



John Prescott Holiday Lecture via Zoom
"Christmas Gifts:
Unwrapping Christmas Carols Old and New"
December 5, 2021 2:00pm to 4:00pm

In this lecture, we will explore the rich, fascinating, poignant and delightful history of Christmas carols over the past 1000 years. We will learn about the festival of Christmas as it changed and developed as a religious and cultural phenomenon. We will explore the surprising origins of familiar carols. We will learn how familiar words were set to less familiar music. We will mine the riches of Christmas music from England, France, Germany and the Americas. We will also take a fun excursion into the world of humorous treatments of music of the season. No formal musical training is necessary. Come, make yourself a holiday beverage and join in the celebration.

If you would like to participate, please send me an email at johnrichardprescott@gmail.com and I will send you the Zoom link.

The suggested donation for the lecture is \$25. You can make donations via PayPal or Venmo, with my email address: johnrichardprescott@gmail.com

If you prefer to pay by check, indicate that in your email and I will send you my mailing address.

John Prescott received his M.A. and Ph.D. in musicology from U. C. Berkeley. Prior to this, he received his B.A. magna cum laude in Music and was elected to Phi Beta Kap-pa from Carleton College (MN). He has been the recipient of a number of academic honors, including the British Marshall Scholarship for two years of study at St. John's College in Cambridge, England. He also studied at Oxford University's Worcester College. Dr. Prescott has written extensively on the music of Handel. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on John Stanley, the 18th-century blind organist, conductor, violinist and impresario. Dr. Prescott has taught music courses at U.C. Berkeley and music theory at The Crowden School (Berkeley CA), and was the musicologist for the San Francisco Elderhostel Arts and Humanities Program. He gives pre-concert lectures for a number of Bay Area musical organizations including the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Since 2013 he has been a lecturer at the Osher LifeLong Learning Institutes.