



MUNDELEIN SEMINARY
CONCERT CHOIR AND BRASS

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON
2025

*Data Axle proudly sponsors the
Sounds of the Season Concert.*

*May the melodies resonate with the spirit of
hope, peace, and joy.*

Wishing you a blessed and musical holiday!



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DEAR FRIENDS,

It is with great delight that I welcome you to our annual Advent Lessons and Carols, featuring the beautiful music of The Mundelein Seminary Choir under the direction of Linda Cerabona, Mundelein's Music Director.



This afternoon, we are privileged to share in the remarkable talents of our seminarians and faculty. Their dedication and artistry enrich our community's liturgical life throughout the year. As you listen to their voices and instruments, I invite you to remember that these seminarians are preparing to serve as parish priests—shepherds who will bring Christ's presence and compassion to parishes across the Archdiocese of Chicago and throughout the world.

Cardinal George Mundelein believed deeply that the arts, and especially sacred music, provide a powerful means of encountering God's grace. In that same spirit, may this concert draw each of us closer to the mystery of God's love revealed through beauty and harmony.

The Advent Season invites us to wait with hope and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Savior. May the music you hear today renew that sense of anticipation and fill you with the peace and joy of Christ's presence among us.

Thank you for joining us this afternoon and for supporting the mission of Mundelein Seminary. Your prayers, encouragement, and friendship sustain our community and the future priests who will one day serve you and your families.

With gratitude and every blessing,

Fr. John Kartje
Rector/President



SOUNDS OF THE SEASON 2025

PRELUDES

Veni, Veni, Emmanuel Arr. Vaclav Nelhybel

Brass Quartet

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Arr. Vaclav Nelhybel

Brass Quartet

Greensleeves Arr. Terry Vosbein

Brass Quartet

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!
Juanpablo Macias, Trumpet; **Peter Binder**, Piano

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 J.S. Bach
Deacon Simon Stehr (1685-1750)

WELCOME

Linda Cerabona, Director of Music and Organist

Once in Royal David's City (Gather 455) Arr. David Willcocks
Sung by Congregation

OPENING PRAYER

Reverend John Guthrie, Director of Worship

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2,6-7 – Read by **Deacon Michael Wojnarowski**

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming Michael Praetorius
Schola (1571-1621)

Laissez Paitre Vos Bestes (*Let your animals graze*) Pierre Dandrieu
Harpsichord (1664-1733)

O Come Divine Messiah (Gather 401) Venez Divin Messie
Sung by Congregation

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 – Read by **Wendy McMurray**

Hosanna to the Highest Henry Purcell
Vocal Duet – **Gerard Remmes and Peter Binder** (1659-1695)

Greensleeves To A Ground With Divisions John Playford
Violin and Harpsicord (1623-1687)

Charlie Leidel and Peter Binder

What Child Is This (Gather 466) Greensleeves
Sung by Congregation

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7 – Read by **Thiet Hoang**

In The Bleak Midwinter Harold Darke (d. 1976)
Schola Arr. Rutter

Brightest and Best Southern Harmony
Schola (1835)

Silent Night/Noche de Paz (Gather 441) Stille Nacht
Sung by Spanish Choir and Congregation

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2: 8-16 – Read by **Larry Curtis**

Vamos, Pastores, Vamos Mission music, 1600
(*Let's go, Shepherds, Let's go to Bethlehem*)
Spanish Choir

Tota Pulchra Es (*You are most beautiful*) Jean Mouton
Cantores Lacus (1459-1522)

Quem Pastores Laudavere Michael Praetorius
(*He whom shepherds praise*)
Schola (1571-1621)

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-14 – Read by **Deacon Michael Wojnarowski**

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Schola

Bogorditse Devo (*Hail Mary*)

Schola

Elizabeth Poston

(1905-1987)

Sergei Rachmaninoff

(1873-1943)

CONCLUSION

Betsy Ackerson, Vice President of Development

FINAL BLESSING

Reverend John Kartje, Rector/President

Joy to the World (Gather 437)

Sung by Congregation

G. F. Handel

Arr. Vaclav Nelhybel

(1919-1996)

