



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the Divine

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RELEASE

For further information please call

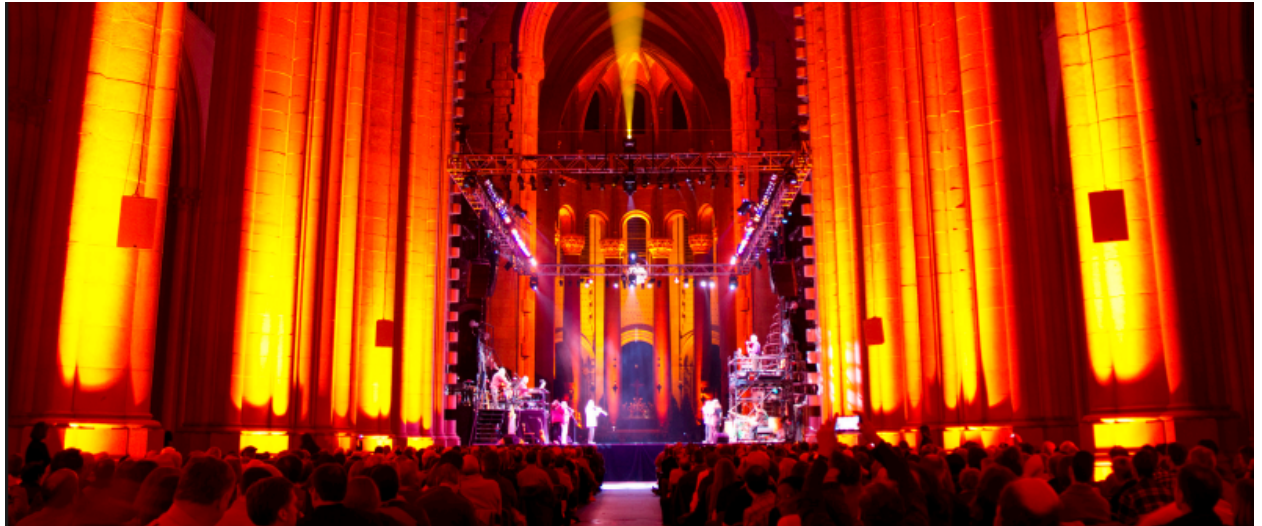
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**WELCOME THE SUN WITH GRAMMY® WINNER PAUL WINTER'S
38TH ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

Performances feature the Paul Winter Consort, gospel singer Theresa Thomason, the 15-voice Pletenitsa Balkan Choir and the Forces of Nature Dance Theatre

Four performances from December 14th through December 16th



(Photo: Kay Friday)

(November XX, 2017 – New York, NY) Seven-time Grammy® Award-winning saxophonist, composer and bandleader **Paul Winter** returns with his 38th annual Winter Solstice celebration on **Thursday, December 14, Friday, December 15, and Saturday, December 16, 2017, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.**



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Performances will take place on Thursday, December 14 at 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 15 at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Cathedral Artist in Residence Paul Winter's Solstice performances have been some of NYC's most beloved, family-friendly holiday events for decades. Winter emphasizes, "Of all the places I've played in America, only two could host a concert on this scale: the Cathedral and the Grand Canyon."

Over the years, the event has evolved into a theatrical celebration that inhabits the entirety of the Cathedral's cavernous space, all the way up to the ceiling, transforming the Nave into a forest, the belly of a whale, or a night sky, where a giant globe spins from the vault like a tiny planet in the cosmic vastness.

The **Paul Winter Consort** includes: **Paul Winter** on soprano sax, **Paul McCandless**, oboe; **Eugene Friesen**, cello; **Paul Sullivan**, keyboard; **Eliot Wadopian**, bass; **Jamey Haddad**, percussion; **Tim Brumfield** on the Cathedral's great Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ; and **Scott Sloan** on the giant seven-foot sun gong, which ascends to the 124-foot vault of the Cathedral at the symbolic moment of the return of the sun.

The 15 voices of the **Pletenitsa Balkan Choir**, special guests for this year's celebration, blend the choral and folk traditions of the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle East, under the direction of **Christiane Karam**.

In addition to the **Pletenitsa Balkan Choir and the Paul Winter Consort**, this multimedia event features gospel singer **Theresa Thomason** and 25 dancers and drummers with the **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre** under the direction of **Abdel Salaam**.

General Admission tickets are available for \$60. Reserved Seating is available for \$100, and Premium Seating is available for \$150. \$40 general admission tickets are available for the December 16th performances. For more information please visit:

<http://www.stjohndivine.org/visit/calendar/events/music/17939/the-38th-annual-winter-solstice-celebration>

About Paul Winter

Seven-time Grammy®-winning saxophonist Paul Winter created his band, the Consort, out of roots in classical music and jazz. After his jazz sextet's tour of twenty-three countries of Latin America, a close affinity with the musical community of Brazil, in particular, drew Paul towards a broader realm of music.

In 1968 Paul heard for the first time the bluesy choruses of wild wolves and the melodic songs of the humpback whales, as haunting as any of the great jazz singers, opening him up to the great symphony of nature. These inspirations, along with the rich textures of Brazilian guitar, Afro-Brazilian percussion, and the symphonic music of Villa-Lobos, inspired his new ensemble, the Paul Winter Consort. Incorporating a very different instrumentation from the Sextet, nevertheless it continued in the same lineage: a spirit of celebration, in the democracy of ensemble, aspiring toward a balance between the improvised and the composed.



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Paul's interest in the natural world, and a commitment to preserve it, continued to grow. Exploring ways to con-sort with voices of the wilderness later led the way to his unique genre of "Earth Music".

Since 1980, Paul and the Consort have been artists-in-residence at the world's largest cathedral, New York's St. John the Divine, where they have presented over 100 special events, including annual Winter and Summer Solstice Celebrations, Carnival for the Rainforest, and their ecological mass, Missa Gaia/Earth Mass, which is performed annually each October as part of the Feast of St. Francis. The band has toured the world, performing over 3,000 concerts in 52 countries.

About The Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership.

People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Adults and Children in Trust, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.