

# *TSO Holiday Pops*

**Steven Reineke**, conductor  
**Molly Johnson**, vocalist  
**Billy Newton-Davis**, vocalist  
**Davide Direnzo**, drum set  
**Robi Botos**, piano  
**Michael Downes**, double bass  
**Etobicoke School of the Arts Holiday Chorus**  
**David Ambrose**, Choir Director

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**John Williams**  
"Merry Christmas" from *Three Holiday Songs from Home Alone*

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**Jerry Herman/arr. Robert Wendel**  
"We Need a Little Christmas"  
from *Mame*

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**Connie Pearce & Arnold E. Miller, Jr./arr. Drew Jurecka**  
"Winter's Got Spring Up Its Sleeve"

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**Mike Downes & Molly Johnson/arr. Mike Downes**  
"Painted Blue"

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**Irving Berlin/arr. Bill Elliott**  
"I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm"

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**Mykola Leontovych/arr. David Hamilton**  
*Carol of the Bells*

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**Lewis Redner & Phillips Brooks/arr. Dan Forrest**  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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**Frank Loesser/arr. Drew Jurecka**  
"What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?"

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**Felix Bernard & Richard B. Smith/arr. Mike Downes**  
"Winter Wonderland"

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**Traditional/arr. Steven Reineke**  
"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

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## Intermission

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**Joe Beal & Jim Boothe/arr. Steven Reineke**  
"Jingle Bell Rock"

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**John Williams**  
"Somewhere in My Memory" from *Three Holiday Songs from Home Alone*

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**Judith Clurman & David Chase/orch. Brant Adams**  
"Chanukah Joy and Peace"

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**Donny Hathaway & Nadine McKinnor/arr. Daryl McKenzie**  
"This Christmas"

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Monday,  
December 11, 2023  
8:00pm

Tuesday,  
December 12, 2023  
8:00pm

Wednesday,  
December 13, 2023  
2:00pm & 8:00pm

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**Davide Direnzo & Mark Lalama**  
"Maybe This Year"

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**Mike Downes & Molly Johnson/  
arr. Mike Downes**  
"Brighter Day"

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**Davide Direnzo/arr. Drew Jurecka**  
"This Holiday Season"

.....  
**Steve MacKinnon & Molly Johnson/  
arr. Steve MacKinnon &  
Rebecca Pellett**  
"Don't You Know It's Christmas"

.....  
**Arr. Sam Shoup & Steven Reineke/  
orch. Sam Shoup**  
*The Jingle, Jangle Sing-Along*

"Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

(Johnny Marks)

"Frosty the Snowman"

(Walter "Jack" Rollins & Steve Nelson)

"Here Comes Santa Claus"

(Gene Autry & Oakley Haldeman)

"Jingle Bells" (James Lord Pierpoint)

See *The Jingle, Jangle Sing-Along* on page 29.



## Steven Reineke, conductor

Steven Reineke is one of North America's leading conductors of popular music and is in his second decade as Music Director of The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall. Additionally, he is Principal Pops Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Houston Symphony, and Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Reineke is a frequent guest conductor and can be seen on the podium with the Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, San Francisco, and Detroit Symphony Orchestras.

Steven Reineke made his TSO conducting debut on March 17, 1997, in a program that included music by Jacques Offenbach, Georges Bizet, John Williams, Kurt Weill, Henry Mancini, Leonard Bernstein, Richard Rodgers, and John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

His debut as TSO Principal Pops Conductor was on October 4, 2012, in a program titled *Hollywood Hits*, which featured songs ranging from "Hooray for Hollywood" to Elton John's "Circle of Life" from *The Lion King*. And the first film screening he conducted with the TSO was *Back to the Future* on October 16 and 17, 2015.