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SOUNDS OF THE SEASON 2025 CHOIR & INSTRUMENTALISTS

DIRECTOR

†Linda Cerabona

DISCIPLESHIP 1

*Casey Clark
Archdiocese of Chicago

+Gregory Kassen
Diocese of Belleville

+Karlo Leonor
Archdiocese of Chicago

~Josue Limon
Diocese of Tucson

*Joseph Nguyen
Diocese of San Jose

*Brennen O’Keeffe
Diocese of Peoria

*^Gerard Remmes
Diocese of Peoria

+David Stotzer
Diocese of Cheyenne

DISCIPLESHIP 2

*Cody Beeber
Archdiocese of Chicago

*Matthew Duff
Archdiocese of Chicago

Jose Antonio González
Archdiocese of Chicago

*Patrick Santino
Archdiocese of Chicago

CONFIGURATION 1

~Roman Espitia
Diocese of Fresno

*^Michael Falcone
Diocese of Nashville

+Alex Klein
Diocese of Wichita

+John Paul McGuire
Diocese of Jefferson City

*Sam Moore
Archdiocese of Dubuque

~Caleb Pagel
Diocese of El Paso

+Carlos Sepulveda
Archdiocese of Chicago

CONFIGURATION 2

*Cameron Banigan
Archdiocese of Dubuque

*Derek Damasco
Archdiocese of Chicago

#Peter Davis
Diocese of Joliet

Jeff Davlin
Diocese of Grand Rapids

#Daniel Obendorf
Diocese of Joliet

#Juanpablo Macias
Archdiocese of Las Vegas

*Jarod Raber
Diocese of Peoria

*~Earl Reyes
Diocese of San Bernardino

+~Christopher Rodriguez
Diocese of San Bernardino

CONFIGURATION 3

~Oliver Garcia Tirado
Diocese of San Bernardino

Special thanks to the valuable choir members who are currently on pilgrimage to Turkey, Greece, and Rome.

~Vicente Cobos
Diocese of El Paso

*Shane Kliethermes
Diocese of Jefferson City

*^Jackson Miller
Archdiocese of Dubuque

*Blake Riffel
Diocese of Davenport

*Conrad Sissell
Diocese of Wichita

CONFIGURATION 4

*^†Peter Binder
Archdiocese of Dubuque

~Thien Bui
Diocese of San Jose

~Larry Curtis
Diocese of San Bernardino

^Jacob François
Archdiocese of Dubuque

^†Charles Leidel
Diocese of Grand Rapids

*#Hunter Ostapowicz
Diocese of Grand Rapids

*^†Deacon Simon Stehr
Archdiocese of Seattle

LINDA M. CERABONA, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Dear ladies and gentlemen, friends, and family,

Welcome to our beautiful Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. It brings me great joy to share this wonderful gift of Advent and Christmas music with all of you. Thank you for coming today.

I would like to personally thank our seminarians for their hard work and devotion. Not only did they help to develop our Christmas program; they continually further our mission to worship God in music. I wish to express particular gratitude to Peter Binder, Deacon Simon Stehr, Charlie Leidel, Jacob Francois, and Hunter Ostapowicz, who are returning to their home dioceses to begin diaconal and then priestly ministry. We will soon say a fond farewell to the rest of their classmates as well.

Our concert this year has been enriched by the gifts of generous donors who have supported the music program at Mundelein Seminary. Special thanks to Mark and Martha Paluga who contributed a beautiful harpsichord to our fleet of instruments that will be showcased during this concert. We also remember with gratitude those benefactors who recently passed. Donna Rankin, beloved sister of Father Willard Jabusch, donated our WORSHIP 4 hymnals for the seminary chapel; and John Elstrom donated the beautiful Model S Steinway Grand Piano for the Conference Center Chapel.

