

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

1264 Highway 21
Mount Pleasant, North Carolina



“Where the doors swing on welcome hinges!”

Sanders Family CHRISTMAS

Written by CONNIE RAY

Conceived by ALAN BAILEY

Musical Arrangements by Mike Craver and Mark Hardwick
Produced with Special Arrangement from Samuel French, Inc.

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Pastor Mervin OglethorpeDrew Dieckmann*
June SandersKrista Vowell
Burl SandersPaul Ruff
Vera Sanders.....Madeline Golden
Denise Sanders.....Molly Watkins
Dennis SandersKary Rogers
Stanley SandersMarcus Vowell

**SCT acting debut*

Scenes & Setting

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
Just outside Mount Pleasant, North Carolina
Wednesday, December 24, 1941

Act One

7:00 p.m., the Sanctuary of the Church

Act Two

About 20 minutes later

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

The Crew

Director Pattye Archer
Assistant Director Alison Stamps
Musical Director Paul Ruff
Stage Manager Alison Stamps
Lighting Design Thomas La Foe
Costume Design Melanie Harris
Hair and Makeup Design Jansen Fair
Lighting Operator Tess Graham
Box Office Marsha Williams and
Bob Anderson
House Manager Coordinator Ron Palmer
Poster Design Jim Tomlinson
Opening Night Party Bobbie Jo Beach, Lora
DeFore, Stephen Cunetto

Set Construction

Pattye Archer, Bob Anderson, Kayla Buskirk,
Drew Dieckmann, Edwin Ellis, Madeline Golden,
Cary Huser, Thomas La Foe, Bonnie Oppenheimer,
Kary Rogers, Casey Rowe, Craig Ruff, Paul Ruff,
Anna Smith, Gabe Smith, Alison Stamps, Krista Vowell, Marcus
Vowell and Molly Watkins

Christmas 1941

If you celebrated Christmas in 1941, we would like to honor you with a star on our Christmas tree! In the lobby, at the desk next to the door leading into the theatre, you will find some gold stars and pens. If you celebrated Christmas in 1941, please sign your name and how old you were that Christmas, and place your star on the tree in the Lobby. And please accept our very special wishes for this Christmas season!



The Music Act 1

Good Christian Men Rejoice

The Sanders Family

Christmas Time's A Comin'

The Sanders Family

Angels We Have Heard on High (*a cappella*)

The Sanders Family

Country Kind of Christmas

The Sanders Family

Cactus Christmas Tree

Denise and Dennis Sanders

Merry Christmas Down Home

Burl Sanders and the Sanders Family

I Wonder as I Wander

Denise Sanders

Christmas in the Mountains

Burl, Stanley, Dennis and Vera Sanders, and Pastor Oglethorpe,

Patriotic Medley

Onward Christian Soldiers

The Sanders Family

On the Battlefield

The Sanders Family

Keep on the Firing Line

The Sanders Family

Hold Fast to the Right

Vera Sanders

Joy to the World

Pastor Oglethorpe and Burl, Stanley and Dennis Sanders

The Music Act 2

Did You Ever Go Sailing

Stanley Sanders with Denise, Burl and Dennis Sanders

Longing for the Hallelujah Day

The Sanders Family

I've Been Changed

Pastor Oglethorpe with the Sanders Family

Christmas Around the World

Noche de Paz

The Sanders Family and Pastor Oglethorpe

Grandpa's Done Gone Crazy

Denise and Dennis Sanders with the Sanders Family and
Pastor Oglethorpe

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Denise and Vera Sanders and Pastor Oglethorpe

Nose to Nose

The Sanders Family and Pastor Oglethorpe

Away in A Manger

Burl and Vera Sanders with the Sanders Family

Caroling Bells Medley

Caroling, Caroling

The Sanders Family

Jingle Bells

The Sanders Family

Christmas Bells

Denise, Dennis and Vera Sanders

With Bells On

The Sanders Family

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

The Sanders Family

Carols with the Congregation

Go Tell it On the Mountain

About the Cast

Drew Dieckmann

Drew makes his first SCT appearance as “Reverend Mervin Oglethorpe.” Of joining the veteran Sanders family cast he says, “Nobody made me feel like the ‘new kid.’ It was truly like a family from day one. Thanks guys!” He would like to thank Pattye and Alison for their endless enthusiasm, patience, and encouragement. He would also like to thank his wife, Karen, and son, Thomas, “...for putting up with me – I love you both!” You can catch Drew on various *stages* around town as he resumes his role of “working musician,” a part he's played for the last 15 years.

