

# Celebrating Community

2024-2025 SEASON

THE  
Maine  
Music Society

Artistic Director  
Dr. Richard Nickerson

## Concert II – Choral



Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Franco Center

46 Cedar Street, Lewiston

2024-2025 Season Underwriters

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A Playbill for The Public Theatre and Maine Music Society

# Bates | Theater + Dance

## 2024-25 Season

### Fall 2024

#### *WOLF PLAY*

by Hansol Jung

Oct 31 - Nov 4

#### *FALL DANCE CONCERT*

Student Choreographed Concert

Nov 15 - 17

#### *REVENGE, I SUPPOSE*

Thesis Dance Performance

Dec 5 - 6

Photo: Carly Philpott

### Winter 2025

#### *BRKFST Dance Company*

with Bates Dance Festival

Jan 25

#### *OUT TO DRY*

Thesis Dance Performance

Feb 12 - 13

#### *THE SEAGULL*

by Anton Chekhov

Mar 6 - 10

#### *BODY AWARENESS*

by Annie Baker

Mar 27 - 31

#### *MARCY PLAVIN SPRING DANCE CONCERT*

Repertory Artist Choreographed Concert

Apr 4 - 6

Photo: Phyllis Graber Jensen/Bates College

[www.bates.edu/theater-dance](http://www.bates.edu/theater-dance)



*Award-winning Professional theatre  
featuring the best plays and actors from Broadway and beyond.*

## Dracula A Comedy of Terrors

by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen

**Oct 11 - 27**

This hilarious Off-Broadway hit filled with silliness, witty wordplay and a nod to Mel Brooks and Monty Python is FANGtastic fun for audiences of all blood types!

## A Christmas Carol

**Dec 13 - 15** adapted by Christopher Schario

Six actors and a fiddler perform the Dickens out of this beloved holiday classic in a way you've never imagined! Children 18 and under only \$15!

## Every Brilliant Thing

by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe

**Jan 24 - Feb 2**

When you're six years old, your mother goes into the hospital because she "finds it hard to be happy" and you start writing her a list of all the things in life worth living for. No. 1: "Ice cream", No. 6: "Friendly cats", No. 517: "The even numbered *Star Trek* films". Told with the help of the audience, this critically acclaimed Off-Broadway hit is a hilarious, heartbreaking, and uplifting experience you will never forget.

## Halfway There

**Mar 14 - 23** by Norm Foster

It's *Steel Magnolias* meets *The Golden Girls* when four lovable ladies meet every day for coffee and a gab fest in this heartwarming comedy about the unshakable bonds of female friendship.

## Now and Then

**May 2 - 11** by Sean Grennan

A young bartender and his girlfriend receive an intriguing proposition from a mysterious last-minute customer who offers them \$2,000 to sit and talk with him. What follows is a humorous and magical romantic comedy filled with unexpected wisdom about the joys and consequences of following your heart.

## The Dragon King

**May 18** by Tanglewood Marionettes

This award-winning story based on Chinese folklore is filled with magical and colorful sea creatures and a Dragon that will knock your socks off! A delight for ages 4+ and their families.





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2024 - 2025 SEASON

**2024 - 2025 SEASON UNDERWRITERS**  
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**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
Dr. Richard Nickerson



**Saturday, November 2**  
**7:00 pm**



**Sat., Dec. 14 • 7:00 pm**  
**Sun., Dec. 15 • 2:00 pm**



**Sat., March 8 • 7:00 pm**  
**Sun., March 9 • 2:00 pm**



**Sat., May 10 • 7:00 pm**  
**Sun., May 11 • 2:00 pm**

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 **It's our  
25th  
anniversary!**



Sept. 6 and 7 Best of Broadway kicks off our 25th anniversary with the biggest hits of favorite Broadway shows presented by exceptional local performers. Performance Hall show with reserved seating. A special RSVP pre-show reception from 5 to 6 p.m. in Heritage Hall before the Saturday, Sept. 7 show only.



Sept. 12, Dec. 12, March 13, June 19 La Rencontre. Diverse cultures, performing arts, and languages come together. Meal and various types of entertainment.



