



Bucks County Choral Society

Christmas 1994

**December 9 & 10, 1994 – 8 p.m.
Salem United Church of Christ
Doylestown, Pennsylvania**

**Elma Heckler, Artistic Director
Teresa Jaeschke, Accompanist**

**December 11, 1994 – 4 p.m.
St. John's United Church of Christ
Lansdale, Pennsylvania**

**Festive Arts Strings
Timothy Harrell, Organ
Susan Johnson, Piano, Flute**

**Plumstead Christian School Students,
Bells
Heidi Wolfskill, Director**

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

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

I

Music of the Early Baroque

Baroque music replaced the previous Renaissance style after 1600 and dominated European music until about 1750. Many changes took place in the Early Baroque. For the first time composers wanted their music to be expressive—to deal with emotions or “affections”—sorrow, pain, heroism, devotion. Instrumental music became important and forms such as sonata, concerto, fugue, chorale prelude and symphony came into use. Arcangelo Corelli founded the modern method of string playing and the violin became the queen of the instruments. Oratorio, opera and ballet had their beginnings. The pairing of voices and instruments became important. Music for *chori spizzati*—literally, broken chorus—introducing the elements of space, contrast and echo effects, was brought to fame by Adrian Willaert and his students Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli who composed at the architecturally-appropriate St. Marks in Venice. In addition to the composers you are hearing in tonight’s concert, other composers of the Early Baroque included Monteverdi, Lully, Sweelinck, Byrd, and Scheidt.

The Baroque is the period that opened the road to all later music up to the present day.

Prelude

Chamber Sonata, Opus 4
for two violins and cello

Arcangelo Corelli
(1653-1713)

Olga Konopelsky, Paul Reiser, violins; David Guggenheim, cello

Processional - On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Piae Cantiones, 1582
arr. Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Hodie Christus Natus Est (sung in Latin)

Hans Leo Hassler
(1564-1612)

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!

Willkommen, süsßer Bräutigam (sung in German)

Vincent Lübeck
(1654-1740)

*Soloists: Friday – Kathy Benner
Saturday – Tara Krauss
Sunday – Susan Bolton*

Chamber Singers of the Bucks County Choral Society

1. Sonata

2. Willkommen, süsßer Bräutigam

We welcome thee, O bridegroom fair, thou worthy king and mighty,
Lord Jesus, welcome, God's own heir, to sing thy praise I plight me.
To thee as long as I do live, all laud and honour will I give;
For through thine incarnation, thou bringest me salvation.

3. O grosses Werk

O mighty deed, O wondrous night, never was night more glorious
The Savior thou has brought to light, o'er Satan's power victorious.
Thou hast brought forth the mighty King,
Creation he to move can bring
And set the heavens shaking and hills and mountains quaking.

Ritornello

4. O liebes Kind

O darling child, O blessed birth, in thee is utter pleasure,
My brother thou, no joy on earth I more than thee do treasure.
Come, enter now my heart and mind,
Come quickly, leave the crib behind,
Come, I will prepare thee a resting place more worthy.

Ritornello

5. Sag an, mein Herzens-Bräutigam

Now say, thou bridegroom dear, my gem,
My Savior, joy, and succour.
Thou noble branch of David's stem,
What gift can I thee offer?

O take from me my heart and soul,
Yea, all parts as I am and whole
My soul but thee desireth,
And ne'er of thee it tireth.

6. Lob, Preis und Dank

Honour and praise I sing to thee, Lord Jesus, and none other,
For thou alone dost come to me as Saviour, King, and brother.
Help me along to think on thee, on thy great love and charity,
And at last, Lord, raise me in Heaven above to praise thee.

Magnificat a 8
(sung in Latin)

Giovanni Battista Martini
(1706-1784)

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.
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.

II

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Traditional Polish
arr. John Rutter

Frank Mitchell III, bass

A Child My Choice

Stephen Paulus
Poem by Robert Southwell

Let folly praise that fancy loves,
I praise and love that Child whose heart no thought, whose tongue no word,
Whose hand no deed defiled.
I praise Him most, I love Him best,
All praise and love is His;
While Him I love, in Him I live, and cannot live amiss.
Love's sweetest mark, laud's highest theme, man's most desired light.
He mine by gift, I His by debt, this each to other due.
First friend He was, best friend He is, all time will try Him true.

Though young, yet wise, though small, yet strong;
Though man, yet God He is;
As wise He knows, as strong He can, as God He loves to bliss.
His knowledge rules, His strength defends, His love doth cherish all;
His birth our joy, His life our light, His death our end of thrall.
Alas! He weeps, He sighs, He pants, yet do His angels sing;
Out of His tears, His sighs and throbs, doth bud a joyful spring.

Almighty Babe, whose tender arms can force all foes to fly,
Correct my faults, protect my life, direct me when I die!
His birth our joy, His life our light.

Bethlehem Down

Peter Warlock
Poem by Bruce Blunt

When He is King we will give Him the King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
"Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in gravesheets,
Myrrh for embalming and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the soft arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Baloo, Lammy

Scottish Carol
arr. Norman Luboff

Merily Nelson, alto

III

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

R. Vaughan Williams

Frank Mitchell III, bass

IV

CAROLS FOR AUDIENCE, CHOIR, AND ORGAN

arr. David Willcocks

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. 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.
2. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of
Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen 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.
Refrain

The First Nowell

1. The First Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay; keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

2. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught
And with his blood mankind hath bought!
Refrain

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,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord!

