



Photo by Rhonda R Dorsett 2009

The Great Stage, designed by theatrical lighting designer, Steve Shelley, for the Winter Solstice Concert at Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Winter Solstice Concert 2022

I had the great honor of filming the Winter Solstice with Paul Winter at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City for 12 years.

It has been a journey of hundreds of hours (4-3 hour performances per year, plus countless hours of rehearsals, archiving and editing film clips. Not to mention hours of determining filming gear, packing it and shipping it to the Cathedral. And then unpacking it and setting it up! Then repacking it for return shipment. And I did not do it alone. Many thanks to my son Aydan, my friend Brynn Forbes and other shooters who volunteered for this task over the years.

Now, I am very pleased to announce that Paul has decided to share this video version of the solstice journey with the whole world via the 2022 YouTube presentation of the Solstice Saga. 3 hours of music, dance, and visual excitement that brings joy to the season.

December 21 is the official reveal, but it will be available for long term viewing, at your leisure.

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Some of the amazing musicians and dancers for this include: soprano saxophonist Paul Winter, bassist Eliot Wadopian, cellist Eugene Friesen, vocalist Theresa Thomason, West African Drumming and dancing of the Forces of Nature Dance Theater of Harlem with director Abdel Salaam, keyboardist Paul Sullivan, oboist Paul McCandless, drummer Jamey Haddad, Gary Brooker (of Procul Harem), Russia's Dmitri Pokrovsky Ensemble, Brazil's Ivan Lins, Fabiana Cozza, Rentao Braz, Mali's Abdoulaye Diabate, Noel Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul & Mary. And many more.

The photo above brings a wonderful memory to me. Waiting in the green room before the Friday evening performance in 2010, Paul looked over and said "Congratulations Rhonda." And I quizzically said, "What for?" Paul smiled and replied, as he held up a newspaper. "Your photo is on the front page of the New York Times Art & Leisure section today! And I know that's responsible for increasing ticket sales tonight." I could think of no better holiday gift, as this incredible event struggles every year to pay the bills.

It is with great pride that I share this joyous occasion that brings hope and happiness for a new year, a brilliant light in the darkness.

Join the epic journey and subscribe to the event on YouTube. Please share this with all your friends and family. And if you find it in your hearts, please consider making a contribution to the fund that brings this joy to the world. Every contribution is appreciated, no matter the size. The event link is repeated at the bottom of this letter.

Thank you! And a joyous holiday season to you and yours.

Rhonda Dorsett

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