On stage, Reineke creates and collaborates with a range of leading artists from the worlds of hip-hop, R&B, Broadway, television, and rock including Maxwell, Common, Kendrick Lamar, Nas, Ne-Yo, Barry Manilow, Cynthia Erivo, Ben Rector, Cody Fry, Sutton Foster, Megan Hilty, Wayne Brady, Peter Frampton, and Ben Folds, among others. In 2017, he was featured on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* leading the National Symphony Orchestra—a first in the show's 45-year history—performing live music excerpts in between news segments. In 2018, Reineke led the National Symphony Orchestra with hip-hop legend Nas performing his seminal album *Illmatic* on PBS's *Great Performances*.

As the creator of hundreds of orchestral arrangements, Reineke has had his work performed worldwide, and it can be heard on numerous Cincinnati Pops Orchestra recordings. His symphonic works *Celebration Fanfare*, *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and *Casey at the Bat* are performed frequently in North America, including performances by the New York Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic. His *Sun Valley Festival Fanfare* was used to commemorate the Sun Valley Summer Symphony's pavilion, and his *Festival Te Deum* and *Swans Island Sojourn* were debuted by the Cincinnati Symphony and Cincinnati Pops Orchestras. His numerous wind ensemble compositions are published by the C.L. Barnhouse Company and are performed by concert bands perennially.

A native of Ohio, Reineke is a graduate of Miami University of Ohio (2020 Alumnus Distinguished Achievement Medal), where he earned Bachelor of Music degrees with honours in both trumpet performance and music composition. He currently resides in New York City with his husband, Eric Gabbard.



←  
Holiday Pops 2022



## Molly Johnson, vocalist

These performances mark Molly Johnson's TSO début.

Known as one of Canada's greatest voices, award-winning jazz vocalist Molly Johnson is a mother, singer-songwriter, artist, and philanthropist. Johnson's story starts in the mid-sixties when, as a young grade schooler, she and her brother, Clark Johnson, were tapped by legendary Toronto icon and producer Ed Mirvish to appear in *Porgy and Bess* at the Royal Alexandra Theatre. In time, *Porgy and Bess* was followed by *South Pacific*, *Finian's Rainbow*, and other classic musicals. With the desire to become a choreographer, the budding child star was soon enrolled in the National Ballet School. Eventually, Johnson was taken with the idea of writing songs, and the future chanteuse began to see herself as a potential songwriter.

By the late 1990s, Johnson had started her family and, after being burned twice by record companies, was contemplating giving up on the music business—until Toronto songwriter and producer Steven MacKinnon suggested she should write some songs with him. The partnership proved successful after a dozen or so songs when MacKinnon declared, "I think we have a record." The début jazz album *Molly Johnson* (2000) was issued to critical acclaim but, unfortunately, Johnson's record company, Sony Corp., went bankrupt shortly after the CD's release. Three years later, she recorded her second jazz-pop release, *Another Day* (2003), which led her to become a bona fide star in France.

Johnson's next album, *Messin' Around* (2006), was her first album recorded with Universal Music Canada. Since then, Johnson has released six more albums, which include *Lucky* (2008) and *The Molly Johnson Songbook* (2011). In 2009, Johnson won a JUNO Award for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year for her fourth full-length, career-milestone album, *Lucky*, and also received the 2009 National Jazz Award for Best Female Vocalist. Johnson has performed throughout Canada, the United States, and France, and alongside renowned artists including Tom Cochrane, Blue Rodeo, Tom Jones, Jackie Richardson, Anne Murray, Stéphane Grappelli, Peter Appleyard, and more. Johnson has also graced the stage performing for some of the world's most prominent icons including Prince (now King) Charles and the late Princess Diana on the Royal Yacht Britannia, as well as Nelson Mandela and legendary producer and trumpeter Quincy Jones.

