

NORTH CAROLINA
SYMPHONY

HOLIDAY POPS

THU, DEC 21, 2023 | 7:30PM
KEIHIN AUDITORIUM
EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TARBORO

North Carolina Symphony
Michelle Di Russo, *conductor*



PROGRAM

Leroy Anderson
A Christmas Festival

Victor Herbert / Arr. Otto Langey
March of the Toys from Babes in Toyland

Felix Bernard / Arr. Calvin Custer
Winter Wonderland

Mel Tormé / Arr. Bob Lowden
The Christmas Song

Sergei Prokofiev
Troika from Lieutenant Kijé

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Dance of the Tumblers from Snow Maiden

Anthony DiLorenzo
Navidad Latina!

INTERMISSION

Arr. Robert Krogstad
Christmas at the Movies

Dimitri Tiomkin / Arr. Patrick Russ & Paul Henning
Selections from It's a Wonderful Life
Prologue
Theme
Christmas Eve Finale

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
March from The Nutcracker

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Danse des Mirlitons from The Nutcracker

Walter Kent / Marty Gold
I'll Be Home for Christmas

Lee Norris
Christmas "Pop" Sing-A-Long No. 1

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About the Artists



Michelle Di Russo, *conductor*

The Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair

Michelle Di Russo is Associate Conductor of the North Carolina Symphony where she is responsible for conducting the Symphony's extensive statewide music education concerts.

She has conducted UNC Health Summerfest performances, Young People's Concerts, and Statewide Holiday Pops concerts with the Symphony, as well as classical subscription performances in Chapel Hill and Wilmington.

A graceful and powerful force on the podium, Michelle Di Russo is known for her compelling interpretations, passionate musicality, and championing of contemporary music. She has recently been appointed a 2023/24 Dudamel Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and participated at the Lucerne Festival Academy. An advocate for underrepresented artists, she co-founded the organization Girls Who Conduct to support younger generations of women and non-binary conductors.

Di Russo's artistic journey began in her native country, Argentina, at the age of three with ballet lessons, followed by studies in voice and piano. She has acted on television and onstage. Di Russo holds multiple degrees in Orchestral Conducting from Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina, University of Kentucky (M.M.), and Arizona State University (D.M.A.). She is a former Freeman Conducting Fellow in Chicago Sinfonietta's prestigious Project Inclusion program and a recipient of the Concert Artists Guild's Richard S. Weinert Award.

Previously, Di Russo served as Interim Director of Orchestras at Cornell University, Assistant Conductor for the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra, cover conductor and assistant for The Phoenix Symphony and Arizona Musicfest, and as a conducting fellow at the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy. She has also acted as cover conductor for the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, and the National Symphony Orchestra. In the summer of 2022, she served as the Joel Revzen Conducting Fellow at Festival Napa Valley.

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

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NORTH CAROLINA **SYMPHONY**

HOLIDAY POPS SING-ALONG

Winter Wonderland

Sleigh bells ring, are you list'ning?
In the lane, snow is glist'ning,
A beautiful sight,
we're happy tonight,
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird,
Here to stay is the new bird;
He sings a love song,
as we go along,
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman,
Then pretend that he is Parson Brown;
He'll say, "Are you married?" We'll say, "No, man!
But you can do the job when you're in town."

Later on, we'll conspire,
As we dream by the fire,
To face unafraid,
the plans that we made,
Walkin' in a winter wonderland.

Frosty the Snowman

Frosty the snowman was a jolly happy soul,
With a corncob pipe and a button nose
And two eyes made of coal.

Frosty the snowman is a fairy tale they say,
He was made of snow but the children know
How he came to life one day.

There must have been some magic
In that old silk hat they found.
For when they placed it on his head
He began to dance around.

Oh, Frosty the snowman
Was alive as he could be
And the children say he could laugh and play
Just the same as you and me.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
Had a very shiny nose,
And if you ever saw it,
You would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve,
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph, with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then all the reindeer loved him,
As they shouted out with glee:
"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
You'll go down in history!"

White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know,
Where the treetops glisten and
children listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With ev'ry Christmas card I write:
"May your days be merry and bright
And may all your Christmases be white."



NORTH CAROLINA **SYMPHONY**

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Listing reflects charitable contributions made between January 1, 2023, and December 18, 2023.

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*Acting position

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All string players rotate stands on a periodic basis in each section with the exception of titled players: Principals, Associate Principals, and Assistant Principals.

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The North Carolina Master Chorale is the Resident Chorus of the North Carolina Symphony.

The North Carolina Symphony Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generous gift of the Lupot violin from Arnold and Zenat Lerman.
†deceased