

# Three vocal concerts not to miss this holiday season

At upcoming performances, you can sing along to Messiah, hear music from early America, or experience an ethereal and wintry song of the woods.

By [A.Z. Madonna](#) Globe Staff, Updated December 4, 2025, 2:54 p.m.



Boston Camerata, led by Anne Azéma (center), reliably presents two holiday music programs each year. PROVIDED

The winter holidays and singing in groups go together like marshmallows and hot chocolate. Maybe it's the nostalgia that always goes with this time of year, yearning for the sing-alongs around the pianos of our childhoods, or the ones we never had but wished we did. Perhaps it's some primeval instinct to call on the world's oldest instrument to make sure the nights don't get any longer, buried in our genome as residents of the Northern Hemisphere.

Either way, there's no denying that December is the high season for group singing of all kinds, and there are plenty of opportunities to take in some festive performances — or even participate in some yourself. Of the many musical offerings in and around Boston during this season, here are some choices that won't miss: [...]

### **THE MUSICAL TIME MACHINE: BOSTON CAMERATA**

Boston Camerata has crafted a cornucopia of holiday programs in its 70-plus years of existence, and it usually performs two of them every December. This year's offerings both originate from emeritus music director Joel Cohen's long tenure, but current director Anne Azéma has revised and augmented them. "Sing We Noel: Christmas Music from England and Early America" features several centuries' worth of carols, hymns, and instrumentals, while "The Midnight Cry: An American Christmas" focuses exclusively on American music of the 18th and 19th centuries, including songs of the Shakers and several tunes published in shape-note tunebooks. It speaks to the incredible vastness of Camerata's repertoire that despite their adjacent themes, the programs only have the tiniest bit of overlap.

**Sing We Noel: Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Central Congregational Church,  
Newburyport; Dec. 7, 4 p.m., Old South Church (sold out).**

**The Midnight Cry: An American Christmas, Dec. 21, 4 p.m. First Church  
in Cambridge.**

**[www.bostoncamerata.org](http://www.bostoncamerata.org)**

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