

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS

 DECEMBER 16, 17 & 18, 2019

 7:30 P.M.

 THE ISABEL

Kingston Symphony

Evan Mitchell *Conductor*

Kingston Choral Society

Ian Juby *Chorus Master*

TODAY'S MUSIC

with Evan Mitchell

One of the most challenging aspects of putting together a Christmas show is striking the right balance between tradition and surprise. While Christmas is built around tradition, the very act of gift-giving is shrouded in the mystery of opaque paper. Each gift is a virtual unknown until the paper is torn off.

I hope you'll find new surprises amongst the old chestnuts roasting on an open fire. While some of my favourite Candlelight Christmas moments have been the unveiling of unexpected repertoire (Austin Wintory's music from *Journey* comes to mind), there is something deeply satisfying about fulfilling traditions old and new. The nutcracker isn't going anywhere. Although I must confess I'm finding it difficult to try and one-up myself each year as we perform *Sleigh Ride*.

All this is to say that we work tirelessly to craft what we consider the best possible experience, and we're humbled that these concerts have become such a beloved tradition.

Of course we couldn't have these concerts without our good friends in the Kingston Choral Society, helping to bring the songs of the season to life. No matter the weather outside, we can count on the choir to shine a warm light on stage.

As a conductor, one of the great joys of my life is to lead a group of fantastically talented artists to work as one within a staggeringly small margin of error. As always, we achieve more together than we do alone. I believe that's the truest manifestation of the holiday spirit. May we all find good tidings of comfort and joy.