



Bucks County Choral Society
Christmas 1991

December 6 and 7, 1991 - 8 pm
Salem United Church of Christ
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Elma Heckler, Director
Teresa Jaeschke, Accompanist

December 8, 1991 - 4 pm
St. John's United Church of Christ
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Festive Arts Orchestra

Cover art by David Brier

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

Festival of Christmas Music

Prelude – Concerto Grosso in g minor Op.6, No. 8 (Christmas Concerto)

Archangelo Corelli

Vivace

Allegro

Largo

Festive Arts Strings

Processional – On this day earth shall ring

arr. Gustav Holst

David Furniss, organ

I

Hodie Christus natus est

Healy Willan

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit.
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
Laetantur Archangeli.
Hodie exultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Alleluia!

**Today Christ is born:
Today the Savior has appeared.
Today the Angels sing on earth.
And the Archangels rejoice.
Today the just exalt, saying:
Glory to God in the highest!
Alleluia!**

II

Dixit et Magnificat, KV 193

W. A. Mozart

Marcia Lincoln-Heinz, soprano; David Furniss, tenor; Eric Vogelsang, bass

At these concerts the Choral Society joins in an international tribute to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart who died 200 years ago on December 5, 1791.

Mozart composed several settings for the Office of Vespers, the evening service which consecrates the end of the day. *Dixit et Magnificat*, KV 193 is a partial setting composed in 1740 when Mozart was 18 years old. Traditionally the vesper service includes the singing of five psalms, each with an antiphon, hymns, and the *Magnificat*. This setting includes only two sections of this most ancient service: *Dixit*, the prophetic Messianic Psalm 109, and the *Magnificat*, Mary's hymn of praise found in Luke 1: 46-55.

In this setting Mozart gave both sections the same form: the recurring main theme is followed by a responsorial motive alternating between upper and lower voices, which in turn is followed by an imitative development. Both sections close with the *Gloria Patri*. At the words "et in saecula saeculorum" (world without end) at the end of the *Magnificat*, Mozart returns to the main theme of the *Dixit*, thus tying the beginning and the end of the two vesper sections together.

1. Dixit

Dixit Dóminus Dómino méo:
Séde a dextris méis,
donec pónam inimicós tuós
scabéllum pédum tuórum.

Virgam virtútis túae
emíttet Dóminus ex Sión:
domináre in médio inimicórum
tuórum.

Técum princípium in díe virtútis túae,
in splendóribus sanctórum:
ex útero ante lucíferum
génui te.

Jurávit Dóminus,
et non poenitébit éum:
Tu es sacérdos in aetérnum
secúndum órđinem Melchisedech.

Dóminus a dextris lúis,
confrégit in díe irae suae réges.

Judicábit in natió nibus, implébit
ruínas, conquisábit cápita in térra
multórum.

De torrén te in vía bíbet,
proptérea exaltábit cáput.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

2. Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo
salutari meo.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae
suae: ecce enim ex hoc beatam
me dicent omnes generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens
est: et sanctum nomen eius.

Et misericordia eius a progenie in
progenies timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Desposuit potentes de sede, et ex-
altavit humiles.

Esurientes implevit bonis: et
divites dimisit inanes.

The Lord said unto my Lord:
Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
your footstool.

The sceptre of your power the Lord
shall send forth from Zion:
Rule thou in the midst of your
enemies.

The power to rule is with you
on the day of your strength,
in the splendor of the holy ones:
I have begotten you from the womb
before the rising of the day-star.

The Lord has sworn an oath,
and will not repent of it:
You are a priest for ever,
after the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord at your right hand destroys
kings on the day of his wrath;

He shall judge among the heathen;
he shall pile up ruins
and scatter skulls on many lands.

He shall drink of the torrent in his way;
therefore he shall lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be, world without end
Amen.

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit rejoices in God my
Savior.

For he has regarded the low estate
of his handmaiden: for behold,
henceforth all generations will
call me blessed.

For he who is mighty has done great
things for me: and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on those who fear
him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his
arm, he has scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.

He has put down the mighty from
their thrones, and exalted those
of low degree.

He has filled the hungry with good
things, and the rich he has sent
empty away.

Suscepti Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae.
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

He has helped the servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy.