Sept. 26 Wine Tasting with Edmond. Several wines of the summer will be tasted and served with appetizers. Edmond Gay will discuss an appreciation of pairing food and wine and how to drink wine. 5:30-7:30 p.m.



Oct. 12 Crystal Vision. There are many Fleetwood Mac cover bands across the country and around the world, but Crystal Vision's particular claim to fame is the resemblance of the three primary vocals to the originals.

Oct. 27 Fiddle-icious is a community-based orchestra of whose members are determined to preserve the cultural heritage of Maine's traditional fiddle music, dances, and songs passed down from Scottish, Irish, Quebecois, and Acadian ancestors.



Nov. 9 Murder mystery dinner party! Featuring the cast of Mystery207 where you'll witness and participate in fun skits and check out physical evidence. This drives the mystery and creates mini-goals to accomplish throughout the night.



Dec. 20, 21, 22 Sights & Sounds of Christmas! More than 30 performers will sing, dance, act, and produce an energetic and vibrant festive Christmas show complete with an immersive light show directed by Jake Hodgkin. Bring the Christmas spirit home with you!



Feb. 8 Dueling Pianos. Two pianists will play songs from a variety of genres simultaneously on two pianos. The pianists take requests from the audience and make the show interactive.

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Guest Soloist: Joshua Zhang, Trombone  
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**March 22 & 23, 2025**

Franz Liszt • Robert Schumann  
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**May 17 & 18, 2025**

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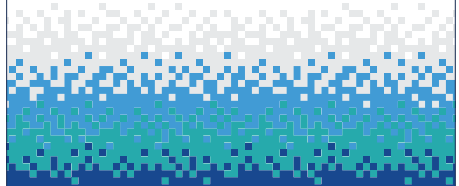
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A Playbill for The Public Theatre and Maine Music Society





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Karen McArthur  
Jane Mitchell  
Linda Nickerson

Richard O'Brien  
Melissa Record  
Tara Tracy-Saunders

### *Associate Directors*

David Blocher

Maggie Diamond-Stanic

## Morgan Lee, Collaborative Pianist



Morgan Lee, who begins her second season with MMS, has built a dynamic musical career as a soloist, collaborator, and teacher. In 2022 she received her Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance from the University of Connecticut, where she studied with Dr. Angelina Gadeliya. Dr. Lee also holds a Master of Music from Mannes School of Music and a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University. She has participated and competed in numerous music festivals in the US and abroad and has performed recitals in New York City, Italy, Spain, France, and the Kennedy Center in Washington,

D.C. An experienced collaborator, Dr. Lee also serves as pianist for the Augusta Unitarian Universalist Community Church Choir and frequently performs as keyboardist with the Portland Symphony Orchestra. She has previously served as staff collaborative pianist for the University of Southern Maine Osher School of Music and the University of Connecticut Music Department. Dr. Lee has over ten years of private teaching experience and has served as an adjunct faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State University, piano faculty at the Bronx Conservatory of Music, and a teaching fellow at Mannes School of Music. She is currently a piano instructor at Colby College as well as Bay Chamber Music School. Dr. Lee is passionate about finding new, unconventional ways to engage with classical repertoire and wrote her dissertation on interdisciplinary collaboration as creative practice for classical musicians. She is committed to continuing this work to inspire her students and connect with new audiences here in Maine. You can learn more about her work at [morganleepianist.com](http://morganleepianist.com).

# Richard Nickerson, Artistic Director



**Richard Nickerson** is thrilled to be in his 4th season as Artistic Director of the Maine Music Society. He has been Director of Choral Activities at Windham High School in Windham, Maine for the past 37 years where he conducts 2 choirs and teaches courses in music theory, guitar and music industry. Among the choirs that he currently conducts is the internationally acclaimed Windham Chamber Singers. He also served from 2009-2020 as Minister of Music at the North Windham Union Church.

