



ASTRAIOS
CHAMBER
MUSIC



Ruth Ann Ritchie, Flute
Michael Jones, Bassoon
Daniel Kelly, Trumpet
Eric Jones, Viola

Libby Vanatta, Piano
Patrick Herring, Percussion
Katrina Burggraf, Mezzo-soprano
Christopher Curtis, Host

Christmas is Coming

Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976)
Adapted by Michael Jones

Gabriel's Message

Trad. Basque/Arr. Jim Clements (b.1983)
Adapted by Michael Jones

Riu Riu Chiu

Trad. Basque/attr. Mateo Flecha the Elder (1481-1555)
Arranged by Eric Jones

Fum Fum Fum

Trad. Catalanian/arr. Kirke Mechem (b.1925)
Adapted by Michael Jones

Stille Stille Stille

Austrian folk tune/arr. John Rutter (b.1945)
Adapted by Michael Jones

The Christmas Greeting

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Arranged by Eric Jones

I Wonder as I Wander

Trad. Appalachian carol/arr. by Reena Esmail (b.1983)

Adapted by Michael Jones

The Coventry Carol

Trad. Appalachian carol

Arranged by Michael Jones

Kling Glöckchen

19th century German carol

Arranged by Michael Jones

"Arabian Dance" from The Nutcracker

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Arranged by Eric Jones

O Christmas Tree

Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976)/Adapted Michael Jones

My Little Drum

You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch

Albert Hague (1920-2001) &

Theodor Geisel (1904-1991)

Arranged by Eric Jones

Serious Music, Serious Fun





Flutist Ruth Ann Ritchie is the founder and Executive Director of Astraios. Since 2007 she has established concert series in Texas and Colorado and led Astraios ensembles in performances across the U.S. She is the founding flutist of both The August Winds quintet and the Cirrus Quartet.

Ruth Ann studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Cleveland Music School Settlement before receiving a Bachelor of Music with Distinction in Flute Performance from Indiana University. She continued her studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, receiving a Graduate Diploma in 2006. Her primary teachers have been Tom Robertello, Alexa Still, Linda White, and Joseph Juhos.

Ruth Ann also serves as Executive Director of the Dallas-based Orpheus Chamber Singers. Ruth Ann holds certificates of nonprofit management, development, nonprofit finance, and marketing from the Center for Nonprofit Management, and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate from the University of South Florida. She is also the founder of Radial Arts Consulting, where she works with organizations across the country on best business practices for performing artists.

Michael Jones serves as Astraios's Programming Director, coordinating ensembles, arranging music for our versatile ensembles, and managing our elementary school programs.

Michael received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University, where he held an Associate Instructorship. Michael subsequently received a Fulbright Grant to study bassoon performance and pedagogy at the Sydney Conservatorium, where he received a Graduate Diploma in 2006. During this time, he also toured with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. In 2016, he was the Acting Principal Bassoonist of the Texarkana Symphony, and has performed regularly with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra since 2013.

His teachers have included Carl Rath, Andrew Barnes, Arthur Weisberg, and Kim Walker.



Daniel Kelly, a native of Charleston, SC, joined Texas A&M University-Commerce in the fall of 2010 after serving on the faculty of Indiana State University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. Kelly holds a BS in trumpet performance from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, and a MM and DMA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His principal teachers include Michael Ewald, Ronnie Romm, Ray Sasaki, and Richard Steffen. He has been designated a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) by the Music Teachers National Association and is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, the International Trumpet Guild, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Dr. Kelly is a Yamaha Performing Artist/Clinician.



