



**WELCOME TO THE**

**24TH ANNUAL**

**RICHARD NICKERSON**

**SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT**

**JANUARY 8TH, 2022**

**VIRTUALLY PREMIERED AT 7:00 PM**

# **Production Staff**

Producer

*Janelle LoScuito*

Assistant Producer

*Matt Scala*

Master of Ceremonies

*Kim McBride*

Program

*Matt Scala*

Publicity

*RNS Committee*

## **RNS Committee Members**

*Susan Dries*

*Betty McLeod*

*Dan Griffin*

*Matt Scala*

*Janelle LoScuito*

*Elizabeth Moran*

*Jim McBride*

*Linda Scala*

# ~Performers~

**Dr. Sandra Howard (WHS '93)** Dr. Sandra Howard is 1993 WHS graduate and former Chamber Singer, Sandi is now a wife, mother, outdoor and rafting enthusiast, and a fierce advocate for the environment. She is a professor of music at Keene State College where she specializes in pre-service music teacher training as well as choral and general music methods. She observes practicum and student teachers and conducts auditioned choral ensembles, including the KSC Chamber Singers.

**Ceili Spaulding (WHS '15)** Ceili Spaulding is a 2015 Windham High School graduate and a Windham Chamber Singers alumnus. She went on to Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, where she pursued her love of songwriting, to which she graduated with a degree in 2019. Ceili then moved to New Jersey with her partner to work in the city. She started her own remote lesson company, Lessons with Ceili, where she teaches songwriting and guitar to students of all ages and from all over the world - Mexico, the UK, Canada, and the United States. Alongside freelance artwork for other artists, she teaches children and adults guitar, piano, voice, songwriting, and production at a local music school. Ceili recently released her new single, Oh Edison, on all streaming platforms. She is excited to support the same scholarship program that helped her pursue her dreams!

**Michelle Sawyer (WHS '04)** Michelle Sawyer, a 2004 graduate, now lives happily in northern Vermont with her partner and two sons. As a Windham High School student, she was in chorale, the Chamber Singers, and the school musicals. She also found herself behind the keyboard as an accompanist, which continued throughout her college career. While her love for song has never wavered, she spends her days picking up and putting down heavy things for fun and trying to improve the healthcare system in Vermont. She has lost count of how many times she's performed for the RNS scholarship concert, but is pleased to be back virtually for the first time since 2013 and wishes the class of 2022 all the best.

**Jean Thornton (WHS '04)** Jean Thornton graduated in 2004. She earned a degree in criminology from USM in 2012. She was a prison guard for the army for four years in Leavenworth and in South Korea. Currently she works at Tri-County Mental Health

Services as a co-responder with the Lewiston Police department to help those in mental health crisis. Her down time is spent with her husband and two kids, Phyllis and Malcolm.

**Matt Scala (WHS '14)** Matt Scala is excited to perform in the first virtual RNS concert! He is currently the Music Director over at the Arts Center Theatre in Gorham. Matt also runs his own private studio, where he teaches 30 individuals of all ages, piano and/or voice lessons. He recently became NATS certified and signed on with Dirigo Talent Agency. His current project is music directing the Maine premier of "Spongebob: The Musical" at Schoolhouse Arts Center!

**Sara (Scala) Perkins (WHS '05)** Sara graduated in 2005 and has so many fond memories of her time spent in choir working with Dr. Nick. She doesn't perform too much these days but can be spotted every few years performing in this concert when one of her cousins or siblings ask nicely. She is delighted to be singing with her sister Rachel, as they never got to sing together in school. Sara currently lives in Bath, ME with her husband Zac, her kiddos – Willow, Rowan, and Phoenix, two cats – Spooky and Odin, and their beast dog, Zelda.

**Christy Comeau-Pierce (WHS '88)** Christy Comeau-Pierce, class of '88, was one of Rick's very first students at Windham High School. Christy went on to University of Maine, Orono, where she earned her BA in Music. The recipient of numerous awards in singing, Christy performs often in solo recital, has appeared as the featured soloist with The Bangor and Portland Symphony Orchestras, ChoralArt, and Voices in Harmony. She has performed with Opera Maine and sang backup for Josh Groban. Christy is delighted to be singing with Rick once again as a new member of The Maine Music Society.