A frequent guest conductor and clinician, he has made guest appearances in 18 states, 4 Canadian provinces and 8 European countries. He served for 8 seasons (2007-2014), as the conductor of the “Magic of Christmas” Chorus with the Portland Symphony Orchestra. He also spent 8 years (2001-2009), as the Artistic Director of the Boy Singers of Maine. His choirs have performed for many dignitaries, including 3 US Presidents. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1998 and returned in 2016 to conduct the Maine Festival Chorus.

Dr. Nickerson has received numerous awards including *Maine Music Educator of the Year*, *Maine Distinguished Choral Director of the Year* and runner up for *Maine Teacher of the Year*. In January 2009, he was recognized by *Choral Director Magazine* as a “Choral Director of Note”. In December, 2016, he was named as a Top-10 finalist for the Music Educator Grammy Award. He holds membership in the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, Chorus America and Choral Canada. He has held many professional offices including 2 terms as President of the Maine chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. In 1997, a group of parents began a scholarship in his name, which is awarded each year to a Windham High School graduate planning to make choral music a part of their college experience.

Nickerson received a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Music Education, the Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Maine and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the Conservatory of Music - University of Missouri - Kansas City. He has studied conducting with Dr. Eph Ehly, Dr. Charles Robinson, Dr. Dennis Cox, Werner Torkanowsky, Robert Shaw, Eric Ericson and Rodney Eichenberger.

He lives in Windham, Maine with his wife, Linda. They have four grown children, one grandchild, and twin cats.



*Featuring the*  
Maine Music Society Choral

*Conducted by*  
Richard Nickerson, Artistic Director

*Accompanied by*  
Morgan Lee, Collaborative Pianist

Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Franco Center  
46 Cedar Street, Lewiston

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Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers Before the Performance Begins.



**Maine Music Society Chorale**  
**Richard Nickerson, Conductor**  
**Morgan Lee, Collaborative Pianist**

Gloria Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

- I. Gloria
- II. Laudamus Te
- III. Domine Deus
- IV. Domine fili unigenite
- V. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei
- VI. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris

Hallelujah George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

**INTERMISSION**

Eight	Robert S. Cohen b. 1945
Away in a Manger	Arranged by Molly Ijames b. 1978
Sure on This Shining Night	Morten Lauridsen b. 1943
Christmas Sing Along	Arr. by John Finnegan (1926-2007)
Angels We Have Heard on High	Arranged by Dan Forrest b. 1978

Today's Program



I. Gloria in excelsis Deo

Et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

*Glory to God in the highest*

*And on earth peace, goodwill to all people.*

II. Laudamus te, Benedicimus te, Adoramus te, Glorificamus te.

Gratias agimus tibi Propter magnam gloriam tuam.

*We praise you, We bless you, We worship you, We glorify you.*

*We give thanks to you for your great glory.*

III. Domine Deus, Rex cælestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

*Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty Father.*

IV. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.

*Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.*

V. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, Rex Celestis

Deus Qui tollis peccata mundi, Miserere nobis; suscipe  
deprecationem nostram.

*Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, King in Heaven*

*Who takes away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.*

*Receive our prayers.*

VI. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, Tu solus Dominus, Tu solus

Altissimus.

Jesu Christe, Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.*

*Only you are holy, only you are Lord. Only you are most high.*

*Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## MMS Chorale 2024-2025

### Sopranos

Catherine Anderson  
Madeline Bauer  
Kathy Bidwell  
Emily Colucci  
Christy Comeau-Pierce  
Jen Conte  
Eileen Coyne  
Sheridan Crabtree  
Maggie Diamond-Stanic  
Melissa Eelman  
Elizabeth Feeley  
Cassidy Gendron  
Sarah Gillespie  
Becky Goodenough  
Patty Gordan  
Laura Grams  
Connie Hitchcock  
Carrie Jadud  
Karen Lipovsky  
Laura Malkin  
Cynthia McGuire \*  
Jane Mitchell  
Adrian Morneau  
Tracie Peterson  
Ellen Rawding  
Ashleigh St. Pierre  
Karla Swanson-Murphy  
Sue White  
Sheryl Whitmore

