

FINE ARTS CENTER THEATRE COMPANY
Scott RC Levy, Producing Artistic Director Presents

Holiday CABARET



Of Spacious SKIES

Episode 12

FEATURING

Susan Dawn Carson & Kelly Walters performing *Baby, It's Cold Outside*

Jennifer DeDominici performing *What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?*

The Guzman Family performing *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas*

Sally & Mallory Hybl performing *Silent Night*

Jen & Evan Lennon performing *There's No Place Like Home For The Holidays*

The Levy Family in *Latkes With The Levys, A Family Cooking Show*

The McCauley 5 performing *Let There Be Peace on Earth/Give Love on Christmas Day*

The McGuffin Family performing *Christmas Time Is Here*

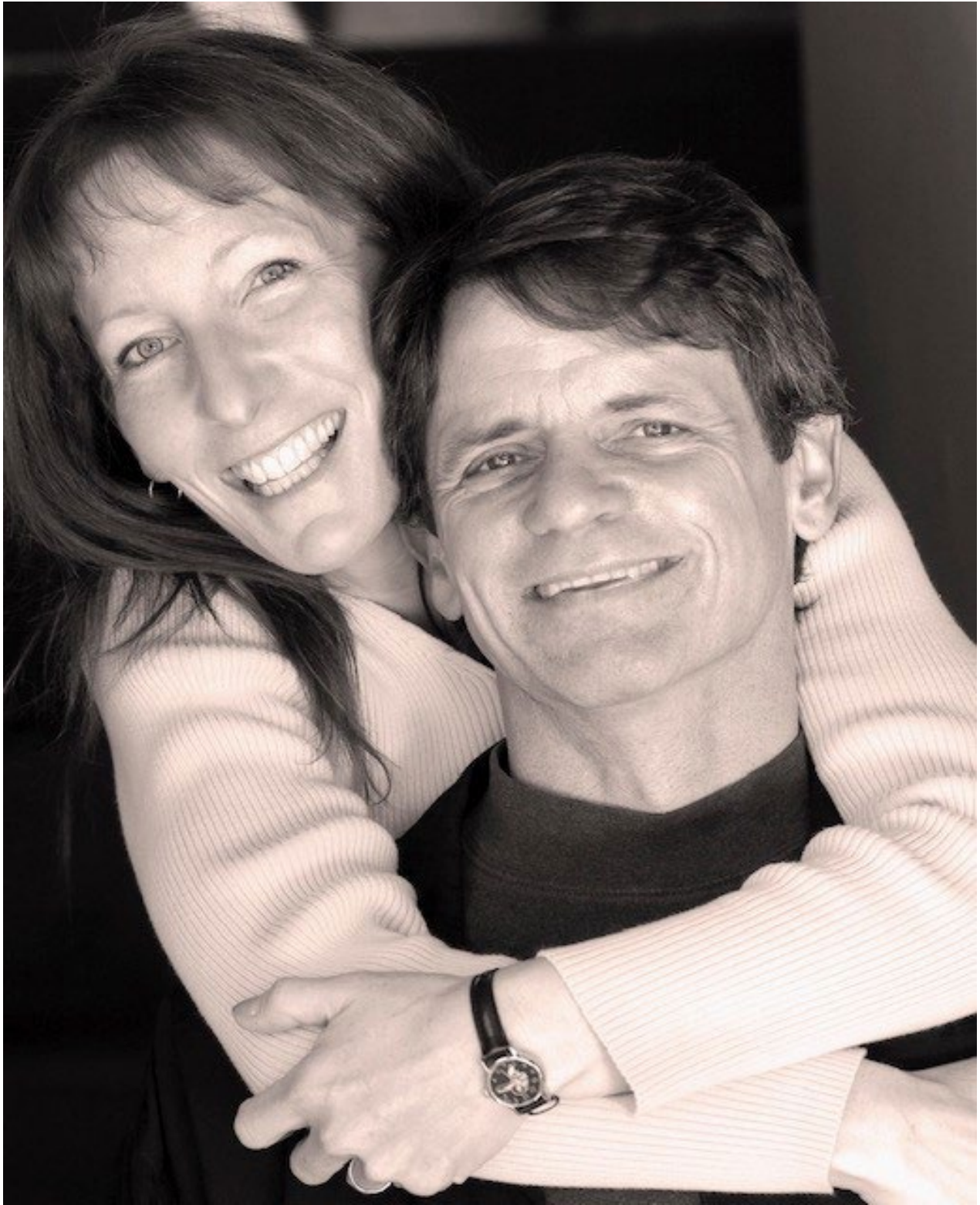
The McHebertly's performing *A Night Before Christmas*

