

Classic 107.3

Holiday Programs 2025

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

From King's College Cambridge

Sunday, December 7 from 8 – 9:30pm

A central celebration of Christmas in England since 1918, the service has been broadcast live on the BBC since 1928. Selected readings are recited and carols – old and new – are sung in the centuries-old college chapel by the world-renowned Choir of King's College Cambridge. The service is the essence of Christmas in England and was recorded on location by King's College live in 2018 during the centennial celebration for this English tradition.

Handel's Messiah – Joyful Praise

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Live from Powell Hall

Saturday, December 13 from 7:30 – 10:15pm

George Frideric Handel's Messiah draws us in time and time again. The storytelling and uplifting messages are captivating, and the intimate arias juxtaposed with exuberant choruses are irresistible. But maybe it is the grandeur of the oratorio that impresses most. Discover which of these strikes a chord as Nicholas McGegan, one of the world's foremost experts on Handel's music, conducts the SLSO and St. Louis Symphony Chorus in this beloved holiday tradition.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION with CHICAGO *A CAPPELLA*

Monday, December 15 from 4 – 5pm and

Monday, December 22 from 4 – 5pm

Jonathan Miller, artistic director of Chicago *a cappella* and a longtime champion of Jewish choral music, hosts an inspiring and informative show featuring choral music set to Hanukkah texts. Familiar tunes include “I Have a Little Dreidel” (both in its original Yiddish form and in a neo-funk Hebrew/English setting), a swing version of “S’vivon” by Steve Barnett, and a lively setting of the traditional melody for “Al-Hanissim” (For the Miracles) by Elliot Levine. All selections are performed by Chicago *a cappella*, the virtuoso vocal ensemble formed in 1993. Jonathan Miller provides liturgical and cultural background as part of this unique look inside old and new choral Hanukkah traditions.

ITZHAK PERLMAN’S CHANUKAH RADIO PARTY

Monday, December 15 from 5 – 6pm and

Monday, December 22 from 5 – 6pm

Join Itzhak Perlman the superstar violinist, as he tells the story of the Jewish festival of lights. This engaging one-hour special includes numbers from Itzhak Perlman’s radio addicted childhood in Israel; evocative songs in Yiddish and Ladino; classical music that revolves around the Maccabee heroes of the story; and Hanukkah gems by American folk singers. The master storyteller also regales you with jokes and memories, plus tales of three classic Chanukah symbols: the menorah, the latke, and, of course, the dreidel. A good time for the whole family, at Itzhak Perlman’s Chanukah Radio Party!

BERLIOZ: *L'ENFANCE DU CHRIST*(The Childhood of Christ)

Saturday, December 20 from 8 – 9:30pm

Best known for the chorus “The Shepherds' Farewell”, this oratorio of 1854 recounts young Jesus' early life and the flight of his family into Egypt to escape King Herod and his minions. Present-day audiences can still be taken aback at Berlioz's gentle lyricism and simplicity in recounting this story. The performance is a classic featuring Cesare Valletti, Florence Kopleff, Gerard Souzay, Giorgio Tozzi, The New England Conservatory of Music Chorus and the Boston Symphony Orchestra led by the great Berlioz conductor, Charles Munch. It was recorded in Symphony Hall Boston on Christmas Eve Day 1956.

...AND YET ANOTHER PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

Tuesday, December 16 at 7:20am and Thursday, December 18 at 5:20pm

In this cautionary tale by Brian Sibley, find out what happens when the hapless Cynthia Bracegirdle really does receive ALL the presents of the twelve days of Christmas from a, shall we say, persistent admirer? It all goes just as the song says and that dry, British hilarity ensues in a production from the BBC featuring Penelope Keith and Timothy Bateson, directed by John Theocharis. Poor Cynthia...

TCHAIKOVSKY'S THE NUTCRACKER (Complete Ballet)

Tuesday, December 23 from 4 – 5:25pm

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's “The Nutcracker”, an evergreen holiday favorite ever since its premiere in 1892, broadcast complete. We'll feature the RCA/Sony Classical release featuring Leonard Slatkin conducting the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in Powell Hall to honor the 100th anniversary of that venue.

Forty-Eight Hours of Christmas Classics

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Bring all the warmth and joy of past Christmases to life once again with the Classic107.3FM and 96.3 HD2 48 hours of **commercial-free music**. Enjoy masterpieces from Tchaikovsky, Bach, Handel, Britten and Menotti and welcome back old friends like Robert Shaw, Luciano Pavarotti, Harry Belafonte, the Boston Pops with Arthur Fiedler, Nat King Cole, Andrea Bocelli, Johnny Mathis, Sir Thomas Beecham and Duke Ellington. **Made possible by [Mary Pillsbury Fine Jewelry Company](#).**