The Little Theatre
ON THE SQUARE
Sullivan, Illinois

Presents

Christmas From the Heart

December 8 - 19, 1999

This production is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

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Our warmest wishes to all of you for a merry and bright holiday season.

The Little Theatre On The Square, Inc.

Presents

Christmas From the Heart

Conceived and Written

by

Ty Stover

Scenic Design/Painting by	*Lighting Design by*	*Costume Design by*
Noel Rennerfeldt	**Matthew Gross**	**John White**
Production Manager		*Props/Asst. Stage Manager*
Charles Bell		**Jenee' Garretson**
Stage Manager	*Musical Director*	*Choreographer*
Michaella McCoy	**JR McAlexander**	**Marie Jagger-Taylor**

Directed by

M. Seth Reines

Featuring

(in alphabetical order)

Craig Thom Cook ..... Keelin, Junior, Tony, Randy

Regina Harbour ..... Mrs. Claus, Frau, Ma Shanks, Sophie, Grandma

Katie Kuhlenschmidt ..... Kerri, Ula May, Christine, Marsha

Jason Loete ..... Doodle, Giuseppe, Charlie, Howard

Bart Lovins ..... Snicker, Henry, Dalwood, Stanley

John Pruitt ..... Street Urchin, Otis, Scooter, Teddy

Jill Roberts ..... Belle, Leanie Jo, Lauraline, Doris

Daniel Scharbrough ..... Santa, Ausland, Pa Shanks, Sammy, Gramps

Marie Jagger-Taylor ..... Elizabeth, Darla May, Geraldine, June

Technical Crew

Scenic Painters..... Chris Peters, Noel Rennerfeldt, Kim Doyle

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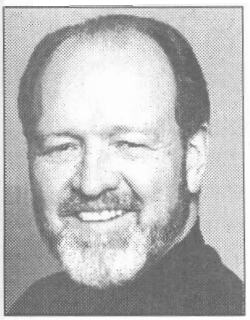

Dear Patrons:

Welcome to our 5th annual Christmas show! We are especially proud of **CHRISTMAS FROM THE HEART** since we created it "from scratch". We commissioned our good friend, Ty Stover, to write the script and our musical director, JR McAlexander, orchestrated the musical score used in the show. Seth Reines, our artistic director, has done a great job fine-tuning the script and working with the actors in developing the finished piece. We are certain that you will enjoy this production and hope that you will tell all your friends to come see it.

Our fiscal year runs from November 1 to October 31. In the 1999 fiscal year we played to total attendance of 47,653 people (including 9,457 children in our Theatre For Young Audiences series)!! That is a record attendance since the theatre became non-profit in 1981. In 1984 (the worst year) total attendance was less than 15,000.

We wish you the very best during this holiday season and hope that the new millennium brings you much success and happiness.

Sincerely,

Leonard A. Anderson

Leonard A. Anderson
Executive Director

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Artistic Staff

Playwright - Ty Stover

Ty would like to thank The Little Theatre for taking a chance on a fledgling playwright by asking him to put together **Christmas From the Heart**. He hopes that it brings you as much holiday cheer as it has already brought him. Ty is no stranger to the theatre, having performed as an actor professionally for the past 15 years and in all 48 of the continental United States. He is excited to have Seth Reines and JR McAlexander in the artistic driver's seats and trusts them implicitly with his baby. Ty wants to thank his friends and family for their love and patience. (Especially Carol!) As his Christmas wish for you, he asks that you remember the lyrics Grandpa sings.... "It's not the things you do at Christmas time but the Christmas things you do all year through."

Director - M. Seth Reines

Seth is delighted to return to The Little Theatre for his 12th season as Artistic Director. He has directed over 350 productions for stage and television, including national tours of **Sunday In The Park With George** and **South Pacific**, working with such luminaries as Emily Loesser, Angela Lansbury, Chita Rivera, Oprah, Leslie Uggams, Jerry Herman, Tom Wopat and Peter Allen. Seth staged the world premieres of **Monky Business**, **Magic Place** and **Body Parts**; the American revivals of **The Red Mill** and **Knickerbocker Holiday**; the American premiere of **Anne Of Green Gables**; and the Midwestern premiere of **Closer Than Ever**. He is one of the creators of the original musical **Monky Business**, which has now played in over 100 cities around the world. Seth is excited to be directing the premiere of **Christmas From the Heart**, written specifically for The Little Theatre by good friend Ty Stover, plus working with this enormously talented company of old and new friends. What a great way to spend the holidays!