Madeline Golden

Madeline is thrilled to be “Vera” again and to be back at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church with her Sanders family and Reverend Oglethorpe. “At our very first blocking rehearsal, when the family made its entrance onto the stage and we all stood there together again, I got the biggest lump in my throat. I love these characters! And I love the actors playing these characters!” Madeline sends a special thank you to the wonderfully supportive SCT audiences and wishes all a happy holiday season.

Kary Rogers

Kary is excited to be with the Sanders Family again. He can't think of a better way to prepare for the holidays than to sing Christmas songs at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, and he's glad that you decided to worship with us. Kary has been away from the stage for a little while, and in the interim he's been on the internet in a comedy show, Good Commitment. He would like to thank Pattye, Alison and the rest of the cast and crew for another tremendous SCT experience. “As always, thanks to my lovely wife for allowing me to play with the other kids on stage.”

Paul Ruff

Paul is delighted to be returning to the stage as “Burl Sanders.” Of all the roles he has played at SCT, “Burl” is certainly the closest to his heart. “I love these folks so much – it's truly like a real family.” Paul originally took the stage as “Burl” in our 2006 production of *Smoke on the Mountain*. He also reprised the role for SCT's first-place win at MTA this year and for the subsequent SETC competition in Atlanta, where the show was runner-up. In addition to *Smoke*, Paul's past SCT productions include *Damn Yankees*, *The Foreigner*, *Daddy's Dyin' (Whose Got the Will?)*, *Deathtrap*, and most of our summer musical revues. He wants to thank the cast and crew for their dedication and love – and especially Pattye for her optimism and encouragement. Thanks also to his three kids, Daniel, Craig, and Reagan, for allowing him to spend all this time playing at the theatre. Most of all, he wants to thank his wife, Cindy. “Vera may have her hands full with Burl, but no one else has the strength to put up with me. I love you, babe!”

Krista Vowell

Krista is tickled to be playing the part of “June Sanders” once again. Since last we

About the Cast

Krista Vowell

Krista is tickled to be playing the part of “June Sanders” once again. Since last we saw “June,” Krista has played the role of “Maggie the Cat” in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and the role of “Belinda Blair” in *Noises Off*. “June” ranks as one of Krista's all-time favorite roles on the stage, and she would like to thank her fellow cast and crewmates for making *Sanders Family Christmas* a joy to be a part of. She would also like to thank Peyton and Meghan for their never-ending support and “Uncle Stanley” for always believing in her. “To SCT's faithful audiences, thank you so very much for giving us this opportunity to do something we love so dearly. It is my hope that each one of you will feel the true spirit of Christmas in your heart this year. Remember what we're celebrating, y'all. Isn't it wonderful????”

Marcus Vowell

Marcus returns to the role of “Stanley Sanders” after taking it over for the MTA/SETC performances of *Smoke on the Mountain* (where it won Best Show at MTA and runner-up at SETC!). Marcus has also appeared at the Playhouse on Main in such productions as *The Lion in Winter*, *It Runs in the Family*, *Last Night of Ballyhoo*, and *No Sex Please, We're British*. He has been seen in many of SCT's much beloved summer musical fundraisers. This is, however, one of the all-too-rare times he gets to share the stage with his lovely wife, Krista. “Thank you, sweetheart, for always supporting me and for looking so great on stage that people miss it when I screw up. And thank you to Peyton and Meghan for being great kids, particularly about going to all those rehearsals with us.”

Molly Watkins

Molly is enjoying reviving her role of “Denise” in *Sanders Family Christmas*. Molly has been involved with several SCT productions in the past in directing, acting, and crew roles. Last season, she was in *A . . . My Name Will Always Be Alice* and the Mississippi Theatre Association submission of *Smoke on the Mountain*. Molly is serving in her last year as the Vice President for Play Selection for SCT. Molly recently accepted a new role as Mom to her four month old, Sophie. She'd like to thank Pattye, Alison, and the rest of the cast for being so incredibly supportive—we really are a family. She especially wants to thank her husband, Andrew, without whom she couldn't do any of this.

From the Director

Christmas came early this year. It arrived on a Sunday in September when the cast of *Sanders Family Christmas* met for the first time to sing as a group – as a family!