Miriam Roth & Ryder Ballard performing *Sleigh Ride*

Carmen Shedd, Ryan Miller, Mark Autry & Tracy Taylor performing *A Holiday Medley*

Kyle Dean Steffen & Kelli Dodd performing *I'll Be Home With Bells On/Christmas Time's A Comin'*

The Vaughn Family performing *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*



Susan Dawn Carson & Kelly Walters, married for eons now, have many Broadway shows between them and are always happy to have a chance to work together (thanks for the nudge, Nathan!). FAC audiences saw them as The Baker & Baker's Wife in their favorite *Into The Woods*. We wish you all a warm and cozy holiday with this version of a classic we 'borrowed' from Red Skelton & Betty Garrett, with piano accompaniment by Jerry McCauley II. CHEERS!



When **Jennifer DeDominici** first performed at the FAC as Mary Poppins exactly six years ago, she couldn't have imagined how important this theater and its people would become in her life. From Mary Poppins to Sarah Brown to Judy in *9 to 5* to Grace Farrell to Charity Barnum to Francesca in *Bridges of Madison County*, Jennifer has had the opportunity to perform some of her favorite roles on the stage of the FAC. But, it is the people on and off stage that have made the FAC a home and a family. That is why, even though Jennifer may appear to be singing alone in her living room, she is actually, by the very nature of this project, who it is by, and who it is for, very much surrounded by a huge family. She hopes that all of you feel the love and the beauty of this season sent to you from her big FAC family!!



Zach and Heidi Guzman have been in Colorado Springs since 2012, making art with the FAC since 2014. Zach is most widely known for his impeccable tap dancing and dynamic vocal skills, while Heidi has been recognized for her ability to impersonate many characters and vocal variations, especially within children's theatre. Zach works as a therapist, and while Heidi is a nurse, she has taken a step outside of the hospital to home school their three daughters, **Chloe** (9), **Haley** (7), **Alannah** (5). They both dream of opening a wellness center one day where their passions for helping others can finally be under one roof! We have life—and life abundantly. We have breath, to speak love. Hands to help. Hearts to feel. Ears to listen. Faith to share. Whatever your journey this year, stop a moment, and think about what you DO have and the beauty that each day can bring you. No matter what 2021 holds, know we miss you all and cannot wait until we are united once again. Merry Christmas!



Some of **Sally and Mallory Hybl's** most treasured holiday memories are holiday productions at the FAC including Mallory's debut at seven as Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*, and follow up performances in *Joseph*, and *Mary Poppins*. Mallory is now a junior at Georgetown University pursuing a degree in Global Health with a minor in German. Gratitude to the FAC Theatre company for bringing us together again during the holiday season. In honor of Grandma, who always loved the simple tradition of singing acapella by candlelight in church on Christmas Eve, Sally and Mallory share *Silent Night* and its hope for love, grace and peace on earth.