**Dan Strange (WHS '01)** Daniel Strange has performed on a variety of the world's biggest stages from Carnegie Hall to NBC's The Today Show as well as with critically acclaimed artists representing multiple genres including Jodi Benson, Susan Egan, Robert Davi, Michael Feinstein, Ann Hampton Calloway, Jacob Collier, Masego, Banda Magda, Janis Siegel, Mandy Gonzalez, folk legend Noel Paul Stookey, Tony award nominees Joshua Henry and Norm Lewis, and Tony award winners Lindsay Mendez and Sutton Foster. He has played in orchestra pits for the national touring companies of Wicked, Jersey Boys, Pippin, Les Miserables, West Side Story, Dreamgirls, Young Frankenstein, Legally Blonde, and A Chorus Line. As a composer, Daniel has written, arranged and orchestrated for numerous

musical settings including jazz, pop, choral, and orchestral ensembles from all over the country.

Daniel is the program director of the M.A.D.E. (Modern Artist Development and Entrepreneurship) degree as well as assistant professor of contemporary keyboard at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music. He directs the Music Media and Industry department's top ensemble, the American Music Ensemble, which received the 2015 DownBeat Magazine award for outstanding performance by a collegiate blues/pop/rock ensemble. He has presented clinics on original composition, solo jazz piano and spoken on numerous panels at many national music conferences including the Jazz Education Network Conference, The Intersection of Jazz and Classical Music Piano Festival and Competition, and The Association of Popular Music Education Conference. Daniel was also named a quarter finalist for the 2nd annual Grammy Music Educator Award.

Daniel is the director of the award-winning Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ Community Arts Program's All-Star Jazz Ensemble, a three-time finalist in Jazz At Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington Competition and Festival. Under his leadership, the All-Star Jazz Ensemble has released an album, *With A Swing!* as well as opening for the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the Count Basie Orchestra, Grammy winning vocalist Catherine Russell and famed Tonight Show bandleader Doc Severinsen. Daniel can be heard on his album *Life As I Hear It* that features his original compositions and an all-star lineup of musicians as well as on multiple albums including the Grammy nominated track "All My Tomorrows" from Jeremy Fox's *With Love*. He resides in Miami with his wife, violinist Ashley Liberty, along with their son and daughter, Harrison and Summer.

### **Jamie McBride (WHS '11)**

**Libby McBride (WHS '18)** Libby McBride is a senior at U.C. Berkeley studying psychology and education. She also works as a support counselor at WestCoast Children's Clinic, providing care for children entering the foster care system in Alameda County (CA). Libby graduated from WHS in 2018. She was in the Windham Chamber Singers all four years and was honored to receive the RNS scholarship her senior year. She is profoundly grateful for the memories made in WCS, and she is excited to perform (virtually) for a Windham audience once again.

**Janelle LoScuito (WHS '02)** Janelle is a 2002 graduate of Windham High School and the '02 recipient of the Richard Nickerson Scholarship. She earned her Bachelor of Music

Performance with concentrations in Musical Theater and Classical Voice at the University of Southern Maine where she was a student of Ellen Chickering and Ed Reichert. After graduation, she continued to study voice and acting with Rhonda Carlson and later, Leslie Giammanco. In 2010, she received her Masters in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University. Janelle has been teaching private voice for 18 years and lives in Westbrook with her family.

