

Voices in the Mist

Richard Wargo

Bucks County Choral Society

CHRISTMAS 1988

December 9 and 10, 1988 — 8 p.m.

December 11, 1988 — 3 p.m.

Salem United Church of Christ

Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Elma Heckler, Director

Sandra Carlock, Accompanist

WORLD PREMIERE

VOICES IN THE MIST

by Richard Wargo

Commissioned by the Bucks County Choral Society, January 1988

Commission underwritten by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; Burke, Lawton & Brewer, Flourtown; Est. of Geo. S. Snyder, Inc., Hatfield; Heckler Holding, Inc., Hatfield; Nyce Printing Co., Harleysville; Place & Kowalski CPA's, Doylestown.

RICHARD WARGO

Richard Wargo is a native of Scranton, PA and a graduate of the Eastman School of Music. He served as Composer-in-Residence with the Greater Miami Opera, for whom he is completing his *Chekhov Trilogy* for premiere in 1990. Other companies that have performed his works include the Minnesota Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Florida State Opera and the Lake George Opera Festival. He has received grants from the National Institute for Music Theater, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and has twice been awarded the F. Lammot Belin Arts Scholarship. He has been granted residencies at the MacDowell Colony, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Ireland, where he is returning this spring to begin work on a new opera.

THE COMPOSITION

Although *Voices in the Mist* draws its title from the image of the Christmas bells resounding from hill to hill in a poem of Tennyson (*Nocturne*), there are many other voices of Christmas which this choral suite attempts to evoke: from Robert Herrick's joyous call to song (*Carol*), to George Herbert's thoughtful meditation on a shepherds' song (*Chorale*); from voices which sing a gentle homage to the Virgin (*Pavane*), to the Magi's declaration of wonderment and awe upon seeing "the Star of Christmas morning" (*Fanfare*); from the tenderness and simplicity of a mother's cradle song (*Lullaby*), to Hans Christian Andersen's jubilant parade to the manger "to see the Christ who hath loved us so" (*March*). But perhaps it is the simplest of words by Tennyson that voice most profoundly the greatest wish for this holiday season: "Peace and goodwill, goodwill and peace. Peace and goodwill, to all mankind" (*Finale*).

This performance of Voices in the Mist is sponsored in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Cover Interpretation by Charlene Lavinia

Festival of Christmas Music

Prelude

Festive Brass

Three pieces

Johann Pezel

Carol of the bells

arr. Gary Olson

Processional — Of the Father's love begotten

13th century plainsong

I

VOICES IN THE MIST

Richard Wargo

1. CAROL

Robert Herrick

What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Hark, ear, and eye, and everything,
Awake!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day,
That sees December turn'd to May.
Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like to a mead new-shorn,
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,

To heaven and the under-earth.
We see Him come, and know Him ours,
Who with His sunshine and His showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The Darling of the world is come,
And fit it is we find a room
To welcome Him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give Him: and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath,
To do Him honour who's our King,
The Lord of all this revelling.
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Hark, ear, and eye, and everything,
Awake!

2. CHORALE

George Herbert

The shepherds sing: and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for Thee?
My soul's a shepherd too: a flock it feeds
Of thoughts and words and deeds.
The pasture is Thy word, the streams Thy grace,
Enriching every place.
The shepherds sing: and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for Thee?

3. PAVANE

Author Unknown

I sing of a maiden
That is makeless:
King of all kings
To her son she ches.

He came all so still
There His mother lay,
As dew in April
That falleth on the spray.

He came all so still
There His mother was,
As dew in April
That falleth on the grass.

Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
Goddess mother be.

He came all so still
To His mother's bower.
As dew in April
That falleth on the flower.

(*"makeless"—matchless; "ches"—chose*)

4. FANFARE

Author Unknown

We saw the light shine out a-far,
On Christmas in the morning,
And straight we knew Christ's Star it was,
Bright beaming in the morning.
Then did we fall on bended knee,
On Christmas in the morning,
And prais'd the Lord, who'd let us see
His glory at its dawning.

Oh! Every thought be of His name,
On Christmas in the morning,
Who bore for us both grief and shame,
Afflictions sharpest scorning,
And may we die (when death shall come),
On Christmas in the morning,
And see in heav'n, our glorious home,
The Star of Christmas morning.

5. LULLABY

Cheryl Stitzinger, soprano

Isaac Watts

Hush, my babe, lie still and slumber;
Holy angels guard thy bed;
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.

How much better thou'rt attended
Than the Son of God could be,
When from heaven He descended,
And became a child like thee!

Soft and easy is thy cradle;
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When His birthplace was a stable,
And His softest bed was hay.

See the kindly shepherds round Him,
Telling wonders from the sky!
When they sought Him, there they found Him,
With His Virgin-Mother by.

Mayst thou live to know and fear Him,
Trust and love Him all thy days;
Then go and dwell forever near Him,
See His face and sing His praise!