Eric Jones got his start in music at an early age, studying voice with his father, Robert Jones, and singing in many children's roles, including *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. He began studying the violin and viola at age 10, and received a Bachelor and Master of Music in Viola Performance and a Masters in Musicology from the University of North Texas. He is a PhD candidate in Musicology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Eric studied Bolivian folk music as a Fulbright Scholar in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and is a specialist in the folk music traditions of Latin America and the Andes. He teaches world music at the University of Texas at Dallas and Southern Methodist University. He is also a regular performer of both solo works and chamber music, and has performed with orchestras in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

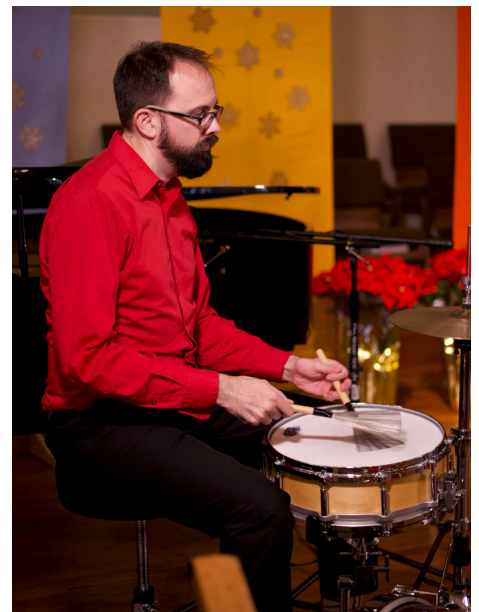


Libby Vanatta, a native of Middle Tennessee, joined the music faculty at Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2010 as Instructor of Piano. She currently teaches class piano, piano pedagogy, piano literature, and private piano lessons. An active accompanist, Libby has also performed throughout the country at conferences, competitions, and in guest artist recitals. Passionate about chamber music, Libby formed Doppio Movimento in 2011 with her Texas A&M University-Commerce colleague, Dr. Luis Sanchez.

Libby Vanatta holds a Bachelor of Science in piano performance from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, and a Master of Music in piano pedagogy from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Patrick Herring began playing music at a very early age and hated it with a passion until they let him start hitting things. Since then he has received a Bachelors in Music Education from the University of North Texas and Masters in Percussion Performance from Southern Methodist University. Music has taken him all around the United States and he has proudly played shows in 40 out of 50 states. He's looking forward to getting up to New England some day and knocking out a few more of them.

Patrick is the Director of Operations for the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra. He currently serves as the principal percussionist of the Allen Philharmonic Symphony and plays with many local and regional orchestras as well as theater companies and churches...and anyone else who needs something hit musically.





With more than twenty-five DFW-based years, mezzo-soprano Katrina Burggraf continues to be humbled to sing live and record all over the US and the world, performing everything from contemporary to early music with Vox Peregrini, Verdigris Ensemble, Orpheus Chamber Singers, Dallas Bach Society, American Baroque Opera, the Dallas Symphony, Orchestra of New Spain, and more. She is honored to join Astraios Chamber Music for this unique Christmas recording of some of her holiday favorites.

Highlights of her life and career, which balance her love of performing for the benefit of uplifting and healing the human spirit, include homeschooling her daughter, serving as educational outreach coordinator for both Verdigris Ensemble and Orpheus Chamber Singers, and recording on the soundtrack of the award-winning video game "That Dragon, Cancer" (Numinous Games). She added a 200-hour yoga certification to her YMCA and AFAA yoga certificates and leads "yoga for musicians" classes for all ages, as well as private instruction through her business Butterfly Yoga.

Katrina, a Montrose, Colorado, native and CSU grad, loves travel, reading, hiking, and eating, and lives in North Dallas.



Christopher Curtis is an actor, singer, and director, and currently serves as the Director of Choirs at First United Methodist Church of Weatherford, OK. The son of Torrey Curtis and Joyce Adams Curtis, both of whom obtained Masters of Sacred Music degrees from SMU, Christopher grew up singing in choirs under the direction of his parents. After graduating from Oklahoma City University where he studied voice with George Massey, Christopher has gone on to work at more than a dozen theatres in the region including Shakespeare Dallas, Theatre Three, Circle Theatre, City Rep, Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park, Reduxion Theatre, Oklahoma City Theatre Company, Pegasus Theatre, and Lyric Stage. A few of his favorite roles include "Ed Devery" in *Born Yesterday*, "John Dickinson" in *1776*, and the title role in *Hamlet*. He recently starred as "Tevey" in Southwest Playhouse's performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

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