### **Logan Burns (WHS '11)**

**Elisabeth Marshall (WHS '97)** Elisabeth Marshall was praised by OPERA NEWS for her “radiant” and “sensuous” recording of James Kallembach’s Four Romantic Songs on Brooklyn Art Song Society’s studio album “New Voices” (Roven Records), and has collaborated closely with other contemporary composers including Libby Larsen and Scott Wheeler. A two-time winner in The American Prize’s Art Song and Oratorio division, including their Special Citation for “Outstanding Performance of Music before 1800”, she is in demand as a concert soloist in repertoire from the Renaissance to the 21st century, highlights including her Chicago Symphony Center debut in Messiah (Apollo Chorus), J.S.Bach’s Mattäuspassion with Helmuth Rilling and Handel’s Hercules with Lars Ulrik Mortensen at the Oregon Bach Festival. On the opera stage, she has been hailed for her “precision” and “technical skill” as the Queen of the Night in Mozart’s The Magic Flute in London, and has also been seen as Frasquita (Carmen), Rosalinde (Die Fledermaus), Elisetta (Il matrimonio segreto), and Rosabella (The Most Happy Fella). Ms. Marshall is an ensemble member of the Handel & Haydn Society, Oregon Bach Festival, Emmanuel Music (Boston), Bach Virtuosi Festival, and has previously sung with the Lorelei Ensemble, the Carmel Bach Festival, and London Philharmonia Chorus, with conductors including Masaaki Suzuki, Matthew Halls, Craig Hella Johnson, and Leonard Slatkin. A Fulbright grant recipient to Leipzig, Germany, Ms. Marshall holds a Doctorate in Music from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and maintains a private voice studio in the Chicago area. [www.elisabethmarshall.com](http://www.elisabethmarshall.com)

**Rachel Scala Bolduc (WHS '11)** Rachel Scala is a 2011 graduate of Windham High School, four-year member of Concert Band and Choir, Windham Chamber Singer and District and All-State Chorus member. Rachel attended the University of Maine receiving degrees in Choral Music Education and Vocal Performance. While there, she served as the Assistant Conductor for the University of Maine Singers and was able to study conducting under the

tutelage of Dr. Dennis Cox, Dr. Louis Hall, and Francis Vogt. Rachel is currently studying at The University of Southern Maine as a Master of Music candidate in the Vocal Pedagogy program. While at USM, she has studied voice with WHS alum, Dr. Elisabeth Marshall—and mostly recently—Dr. Malinda Haslett. Rachel is a PK-6 music educator in the Oxford Hills School District and an active member of the Maine Music Educator's Association; she attributes much of her career choice to the music educators she had growing up in RSU14 school system. Rachel remains present in the Windham arts community through her work and leadership on the Windham Center Stage Board of Directors and her music direction in many of their musicals.

**Jon Miele (WHS '69)** Jon graduated Windham High School in 1969. He started dancing at the Dorothy Mason School of Dance here in Maine, which is now the Maine State Ballet School for the Performing Arts. After brief training at Boston Ballet School, Jonathan went to New York City where he had a successful career on Broadway dancing with such notable stars as Carol Channing, Jane Powell, Bernadette Peters, Gower Champion and Robert Preston. Mr. Miele has directed and choreographed shows for Lyric Theater, Portland Players, Windham Center Stage Theater and many area high schools.

**Janet Miele Davis (WHS '95)** Janet is a former Windham Chamber Singer and a 1995 graduate of Windham High School. Today she is Assistant Director, Instructor, and a Principal dancer at Maine State Ballet. Janet epitomizes the dream of every aspiring young dancer. Audiences have applauded her as Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker*, Aurora in *Sleeping Beauty*, Kitri in *Don Quixote*, Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, the Firebird in Maine State Ballet's premiere production of *The Firebird* and many other roles. She studied piano and music theory under MSB Orchestra Conductor, Karla Kelley and has conducted choirs around the State. This extensive understanding of music is passed on to her dancers through phrasing and choreography. Her philosophy of "If you can, you should" inspires confidence in her students and helps them reach their full potential.

**Glen Davis** A Maine native and Assistant Director, Instructor, Choreographer, and Principal at Maine State Ballet. His love of travel and teaching ballet has led him to teach around the United States and at ballet schools in Sweden and Wales. Mr. Davis has a B.A. in History, Education, and French from the University of Maine and is a certified K-12 teacher. He is currently studying for his Master's in Business Administration.

**Emma Davis** Emma participated in concert choir while at Windham High School. She is currently studying with Brigham Young University-Idaho getting her degree in Marriage and Family Studies. She loves living in Maine, especially teaching and dancing here with Maine State Ballet. As a Maine State Ballet Soloist, her favorite roles include Clara and Dew Drop Fairy in The Nutcracker, The Principal Role in Raymonda, Guardian Angel in Hansel and Gretel, and Belle in Beauty and the Beast.