As he spoke to our fathers, to
Abraham, and to his posterity
forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the
Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

III

In terra pax (Peace on earth)

Gerald Finzi

David Fryling, bass; Cheryl Stitzinger, soprano
David Paroby, percussion

The son of a ship broker, Gerald Finzi (1901-1956) was born and privately educated in London. He taught briefly in the city, but preferring the country, soon moved to work in peace surrounded by his collection of rare books and his orchard of even rarer apples. Although influenced by the music of Edward Elgar and Ralph Vaughan Williams, Finzi found much of his inspiration in English folk songs. Literature was frequently his source of text. For *In terra pax* he chose the poetry of twentieth-century English writer, Robert Bridges, and St. Luke 2:8-14.

Baritone Solo

A frosty Christmas Eve
when the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone
where westward falls the hill,
And from many a village
in the water'd valley
Distant music reach'd me
peals of bells aringing:
The constellated sounds
ran sprinkling on earth's floor
As the dark vault above
with stars was spangled o'er.

Then sped my thoughts to keep
that first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching
by their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields
and marveling could not tell
Whether it were angels
or the bright stars singing.

Chorus

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,

Soprano Solo

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

ELMA HECKLER, now in her fifteenth 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 taken additional study at Eastman School of Music and with Elaine Brown, Robert Page, and Dale Warland. Recently she was selected to participate in the Robert Shaw Choral Workshop to be held in January at Carnegie Hall. She was appointed this year to the Music Advisory Panel of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Mrs. Heckler maintains active membership in the American Choral Directors Association, the American Choral Foundation, and in Chorus America – the Association of Professional Vocal Ensembles.

TERESA JAESCHKE, a 1984 graduate of William Tennent High School in Bucks County, received her Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. There, she studied with department head Phyllis Lehrer. Until 1990, she was on the Artist Faculty at Westminster Conservatory as both teacher and accompanist. Currently, Ms. Jaeschke is a Master's degree candidate majoring in Piano Accompanying and Vocal Coaching. As an accompanying major, she has worked and studied with such coaches as Martin Katz, Glenn Parker and Dalton Baldwin.

THE FESTIVE ARTS ORCHESTRA was founded in 1985. Its main goal is to make available to choirs in the tri-state area an orchestra with the highest standards of musicality and one with enthusiasm and appreciation for the choral arts. Members of this ensemble can be found performing in the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Pennsylvania Ballet, the Philly Pops, Festive Brass, the Pennsylvania Opera Theatre, and other area ensembles.

Viola I	Viola	Bass
Paul Reiser, Concertmaster	Beth Dzwil Li	Dennis Topper
Dmitry Vaks	Amy Himmel	Harp
Madeline Cabano	Cello	Sophie Bruno
Violin II	Myles Jordan	
Frances Berge	Jonathan Fink	
Diane Smoczynski		

FRIENDS OF THE CHORAL SOCIETY

Margaret Armstrong	Jean Elfman	G. Henriette Holcombe
Carola Benecke	Joanna Fryling	Marilyn Johnson
Dierk Benecke	John Geiger	Mac & Martha McCleary
James Benecke	Lola Glass	Alison Nerz
Robert Benecke	David & Jean Gundrum	Rachel Nerz
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Come join this valuable group of volunteers who help the choir to present quality concerts. The responsibilities which they have taken on allow our singers to concentrate on singing! Call Audrey Close for more information, 345-9333.

BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

Now in its nineteenth season, the Bucks County Choral Society has continuously grown and been refined into the select 60-voice ensemble that performs today. Its repertoire extends from the great choral masterpieces through contemporary and commissioned works. In 1988, the choir commissioned and premiered Pennsylvania composer Richard Wargo's *Voices in the Mist*. The 1989 season's highlight was a tour of Europe, culminating in performances at the Salzburg Church Music Festival. Choir members regularly participate in workshops whose clinicians have included outstanding choral directors such as Robert Page, Elaine Brown, Judith Nicosia Civitano, and Greg Funfgeld. The Society has performed with the Bucks County Symphony, the Delaware Valley Philharmonic, and the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia. Its concerts are supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, as well as community and business patrons.

1991-1992 MEMBERSHIP LIST

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Cheryl Blackburn, Feasterville

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Bud Cassel, Chalfont

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For further information about the Choral Society or to arrange an audition, please call membership chairman Mary Ernst at 860-9804.