



Bucks County Choral Society



Christmas 1993

December 10 & 11, 1993 - 8 p.m.
Salem United Church of Christ
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

December 12, 1993 - 4 p.m.
St. John's United Church of Christ
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Elma Heckler, Artistic Director
Teresa Jaeschke, Accompanist

Alison Simpson, harp
Florence Ierardi, marimba
William Peters, guitar
Susan Johnson, organ

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

Festival of Christmas Music

Prelude

Villancico di Navidad

William Peters, guitar

Agustin Barrios Mangore

Greensleeves

Florence Jerardi, marimba

Traditional English

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Alison Simpson, harp

arr. May Hogan Cambern

Processional - On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Gustav Holst

I

What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

Patapan

Edwin Fissinger

In the Bleak Midwinter

Cheryl Stitzinger, soprano

Harold Darke

Ave Mária

Thomas Becze, Ed Johnson, tenors; David Fryling, bass

Franz Biebl

The angel of the Lord made his annunciation to Mary,
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail, Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Jesus.

Mary said: Behold the handmaiden of the Lord.

Let it be unto me according to your word.

(refrain)

And the Word was made flesh
and dwelt among us.

(refrain)

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners.

Holy Mary, pray for us now and in the hour of our death. Amen

Jesu, Son So Sweet and Dear

Teresa Washam, alto

Jackson Berkey

Hail to the promised Son! This is our time!
 Conceived in the Virgin Mary's womb, God has become man.
 Glory! Honor! Praise! How blessed we are.
 The immortal God has become man.

II

Carols and Lullabies

Conrad Susa

Carols and Lullabies was commissioned by Philip Brunelle and the Plymouth Music Series of Minnesota and was premiered in Minneapolis Dec. 6, 1992. According to composer Conrad Susa, the piece was inspired by a collection of traditional Spanish carols which a friend had sung as a boy in Arizona. Mr. Susa noted their many connections with Renaissance music along with their homey, artful simplicity. Says Mr. Susa: "The overriding image of a Southwestern pinata party for the new baby led me to add guitar, marimba and harp accompaniment, compose connective music, and totally re-conceive the carols."

In addition to having composed over one hundred scores for theater, documentary film and television, Mr. Susa also composes regularly for chorus, both sacred and secular. He is presently resident composer for the Old Globe Theater in San Diego and is on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

1. Oh, mi Belen! (Biscayan)

Oh, Bethlehem! Blest is the hour the Savior comes to you, Oh Bethlehem!
 Light from your city shines so bright, burns like a beacon
 Guiding us safely straight on our way, in dark and daylight.
 Oh, Bethlehem!

2. El Desembre Congelat (Catalonian)

On December's frozen ground, fear and doubt denying,
 April wears a flower crown, all the world admiring.
 From a garden filled with love springs a blossom from above
 With a lovely flower, with a love, with a flower so lovely,
 Comes the blessed hour.
 God the Father made the night, all in darkness shrouding.
 Hiding from all human sight, worry, fear and doubting.
 Shining through the midnight clear, brightest light of all the year
 With a light so bright, with a light outpouring,
 Heaven stands adoring.
 Blooming at our humble feet, winter's chill defying,
 Springs a lily pale and sweet, fragrant and inspiring.
 All the world can feel its power, shining in our darkest hour,
 All the sweetest fragrance, bless us with your radiance.

Alegria (Puerto Rican)

Soloists: *Donald Groff, Stephen Luebke, Charles Orbell*

Walking slowly unto Bethlehem, Holy Mary with her husband;
Traveling with them tho' in secret, is the Savior of all nations.

Alegria, alegria, alegria y placer.

For the Virgin passes by us with her husband unto Bethlehem
When to Bethlehem they had traveled, they were searching for a haven,
All the innkeepers refused them, dressed so poor and heavy laden.

Alegria, alegria, alegria y placer.

As they see Mary and Joseph, all the songbirds of the forest
serenade them with their singing; precious gifts come from the poorest.

Alegria, alegria, alegria y placer.

A la Nanita Nana (Spanish)

A la nanita nana, nanita e-a, nanita e-a.

Blest be my baby Jesus, now go to sleep, now go to sleep.

Crystal fountain resounding clearly and brightly,

Nightingale in the forest, weeping so sweetly,

Hush, while the child is sleeping, laid in a cradle.

A la nanita nana, bendito sea, nanita e-a.

Las Posadas (Spanish)

Shall I have them open the stable before you?

Shall I bring the shepherds to praise and adore you?

Hush now, my darling; see the boy is almost sleeping.

My beloved Father, my God and my Savior,

Happily you sleep through the harshness of winter.

Hush now, my darling; see the boy is almost sleeping.