**Anna Giroux (WHS '16)** Anna is a 2016 graduate from WHS and 2020 graduate from the University of Maine. She is currently a nurse at Maine Medical Center and is looking forward to a time when she can get back to theatre and the arts. This will be her first time singing for an event since 2019 and she is looking forward to participating in many more performances to come.



# ~Performance Order~

<i>Kim McBride</i>	Opening Remarks
<i>Jon Miele ('69) accompanied by Janet Miele Davis('95), courtesy of Maine State Ballet</i>	"I'm Old Fashioned" by Kern & Mercer
<i>Christy Comeau-Pierce ('88) accompanied by Jon Waldie</i>	"Moonfall" from <i>Mystery of Edwin Drood</i>
<i>Rachel Scala Bolduc ('11) &amp; Sara Perkins ('05) accompanied by Jon Waldie</i>	"Laudamus Te" by Antonio Vivaldi
<i>Jean Thornton Horeth ('04) accompanied by Jon Waldie</i>	"Blue Skies" by Irving Berlin
<i>Janelle LoSciuto ('02) accompanied by Jon Waldie</i>	"Spark of Creation" from <i>Children of Eden</i>
<i>Emma Davis accompanied by Adam Miele ('99), courtesy of Maine State Ballet</i>	"Tap, Tap Jazz Your Troubles Away"

# ~Performance Order Continued~

*Sandra Howard ('93)*

Keene State College Choral Concert

*Janet ('95), Glen, &  
Emma Davis,  
courtesy of Maine State Ballet*

"Normal Family"

*Anna Giroux ('16)*

"When He Sees Me"  
from *Waitress*

*Michelle Sawyer ('04)*

"Winter Song"  
by Sara Barielles

*Ceili Spaulding ('15)*

"Oh Edison"  
by Ceili Spaulding

*Logan Burns ('11)*

"What Words Were Meant To Say"  
by Logan Burns

*Matt Scala ('14)*

"Hand In Hand"  
by Kerrigan-Lowdermilk

*Libby ('18) & Jamie McBride ('13)*

"This Time Tomorrow"  
by Brandi Carlile

# ~Performance Order Continued~

*Elisabeth Marshall, Soprano ('97)*  
*accompanied by Danny Zelibor, piano*

II. Autumn Violets  
from 3 Rossetti Songs  
by James Kallembach  
(World premiere)

Brooklyn Art Song Society "New Voices II"  
May 14, 2021

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*<https://brooklynartsongsociety.vhx.tv/>*

*Dan Strange ('01)*

"My Traveling Star"  
by James Taylor



## **~Special Thanks~**

A special thanks to all of the performers whose dedication, time and talent is truly appreciated by the Windham and Raymond communities. They are an inspiration for the youth that aspire to keep music a part of their lives during their school years and beyond. We also thank the RNS Committee and other volunteers who helped to make the concert possible, and especially Janelle LoSciuto for her leadership and organization.

## **~Support The Scholarship Fund~**

If you would like to support the scholarship fund beyond tonight's performance, please consider making a donation through PayPal at our website:

[www.richardnickersonscholarship.org](http://www.richardnickersonscholarship.org)

## **~About the Scholarship Fund~**

The Richard Nickerson Scholarship fund was started in the spring of 1996 by the parents of Windham Chamber Singers. The scholarship was formed in appreciation of Dr. Richard Nickerson, the director of the Windham High School choirs and the Windham Chamber Singers for the past 30+ years.

The Richard Nickerson Scholarship is a \$1,000 award, granted each year to a graduating senior who plans to pursue music as part of his or her college experience. Since its formation, the RNS Committee has awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships to 30 Windham High School graduates. All of the past recipients continue to be involved in music, either as a career or as a personal passion.

Thank you to Dr. Nickerson... we are honored to have you as a community leader, teacher, role model, and mentor to our students for the past 30+ years!