continued

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Musical Director - JR McAlexander

JR is currently in his seventh season as Resident Musical Director of The Little Theatre On The Square and Florida's Broadway Palm Theatre. He has music directed over 100 productions nationwide including the 10th Anniversary Tour of **Sunday In The Park With George** and the 1995 world premiere of **Monky Business** at the Grand Opera House in Galveston, TX. Winner of the 1994 Herald Award for his musical direction of The Little Theatre's **Babes In Arms**, he has music directed/conducted at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Cumberland County Playhouse, Fireside Theatre and Galveston Island Outdoor Musicals. JR studied Piano Performance/Vocal Education at the University of Iowa and toured nationally with the Iowa Old Gold Singers and internationally with the Young Presbyterian Singers. He wishes you all the "Happiest of Holidays" from the road, where he is music directing and conducting the national tour of **Anything Goes**, starring Gloria Loring.

Scenic Designer - Noel Rennerfeldt

Noel has been the Scenic and Lighting Designer at Rockford College since 1986 and has been Chair of the Performing Arts Department since 1995. He has been an active designer in theatre, musical theatre, opera and dance since 1977 and has designed for the University of Nebraska Opera Theatre, The Conservatory of Shenandoah University, Nettle Creek Players, Playhouse On The Square in Memphis, TN, New American Theatre and the Rockford Dance Company. This is Noel's second visit to The Little Theatre On The Square. Last summer, he designed **Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**. Noel is married and has five children.

Costume Designer - John White

John is happy to be returning to Sullivan this Christmas. A native of Wisconsin, John now calls Louisville, KY home. Past shows with The Little Theatre include **Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** and **A Christmas Carol**. John is the Resident Costume Designer at the Derby Dinner Playhouse in Clarksville, IN, where he has designed and constructed over 50 shows in the last 6 years. Past favorite shows include **Jesus Christ Superstar, 42nd Street, Funny Girl, The Will Rogers Follies, The Cocoanuts** and **Phantom of the Country Palace.**

continued

Lighting Designer - Matthew Gross

Matthew is pleased to be returning to Sullivan for his fourth LTOTS holiday show. He just completed his masters' degree in Fine Arts at University of Missouri-Kansas City. Some of his favorite designs include **Forever Plaid**, **Godspell** and **Man of La Mancha**, all produced at The Little Theatre. This past year, Matthew kept busy designing **The Slab Boys**, **A Christmas Carol**, **LeNozze Di Figaro**, **Once on This Island** and **Working**.

Stage Manager - Michaella McCoy

Miki is thrilled to be back at The Little Theatre this Christmas. She has served as Production Stage Manager for the last three years and is looking forward to spending the holidays with her friends here in Sullivan. Miki is currently Stage Manager for the national tour of **Anything Goes** starring Gloria Loring and will be returning to the project after the first of the year. She also served as Stage Manager for the Studio Too! series at Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo, New York, as well as Assistant Stage Manager for the mainstage series. Thank you for supporting The Little Theatre and have a happy holidays!

ASM/Props Mistress/Wardrobe Mistress - Jenee' Garretson

Jenee' is pleased to be returning to Sullivan for another Christmas season. Since graduating from Hastings College (NE), she has worked at LTOTS and Buffalo, New York's Studio Arena Theatre. She has just recently moved to Chicago, where she is concentrating on creating, showing and selling her artwork. There, she works with freelance technicians and designs artwork and posters for Great Beast Theatre Company. She is proud to have been part of an all woman cabaret called Beast Women of '99, where her works were exhibited in November.

