



# THE CROSSING @ CHRISTMAS

DONALD NALLY, CONDUCTOR

ANNENBERG CENTER RESIDENT ENSEMBLE

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## PROGRAM

*There will be an intermission.*

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**Friday, December 20 @ 7:30 PM**

Church of the Holy Trinity

## PROGRAM NOTES

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*Spectral Spirits*, a world premiere from Edie Hill  
on poems of Holly Hughes

*the little match girl passion* (2008) by David Lang  
on texts of Hans Christian Andersen and St. Matthew

Remembering, observing, realizing. Few works in The Crossing's ever-growing repertoire return repeatedly. Yet, David Lang's Pulitzer-winning *the little match girl passion* is an exception: a passion, designed to invite thought and reflection on The Other. A familiar story distilled to its essential words. Lang's iconic opus is paired here with a major new commission from Edie Hill as she expands on The Other to include the natural world, those whom we were charged with curating and failed. Birds: lost to extinction, yet captured forever in Holly Hughes' poems from *Passings*. Following last year's Annenberg Center debut, Philadelphia's 2018 and 2019 Grammy®-winning choir returns to Church of the Holy Trinity in Rittenhouse Square for an annual tradition, The Crossing @ Christmas, a reflection on how we listen to each living thing. Come. Hear. Now.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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### The Crossing

The Crossing is a professional chamber choir conducted by Donald Nally and dedicated to new music. It is committed to working with creative teams to make and record new, substantial works for choir that explore and expand ways of writing for choir, singing in choir and listening to music for choir. Many of its over 70 commissioned premieres address social, environmental and political issues.

Highly sought-after for collaborative projects, The Crossing's first such partnership was as the resident choir of the Spoleto Festival in Italy, in 2007. Since then, collaborators include the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), American Composers Orchestra, Network for New Music, Lyric Fest, PRISM Saxophone Quartet, Beth Morrison Projects, Pig Iron Theatre Company, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Mostly Mozart Festival, National Gallery of Art, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Cleveland Museum, Institute for Advanced Study, Carnegie Hall, National Sawdust, Finnish National Opera, Haarlem Koorbiënnale (Netherlands) and Northwestern University. The Crossing holds an annual residency at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in Big Sky, Montana.

With a commitment to recording its commissions, The Crossing has issued 18 releases, receiving two Grammy® Awards for Best Choral Performance (2018, 2019) and three Grammy® nominations in as many years. The Crossing, with Donald Nally, is the American Composers Forum's 2017 Champion of New Music. They are the recipients of the 2015 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, three ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming, and the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award from Chorus America. [crossingchoir.org](http://crossingchoir.org)

"Such is their radiant sound and the vibrancy of the repertory they've cultivated, it's gotten to the point I'd hear anything this Philadelphia vocal ensemble sings."

- *New York Times* (January 2019)

"[A] gift for lending social activism poetic form"

- *New York Times* (September 2018)

"Against all odds, a choir focused on new music prospers"

- *Chicago Tribune* (March 2018)

“...unerring performers, the superb Philadelphia choir The Crossing, directed by Donald Nally”  
- *The New Yorker* (September 2017)

The Crossing is represented by Alliance Artist Management. [Allianceartistmanagement.com](http://Allianceartistmanagement.com)

**Donald Nally** (Conductor)

Nally conducts The Crossing, the internationally acclaimed, Grammy® Award-winning professional choir that commissions, premieres and records only new music. He holds the John W. Beattie Chair of Music at Northwestern University where he is professor and director of choral organizations. Nally has served as chorus master at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Welsh National Opera, Opera Philadelphia, and for many seasons at the Spoleto Festival in Italy. Nally has commissioned over 100 works and, with The Crossing, has produced eighteen recordings, winning two Grammy® Awards. He was the American Composers Forum 2017 Champion of New Music and received the 2017 Michael Korn Founders Award from Chorus America; his ensembles have twice received the Margaret Hillis Award for Excellence in Choral Music. Nally has worked closely with the artists Allora & Calzadilla and composer David Lang on projects in London, Osaka, Cleveland, Edmonton and Philadelphia. In the 2018-19 season, he was a visiting resident artist at the Park Avenue Armory, music director for the world premiere of Lang's *The Mile-Long Opera*, directing 1,000 voices on the High Line in Manhattan, as well as chorus master for the New York Philharmonic for world premieres by Lang and Julia Wolfe.