This was not like the excitement you usually feel when a new cast gets together to read through a script – with all the possibilities and work and fun still ahead. This was something more. Something better. This was a cast that was already a family. And our coming back together was like opening a box of favorite Christmas ornaments – and reliving the memories with each one we unwrapped.

I believe I speak for each of us when I say we feel blessed indeed to return to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and revisit these wonderful characters. They have changed some – grown and matured. But, at the same time, they are just as we all remember! And that is part of the fun!

I cannot say enough wonderful things about the seven people you will see on stage tonight. They are incredibly talented, and I am in awe of their abilities to sing, to play, to act - to move me to laugh or cry, sometimes just with a look. How wonderful that they choose to share their talents with us! But what you don't really get to see tonight is all they did behind the scenes. In addition to learning lines, new instruments, difficult music and lyrics, ALL while having families and careers and lives outside of the theatre, they also built the set, made props, found costumes, swept the floor and so much more!

Of course they were not the only ones. Alison Stamps, who happens to be the greatest assistant director on earth, has done it all to make sure this show is everything it should be! She gives so much of herself to the actors, to the theatre and to me - and by extension to each of you! She is the best gift we received this production, and I want to be sure she knows it!

I also must thank Tess Graham and Cary Huser in the booth and Jansen Fair for being here with us night after night! Thanks go to Bob Anderson and Marsha Williams for keeping all these reservations straight! How lucky SCT is to have each of you!

You will see from the list of thank yous that so many individuals worked to pull this all together. Most of them will never get the well-deserved applause the actors will receive tonight, but I hope they will accept my heartfelt thanks just the same!

For me, Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year. And I have such great memories of Christmases past - moments I know I will never forget. This show, this experience – this family – will forever be one of those memories. It is my hope that this show will be as wonderful an experience – and memory – for you! Merry Christmas!

Special Thanks

John Archer
Dr. Jim Brown at the Eye and Laser Center of Starkville
Dave and Becky Burns
Ida Cunetto
Stephen Cunetto
Lora DeFore
Karen Dieckmann
Debbie Dunaway
Cherri Lee Golden
Cozette and Wayne Hardy
Melanie Harris
Kathi Hester
Bo Jeffares
Kris Lee
Evelyn Lowery
Terry McDowell
Mainly Music
Peyton and Beth Passons
Amanda Powers
Joby Prince
Cindy Ruff
Ann Stamps
Lyle Tate
Nan and Mike Tate
Theatre MSU
Marianne Ulmer

Please Remember...

Please turn off your cell phone, pagers and all other electronic devices. And for Heaven's sakes - don't be text messaging during the performance. For one thing, ringing phones and typing texters are annoying to the actors and other theatre patrons, but you must remember that this is 1941 and those gadgets have not even been invented yet, y'all! So just sit back, relax and enjoy!

Upcoming Dates

December 6-9.....	<i>Sanders Family Christmas</i>
December 11-16.....	<i>Sanders Family Christmas</i>
January 5.....	Youth Theatre Guild, 9-noon
January 7.....	SCT General Meeting
January 11-13.....	Mississippi Theatre Association Festival in Hattiesburg
February 2.....	Youth Theatre Guild, 9-noon
February 4.....	SCT General Meeting
February 21-24.....	<i>The Cover of Life</i>
February 24-25.....	Auditions for <i>Forever Plaid</i>
February 26-March 1.....	<i>The Cover of Life</i>
March 1.....	Youth Theatre Guild, 9-noon
March 3.....	SCT General Meeting
April 5.....	Youth Theatre Guild, 9-noon
April 7.....	SCT General Meeting
April 24- 27.....	<i>Forever Plaid</i>

Congratulations Are in Order

Congratulations to the casts of *The Cover of Life*, SCT's third show in the 2007-2008 season, and *Art*, SCT's entry into the Mississippi Theatre Association 2008 Festival.

