



Ryan Phillips

Music Director and Conductor

Conductor's Corner

Rejoice and Be Merry

If there was ever a season to “Rejoice and Be Merry,” surely, we are a part of it now! The holidays offer a season of hope, renewal, joy, and wonder. Each one of us is a part of a community that strives to bring all of these aspects to our lives. The singers in ARS and I are fortunate to coexist in such a kind, loving, and welcoming city. We are excited to share this program of song with you, the members of that community.

We bring you a lighthearted program filled with music chosen to inspire and bring joy to your holidays. When selecting music for this program, the word “renewal” incessantly came to mind. This season marks a return to the roots of ARS and resurrects a strong tradition of programming holiday standards. That sounds well and good, but I could not resist adding a twist. Though you may recognize the names of many works on this program, each arrangement should inspire you to think and engage with these pieces in a new way.

The community of ARS has been strengthened in this semester. As we joined together to prepare these works over these past few months, excitement has filled our rehearsal room. Our numbers have grown, and our spirit has never been higher. I have asked myself, “What is my goal as a director this semester?” Without fail, the answer has always been “to bring our singers together to celebrate our love of music.” We are fortunate to invite you into our musical workshop today, so that you can experience the fruits of our community effort. Each and every one of us has something to share, a gift to offer one another, and for all of us associated with the Arizona Repertory Singers, we cannot wait to share our music with you.