### Altos

Wendy Allen  
Jean Bass \*  
Eden Bauer  
Pam Chenea  
Kerri Cooper  
Randi Cornelio  
Rachel Deal  
Alison DeSimone  
Cynthia DeSoi  
Carol DiBello \*  
Elise Gagnon  
Carolyn Gross  
Nancy Kelliher

Christine Koch  
Katie Lauze  
Zoe Lidstrom  
Karen McArthur  
Kyah Morrisette  
Linda Nickerson  
Annie Oskam  
Jean Potuchek  
Shelley Rau  
Dawn Sample  
Melissa Sundell  
Susan Trask +  
Helen Warren

### Tenors

Moll Brown  
Stephen Carnahan  
Aiden Day  
Kerry Dyer  
Joe Hall  
Bill Macauley  
Jonathan Mitschele  
Kevin Murphy \*  
Rick O'Brien  
Brian Pfohl  
John Snell  
Colin Vail

### Basses

Brendon Bass  
David Blocher  
Don Dostie  
Aaron Gagnon  
Christos Gianopoulos  
John Howard \*  
Jamie McBride  
Bob Morang  
Rick Rau  
Allen Sample  
Chuck Scheib  
Woody Trask  
Jon Whitmore

\* Section Leaders  
+ Chorale President

Today's Singers



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### Online Auction

Our 7th annual online auction had 100 participants bidding on 125 items generously donated by singers and local businesses.

This yielded \$6,385 in sales and \$3,700 in Auction sponsorships for a total of \$10,085 before expenses to support our programming!

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Lisa Mayer





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2024 - 2025 SEASON

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Hardy Wolf & Downing • Sun Journal

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Dr. Richard Nickerson



**Saturday, March 8 • 7:00pm**

**Sunday, March 9 • 2:00pm**

FRANCO CENTER • LEWISTON

This concert will feature some of the most powerful pieces ever written including the premiere of a new piece commissioned by the Maine Music Society.

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**Saturday, May 10 • 7:00pm**

**Sunday, May 11 • 2:00pm**

FRANCO CENTER • LEWISTON

Our final Chorale concert of the season will explore the roots of American music such as folk, gospel, blues, country, jazz, rhythm and blues, and bluegrass.

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# The Maine Music Society Chorale

## History and Highlights

The Androscoggin Chorale began in 1972 when a group of singers, several from Bates College, approached Dr. Marion Anderson, a music professor at Bates, to form a community chorus. Under his baton the group's performances included the Vivaldi Gloria with string quartet accompaniment and Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*. Dr. Anderson's tenure continued until Dale Perkins took the reins in the late 1970's. The Chorale performed the Brahms Requiem during that time, among other pieces.

Peter Frewen was hired by the Board of Directors of the Androscoggin Chorale in 1982. Under his leadership the Maine Music Society (MMS) was formed in 1991 as an umbrella organization for the Androscoggin Chorale and the Maine Chamber Ensemble, its professional orchestra. Mr. Frewen was named Artistic Director, and the organization maintained a staffed office on Lisbon St. in Lewiston. The vision of MMS at the time was to provide Lewiston-Auburn with a standing professional music presence in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

From 1982 until 2006, MMS performed countless choral concerts, from small chamber pieces to large full-scale productions, including Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* (in collaboration with the Seaglass Chorale) and Haydn's *Creation*. The Chorale also performed a yearly series of more intimate concerts of American Classics, celebrating the works of the likes of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Jerome Kern. The Maine Chamber Ensemble also performed a yearly concert of strictly orchestral works.

In the spring of 2006, the Maine Music Society welcomed Mr. John Corrie, music instructor at Bates College, as its new Artistic Director. Under his leadership, MMS focused solely on choral singing, nearly doubling the size of the Chorale in just a few years. The concert season settled on a pattern of the ever-popular Heritage Christmas concert in December, a classical concert with orchestra in late March, and a popular-focused concert in May. The repertoire ranged over a wide variety of composers, genres, and eras.