The Cover of Life

Directed by Bob Anderson

Tood.....	Elizabeth Williams
Sybil.....	Jillian Vedros
Weetsie.....	Casey Leigh Heflin
Aunt Ola.....	Marsha Williams
Kate.....	Terry McDowell
Addie Mae.....	Marianne Ulmer
Tommy.....	Casey Rowe

Art

Directed by MJ Etua

Marc.....	Kris Lee
Serge.....	Lyle Tate
Yvan.....	Gabe Smith

Board of Directors

2005-2008

Kaki Ingles

Joan Mylroie

Ross Williams

2006 - 2009

Maxine Arnett

Milo Burnham

Evelyn Lowery

2007-2010

Terry Reese McDowell

Chip Templeton

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Vice President for Play Selection – Molly Watkins

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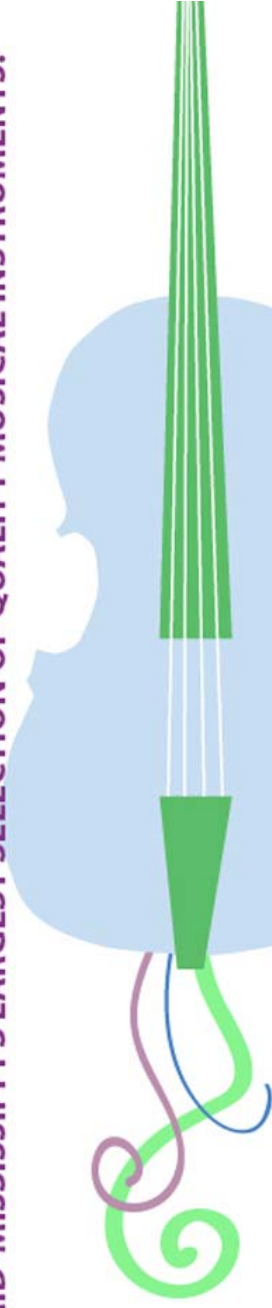


The 2007-2008 Season is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts.



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**NOISES
OFF!**

September 6-9
and 11-16, 2007



October 25-28 and October 30-November 2, 2007

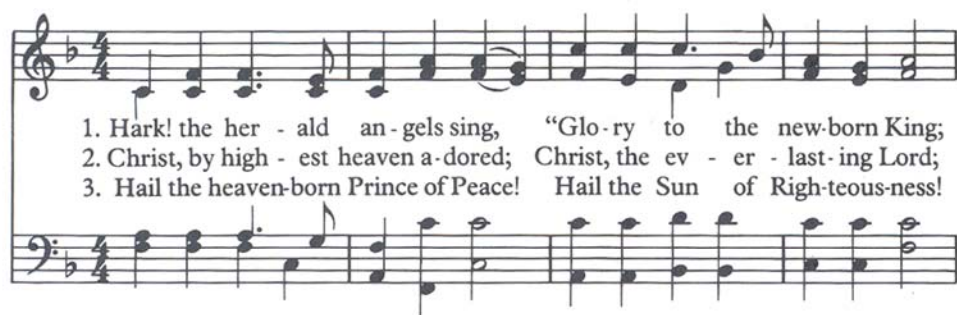


February 21-24 and February 26-March 1, 2008

April 24-27 and
April 29-May 4, 2008

**Forever
PLAID**


Hark! the Herald Angels Sing



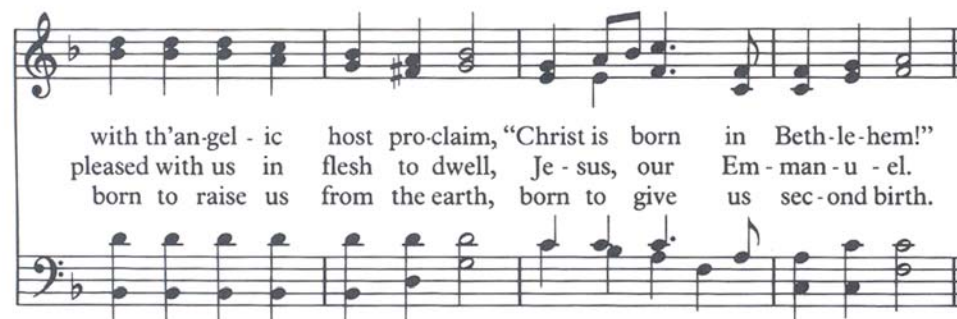
1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na-tions rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

The First Noel



1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -



shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in



keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tinued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.