Jen Lennon made her FAC debut in 1980 in *Oliver* and her eldest son, **Evan Lennon**, followed thirty years later in the 2010 production of *All My Sons*. Collectively they have been in over 25 productions on the stages of the FAC and have had the wonderful opportunity to perform in five shows together: *A Christmas Story*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Mary Poppins*, *Tilly the Trickster* and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Evan is currently a BFA junior in Weitzenhoffer School Musical Theatre at the University of Oklahoma. Evan and Jen hope you all find a little bit of home this holiday season!



Scott, Joye, Ellie & Gabe Levy have appeared on the FAC stage separately, and once all together, in the FAC's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. The theatre is never far from their hearts, as Scott has a habit of bringing work home with him to get ideas and opinions from the rest of the crew. For the last 15 years, the Levys have cooked latkes in honor of Chanukah. And for the first time, they are thrilled to share some tricks of the trade for all of you this holiday season.



The McCauley 5, 23 years in the making, is **Jerry, Amy, Miranda** (Freshman BFA Musical Theatre Major at Belmont University), **Aria** (Senior at Air Academy High school, in her audition season for Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance studies next year), and **Ella** (Freshman at Air Academy High School, active in choir, speech, and debate). Music and performing has always been at the heart of our family's holiday celebrations, and this year we are SO GRATEFUL to the FAC Theatre Company for hosting this virtual cabaret. As creatives responding to the relational, racial, physical, and political division this year, we long for peace and love and light for our community. Much LOVE and Happiest of Holidays from the McCauley 5!



The McGuffins are thrilled to be part of this Holiday Cabaret. When it's not 2020, **Stephanie** and **Jay** are usually enjoying music directing and playing our instruments live at the FAC. While it's been 2020, we are enjoying time music directing and teaching from home and being together as a family. We have spent a lot of time pretending to know how to crochet, building model trains, cooking, baking, learning how to record and edit videos, building a garden, wondering if we should get a dog, building Legos ... so many Legos, and more! We miss seeing all of you in person and look forward to when we can see you live at the FAC again! We hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. Stay safe!



Poppet, Beany, and Roo (the McHebertly children) are THRILLED to be making not only their film debuts, but their FAC debuts as well. Well, Roo is thrilled, she always knew she was meant to be a star and this Cabaret has given her the opportunity to truly shine. Poppet is a bit of a diva, so she was a little disappointed that she had to share the spotlight with her sisters. Begrudgingly she did so. Beany thinks this whole acting thing is for the birds and has vowed to never be seen on stage or screen again. **Marisa and Kelcey** (the mommies) hope that the sweet little faces that bring them so much joy every day of the year have brought some of that joy into each of your homes. We hope that all of you are staying safe and well during these unprecedented times. Until we can share indoor spaces with you again we wish you love, light, and a wonderful holiday season.



Miriam Roth is a local performer and voice teacher. She is often seen and heard on the stages across Colorado Springs. **Ryder Ballard** is a junior at Manitou Springs High School. Ryder sings, plays piano and viola, and is self taught on the guitar and ukelele. Ryder is looking to study psychology in college and put his empathic skills to use helping others. Ryder, Miriam, and their whole family wish you a happy and safe holiday season. Happy Christmahanukwanzayule!



Carmen Shedd, Mark Autry, Ryan Miller and Tracy Taylor have all performed at the FAC for over 10 years. To fight loneliness and boredom during the pandemic, they formed a pod and have spent their weekends adventuring and singing. We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season!



Kyle Dean Steffen and Kelli Dodd (Steffen) wish you all a happy Holiday Season! When not singing Christmas songs in front of their Christmas tree, Kyle and Kelli can be found teaching elementary drama (Kyle) and Spanish (Kelli). Both were last seen on stage at the FAC (*Sound of Music* and *Bridges of Madison County*). Kyle and Kelli thank Nathan, Scott, and the entire FAC family for this opportunity to sing some country Christmas songs. We look forward to the time when we can all create theatre in person together again. Happy Holidays and ¡Feliz Navidad!