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Actors

Craig Thom Cook

Craig Thom is thrilled to be returning to Sullivan for the holidays. He made his Little Theatre debut last year with **A Christmas Carol** (Jacob Marley). You might also remember him from this past summer: **Into the Woods** (Wolf), **Moon Over Buffalo** (Howard), **Bye Bye Birdie** (Conrad Birdie) and **Joseph...Dreamcoat** (Pharaoh). Craig Thom has spent this fall touring in **Forever Plaid** playing Smudge and will return to the tour in late February. This Louisville native holds a BA in Theatre and Radio from Anderson University (IN). He is pleased to be working again with LTOTS friends and family and would like to send Love and Peace to everyone throughout this holiday season! Happy 2000!

Regina Harbour

Regina is happy to be returning to the Land of Lincoln after nearly a decade's absence. Ms. Harbour was last seen by Illinois audiences at the Circa '21 Dinner Theatre in Rock Island. Since that time, she has been a professor at Valdosta State University and a loan officer at AmSouth Bank. Regina calls Birmingham, AL home and has most recently appeared in productions of **Three Penny Opera, Red Hot & Cole** and **Oliver**. Regina is a graduate of the University of Montevallo and the University of Alabama with degrees in acting and directing, respectively.

Marie Jagger-Taylor

Jolly old St. Nicholas, this is what Marie and family have to say: little Caleb is now 6, in first grade at Meridian, and is trying to catch all the Poke'mon. Sister Emma just turned 3, loves going to pre-school, wants to be a ballerina and is looking for a magic tiara that will turn all her dreams "to real". Baby Gabe (Gabriel Lane) was born 9/19/99 and is a joy! He likes daddy's funny noises and everyone's hugs and kisses. All he wants is the dairy bar...and a good burping now and then. Dad is doing the farming "thing" and would love it if you could arrange higher prices for corn and beans! In November, Marie began a new job with The Little Theatre as Director of Education, which includes director/teaching at the Dance School and creating Education and Outreach programs for area schools. Happy Holidays to all of you here today. May the Spirit of Christmas be with you throughout the year!

continued

The Little Theatre ON THE SQUARE
Sullivan, Illinois

Christmas From the Heart

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Act I

Christmas Bell Medley ..... **Full Company**

Scene 1.....**Santa's Workshop, North Pole; Christmas Eve, 1999**

We Are Santa's Elves ..... *Snicker, Doodle*

Scene 2.....**Central Park, New York City; Christmas Eve, 1907**

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/A Christmas Carol ..... *Company*

Christmas Children..... *Company*

Gloucestershire Wassail/Christmas In Kilarney..... *Company*

Giving..... *Santa, Mrs. Claus*

Scene 3..... **The Shepherd's Flock Community Church; Christms Eve, 1930**

Angels We Have Heard On High ..... *Congregation*

Joy To The World..... *Congregation*

O Little Town of Bethlehem..... *Congregation*

Over The River and Through The Woods ..... *Shanks Family Singers*

December the 25th..... *Shanks Family, Dalwood*

Tender Tennessee Christmas..... *Darla*

King Medley..... *Shanks Family Singers*

Away In A Manger..... *Shanks Family Singers*

Giving (Reprise)..... *Santa, Mrs. Claus*

There will be a 15 minute intermission

The management & staff of
The Little Theatre On The Square
wish you and your family a safe
and happy holiday season!

The Little Theatre ON THE SQUARE
Sullivan, Illinois

Christmas From the Heart

Act II

Scene 1.....Sammy and Sophie's Supperclub, Chicago; Christmas Eve, 1943

Here Comes Suzie Snowflake .....The Stevens Sisters
Jingle Bells.....Tony Parina and The Stevens Sisters
Mele Kalikimaka.....Tony Parina and The Stevens Sisters
Winter Wonderland.....Sammy, Sophie
Spring Will Be A Little Late This Year.....Lauraline
'Twas The Night Before Christmas.....Snicker, Doodle
Mister Santa.....Sammy, The Stevens Sisters
I'll Be Home For Christmas.....Christine
I'll Be Seeing You.....Sammy, Sophie, Tony, The Stevens Sisters, Scooter

Scene 2.....Henderson Home; Christmas Eve, 1973

Wonderful Christmas Time .....Grandma, Gramps, Teddy, June
Hey There Good Times.....Stan, Doris, Grandma, Gramps, Randy, Teddy, June
Some Things For Christmas.....Teddy
Lovers On Christmas Eve.....Stan, Doris
I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing .....Marsha and Company
You're All I Want For Christmas.....Howard, June
Giving/Christmas From The Heart.....Company