Dedicated to supporting communities in need, Johnson established the Kumbaya Foundation and Festival in 1992, raising awareness and funds for people living with HIV/AIDS, and continues to work with several other charitable organizations each year. Johnson has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal and, in 2008, was honoured to become an Officer of the Order Of Canada. This rare distinction was given to Johnson to recognize her philanthropic work for a variety of causes and for her international contributions to the arts. In 2016, Johnson launched the Kensington Market Jazz Festival, which fills this colourful and vibrant area of Toronto with more than 200 local Canadian musicians, performing close to 100 shows over one weekend in September to scores of enthusiastic music fans.

Johnson was the voice of the CBC Radio 2 *Weekend Mornings* program where she eased listeners into their weekend with great Canadian songs, and stories about musicians and the people of Canada, from coast to coast to coast.



### **Billy Newton-Davis, vocalist**

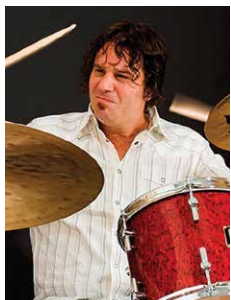
These performances mark Billy Newton-Davis's TSO début.

Billy Newton-Davis grew up in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and, as a teenager, was one of two lead singers in a local soul band called The Illusions. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Ohio University and, upon graduation, moved to New York to pursue his dreams on Broadway. He appeared in several Broadway shows including *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, *Eubie!*, *Got Tu Go Disco*, and *Stop the World—I Want to Get Off*, starring Sammy Davis Jr. His début singing gig, in 1973, was as a backing vocalist for Gloria Gaynor, and, in 1989, he released “Can’t Live with You, Can’t Live Without You”, a duet with Céline Dion.

A formidable presence in the Canadian music industry, Newton-Davis received JUNOs for best R&B/soul recording for his first two albums, *Love Is a Contact Sport* (1986) and *Spellbound* (1989), and more recently a JUNO for best dance recording of the year for his work with deadmau5 on “All U Ever Want”. Newton-Davis is featured on releases by The Boomtang Boys, Nino Anthony, and Melleefresh. From 1991 to 1993, he was a member of Canadian singing supergroup The Nylons.

In Toronto, Newton-Davis has become a favourite performer for philanthropic and corporate events, and regularly appears in the city’s best live venues performing jazz, gospel, and R&B. For decades, Newton-Davis has been lending his voice as an activist for HIV/AIDS awareness and the ongoing fight for equality.

Newton-Davis’s latest EP, released in 2020, is a jazzy, bluesy, gospelicious offering recorded live off the floor and features some of his favourite classics from the Great American Songbook.



### **Davide Dizenzo, drums**

These performances mark Davide Dizenzo's TSO début.

Davide Dizenzo is one of the most versatile and in-demand drummers in Canada, with an equally strong profile in the jazz, rock, pop, and R&B scenes from coast to coast to coast and beyond. With years of studio experience under his belt working with some of the world’s top artists, Dizenzo is now also working as a producer out of his home studio (Studio 86) in Toronto, Ontario. From there, he records and sends drum tracks to artists and producers all over the globe.

Dizenzo has performed and recorded extensively around the world with a wide range of artists, including two-time Grammy award-winning Cassandra Wilson, jacksoul, Tom Cochrane & Red Rider, Chaka Khan, Mariah Carey, Holly Cole, Guido Basso, Tomi Swick, David Wilcox, Feist, Kevin Breit, Raine Maida, Chantal Kreviazuk, The Philosopher Kings, and Danny Michel. He recorded and co-wrote three songs on Molly Johnson’s album *Meaning to Tell Ya*, where he had the pleasure of working with multi-GRAMMY® Award winner and internationally celebrated producer and musician Larry Klein.

He has won eight JUNO Awards to date, including two in 2007: one as a member of jacksoul (R&B/Soul Recording of the Year) and one as a band member with Tomi Swick (New Artist of the Year). He also received a National Jazz Award nomination the same year for Jazz Drummer of the Year. In 2013, he took home a JUNO with Emilie-Claire Barlow in the Vocal Jazz Album of the Year category.



### **Robi Botos, piano**

These performances mark Robi Botos's TSO début.

