



MODESTO  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA  
RICHARD COLLAS  
—ARTISTIC DIRECTOR—

## About the Show

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*Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association*

### **Holiday Candlelight Concert**

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 8 pm  
Our Lady of Fatima Church

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *conductor*

#### **MSO Chorus**

Daniel R. Afonso Jr., *chorus director*

#### **Opus Handbell Ensemble**

Richard Colla, *artistic director*

## Holiday Candlelight Concert

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## Program

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Camille Saint-Saëns	<i>Oratorio De Noel Prelude</i>
John Rutter	<i>What Sweeter Music</i>
Ludwig Van Beethoven arr. Andrew Duncan	<i>Fanfare on Ode to Joy</i>
arr. Cathy Moglebust	<i>The First Noel</i>
arr. Tom Kennedy	<i>Joy to the World</i>
arr. Steven Pilkington	<i>Coventry Carol</i>
Gustav Holst	<i>Christmas Day</i>



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Johann Sebastian Bach  
arr. Daniel R. Afonso Jr.

*Contrapunctus I*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Orchestral Suite No 2 in B Minor*

I. *Rondeau*

II. *Badinerie*

arr. Tom Kennedy

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

D. Kantor  
arr. J. Ferguson

*Night of Silence*

arr. Joel Raney, Arnold  
Sherman

*An Angelic Celebration*

Cathy Moglebust

*Vivacio*

arr. Tom Kennedy

*Silent Night*

George Fredrick Handel

*The Messiah*

I. *For Unto Us A Child Is Born*

II. *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Gates*

III. *Surely, He Hath Borne Our  
Griefs*

IV. *Hallelujah*



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The Doubletree by Hilton Modesto is the official hotel of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra.

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Program and artists subject to change. E&OE.

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## Rosters

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### Orchestra Roster

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Daniel R. Afonso Jr., conductor

#### Violin I

Ilana Blumberg, *concertmaster*  
Dagenais Smiley, *associate concertmaster*  
Matthew Oshida, *assistant concertmaster*

#### Violin II

Myriam Cottin-Rack, *principal*  
Sarah Elert, *assistant principal*  
Paul Kim

#### Viola

Pauline Moreira, *principal*  
Valerie Tisdell, *assistant principal*

#### Cello

Timothy Loo, *principal*  
Evan Kahn, *assistant principal*

#### Double Bass

Raymond Vargas, *principal*

#### Flute

Johanna Borenstein, *principal*

#### Oboe



A photograph of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra performing on stage. The musicians are seated and playing their instruments, with a conductor visible in the background. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, and there are Christmas decorations, including a tree and bells, in the upper right corner.

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MO  
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ORCHESTRA  
NICHOLS BRIDGES  
—WEST PHILHARMONY—



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Cat Cantrell, *principal*  
Jason Kennedy, *english horn*

### Bassoon

Carolyn Lockhart, *principal*

### Trumpet

William Harvey, *principal*  
Ben Gunnarson

### Timpani

John Weeks, *principal*

### Harp

Kristin Lloyd, *principal*

### Keyboard/Celeste

John Hillebrandt, *principal*

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*Roster as of 12/5/2023*

## MSO Chorus Roster

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Daniel R. Afonso Jr., chorus director

### Soprano

Michelle Cortez  
Dee Ann Dutter  
Meghan Fox  
Sarah Harrell-Kline  
Christie Hart  
Dasia Intil  
Kim Kunkel  
Marian MacDonald  
Karen Odell  
Lizzie Sanders  
Sheri Stambaugh\*  
Dawn Thomas  
Sharon Wilson

### Alto



Angelica Grishaw  
Rebecca Long  
Lisa Rae  
Karin Reenstierna\*  
Belinda Rolichcheck  
Susan Sanders  
Lisa Sarasqueta  
Linda Scheller  
Nancy Silva  
Lisa Traughber  
Hennie Van Konynenberg  
Polly Vasché

**Tenor**

Jim Beggs\*  
Michael Cash  
James Jacobs  
Matthew Long  
Steve Matthews  
Bruce Merchant  
Gregory Pyatt  
Marcial Salvador  
David Torres

**Bass**

John Boer  
Geoffrey Cavazos  
Giancarlos Delgado-Braun  
Randy Klinkefus  
Mike Larson  
Carl Morris  
Kevin Ringsby  
Phil Swearingen  
Burt Vasché^

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\* *Section Leader*

^ *Chorus Manager*

*Special thanks to Trinity United Presbyterian Church for providing rehearsal space for the MSO Chorus*

*Roster as of 12/08/23*

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**Opus Handbell Ensemble**

Richard Colla, artistic director

Lisa Traughber  
Judy Aprile



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Barbara Bort  
Maggie Paton  
Michele Brown  
Darin Brown  
Lori Smith  
Susan Cole  
Trevor Hutton  
Carl Morris  
Sally Price  
Mary Wattenbarger  
Kathie Mackie  
Kenneth Mackie

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*Roster as of 12/08/23*

## **MSYO Brass Ensemble**

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### **TRUMPETS**

Josh Chapin  
Aiden Rosebrough  
Spencer Sousa  
Elijah Tenn

### **FRENCH HORN**

Emerson Burton  
Emilia Sousa

### **TROMBONE/BARITONE**

Lucas Barnard  
Aaron Meraz  
Jeremiah Tenn

### **TUBA**

Katheryn Gutierrez  
Yazmin Castro-Esquivel

## **Artist Biographies**

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**Daniel R. Afonso Jr.**

Chorus Director

**Daniel R. Afonso Jr.** has served as conductor of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus since its foundation in 2001 and has prepared several choral works with the ensemble. He is also Coordinator of Vocal and Choral Studies at California State University, Stanislaus. Afonso received a B.M.E. degree from the Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UNI -Rio), a M.M. degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a D.M.A. degree in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa. Dr. Afonso is originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and has studied conducting with Carlos Alberto Figueiredo, Cees Rotteveel, Eph Ehly, and William Hatcher.

Dr. Afonso has performed with choral groups in Brazil, U.S., and Europe, and has previously taught music at the Conservatório Brasileiro de Música, Universidade do Rio de Janeiro (UNI-Rio), and Doane College, Nebraska. In 1988, he won the first prize and the best performance of Villa-Lobos work award at the Concurso Villa-Lobos de Canto Coral, a national choral competition sponsored by the Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Afonso is strongly committed to the performance of new music and has commissioned and premiered many new choral works in the last few years, including several of his own works as well as works by young composition students. He had his New York debut in 2012, conducting Mozart's Requiem with members of the MSO Chorus and students from CSU Stanislaus at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

He is also a composer, arranger, and editor of choral music and has choral works published by earthsongs, Colla Voce, and Alliance Music Publications. He served as composer-in-residence with the San Francisco Choral Artists during their 2014-2015 season and has also written works for the Los Angeles Children's Choir, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, and other ensembles in the US and abroad. He has written innumerable arrangements for the Modesto Symphony Orchestra, including a new version of The Star-Spangled Banner for chorus and orchestra, recently premiered at the



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opening concert for the 2015-16 concert season. Dr. Afonso is widely recognized for his research and performance of Brazilian choral music and continues to frequently present workshops and lectures about the Latin American choral repertoire.



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**MSO Chorus**

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Formed in 2001, the Modesto Symphony Chorus is a regional ensemble of singers of all ages and experience who share a commitment to performing concerts of the highest artistic quality and enhancing the appreciation and enjoyment of choral music among members and audiences alike. Under the skillful and inspiring direction of Dr. Daniel R. Afonso Jr., the MSO Chorus rehearses weekly and performs throughout the season with the Modesto Symphony Orchestra and also for additional community events.



**Richard J. Colla**

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Opus Handbell Ensemble Artistic Director

**Richard J. Colla** is artistic director and conductor of the Opus Handbell Ensemble, a post he has held since 1995. He is on the faculty at Modesto Junior College where he teaches *Introduction to American Popular Music*. Over the years, Richard has taught a variety of courses and has directed all the choral groups. In 2020, Richard retired from his position as Minister of Music and Worship at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Modesto where he had directed a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles since 1990.

Richard has also served as a member of the voice faculty at California State University, Stanislaus, and is an active adjudicator and lecturer. He has presented lectures on a variety



of topics including vocal technique and literature, choral literature and methods, as well as handbell techniques. He and his wife, Ginger, also conduct joint workshops in vocal techniques.

