



Voices of Hope announces 2016 Holiday Music Festival

Sunday, Dec. 4

The Trust Performance Arts Center
6 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. concert

Lancaster, Pa. (Oct. 27, 2016) — An intimate gathering of world-class opera talent will assemble once again this December at The Trust Performance Arts Center for the ninth [Voices of Hope](#) Holiday Music Festival. The annual evening of holiday revelry, which started eight years ago as a small recital in a local church, has grown into one of the main fund-raising efforts for Mennonite Central Committee's [Global Family](#) program. Last year's gala raised more than \$24,000 for the MCC initiative, which supports education for underprivileged children and adults around the world.

The 2016 Festival will retain the new, more-intimate format adopted by Voices of Hope last year, when the gala moved to The Trust Performing Arts Center, 37 N. Market St. The vent in this beautiful and historical performance space will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. The concert, which starts at 7 p.m., will feature singers who've graced some of the world's top opera stages, all performing holiday and opera favorites.

Voices of Hope co-founders [Madeline Bender](#) (a soprano and Lancaster native) and [Tim Long](#) (our crowd-favorite emcee and professor at Stony Brook University) will host friends from around the opera world:

- Bass-baritone [Paul Whelan](#) will perform again this year, returning to Lancaster after a year of criss-crossing the globe – in performances from Hawaii to some of the top stages in Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom.
- Coloratura soprano [Alison Trainer](#) performed as a soloist with the New York City Opera and multiple other U.S. operas. She recently garnered rave reviews for her European debut as Fiakermilli in *Arabella* in St. Gallen, Switzerland.
- [Carolyn Black-Sotir](#) will serve as stage director this year. Black-Sotir is one of the Mid-Atlantic's leading proponents of the arts as a performer, teacher and director and education and directing. She currently serves as chair of the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences.

Voices of Hope will continue to add performers and features to the Holiday Music Festival over the coming weeks. Please visit our [website](#) for additional details and to purchase tickets, which will cost \$50. Additional, tax-deductible donations for the Global Family Program will be accepted at the show.

Thank you, again, for supporting Voices of Hope and the Global Family Program. We could not do this without the overwhelming support of our donors and the rest of the community.

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