of War	Moira Smiley
Refugee	Moira Smiley
Wiseman	Moira Smiley
Oh Winter	Moira Smiley

## VII. A SOLARIA SOLSTICE FINALE

Rise, Shine!	Traditional Spiritual/ arr. Marques L. A. Garrett and Tom Trenney
True Colors	Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly/arr. Matthew Brown Alex Pollard, soloist

*\*commissioned by ORLANDO SINGS, world premiere!*

## SOLARIA SINGERS

### **SOPRANO**

Samantha Barnes Daniel  
Francesca Coverini  
Irene Kaplan  
Lauren Langa  
Sandra Shafer  
Kathryn Supina

### **BASS**

Matthew Astone  
Samuel Carlton  
Billy Daniel  
Alex Glover  
Dragomir Page  
Alex Pollard

### **ALTO**

Hillary Brown  
Dorea Cook  
Maggie Gifford  
Cristina Jimenez  
Sydney Leduc  
Sarah Purser

### **TENOR**

John Cavazos  
Lex Goity  
Gunner Hawthorne  
Zachary Pecore  
Ezra Prather  
Kristopher Schave

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Moira Smiley** began her singing career in Baroque and Medieval music, collaborating with Paul Hillier, Fretless Consort of Viols, Dufay Collective and Sinfonye, BBC Singers and New World Symphony. As a folksinger, she's fronted the legendary Irish-American supergroup, Solas as well as the Lomax and Folklife Projects produced by Jayme Stone, and continues to lead her own vocal collaborations as VOCO and The Voice Is A Traveler.

Ms. Smiley has written commissions for the LA Master Chorale, Conspirare, Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble, Mirabai, Stile Antico, American Choral Directors Association, and countless others, now including Solaria Singers. Her arrangements and original compositions for choir – especially those with her signature body percussion – are performed by millions of singers around the world. She continues composing and improvising in collaboration with artists in film, video game production, theater and dance. Her most recent premieres include her secular liturgy, *The Song Among Us* for Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble and *Keep On* for VocalEssence. Her current projects include *Utopias* for voices and strings, and a re-telling of Ovid's tale of Narcissus for mobile phones and voices.

With appearances across the United States, **Dr. Andrew Minear** is an active conductor, music educator, and choir leader. He is the founding Artistic and Executive Director of Orlando Sings where he conducts the Orlando Sings Symphonic Chorus and the professional vocal ensemble Solaria. Minear also serves as Director of Music Ministry at All Saints Episcopal Church of Winter Park. Recent or upcoming engagements include the National Concert Chorus at Carnegie Hall, the National Youth Chorus at Carnegie Hall, the American Choral Directors Association Southern Region SSAA Honor Choir, Music and Worship Arts weeks in Lake Junaluska and Montreat, and ten all-state choirs. Before it was cancelled due to the pandemic, Minear was one of only 40 choral leaders in the world selected to present at the 12th World Symposium on Choral Music in Auckland, New Zealand. Dr. Minear's passion for expressive music-making has been cultivated through over two decades of experience in children's, church, community, middle school, high school, university, and professional choral settings.



**Ledean Williams** Ledean began piano study at the age of 7, quickly discovering a love for both piano and choral music, which developed into a lifelong vocation as a collaborative pianist. She attended Florida State University, earning a Bachelor of Music Education degree with choral and general emphasis, studying piano under John Salmon and James Stroom. She earned a Masters degree in Piano Pedagogy from Louisiana State University, where she studied with Kathleen Rountree and Constance Carroll.

Ledean has collaborated with a wide variety of vocalists, choirs, and instrumentalists in solo, choral, chamber, musical theatre, and church settings. She previously held staff accompanist positions with Eastern Shore Choral Society, The Orlando Chorale, and Orlando Choral Society. Ledean accompanies for school choral programs throughout central Florida and has performed alongside a wide variety of honor choirs at state, regional, and national ACDA programs. She is thrilled to practice and perform with the brilliant musicians of Orlando Sings.



ORLANDO SINGS

*When I  
Fall in Love*

GALA CONCERT

SOLARIA SINGERS

FEBRUARY 15 | 7 PM

The Woman's Club of Winter Park

Visit [ORLANDOSINGS.ORG](http://ORLANDOSINGS.ORG) for tickets

