

# *Seaway Chorale and Orchestra*

*Conducted by Anthony Lai*

## *Let There Be Peace*

*December 6 at 7:30 PM*

*December 7 at 4:00 PM 2024*



**Click this picture to learn more about Anthony**

## **ANTHONY JOSEPH LAI**

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR**

Anthony Joseph Lai is multi-faceted musician, Michigan native, proud uncle, and outspoken Millennial from the City of Dearborn. A composer, conductor, and singer-songwriter, he combines his experience in classical, jazz, and popular music to bring an eclectic style to the podium. He became the director of The Seaway Chorale and Orchestra in 2014.

Lai's musicianship first began as a years-long idolization and imitation of The Beatles and other music of the 1960s. His palette expanded

significantly when he attended Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. There he discovered a love for classical music which led to a long path of study into music composition and the art of conducting. The school became his permanent musical home in March of 2024, when he was hired as the new head of the Music department.

Outside of the classroom, Lai's musical endeavors are diverse. He has performed as a vocalist, guitarist, bassist, percussionist, and conductor throughout Metro Detroit and abroad. His work has led to many collaborations with other accomplished musicians, including Luis Resto (co-producer for Eminem), Jenna Irene Ascitutto (American Idol finalist), Terry Brown (producer for Rush), and members of Lynyrd Skynyrd.

In addition to music performance, Lai is a writer of music in a variety of styles. Nominated as "Outstanding Classical Composer" in the Detroit Music Awards in 2017, 2015, 2014, and 2012, he has written music for concert halls, film, theatre, and television. His compositions and orchestrations have been performed by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Wayne State University Orchestra, Flux Quartet of New York, Sage Strings in Washington D.C., and the Boston New Music Initiative.

Lai earned an M.M. in conducting and a B.M. in composition from Wayne State University, and has continued his music studies at conducting symposiums at the New England Conservatory and University of Michigan. His musical style and taste can be heard in his 2021 album *Take Me With You*, where he combines his love of classical and choral music with his roots as a Beatles fan. Laced with woodwinds, strings, and plenty of vocal harmony, *Take Me With You* sums up his musical influences in an acoustic singer-songwriter package. His original music can be found anywhere you download or stream music.

# JEREMY ST. MARTIN

## Accompanist



Jeremy's past work has included accompanying/assistant directing for the Henry Ford College chorus, Dearborn Chorus, and the University of Michigan Dearborn's chamber choir. Jeremy has also had extensive work at the podium, conducting and vocal directing such groups as Sing Out Detroit, the award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, Metro Jazz Voices

as well as his own church choir at St. John's United Church of Christ. Jeremy is currently studying at the University of Detroit Mercy, working on his BA in Theatre Performance before moving to his MA in Musical Theatre Direction.



# Vanessa El-Zein Lai

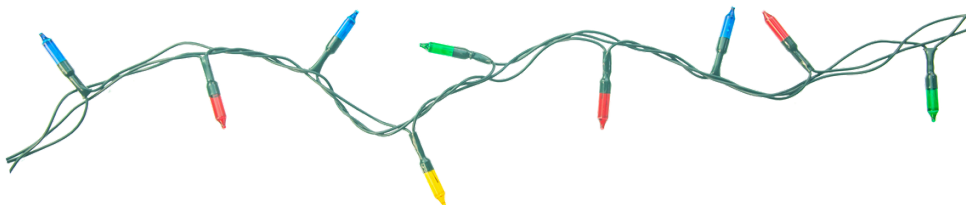
## Voices of the Young Director



Vanessa's lifelong passion for music has evolved into a successful career as a music director and vocal coach. A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, she discovered her talent for music direction in 2015 as a student director at Crestwood High School. Since then, she has brought her expertise to various highschools, including Allan Park High School and Annapolis High School, and directed over 15 musicals with the Dearborn Theatre Collective.