Robi Botos has been hailed as one of the most diversely talented multi-instrumentalists of this generation. From the hard-bop style of Bill Evans and Herbie Hancock, to the swing of Oscar Peterson and the heartfelt melodic expression of Mulgrew Miller and Cedar Walton, Botos has managed to master the technique of his idols, all while showcasing his musical expressions in a voice that is purely his own. While Botos is known for being a strong player in the traditional jazz and funk fields, he always incorporates into his playing an element of the music he grew up listening to.

Born of Romani descent in Hungary, Botos first taught himself to play drums as a young child, and got his initial taste of being a professional musician working throughout Budapest. Botos was first introduced to the piano when he was 7 years old, and never looked back. He continued to perform throughout Hungary and, when he turned 20, decided to move with his wife and children to Canada to further pursue the career he was born for. Now, 20 years later, Botos has solidified himself as one of the most sought-after pianists in the country.



### **Michael Downes, double bass**

These performances mark Michael Downes's TSO début.

Multiple—JUNO Award winner Michael Downes has been a prominent Canadian bassist, composer, arranger, and educator since the early 1980s. His musicality, emotional depth, and melodic approach to the bass have thrilled audiences in Europe, Japan, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Israel, Iceland, the United States, and Canada. In addition to leading his own groups, Downes has performed with virtually all of Canada's top jazz musicians, including Molly Johnson, Oliver Jones, PJ Perry, Lorne Lofsky, Don Thompson, Kirk MacDonald, Robi Botos, and Pat LaBarbera. He has performed with international artists Pat Metheny, Chris Potter, Michael Brecker, John Abercrombie, Peter Erskine, Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor, Dave Liebman, and many others.

Downes began playing bass at the age of 8, encouraged by his bass-playing father. He also studied trombone and piano, and was quickly recognized as an up-and-coming talent. He began performing as a teenager in Winnipeg, Manitoba, playing in diverse ensembles and settings, from rock bands to big bands and from corporate functions to television and radio shows. After being named Jazz Musician of the Year at Silver Heights Collegiate, a high school reputed for its music program, he was offered a full scholarship to study bass and trombone at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. After two years at St. FX, he went on to complete a Bachelor of Music degree at McGill University in Montreal. He was already balancing a professional career with his studies. After graduating, he was awarded a Canada Council grant to study with bassists Dave Holland and John Clayton. Downes moved to Toronto in 1990, and later completed a master's degree in music composition at York University.



**David Ambrose, Choir Director**

David Ambrose is a multi-faceted artist and educator with an extensive resume in music and theatre. He has worked as a stage director, conductor, and teacher throughout the GTA, from community theatre to the Canadian Opera Company. Ambrose currently teaches in the Music Theatre Department at Etobicoke School of the Arts and is the Music Director at Runnymede United Church. He also serves as Artistic Director of the Mississauga Festival family of choirs, where he conducts a 30-voice chamber choir and 160-voice adult community choir.

**Etobicoke School of the Arts Holiday Chorus**

Etobicoke School of the Arts (ESA) has been Canada’s premier arts-focused high school for more than 40 years, teaching young artists in music, music theatre, dance, drama, visual arts, and film. The ESA Chorus is conducted by David Ambrose and comprises Grade 9–12 music theatre students, including members of its award-winning ensembles Splash, Chamber Choir, WoCo, and Jamme. Many graduates of the program have gone on to careers in music and music theatre, performing with such illustrious organizations as the Stratford and Shaw Festivals, the Canadian Opera Company, and The Metropolitan Opera, and in major TV and film roles.