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Maxedon's Chevy-Olds-Cadillac.....Automobile for Mr. Reines

Katie Kuhlenschmidt

Katie is pleased to return to The Little Theatre after being seen as Kim MacAfee in **Bye Bye Birdie** and various other roles during the 1999 summer season. Having just graduated in May from Millikin University, Katie made the big move to New York City in September. In the fall, she worked as a waitress/hostess extraordinaire at the Metropolitan Cafe' along with working on **The Jazz Singer** at the Jewish Repertory Theatre as a crew member. Katie loves the Big Apple but is very happy to be back in the Midwest....especially for the holidays. She would like to send her love and appreciation to her many supportive family members, friends, Dr. Eddie, and especially to Mom and Dad. "This one's for you guys."

Jason Loete

Jason excitedly returns to his favorite town for his first holiday season. He spent the last seven months at the Cumberland County Playhouse performing in **Smoke On The Mountain**, **Joseph...Dreamcoat** and **1776**. Prior to that he toured in **Smoke...** with the Nebraska Theatre Caravan for nine months. Some of Jason's favorite Sullivan credits include Owen in **The Foreigner**, Lank in **Crazy For You**, the Stepmother in **Cinderella** and Dr. Carasco in **Man of La Mancha**. Jason is very happy to get to spend this holiday with so many good friends, both old and new.

Bart Lovins

Bart was born in Decatur and has performed throughout North America and Japan playing such diverse roles as Pinocchio, Rooster Hannigan and Oscar the Grouch. His regional credits include **The Foreigner** and **The Roar of the Greasepaint** both at The Balcony, **The Fantasticks!**, **Lend Me A Tenor**, **Father of the Bride** and **The Wizard of Oz** at Beef & Boards; **Annie** at Capital Arts, **Do Black Patent Leather Shoes...** at Westgate and **Frankenstein** at Stage One. In New York, he has been seen in **Antigone**, **A Farmer Weds A Widow** and **The Thrill of It All!**. He has toured the country in **Sleeping Beauty**, **Pinocchio** and **Sesame Street LIVE!**. Bart is also an accomplished director and was a proud member of the immortal '50's band Phil Sickley & the Upchucks!

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Dec. 18

7:00pm Candles and Carols
8:00pm Session #309 Jewel Holiday Special
9:00pm Bonfiglioi: Home For the Holidays
10:00pm Memory of a Large Christmas

Dec. 19

12:00pm Martha's Sewing Room Holiday Special
7:00pm Purdue University Christmas Concert
8:00pm Christmas Candlelight Concert
8:30pm St. Charles Borromeo Holiday Concert (repeats 12/24)

Dec. 20

6:00pm Teletubbies #201 Christmas Special
7:30pm Michael the Visitor
8:00pm A Bronze Christmas
9:00pm Juletide

Dec. 21

6:00pm Teletubbies #202 Christmas Special
7:00pm Let Heaven and Nature Sing

Dec. 22

6:00pm Teletubbies #203 Christmas Special
7:00pm Tots TV Holiday Special
7:30pm Kidsong Special "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" (repeats 12/26)
8:00pm Once Upon a Christmas Cheery
9:00pm Sessions #308 Jewel Holiday Special

Dec. 23

6:00pm Teletubbies #204 Christmas Special (repeats 12/24)
7:00pm 15th Annual Ft. Lauderdale Christmas Pageant
8:00pm Hope College Vespers
9:00pm Handel's Messiah 80th Anniversary

Dec. 24

1:00pm Globalstage Theatre: Pinocchio (repeats at 7:00pm)
2:30pm Puzzle Place Holiday Special
6:00pm Teletubbies #204 Christmas Special
7:00pm Globalstage Theatre: Pinocchio
8:30pm St. Charles Borromeo Holiday Concert
9:00pm Holiday Vespers

Dec. 25

12:00pm First Baptist Church Christmas Pageant
2:00pm A Bronze Christmas
3:00pm Giovanni Holiday Season Favorites
4:00pm Christmas Memories: Mormon Tabernacle Choir
5:00pm Noddy Holiday Special: Anything Can Happen
6:00pm Elmo Saves Christmas
7:00pm The Joffrey Nutcracker
8:00pm Christmas Is Coming
9:00pm US Naval Academy: Handel's Messiah

Dec. 26

4:00pm Kidsong Holiday Special

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John Pruitt

John is very happy to be doing his third Christmas show, **Christmas From the Heart**, at The Little Theatre On The Square! Some of his favorite Little Theatre roles include Mowgli in **The Jungle Book**, Tiny Tim in **A Christmas Carol**, Charlie in **State Fair**, Frederick in **The Sound Of Music**, Benjamin in **Joseph...Dreamcoat** and **Bye Bye Birdie**. John is a junior at Sullivan High School and is a member of the Sullivan Singers. When he's not at school, John enjoys spending time with friends. He would like to thank his parents and friends, Seth, JR and Lenny for their tremendous support and belief. John welcomes you to the show and "Merry Christmas!".

Jill Roberts

Jill is so happy to be back "home" at The Little Theatre for the holiday. Originally from Montana, Jill now resides in New York City where she was just seen in the world premiere of **Sapphire In Red** in the title role. You may have seen her here on our Little Theatre stage as Sally Bowles in **Cabaret**, Sister Amnesia in **Nunsense**, Agnes in **I Do! I Do!** or her Herald Award winning performance, as Ilona Ritter in **She Loves Me**. Other favorite roles include Betty Blake in **The Will Rogers Follies**, Helena in **A Midsummer Nights Dream** and Celeste II in the first national tour of **Sunday In The Park With George**. May everyone find peace and joy and love in the spirit of this special season

Daniel Scharbrough

Daniel comes to The Little Theatre On The Square after a successful year at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre in Indianapolis, IN. He has appeared in such shows as **Wizard of Oz** as the Cowardly Lion, **Music Man**, **42nd Street**, **Fiddler On The Roof**, **Love, Sex and the I.R.S.**, **The Odd Couple**, **Sugar Babies**, **Wonderful Life**, **Annie Get Your Gun**, **South Pacific** and **Guys & Dolls**. Other favorite roles include Lennie in **Of Mice And Men**, Moonface Martin in **Anything Goes** and Daddy Warbucks in **Annie** and **Annie Warbucks**. Daniel has also been seen in the films **Hoosiers**, **Eight Men Out** and **Eyes Of The Prey**. Daniel makes his home in Indianapolis with his wife, Jennifer and children, Abby and Peter.

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January 14, 15, 21, 22
at 8:00 p.m.
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at 2:00 p.m.
Decatur Civic Center Theatre

Storyteller Theatre's

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Decatur
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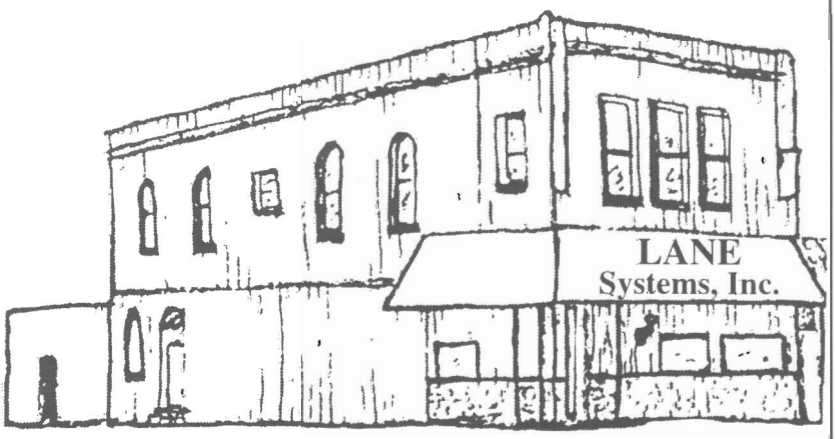
Let us help your holidays stay warm.

Season's Greetings



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Sullivan, Illinois

2000 Summer Season

Mame
June 7 - 18

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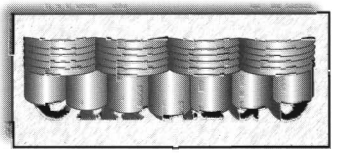

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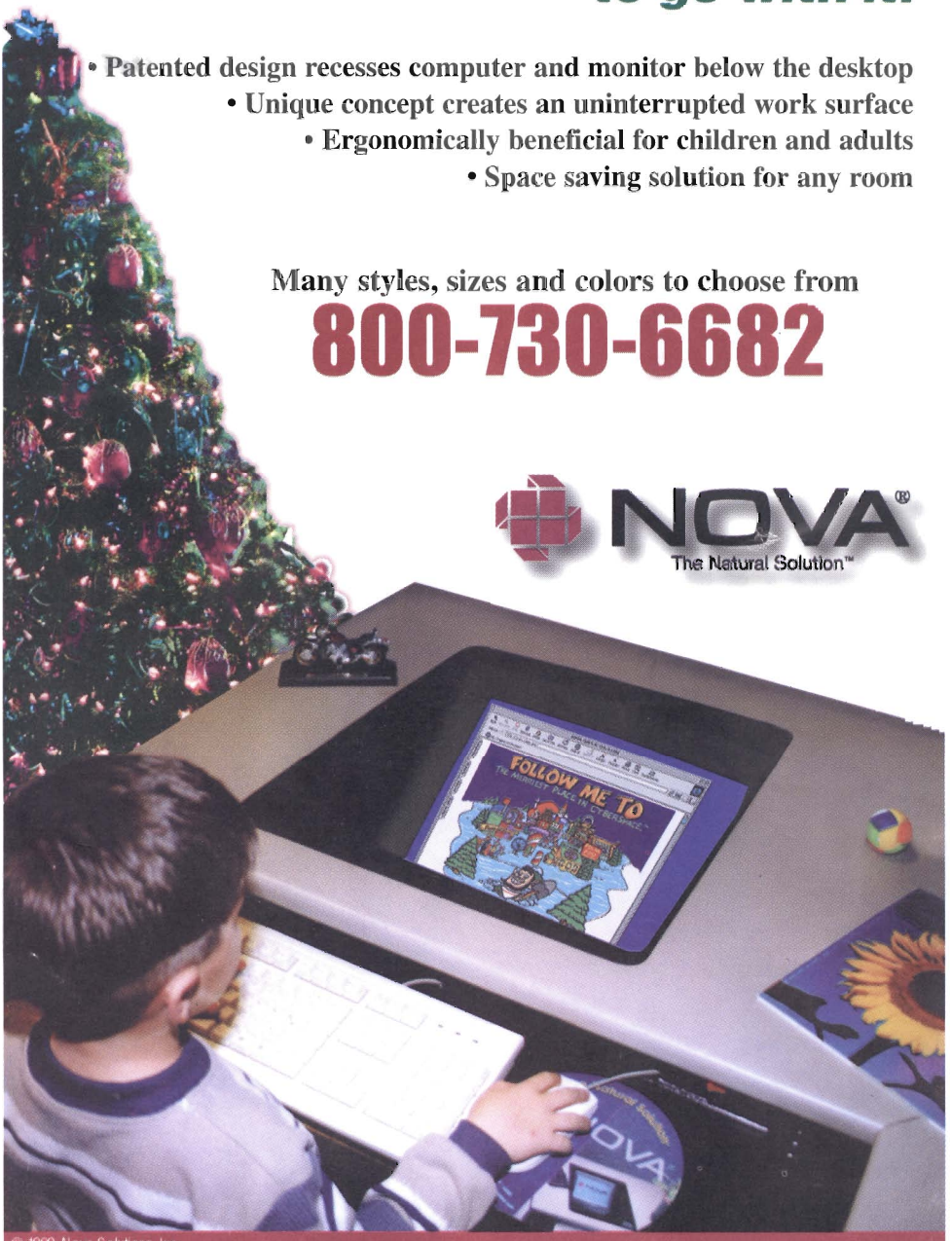

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Psalm #232
Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo-o-o-o-o-o
o-o-o-o-o
o-o-o-o-o-ria
In excelsis Deo!
Glo-o-o-o-o-o
o-o-o-o-o
o-o-o-o-oria
In excelsis Deo!

Psalm #76
Joy to The World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her king
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Psalm #327
Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above they deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark street shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.