In the summer of 2013, under Mr. Corrie's direction, the Maine Music Society Chamber Singers was formed as a subset of the MMS Chorale. This small (15-20 voices) a cappella ensemble performs a wide variety of pieces, from classical art songs to folk songs to contemporary popular works. They have sung at the Twelfth Night celebration at the Women's Literary Union, at the summer concert series on Islesboro in Penobscot Bay, at the Auburn Library for a flash mob, and at the inauguration of

Governor Janet Mills, to name just a few performances. The group is available for additional performances around the community.

In 2015, as a part of a celebration of our 25th season, the Chorale changed its name from the Androscoggin Chorale to the Maine Music Society Chorale. The name change emphasizes that we are all a part of the broader Maine Music Society, our umbrella organization.

One of the most notable MMS performances was the Brahms Requiem at the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in collaboration with the Bates College Choir and Orchestra and the Lewiston and Auburn high school choirs, attended by a sold-out audience of more than 1200. A final collaboration of singers and orchestra was to occur in March of 2020 as the capstone of Mr. Corrie's tenure with MMS before his retirement. Sadly, the performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony had to be cancelled just weeks before it was to occur because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the fall of 2020 Dr. Richard Nickerson was inaugurated as MMS's new Artistic Director. After a year of meeting virtually in 2021 the Chorale was able to resume in-person rehearsals and perform live again for its new season, A Triumphant Return to Singing. "Rick" Nickerson is an award-winning choral director who comes to MMS with a wealth of experience and reputation for excellence. Rick has brought his own unique style and enthusiasm that has re-energized the Chorale and brought in many new voices to continue the mission and vision of empowering and inspiring this choral community.

## How to audition for the MMS Chorale

Auditions are held in person and scheduled in advance. There is nothing to prepare ahead of time. You will be asked to sing ascending and descending scales to assess your vocal range. You will also be asked to sing some melodic patterns played on

the piano. You may be asked to make some adjustments. The overall purpose of the audition is to assess skills and make sure that all singers are placed in the appropriate section. Above all, relax and be yourself.

If you have questions or wish to schedule an audition, please contact Richard Nickerson at [rnickerson@gmail.com](mailto:rnickerson@gmail.com).



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## ABOUT US

The Maine Music Society is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization comprised of an all-volunteer Board of Directors and an 80+ -member chorale. MMS contracts with its Artistic Director, accompanist, and business office staff. Operating on a yearly budget of approximately \$120,000, the monies come from corporate and individual sponsors, businesses, ticket sales and fund-raising events. The ever-popular Battle of the Blends is an a cappella concert performed yearly as a major fund-raiser. Groups from around New England donate their talents to provide an exciting sold-out event. In recent years, an online auction has also become a major source of income.

**Mission** ~ The mission of the Maine Music Society is to empower and inspire a choral community through group singing.

**Vision** ~ The Maine Music Society serves area communities by bringing quality performances to the public through group singing.





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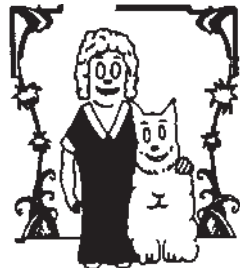
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Baxter Brewing & The Pub .....	A7
Berman & Simmons .....	A-2, C-3
Blais Flowers.....	C-6
Business Listings .....	C-3
Central Maine Credit Union.....	C-6
Champoux Group, The .....	A-5
Computer Place, Inc, The .....	C-10
Cote Corporation, The .....	C-8
DaVinci's .....	A-6
DeBlois Electric .....	C-6
Dirigo Federal Credit Union .....	A-6
Emerson Chevrolet Buick .....	C-10
Emerson Toyota .....	C-7
Fish Bones Grill .....	A-10
Franco Center, The.....	A-4
Franklin Printing .....	C-3
FX Marcotte .....	A-10
Hammond Lumber .....	C-2
Jared Morneau Photography.....	A-5
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Maine Community Bank .....	C-8
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Maine Music Society .....	A-3
Maine State Music Theatre .....	C-4
Midcoast Symphony Orchestra .....	A-6
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