# Richard Nickerson Scholarship Recipients

Elisabeth Marshall (1997)

Andrew Baker (1998)

Leah Driscoll (1999)

Katie Olson (2000)

Angela Thompson (2001)

Janelle LoSciuto (2002)

Anthony Taiani (2003)

Daniel Strange (2003 RNS Grant Award)

Jessica Thompson (2004)

Gena Higgins-Veurink (2005)

Molly Masterton (2006)

Megan Brown (2007)

Laura Toppi and Chelsea Williams (2008)

Lorik Morgan (2009)

Peter Sepulveda (2010)

Chris Frost and Molly Keane-Dreyer (2011)

Georgia Noonan (2012)

Jameson McBride and Symantha Morales (2013)

Brenna Ryder (2014)

Maggie McGovern and Ceili Spaulding (2015)

David Sepulveda and Olivia Compton (2016)

Kristina Wunderlich (2017)

Hanna Griffin and Elizabeth McBride (2018)

Stephen Sepulveda (2019)

Chloe Cyr and Sopheey Potter (2020)

Eliot Jordan (2021)



## Dr. Richard G. Nickerson

Richard Nickerson was born in Newcastle, New Brunswick, Canada, and attended public schools in Houlton, Maine. While he has studied with many outstanding teachers, he credits his mother with instilling him with a love of music. During his junior year of high school, he attended the All-Aroostook Music Festival where he met Dr. Dennis Cox, the newly hired Director of Choral Activities at the University of Maine. On a cold, January afternoon, Nickerson heard for the first time a full choral sound, which inspired him so much that, at that precise moment, he made the decision to become a choral conductor. Thirty-nine years later, that passion continues to grow. Nickerson went on to study with Cox at the University of Maine, earning a BME and a MM. The primary lesson he took from Cox's direction was that, "...as a teacher, your expectations will always be rewarded...to get the best, you must expect the best." In 1997, Nickerson met Dr. Eph Ehly, Director of Vocal Studies at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. In 1999, he was offered an assistantship to begin doctoral studies, which he completed in 2003. From Ehly, Nickerson learned the power of music and how the choral ensemble can shape and change lives. He would like to acknowledge the following teachers who have helped him on "this incredible journey"...

Pat Flemington...my first piano teacher. She was so nice to me (even though I refused to practice); Scott Emack...my first guitar teacher, and my 9th grade English teacher; Paul Lapointe...my elementary band director and the first person who let me conduct; Larry Hutchinson, my elementary music teacher and the first person to show me that I could sing a solo, David McGillicuddy....my high school band director, when I graduated from high school, he gave me his baton and asked me to give it to the first student I had who planned to major in music education (Diane Hancock received it in 1991). I have given out many batons since then, all with the same instructions; Gladys Tarbell...my junior high choral director and the first person to cast me as the lead in a musical and Mark Scally....my high school choral director. From him, I learned that even a small high school choir in Aroostook County can perform quality music.

To all of my former students...you have been the best teachers of all. Thank you for all of the wonderful memories, lessons and, most of all, music. Sing On!!!

A graphic of a piano keyboard with black and white keys, with a red light effect on the keys, positioned at the top of the page.

# RICHARD NICKERSON SCHOLARSHIP CRITEREA

A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Windham High School student fulfilling the following criteria:

- The student must file a complete application with the Richard Nickerson Scholarship Committee.
- The student must be currently involved in a Windham High School choral program.
- The student must be planning to attend a two or four-year college program with vocal or choral music as part of their course of studies or other activities.
- Once awarded, the recipient must complete a minimum of three college courses with a passing grade. The recipient must supply proof of course completion and proof of choral involvement in college to the Student Services office before payment of the scholarship.

A complete application will consist of:

- A music-based resume that includes a list of academic music courses and credits as well as other musical endeavors and achievements (both school and non-school, ex: music camp, WCS, pep band, musical theater, etc.).
- Name of college/university attending and musical activity intended.
- 300-500 Word Essay that describes the influence that music has had on your life and what role it will play in your future citing specific choral experiences.

The awarding of the Richard Nickerson Scholarship will be based on merit, not financial need. *Completed applications must be submitted to WHS Student Services Office by May 1st.*

For more information on the music program at WHS:

[www.rsu14music.com](http://www.rsu14music.com) | [www.windhamchambersingers.com](http://www.windhamchambersingers.com)