Currently, Vanessa directs two youth choirs—Dearborn Youth Voices and Voices of the Young. She is known for her ability to connect with young performers and inspire them to reach new levels of creativity and skill.

In addition to her work with ensembles, Vanessa is a skilled vocal coach who teaches privately, guiding students of all ages in developing their voices. Her approach emphasizes storytelling, technique, and confidence-building. She is dedicated to helping young performers achieve their full potential and inspiring the next generation of musicians and music lovers.



# THE SEAWAY CHORALE

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## Soprano

Suanne Anderson  
*Lin Calkins Dishaw\**  
Vanessa El-Zein Lai  
Kelli Finger  
**Rosemary Freeman**  
*Katelyn Gorecki*  
Diane Hiddleston  
Joyce Mitchell  
Jackie Olsen  
*Jeanne Rushman*  
Sabrina Wright

## Alto

Dorothy Baker  
*Debbie Baron*  
**Karen Best**  
Tammie Bodell  
Vickie Carroll  
Charlene Coulson  
Carol DeMario  
**Jennifer Dunn**  
**Colleen Herman\***  
Cindy Hewlett  
*Cara Phillips*  
Callie Robillard  
Nannette Sauve  
*Leah Shults*  
**Claudia Simons**  
Karen Wolak  
Muriel Wonderly

## Tenor

Adam Carey  
*John McKinney*  
**Karen Piontek**  
*David Stratford*  
**Chris Utz\***  
*Paul Wieckowski*  
Richard Witkowski

## Bass

Dave Anderson  
Kurt Buker  
Michael  
Christman  
Timothy Face  
Ken Herzog  
**Ken Pilon**  
Daniel Sanquist  
Ray Tejada  
*Bryon Weise\**

\*Section Leader

**Bold**–Board of Governors

*Italics*–Ensemble



# CONCERT PROGRAM

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## First half

Winter Medley

arr. Gary D. Fry

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Kyle Pederson

Let There be Peace

arr. Andy Beck

Performed by: Voices of the Young  
Soloists: Autumn Herm & Lucy Hurst

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

arr. Deke Sharon

Performed by: Seaway Chorale Ensemble

Here we Come a Caroling

arr. Becki Slagle Mayo

Performed by: Men of The Seaway Chorale

arr. John Leavitt

Christmas Pipes

Performed by: Women of The Seaway Chorale

arr. Harry Simeone

Do you Hear What I Hear

arr. Jerry Nowak

Christmas Portrait

Soloist: Kelli Finger



## INTERMISSION



# CONCERT PROGRAM

## Second half

**Cartoon Christmas**

**arr. Andy Beck**

Soloist: Kurt Buker

**Santa Claus is Comin' to Town**

**arr. Don Besig**

**Blow Blow Thou Winter Wind**

**arr. John Rutter**

**Hot Chocolate**

**arr. Roger Emmerson**

Performed by: Voices of the Young

**Caroling Caroling**

**arr. Michele Weir**

Performed by: The Seaway Chorale Ensemble

**A Silent Night Christmas 1915**

**arr. Alan A. Craig**

Soloists: Chris Utz, David Stratford, & Adam Carey

**Let There Be Peace on Earth**

**arr. Jay Rouse**



# VOICES OF THE YOUNG

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Annika Kung  
Avery Hawkins  
Norah Rennie  
Delia Henderson  
Fiona Oliverio

Autumn Herm  
Lucy Hurst  
Lilliana Reed  
Chelsea Sauve  
Emeline Searles



## SEAWAY ORCHESTRA

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**Flute:** Alaina Volante  
**Trumpet:** Andrew Jensen  
**Trumpet:** Ray Vipond  
**Horn:** Dinah Bianchi  
**Trombone:** Tim Fischer  
**Trombone:** Lloyd Slaven  
**Piano:** Jeremy St. Martin  
**Bass:** Heinz Plaumann  
**Drums:** Dale Bender





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**Marge Conley**



**Ralph Olsen**