**SOPRANO**

- Monica Alencar
- Clara Barry
- Maeve Bondy
- Farrah Collins
- Emily Cram
- Lucy Crow
- Sabina Crow
- Kaya D’Aigle Edwards
- Rachael Elia
- Adelaide Evans
- Francesca Flamminio
- Valeria Franco
- Gaia Friedman
- Taylor Gage
- Natalia Gayowsky
- Alivia Girma-D’Ettorre
- Ava Grovestine
- Libby Hendersen
- Selma Icard
- Rachael Kennedy
- Stella Kiloh
- Zoie Koch
- Paulina Leyva-Arcos
- Nanamie Li
- Lily Luukkonen
- Gabriela Majewska

- Xiomara Mallo
- Ella Mercer
- Sasha Middleton
- Amelia Miville-Dechene
- Mad Morin
- Eden Oelbaum
- Lua Olafson Ramos
- Penny Otis
- Maika Preston Doyle
- Lauren Raposo
- Marley Robinson-Shaw
- Vera Rudolf Sevelka
- Clara Scott
- Leah Sturino
- Siara Suhaila
- Eve Therrien
- Kenzi Vancea
- Chelsea Webster
- Sophia Wennekers
- Kenna Wessinger
- Ashton Wilkinson
- Aurora Williams
- Anya Zalewski

**ALTO**

- Sofia Amelunxen
- Victoria Andrews

- Jocelyn Bond
- Ella Cardoso
- Jordan Davidson
- Mia de Lasa
- Melzee Diao
- Niamh Doyle
- Josephine Eyford
- Ally Farrell
- Mela Gadsden
- Styles Hansen
- JD Harris
- Charlie Herbert-Scott
- Clare Johnston
- Tallulah Joy
- Madeline Knapp
- Sophia Kot
- Kelly Li
- Brenna MacDonald
- Simone Neubacher
- Andy O’Day
- Sosa Paul
- Sydney Proctor
- Aly Smith
- Ashley Thoprakan
- Kalashree Vyas
- Anika Wawrow
- Lily Westsmith
- Charlotte Young

**TENOR**

- Rafael Amelunxen
- McLeod
- Lucy Axbey
- Niko Ceci
- RJ Cidadoo-Ellis
- Giancarlo Coniglio
- Quintin Glasgow
- Alyx McCabe
- Casper Presse
- Aster Queale
- Skyler Siwek
- Liam Tsuji
- Charlie White

**BASS**

- Max Cohen
- Massimo Della-Schiava
- Sebastian Gonzalez
- Ezequiel Igreja
- Isidor Kennedy
- Rayn Mohamed
- Quentin Snowden
- Bo Walker

# The Jingle, Jangle Sing-Along

## *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

You know Dasher and Dancer  
and Prancer and Vixen,  
Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen,  
But do you recall  
The most famous reindeer of all?

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 how the reindeer loved him,  
As they shouted out with glee:  
"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer  
You'll go down in history."

## *Here Comes Santa Claus*

Here comes Santa Claus,  
here comes Santa Claus,  
right down Santa Claus Lane,  
Vixen and Blitzen and all his reindeer  
pullin' on the reins.  
Bells are ringin', children singin',  
all is merry and bright,  
So jump in bed and cover your head  
'cause Santa Claus comes tonight.

Here comes Santa Claus,  
here comes Santa Claus,  
right down Santa Claus Lane.  
He's got a bag that's filled with toys  
for boys and girls again.  
Hear those sleigh bells jingle jangle,  
oh what a beautiful sight.  
So jump in bed and cover your head  
'cause Santa Claus comes tonight.

## *Jingle Bells*

Dashing through the snow  
In a one-horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way.  
Bells on bob-tail ring  
Making spirits bright.  
What fun it is to ride and sing  
A sleighing song tonight.

Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way.  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells,  
Jingle all the way.  
Oh what fun it is to ride  
In a one-horse open sleigh.

## *Frosty the Snowman*

Oh, Frosty the Snowman  
Was a jolly happy soul,  
With a corncob pipe and a button nose  
And two eyes made out of coal.

Frosty the Snowman  
Is a fairytale, 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.

Thumpity thump thump (2)  
Look at Frosty go,  
Thumpity thump thump (2)  
Over the hills of snow.