V

Four Carols arranged by Mack Wilberg

O, Green and Shimmering Tree, Good Day!	C.E.F. Weyse
Fum, Fum, Fum	Catalonian Carol
Away in a Manger	William J. Kirkpatrick
I Saw Three Ships	English Carol

Recessional - Silent Night

Malcolm Sargent

Out of courtesy to the performers, kindly refrain from using cameras or tape recorders.

★ ★ ★

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

★ ★ ★

Available on sale at the receptions will be our first recording on compact disk or audio cassette. This
live recording of our Music at Czestochowa concert features Vieme's Messe Solennelle, Op.16.

ELMA HECKLER strives to make each concert memorable as well as enjoyable, "a discovery" shared alike by chorus and audience. Under her direction for 18 seasons, the Choral Society has steadily expanded its repertory, presenting rare blendings of traditional and modern compositions - including original works performed for the first time. Her conducting career began early while she was still an undergraduate student. Later she furthered her studies at Westminster Choir College, the Eastman School of Music, and with such choral luminaries as Robert Page and Robert Shaw. She served on Pennsylvania's Music Advisory Panel and is a member of Chorus America and the American Choral Directors Association. She is a frequent guest conductor of choruses throughout the Delaware Valley.

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. This is her fourth season as accompanist for the Society.

GUEST MUSICIANS

FRANK B. MITCHELL III, bass. A native of Philadelphia, Mr. Mitchell began his musical career at an early age in the Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Children's Choir and later sang with the All Philadelphia Boys Choir, with whom he toured in Africa, Asia, and Europe. He has a degree in music education from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. Mr. Mitchell has performed on Broadway and toured with the Tony Award winning play "Shenandoah", and is now a frequent oratorio and cantata soloist in the Delaware Valley and on the Eastern Seaboard. He recently sang with the Choral Society and the Bright Hope Baptist Church Celestial Choir in their joint Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert this fall at Delaware Valley College.

TIMOTHY HARRELL, organist, is well-known to Bucks County audiences from his tenures at Doylestown Presbyterian Church and at First United Church of Christ in Quakertown. A graduate of Old Dominion University and of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, Mr. Harrell is currently organist and choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton, NJ. He has also served on the faculty at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington and as Music Director at St. John's Episcopal Church in Olympia, WA. Mr. Harrell will be featured in recital at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, during the 1994-95 season of the Society for the Performing Arts.

FESTIVE ARTS STRINGS was founded in 1985. Its 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.

Violin

Olga Konopelsky

Paul Reiser

Barbara Jaffe

Patricia Brown

Michele LeFevre

Patricia Gott

Cello

David Guggenheim

Bass

Dennis Topper

BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

It must have seemed daunting to the choral singers in 1972 who chose to call themselves The Bucks County Choral Society. A region with the fame and rich artistic tradition of Bucks? It would be a lot to live up to. Today there's no doubt the chorus was aptly named. "A Bucks County treasure" is how the Choral Society was described in a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Chamber of Commerce in 1993. Known for versatile performances of the great choral masterworks as well as commissioned productions by composers today, the chorus has toured Europe twice and will appear in England and Wales in 1995. Audiences far and wide will be able to enjoy the chorus this year on a CD and tape release of its March 1994 performance at Our Lady of Czestochowa, attended by 1,500, the largest gathering to hear a concert at the national shrine in Doylestown.

1994-1995 Membership List

- Barbara Adams, Sellersville
*Ellie Armsby, Philadelphia
*Kathy Benner, Richboro
*Susan Bolton, Perkasie
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
Jill Dulany, Souderton
Susan Eastburn, Chalfont
Mary Ernst, Newtown
Judith Fay, Hatfield
*D. Wayne Focht, Chalfont
Philip J. Franchois, Perkasie
Ruth A. Geiger, Doylestown
Dawn Good, New Hope
Jack N. Graham, Maple Glen
John Grever, Colmar
*Donald E. Groff, Hatfield
Lynne Guest, Richboro
Roberta Harding, Perkasie
Frances Hemstreet, Newtown
Tony Islan, Newtown
Suzanne Jenkins, Doylestown
*Alan F. Johnson, Warminster
Ed Johnson, Richboro
Susan G. Johnson, Richboro
Jane C. Keller, Hatboro
Barbara L. Kihm, Oakford
*Tara Krauss, Doylestown
Marion M. Kyde, Ottsville
*John Leslie, Levittown
Adam Luebke, Doylestown
Stephen W. Luebke, Doylestown
Nancy S. Maul, Doylestown
*Ladd S. McCoy, Chalfont
Kay Mengers, Pipersville
Bill Moore, New Britain
Christie Moore, New Britain
Lois H. Moore, New Britain
Merily Nelson, Hatfield
Charles A. Orbell III, Warrington
Peter G. Pavlis, Churchville
*Kathy Payne, Yardley
Shirley K. Piercy, Furlong
Christine M. Remiker, Doylestown
Kit Ruland, Richboro
Ron Salfen, Hartsville
Mary L. Scherrer, Doylestown
Celeste Siciliano, Wycombe
Brad Stephenson, Yardley
Cheryl L. Stitzinger, Warrington
Ron Tempest, Hatboro
Daisy W. Tennyson, Yardley
*Barbara Tull, Doylestown
*Tim Vogel, Langhorne
Frances W. Waite, Doylestown
*Teresa Washam, Souderton
Tom Whitefield, Harleysville
*Claudia Whittaker, Doylestown
Patricia A. Winey, Warminster

**Chamber Singers of the Bucks County Choral Society*

To arrange an audition, please call membership chairperson Mary Ernst at 860-9804.