



CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL  
NATIONAL SHRINE OF  
THE APOSTLE PAUL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Cathedral Youth Choir concert**  
*Hope, Joy, Love and Peace*

Adult choir holds sing-along in Frogtown

(Saint Paul, Minn) The public is invited to the Cathedral of Saint Paul for a concert that will delight all ages. **On Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2:30 p.m. the Saint Cecilia Choristers of the Cathedral Choir School of Minnesota present Benjamin Britten's innocent and beloved *Ceremony of Carols* with harp accompaniment.** The work opens and closes with the choristers processing by candlelight singing the ancient Gregorian chant, *Hodie Christus natus est!* The Cathedral is located at 239 Selby Avenue, at the corners of Summit Ave. and John Ireland Blvd. There is no cost for the concert; however, freewill offerings will be accepted.

Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* is a masterpiece composed while on board a ship during a perilous five-week crossing of the North Atlantic. The year was 1942 and World War II was at its height as Britten was returning to England from the U.S.A., explains Robert Ridgell, Director of Sacred Music for the Cathedral of Saint Paul. "It is an unusual setting for treble voices and harp, and the 'carols' are largely the product of 15th and 16th century writers, mostly anonymous. The work opens and closes with the youth choir processing by candlelight singing to plainsong, the *Hodie* chant sung for centuries at Vespers on Christmas Eve. The carol settings in-between deal with the traditional stories surrounding the birth of Christ," adds Ridgell.

For those looking for a sing-along experience, the Cathedral (adult) Choir will be leading a ***Neighborhood Carol Sing at Saint Vincent de Paul in Frogtown, Friday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m.*** This historic 1898 church is located at 651 Virginia Street, Saint Paul. The Cathedral Choir, parishioners and neighbors are invited to this old-fashioned Carol Sing.

**Cathedral Hours:** The Cathedral doors are open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, visit [www.cathedralsaintpaul.org](http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org) or call the Welcome Center at 651-228-1766.