Campana sobre Campana (Andalucian)

Bell after bell is heard, gathering all who are able!

Come to the window and hear the word; you'll see a child in a cradle.

Oh, ring the bells of Bethlehem, what are the angels singing,
what news do they bring?

Now that all your flock is gathered, tell me shepherd, what's the matter?

We shall carry to the manger, cheese and wine and sweetest butter.

Oh, ring the bells of Bethlehem, what are the angels singing,
what news do they bring?

Stars in the heavens are shining, shepherd, where will you go tonight?

Run quickly run to the baby, watch him slumber so sweetly.

7. En Belen Tocan a Fuego. (Castilian)

Soloists: *Susan Bolton, Juana Mestres, Ed Johnson*

There's a fire in Bethlehem, in the stable see the flames!
For they say that born of a Virgin from heaven to earth He came!
Fish in the river are glistening and dancing,
dancing and leaping to celebrate his birthday.
In Bethlehem's humble stable there's a lovely white carnation,
It will grow into a purple Lily. Greet the Savior of the nations!
(refrain)

Virgin Mary by the river hangs the swaddling clothes of Jesus,
All the birds around her are singing, and the river flows rejoicing
(refrain)

8. El Noi de la Mare (Catalonian)

Quartet: *Frances Hemstreet, Teresa Washam,
Thomas Whitefield, David Fryling*

What shall we give to the child of the Mother?
What can we bring that will give him delight?
Bring to him raisins in kingly abundance,
Bring him the offerings he richly deserves.
What shall we bring to the child of the Mother?
What shall we bring to the beautiful boy?
Raisins and honey and olives and walnuts,
Raisins and honey and figs that are ripe.
What shall we do if the figs do not ripen?
What shall we do if the figs are still green?
Gifts that we offer the Child should be perfect,
Mild for a baby, yet fit for a King.

9. Chiquirritin (Andalucian)

Chiquirritin.
He is laid in a manger bed,
Ay, del chiquirritin.
Follow us, follow us to the manger.
Find them all through the doorway, there in the stable,
Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, their Holy Baby.
Ox and mule are His guardians, sleeping beside Him,
In the poorest of stables humbly abiding.
He is laid in a manger bed,
Follow us, follow us to the manger.
Chiquirritin.

10. El Rorro (Mexican)

My precious baby, please go to sleep now my tiny Jesus.
The buzzing bee and elephants that lumber,
Be silent now, do not disturb His slumber.
Come, oh night of blessing, night of great rejoicing.
We gather to bless the sweet and holy Virgin.
My precious baby, please go to sleep now, my tiny Jesus.
Choirs in heaven, raise your voices now to praise Him,
Sing for joy the blessings that this night has given!
Rurru! Ah!

III

Chamber Singers of the Bucks County Choral Society

Nova, Nova

Ed. & arr. Judith Otten

Kathy Benner, soprano; Ladd McCoy, tenor

Coventry Carol

Ed. Dale Warland

Christ Was Born on Christmas Day

Arr. Shaw / Parker

Janet Fryling, soprano; Alan Johnson, baritone

IV

Carols with Audience, Choir, and Instruments

Joy to the World

1. 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.
2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns, Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, Repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove.
The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love.

Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay -
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray,
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful. Joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord!
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord!
3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord!

V

Christmas Spiritual Medley

arr. Joseph Jennings

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow

Thomas Becze, tenor

Behold That Star

Ron Salfen, bass

Poor Little Jesus

Alan Johnson, bass

What Month Was Jesus Born In
Children Go Where I Send Thee

Susan Johnson, alto

Recessional - Silent Night

arr. Malcolm Sargent

ELMA HECKLER, now in her seventeenth season with the Choral Society, holds degrees from Juniata College and from Westminster Choir College where she was a conducting student of Joseph Flummerfeldt. She has taken additional study at Eastman School of Music. Clinicians she has worked with include Robert Page, Dale Warland, Gregg Smith and Paul Salamunovich. Mrs. Heckler has participated in the Carnegie Hall Robert Shaw Choral Workshop and has served on the Music Advisory Panel of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. She maintains active membership in Chorus America and in the American Choral Directors Association.

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.

Guest Musicians

WILLIAM PETERS has a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master's of Music in Classical Guitar Performance and Music History from Temple University. He has studied classical guitar with Peter Segal, Oscar Ghiglia, and jazz styles with Dennis Sandole. He is currently a Staff faculty member of the Settlement Music School and the Haddonfield School of Creative and Performing Arts. He and his wife Carol comprise the classical guitar and recorder duo, Royale Musicke.