In the Christmas mystery, we encounter divine simplicity: the child in the manger, the light of the star, the gaze of the mother. Our selection of music evokes various images: the prophecy of the Messiah, the poor shepherds in the field, and the tree of life. The inspiring musical styles will lift our hearts to reflect upon the beauty of the Incarnation where heaven and earth intersect. The French peasant in the field, the Slavic refugee far from home, and the Englishman enveloped in the cold night all are transformed by the coming of Christ. May the music this afternoon bring all of us closer to the God who humbled Himself for our salvation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Linda M. Cerabona

Linda M. Cerabona

Director of Music and Organist

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Patricia Colbert



CONCERT CHOIR 2025 TESTIMONIALS



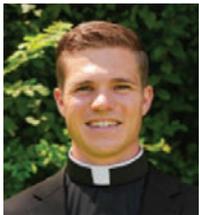
The way I see it, music is an expression of the experiences of humanity. Since the Lord has redeemed humanity through his incarnation, music, at its best, reflects divine beauty and goodness. Since childhood, playing piano has been a source of joy. During my time at Mundelein, singing and playing keyboard instruments continued to be a source of enrichment and enjoyment in both communal worship and personal recreation. I know this will remain true as I enter ordained ministry.

—*Deacon Simon Stehr, Archdiocese of Seattle, WA*



From my involvement in music at Mundelein, I will always remember that liturgical music is very diverse. The Church is stronger through its diversity. Mundelein opened this reality for me in new ways that will help my future ministry.

—*Hunter Ostapowicz, Diocese of Grand Rapids, MI*



Participating in the musical life here at Mundelein has drawn me out of myself and taught me to appreciate beauty in music.

—*Jared Raber, Diocese of Peoria, IL*

CONCERT CHOIR 2025 TESTIMONIALS



I did not have a choir background before Mundelein, so these are some of my first experiences cantoring and singing publicly. In this process, I have encountered how much God delights in his children when they praise him with song. I have had such delight learning this new skill of praise under the loving gaze of the father.

—*Derek Damasco, Archdiocese of Chicago, IL*



The music program here at Mundelein Seminary has empowered me to cultivate my musical talents so that I may use what I've learned in my future ministry. Beginning with little to no singing experience, I have been able to improve and expand my knowledge of sacred music. I'm very thankful for the program for helping me become more confident musically and vocally.

—*Christopher Rodriguez, Diocese of San Bernadino, CA*



Learning about the history of music and its development in the liturgy has given me a new profound appreciation for the sacred tradition. The more I listen to and learn about the music in our past, the more I feel connected to the Catholic culture – both past and present.

—*Gregory Kassen, Diocese of Belleville, IL*

CONCERT CHOIR 2025 TESTIMONIALS



I grew up playing trumpet, and one of my hopes when I entered Mundelein Seminary was to find a way to continue playing. I felt very blessed when I discovered that we had enough brass players to form an ensemble among seminarians, and we began to play for certain masses and special events. As I continue to work with the music team at Mundelein,

one thing that amazes me is the dedication shown by the musicians. A piece which is only a few minutes long may require hours upon hours of rehearsal time, not to mention the logistical details behind the scenes. Every piece of music here is a labor of love which is only possible by the hard work of many individuals. My involvement has taught me to see how all these 'hidden' hours can also be a sacred time offered to the Lord.

—Peter Davis, Diocese of Joliet, IL, Fall semester Music Assistant



I have always had a place for music in my heart. Being a member in Mundelein's schola has widened my horizon and deepened my appreciation for sacred music. One powerful memory this past year was singing Arvo Pärt's composition on Psalm 129 for the passing of Pope Francis.

—Earl Reyes, Diocese of San Bernardino, CA



'Music speaks directly to the heart.' The resonance in singing in the choir – the act of lifting words from their meanings to prayers – have been an enriching experience for my formation.

—Hoang An "Joseph" Nguyen, Diocese of San Jose, CA

CONCERT CHOIR 2025 TESTIMONIALS



I didn't expect to enjoy choir or schola. I joined purely to learn and improve, but I surprisingly enjoyed all the 2024 Christmas Concert and its preparation. The early November rehearsals were a blast – sorting out the sheet music, attempting to pronounce Polish, and striving to hit the high notes of Handel's Messiah. During the concert it was quite an exhilarating experience to be totally in the zone and to perform for a packed church!

—Patrick Santino, Archdiocese of Chicago, IL



I was very moved by the music here at Mundelein during my Candidacy Mass this August. The music at this liturgy helped me to be filled with joy and confidence in this step of my formation. I think the history of the liturgical music of the church helps us enter more fully in heart, mind and soul into the liturgy, and beautiful music in the life of the church helps one's senses be raised and be immersed into the sacred realities of our faith.