The Vaughn family is thrilled to be performing together for the first time since adding their newest member, **Asa**, last April. The two eldest Vaughns have performed in numerous FAC productions over the years with **Alannah** on stage and **Jason** in the pit. **Elias** is best known for his performance in a Denver production of *The Wedding Singer* while in utero. Asa is best known for his winning smile. The Vaughns would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE OF SPACIOUS SKIES WRITING TEAM

JONATHAN ANDUJAR

Being an artist and teaching in Colorado Springs presents a myriad of challenges. I have to find a word/art balance which can be tough sometimes. Luckily I teach theatre so my mind is always working in that particular focus which is nice. Working with high schoolers gives a fresh perspective on what's relevant to the younger people in town. Working as a writer for the Fine Arts Center has given me the opportunity to stay creative and in touch with my imagination. I continue to hold on to theatre being the place where people gather to hold stories, stories that uplift, reflect on, and validate the human experience. Whether it is clowning or an intense drama, people ultimately want to relate and connect with one another.

MICKY BURDICK

The holidays are, for me, a time of reflection and celebration. This year, obviously, has been something of an outlier. People reflect on 2020 and the majority of the dialogue centers around phrases like “dumpster fire” and “hot mess” and “S#!% storm.” But I’d like to offer another perspective; one of gratitude for those small things we still have. I’m a new father. My baby girl just turned one, two weeks before the world got turned upside down in March, and suddenly I was facing the prospect of trying to work from home ... with a baby ... via zoom ... in a pandemic. I work in the arts, so I was understandably worried about my job, and the well-being of my family. And yes, my productivity and mental-state have been entirely decimated, and I’m eating too much, and the big party we wanted to throw for my parent’s 50th anniversary will have to wait, and so many other tiny tragedies have befallen us ... but there have also been some really — and I mean, really, REALLY good things as well. My employers are good and understanding. We found ways to keep making art. Our friends are constant, and our family is healthy. For the last nine months, I got to see my daughter grow up. I was ACTUALLY HOME for her first steps, and her first words. Not everybody gets to say that. I will, for the rest of my life, look back on the time I spent with my daughter and wife with fondness and joy, not remorse. Things are dark enough right now. And we’re using this holiday season to celebrate the light we’ve been given.

JESSICA KAHKOSKA

I love touching down in Denver to visit my family for the holidays. Even with a drive to Colorado Springs ahead, there’s a sense of “ahhh” and “you made it” that comes when you look out the window of a plane and see the mountains. That’s how I know Colorado’s my home. I worked on the concert version of *Next to Normal* at the Fine Arts Center in January 2017 — it felt like a Christmas present to get to gather with my friends from over the years and to sing that incredible score!

XOCHITL PORTILLO

Christmas, what Christmas is to me...? Every year for Christmas since I was a little girl, I traveled to East Los Angeles, which was my grandmothers house. She bought it during the red line districting days when only Mexicans could buy housing in this one specific area. That house is a source of joy and comfort for me. It always smelled like food, and because we're Mexican we cook Tamales every year for Christmas. It was my job to spread the masa, um, onto the corn husks. We would always have different kinds — there was a red chili pork recipe, and then we would do another recipe with green chili, and then my grandmother always made special ones with fruit in the middle, spice fruits, bananas, and apples with cinnamon, and then you wrap them up in the masa, in the corn husk like a little present, and you leave them to steam for hours. Because it's such a process, you would make hundreds of them for the whole family and for the whole holiday. Christmas Eve was always the biggest holiday we remembered, family arrived from all over and all squeeze into this tiny tiny little one story house. My Abuelita Rosa's house. They also used to make this salty fish stew called Bacalao, and it smelled so disgusting, I hated that smell, but she would make it for my Grandpa because it was his favorite meal. So it was tamales, salty fish and lots of people — it was a very distinct smell. Being in that house is still one of my favorite memories to this day. My grandparents have passed now, and no one gathers at the house anymore for Christmas, but it still holds all my best memories.