FLORENCE IERARDI holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Temple University, where she studied percussion with Alan Abel, Glenn Steele and Jack Moore. She has performed extensively with area orchestras, including the Reading, Kennett, Delaware and Lancaster Symphonies. In addition, she frequently performs as a chamber artist and soloist, specializing in new music and inter-disciplinary collaborations. She has taught percussion at Temple and Lincoln Universities, and currently teaches in the Graduate Music Therapy program of Hahnemann University.

ALISON SIMPSON is an active harpist in the Pennsylvania / New Jersey area. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Cleveland Institute of Music and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wheaton College, Massachusetts, and has pursued advanced studies with Alice Chalifoux, Director of the Salzedo Summer Harp Colony in Camden, Maine. Ms. Simpson is currently a solo performer for Young Audiences of New Jersey and is principal harpist for the Westminster Conservatory Chamber Orchestra at the Bucks County Symphony. She is on the faculty of the Westminster Conservatory and maintains a private studio in Doylestown.

SUSAN JOHNSON holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Susquehanna University and a Master's degree in Music Education from Westminster Choir College where she was a student of Eugene Roan. For eleven years she was Director of Music and organist at Addisville Reformed Church, Richboro. Currently she teaches elementary school music in the Council Rock School District and is a member of the soprano section of the Choral Society.

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

BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

The Bucks County Choral Society, now in its 21st season, was organized in 1972. Elma Heckler, Hatfield, became Artistic Director in 1977. Throughout its twenty years, the Society has offered quality performances of the choral masterworks as well as new and innovative programming and has commissioned works by composers Gregg Smith, Richard Wargo and Richard Averre. In March, the Choral Society was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts for 1993, presented by the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce. The Choir has toured Europe twice, most recently in the summer of 1992. Each year, Choir members participate in workshops given by such outstanding choral directors as Robert Page, Elaine Brown, Constantina Tsolainou, and Greg Funfgeld. The Choral Society has performed with the Bucks County Symphony, the Delaware Valley Philharmonic, the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, and the Festive Arts Orchestra.

1993-1994 Membership List

- Rosemary G. Ambroseo, Yardley
- Ellie Arnsby, Philadelphia
- Jerry M. Barton, Langhorne
- Tom Becze, Holland
- * Kathy Benner, Richboro
- * Susan Bolton, Perkasio
- Elizabeth K. Burke, Chalfont
- * Bud Cassel, Chalfont
- Doris W. Charles, Doylestown
- Eugene W. Chrzanowski, Buckingham
- Audrey E. Close, Doylestown
- Anne Colombo, Richboro
- Merrill M. Detweiler, Sellersville
- Cynthia L. Detwiler, Warminster
- Susan Eastburn, Chalfont
- Mary Ernst, Newtown
- Judith Fay, Hatfield
- Leland Felt, Holland
- Philip J. Franchois, Perkasio
- * David N. Fryling, Dublin
- * Janet D. Fryling, Dublin
- Ruth A. Geiger, Doylestown
- Jack N. Graham, Maple Glen
- John Greyer, Colmar
- Donald E. Groff, Hatfield
- Lynne Guest, Richboro
- Roberta Harding, Perkasio
- Frances Hemstreet, Newtown
- * Alan F. Johnson, Warminster
- Ed Johnson, Richboro
- Susan G. Johnson, Richboro
- Jane C. Keller, Hatboro
- Barbara L. Kihm, Trevoise
- Marion M. Kyde, Ottsville
- * John Leslie, Levittown
- Marcia Lincoln-Heinz, Newtown
- Stephen W. Luebke, Doylestown
- Nancy S. Maul, Doylestown
- * Ladd S. McCoy, Chalfont
- Carrell McNulty, Doylestown
- Kay Mengers, Pipersville
- Juana D. Mestres, New Hope
- Bill Moore, New Britain
- Christine E. Moore, New Britain
- Lois H. Moore, New Britain
- Merily Nelson, Hatfield
- Kathleen Nerz, Pipersville
- * Allan Ollikainen, Newtown
- Charles A. Orbell III, Warrington
- * Kathy Payne, Yardley
- Shirley K. Piercy, Furlong
- Christine M. Remiker, Doylestown
- Ron Salfen, Hartsville
- Mary L. Scherrer, Doylestown
- Celeste Siciliano, Wycombe
- * Brad Stevenson, Yardley
- Cheryl Stitzinger, Warrington
- Ron Tempest, Hatboro
- Daisy W. Tennyson, Yardley
- * Barbara Tull, Doylestown
- Frances W. Waite, Doylestown
- * Teresa Washam, Souderton
- Tom Whitefield, Harleysville
- * Claudia Whittaker, Doylestown
- Patricia A. Winey, Warminster
- Heidi A. Wolfskill, Doylestown

* Chamber Singers of the Bucks County Choral Society

To arrange an audition, please call membership chairperson Mary Ernst at 860-4804.