Richard has been active as a bass-baritone soloist and has appeared extensively in recital, oratorio and opera performances. Richard served a four-year term (1993-1997) as the California State Chair for Repertoire and Standards of Music in Worship for The American Choral Director's Assoc. (ACDA). He has also published articles in *The NATS Journal* for the National Association of Teachers of Singing, *The Cantate California for the American Choral Director's Assoc.*, and *The Journal* for the Choral Conductor's Guild. Richard received his Bachelor of Music degree with honors from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in vocal performance, and his Master of Music degree at the University of Illinois in choral conducting.



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Richard and his wife, Ginger, were honored as the recipients of the 2007 *Excellence in Arts Awards for Music* by the Stanislaus Arts Council. Richard's choir at Trinity (Koinonia Choir) was invited to participate in a performance of John Rutter's *Requiem* in New York's famous Carnegie Hall in 2005 with the composer conducting. The Choir and Opus Handbell Ensemble toured to England where they performed Handbell and Choir concerts in June (2008). Richard has also taken his choir on tours to Italy in 2012 and Austria in 2015.



## Opus Handbell Ensemble

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**Opus Handbell Ensemble, Inc.**, a non-profit organization, has been a group of aspiring musicians in Modesto since 1992. They are currently 13 ringers strong, and have been under the artistic direction of Richard J. Colla since 1995. With over 140 combined years of ringing experience, they perform on five octaves of Malmark handbells, four-plus octaves of Malmark tone chimes and occasionally, a selection of Whitechapel handbells.



MODESTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
MODERATE SPEED  
—WEST BETHLEHEM—

Handbells are a unique instrument requiring precision eye-hand coordination, music reading ability and a willingness to work as a team. Repertoire for this art form ranges from classical Bach to Heavy Metal and Rock 'n' Roll. Opus is known throughout the handbell community for reflecting, in bronze, the artistic interpretation of the director. They bring musicality and depth to a performance beyond the expectations of the listening and viewing audience.

Opus has spearheaded the art of handbell ringing in the Central Valley with themed concerts throughout the year. Opus has also hosted and conducted local workshops to raise the level of awareness of handbell ringing in the Modesto community. One of their greatest joys has been to take this artistic medium into the music mainstream through local schools by broadening the dreams of students who have never seen or heard a handbell choir.

Opus has played on the Community Concert Series in Porterville, four years on the Manteca Kindred Arts Council Concert Series and three years on the Sonora St. James' Concert Series. They also played on two occasions for the Evensong Series in Lodi. These fine musicians have attended festivals and workshops from Riverside to the Bay Area. They were a featured choir to ring at Pinnacle 2000 in Las Vegas, and the Handbell Musicians of America Area Twelve Conference at Belmont in 2006. In June of 2008, Opus joined the Trinity United Koinonia Choir in Coventry, England for an International Choir Festival tour.

Opus has been the host ensemble along with seven other handbell groups for the Modesto Salvation Army Bells of Blessing benefit concert since 2010. For the first time, by an audition process, Opus was chosen to be the featured Showcase Ensemble for the Handbell Musicians of America Area Twelve Bell Odyssey Conference held at UC Davis, in June of 2010. They were honored again in 2016, as a Showcase Ensemble for Area Twelve Handbell Hop Conference held in Modesto.

Opus was featured on the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert at the Gallo Center in 2007, 2008 and 2010. They were also featured guest musicians at the Modesto Symphony's Candlelight Concert held at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in 2009 through the present. In 2012 Opus presented a handbell drama/concert as part of the Arts Education Program of the Gallo Center for the Arts and paired it with an evening public concert through 2016. The Gallo Center contracted Opus again in 2018, as part of their holiday programs.

For more information contact Opus' booking coordinator Lisa Traugher at 209-527-2214 or visit our website at

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[opushandbell.org](http://opushandbell.org)

## Celebrating Support

### *Thank You*

The MSO acknowledges with gratitude the following donors and sponsors whose generosity allows the orchestra to reach new heights in music and education. With your continued support, we are making a difference together and enriching the lives of our community, one note at a time.

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NICOLAS HERSH  
—Music Director—



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