6. MARCH

Author Unknown

A little Child
A shining star.
A stable rude,
The door ajar.

Yet in that place,
So crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all
The world was born.

Hans Christian Andersen

When the Christ-Child to this world came down,
He left for us His throne and crown,
He lay in a manger, all pure and fair,
Of straw and hay His bed so bare.
But high in heaven the star shone bright,
And the oxen watched by the Babe that night.
Hallelujah! Child Jesus!

Oh, come, ye sinful and ye who mourn,
Forgetting all your sin and sadness,
In the city of David a Child is born,
Who doth bring us heav'nly gladness.
Then let us to the manger go,
To see the Christ who hath loved us so.
Hallelujah! Christ Jesus!

7. NOCTURNE

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The time draws near the birth of Christ:
The moon is hid; the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,
From far and near, on mead and moor,
Swell out and fail, as if a door
Were shut between me and the sound:

Each voice four changes on the wind,
That now dilate, and now decrease,

8. FINALE

Tennyson (cont.)

Peace and goodwill, goodwill and peace,
Peace and goodwill, to all mankind.

II

Masters in this hall

arr. Shaw/Parker

David Fryling, bass

Jesus Christ the apple tree

Elizabeth Poston

Child of peace

Jeffrey Van

Liz Emmert, soprano

Christmas dance of the shepherds

Zoltan Kodaly

Women of the Choir

How still He rests

Brent Pierce

Sir Christémas

William Mathias

III

The Choir — O come, O come Emmanuel

arr. Shaw/Parker

The Audience — O little town of Bethlehem

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

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

The Choir — Away in a manger

arr. Reginald Jacques

Jill Getszler, alto

The Audience — Hark the herald angels sing

Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled;
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

The Choir — Angels we have heard on high

arr. Shaw/Parker

The Audience — Joy to the world

arr. John Ness Beck

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth; the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love.

Recessional — Silent Night

arr. Malcolm Sargent

* * * * *

You are invited to greet the composer, Richard Wargo and the musicians at a Holiday Reception in the social room of the church immediately following the concert.

BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

Now in its sixteenth season, the Bucks County Choral Society is a sixty-member choir of talented and dedicated musicians whose performances win consistent praise from critics and audiences in the Delaware Valley. Recognized for its varied programming, the Society's repertoire extends from Renaissance motets to 20th century commissioned pieces. Its members regularly participate in workshops whose clinicians have included outstanding choral musicians such as Robert Page, Elaine Brown, Judith Nicosia Civitano, and Greg Funfgeld. In its continual effort to strive for excellence in all phases of the choral art, the choir is experiencing several "firsts" this season: a three-concert Subscription Series publicized by a brochure; the commissioning of a major work which audiences are hearing for the first time at these concerts; and a concert tour to Austria in July, 1989, where it will be one of four choirs in United States invited to sing in the Salzburg Church Music Festival.

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*For further information about the Choral Society or to arrange an audition,
please call membership chairman Geraldyn George at 493-0217.*

ELMA HECKLER, Hatfield, now in her twelfth season with the Choral Society, holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Juniata College and a Master of Music degree from Westminster Choir College where she was a conducting student of Joseph Flummerfeldt. She has pursued additional study at Eastman School of Music as well as with prominent conductors including Elaine Brown, Robert Shaw, Dale Warland, and Robert Page. Mrs. Heckler maintains active membership in the American Choral Directors Association and the Association of Professional Vocal Ensembles - Chorus America.

SANDRA CARLOCK, Warminster, in her first season as accompanist for the Choral Society, holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She did graduate work at Julliard and completed a Master of Music degree at State University of New York, Stonybrook. She has studied with Arthur Dann, Rosina Llevinne and Martin Canin. Ms. Carlock is a member of the Alverthorpe Trio, Ensemble-in-Residence at the Settlement Music School, where she teaches by special arrangement as the Arthur Judson Distinguished Faculty Chair for piano.

Coming concerts:

Sunday, February 26 — 4 p.m.
Addisville Reformed Church
Richboro, PA

Sunday, March 5 — 4 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
Lansdale, PA

Requiem, Opus 9 — Maurice Duruflé
Kim Heindel, Organ

Saturday, May 13 — 8 p.m.
Centrals Bucks East High School
Buckingham, PA

Carmina Burana — Carl Orff
The Children's Choir of Bucks County
Eileen Finley, Director
Sandra Carlock and
Theodore Hendricks-Verdjo, Duo-Pianists
Five Percussionists

Saturday, April 8 — 8 p.m.
James-Lorah House, Doylestown
The Alverthorpe Trio

Lee Snyder, violin; David Guggenheim, cello; Sandra Carlock, piano
*Concert benefits the Bucks County Choral Society's
Summer of 1989 trip to Austria*

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Oboe
Steven Labiner

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