JESS WEAVER

Coming to the Springs wasn't an option, we were told to go there, via the Army, but I was really excited. When I first came to Colorado Springs it was to look for housing, and it was very cold, and I went from being at almost ocean level in Alabama to the elevation of Colorado Springs, so instantly, my physical reactions — my nails broke off, I had an instant headache — it was actually very interesting how my body had such a physical adverse reaction to being there. Everything else about it — emotionally, visually — everything else was so beautiful, and there was snow, it was like a picture perfect image, it was just, I don't know, crisply delightful. We've moved on average every two or three years, to a different city, a different state, a different part of the country, and I'm always running into different people and different cultures that think and go about things differently, and so my opinion and outlook as an artist has definitely evolved. I think that with anywhere that you live, being a military member, you see the touristy spots — and they really are lovely — you know, Garden of the Gods, Pikes Peak, what we've been writing about in the radio show; but what really makes my heart go pitter patter is when I get to have the sense of being part of community. Isolation being a strong factor in my life, when I get to feel a part of a community, that's when I'm just like, oh, you know, and so as corny as this sounds, like, every time I got to go to the Fine Arts Center for an audition, or because of rehearsal — I loved it, because it was a sense of community. And I rarely get that in my life.

SONG CREDITS

Baby, It's Cold Outside — by Frank Loesser

Christmas Time is Here — by Vince Guaraldi & Lee Mendelson

Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah —

trad., arranged and performed by Erran Baron Cohen, featuring Jules Brooke & Y-Love

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas — by Hugh Martin & Ralph Blaine

Home For The Holidays — by Robert Allan & Al Stillman, arranged by Joe Lipman

Jingle Bells — by James Lord Pierpont, arranged by David Foster, Patty Andrews & Victor Shoen

Let There Be Peace on Earth — by Jill Jackson Miller;

Give Love on Christmas Day — by Motown Records Corp., arranged by Jerry McCauley II

Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel — by Neale (trad.), arranged by Jason Tyler Vaughn

Silent Night — by Joseph Mohr & Franz Xaver Gruber, arranged by Sally & Mallory Hybl

Sleigh Ride — by Leroy Anderson & Mitchell Parish

'Twas The Night Before Christmas — adapted by Marisa D. Hebert, from the original by Clement Clarke Moore

What Are You Doing New Year's Eve? — by Frank Loesser, arranged by Harry Connick, Jr.

With Bells On — by Dolly Parton; *Christmas Time's A Comin'/Jingle Bells Mashup* —
arranged by Kelli Dodd & Kyle Dean Steffen

SPECIAL THANKS

To Jan Johnson and Ormao for providing studio space for Susan Dawn Carson & Kelly Walters

OF SPACIOUS SKIES STAFF

THE WRITERS

Mélisa Annis

Jonathan Andujar, Mickey Burdick, Marisa D. Hebert, Jessica Kahkoska, Xochitl Portillo, Jess Weaver

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Scott RC Levy & Nathan Halvorson — Episode Directors

Jacob Keough-Mishler — Sound Designer, Engineer & Mixer

Bob Morsch — Assistant Sound Designer

Stephanie & Jay McGuffin — Composers, *Of Spacious Skies* Theme Music

Kate L. Ferdinandi, Morgan Gatson & Terri Harrison — Production Management

Christina Shoemaker — Theatre Company Assistant

Christopher L. Sheley & Holly A. Rawls — Visual Version Leads

FOR THE VISUAL VERISON

Christopher L. Sheley — Production Design and Art Direction

Holly A. Rawls — Associate Art Director and Video Editing

HOLIDAY CABARET

Conceived by Nathan Halvorson

Artwork created by Serena Wolford

Filmed & edited by the families performing

Final Editing by Jacob Keough-Mishler

The FAC Theatre's 2020 Holiday Cabaret is dedicated in loving memory to Ardell Halvorson



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE