

A Choral Music Program for the Holidays

Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The Coast Community Chorus, directed by Carolyn Steinbuck, and accompanied by Marion James, will present their annual Christmas Concert beginning with Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols." The piece shows Britten's mastery of choral music, with each movement in contrast with the next. Britten was British and began composing prolifically as a child. His flawless technique, broad musical and human sympathies, and ability to treat the most traditional of musical forms with freshness and originality, places him near the head of composers of his generation.

Shorter pieces will include Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Kyrie in D Minor." Mozart, who was an Austrian, composed masses, symphonies, concertos, sonatas, serenades and divertimentos, dramatic music, dance music, and operas throughout his lifetime. Johannes Brahms, the composer of "Ave Maria," was German. He studied piano from the age of three and frequently participated in the performance of his own works, whether as soloist, accompanist, or participant in chamber music.

John Rutter is an English composer, choral conductor, editor, arranger, and record producer, with many recordings of sacred choral pieces. His "Candlelight Carol" will be performed. His music is considered eclectic, and he has been called one of the world's greatest living composers and conductors of choral music. The audience may join the choir in concluding the performance with some well-known Christmas carols.

The Coast Community Chorus is sponsored by Santa Rosa Junior College. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted.

Plan now to attend the "Nine Lessons and Carols" on Christmas Eve

December 24 at 4 p.m.



Join the community in singing Christmas music old and new while hearing the fabled stories of birth, love, and hope. This inter-denominational program is one of the most popular annual events held at Gualala Arts.

The Anchor Bay Children's Choir, under the direction of Susan Bohlin, continues to explore a wide repertoire of little-known sacred music. This year they will present "*Personent Hodie*" – "On this Day Earth Shall Ring," arranged by Gustav Holst.

They will also perform "Carol from an Irish Cabin" written by the late Sea Ranch resident, Dale Wood and the song made famous by Hilary

Duff – "Someone's Watching Over Me." This song was sung by Anchor Choir member Joselyn Malik at the Mendonoma Idol concert and was a big hit. There were six members of Anchor Bay Children's Choir in the finals for Mendonoma Idol.

This season, Renata Yardumian, daughter of the famous composer, Richard Yardumian, joins the Anchor Choir on piano, and Sally Kopac continues to rehearse with the Bay Choir.

It is somehow fitting that many of those members of this community who otherwise would not be sitting in the same room come together on this one special winter night. As their voices, along with those of children, fill the rafters with song it feels as if a bit of peace on earth is possible and that it has truly come – at least here.

There is no admission fee but donations are accepted.