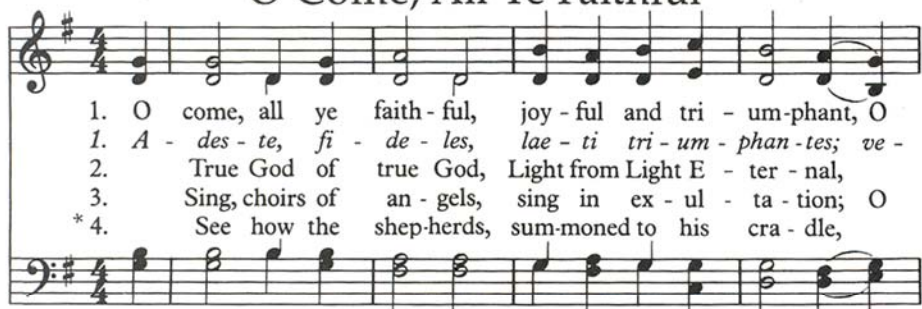
Refrain



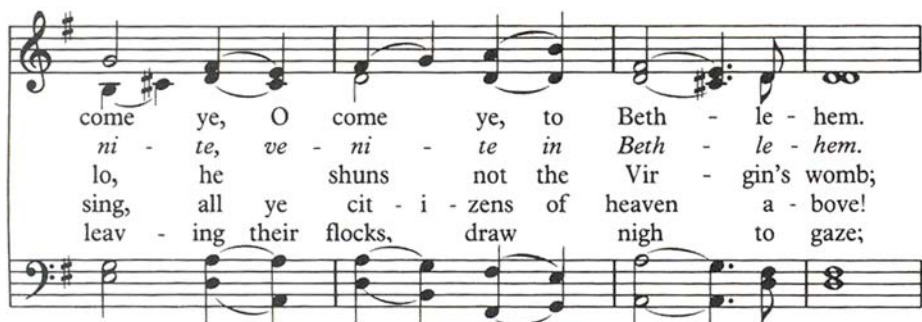
No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.



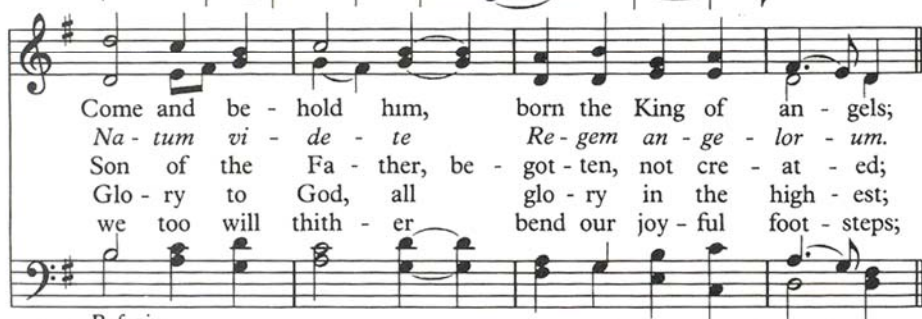
O Come, All Ye Faithful



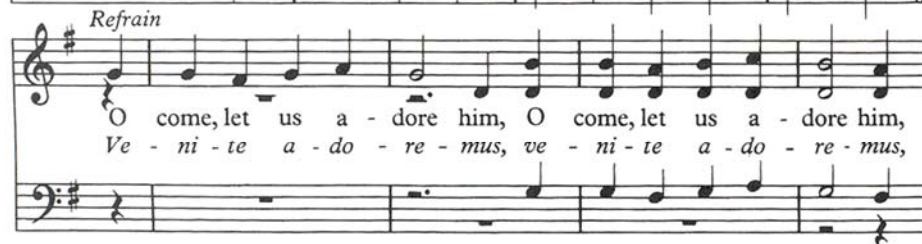
1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
 1. A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 * 4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,



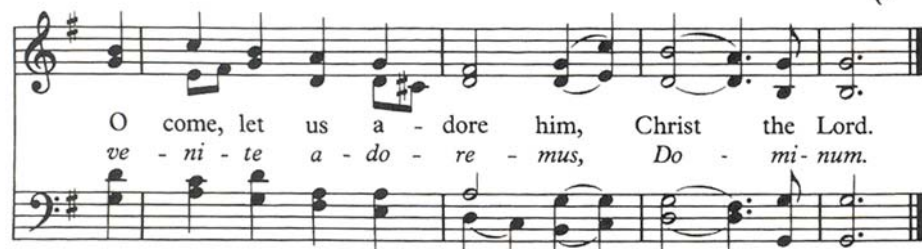
come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
 ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;



Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
 ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.