—John Paul McGuire, Diocese of Jefferson City, MO



Through singing I've grown in my relationship with God. I get to glorify God with my voice although it's not always perfect. I feel great satisfaction knowing that the Lord is pleased with my efforts.

—Casey Clark, Archdiocese of Chicago, IL

SAVE THE DATE

33RD CELEBRATION of
MUNDELEIN
An Evening of Tribute

Thursday, April 16, 2026
Lincolnshire Marriott Resort



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Paluch Lecture Series
Mundelein Hall -
Mundelein Seminary
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

MARCH 5, 2026

Cardinal Meyer Lecture Series
Part 1
Mundelein Hall -
Mundelein Seminary
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

MARCH 6, 2026

Cardinal Meyer Lecture Series
Part 2
Mundelein Hall -
Mundelein Seminary
9:00 pm to 11:30 pm

APRIL 16, 2026

33rd Celebration of Mundelein
Lincolnshire Marriott Resort
5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

MAY 3, 2026

May Crowning
Mundelein Seminary
9:30 am to 12 pm

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Rector Classic Golf Outing
Pine Meadow Golf Course -
Mundelein Seminary
10:30 am to 9:00 pm

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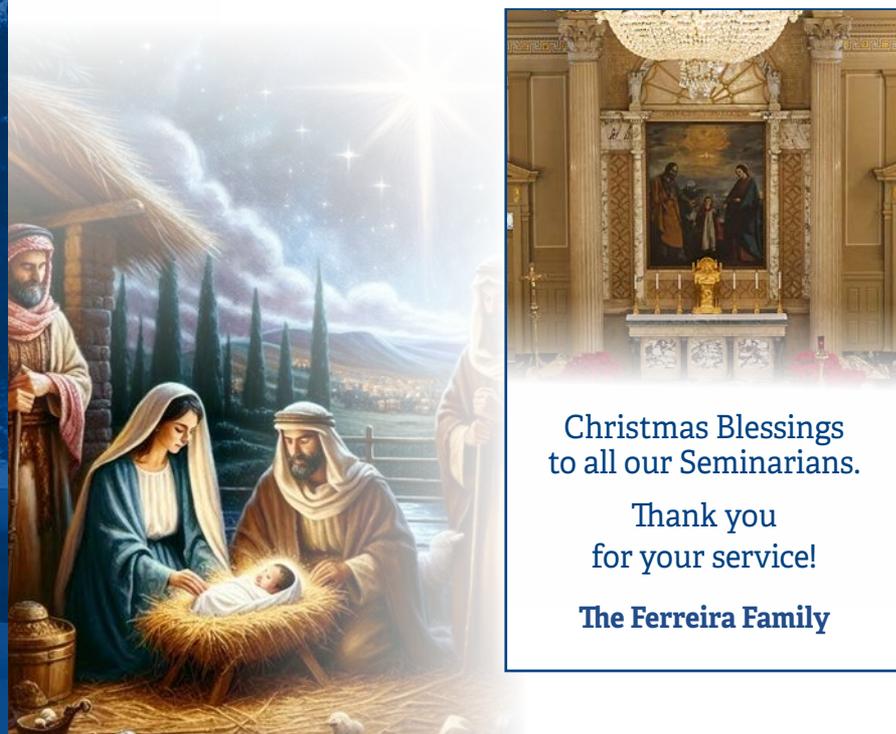
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MUNDELEIN
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GIVE TODAY!



Christmas Blessings
to all our Seminarians.

Thank you
for your service!

The Ferreira Family

*In Memory of
Drs. Barry and Donna
(Jabusch) Rankin+*



*Sister and brother-in-law of
Reverend Willard Jabusch+, professor and composer
at Mundelein Seminary and beyond. The Rankins
supported our seminary music program in their lifetime
and now in perpetuity through their estate gift.*

*May their great love of music continue to live through
the annual Sounds of the Season Concert.*

Rest in Glory, Barry and Donna.



UNIVERSITY
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THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY

WE WISH YOU MUCH JOY
DURING THIS SEASON.





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