



*Sine Nomine*  
*Christmas Program 2016*  
7:30 pm December 17  
Great Falls, Virginia



*David McGown, Silver Spring*  
*Rachel Isaacson, Alexandria*  
*Richard Spittel, Baltimore*  
*George Simmons, Columbia*  
*Colleen Vernon, Columbia*

*Sine Nomine*, formed in 2012, is a group of musicians from the Baltimore / Washington area who play a wide range of music from medieval times to the present. We will present music mainly for recorder and other related instruments that were prominent in the renaissance and baroque time periods.

Our holiday program includes various settings of both familiar and unfamiliar Christmas Carols, and will range from the medieval time to the present. Traditional settings of many of these numbers are found in the Oxford Book of Carols. We are also adding a couple of very modern pieces and a classic suite from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century transcribed for recorders.

Recorders, as they are known in England, come in all sorts of sizes and styles. The German name is much more straightforward: blockflöte, or flute with a block. Our smallest instrument is the soprano, about 9 inches in length, while our largest is the contrabass, which tops out at about 6 feet. There are even smaller sizes, and larger ones, too. We will play two basic ensembles of recorders, called “four foot”, and “eight foot”. These terms come from the size of organ pipe required to play “middle C”. So, our “four foot” choir is comprised typically of soprano through bass recorders, while the “eight foot” choir, an octave below that, is made up of tenor through contrabass recorders.

The other instruments being used in this performance all come from renaissance times. The “reed” type instruments are a crumhorn and cornamusen of all sizes (which have a double reed like a bassoon, but with the reed enclosed inside a “cap”), and a portativ organ (small lap organ with a range of about 2 ½ octaves).

Since much of this music may be unfamiliar to our audience, and the instruments are also somewhat of a mystery, we will include a short Q&A session and provide more information about the early music scene in the greater Baltimore / Washington area.

