

A Festival of Christmas Music

The Bucks County Choral Society

Elma Heckler, *Artistic Director*
Wendy McNally, *Accompanist*
Elinor Armsby, *Assistant Director*
David Newman, *Baritone*
Timothy Harrell, *Organ*
Festive Arts Orchestra

December 12 and 13, 1997 - 8 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

December 14, 1997 - 4 p.m.
St. John's United Church of Christ
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

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

Prelude

**Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op.6, No.8
“Christmas Concerto”**

Arcangelo Corelli

Festive Arts String Quartet

Processional

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Gustav Holst

I

Resonet in Laudibus

**Anonymous
14th century German Carol
arr. C. Alwes**

Resonet in laudibus;
Sion in fidelibus,
apparuit quem genuit Maria.
Sunt impleta quae prae
disit Gabriel.
Eia, eia.
Virgo deum genuit
quod divina voluit clementia.
Hodie apparuit in Israel,
ex Maria Virgine est natus Rex.
Resonet in laudibus!

Let Zion resound in praises
with the acclaim of the faithful:
He whom Mary bore has appeared.
The prophecies of Gabriel
are fulfilled.
Joy, O joy!
The Virgin has given birth to God,
that which divine mercy willed.
Today a king has appeared in Israel,
born of the Virgin Mary.
Let praises resound!

Songs of the Nativity

Robert H. Young

The Virgin’s Cradle Hymn

Latin Text

Luly, lulay, luly.
Dormi Jesu! mater ridet, quaetam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi Jesu! blandule!
Sinon, dormis, mater plorat inter fila cantans orat,
blande, veni somnule.
Sleep, Jesu, my cares beguiling, mother sits beside thee smiling, sleep my darling.
Come, soft slumber, come sweet sleep.
Dormi Jesu!

When Christ was Born of Mary Free.

Old English Text

Christo paremus cantica, in excelsis gloria.
When Christ was born of Mary free,
in Bethlehem that fair city,
angels sang with mirth and glee,
in excelsis gloria.

Herdmen beheld these angels bright,
to them appeared with great light,
and said, 'God's son is born this night:'

In excelsis gloria.

This King is come to save His kind,
even in Scripture as we find;
therefore this song have we in mind:

In excelsis gloria.

Then, dear Lord, for Thy great grace,
grant us the bliss to see Thy face,
where we may sing to Thy solace,
in excelsis gloria.

Christo paremus cantica,

In excelsis gloria.

II

Magnificat

Steven Sametz

Composed in January, 1996 for the Lehigh University Choir.

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 ejus.
Et misericordia a progenie
in progenies timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in bracchio suo:
dispersit superbos
mente cordis sui.
Deposuit potentes
de sede,
et exaltavit humiles.
Esurientes implevit bonis:
et divites inanes.
Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae.
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.
Gloria Patria, et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio et nunc,
et semper, et in saecula
saeculorum. Amen.

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices
in God my Saviour.
For He has regarded the low estate
of His handmaiden;
For, behold, all generations
shall call me blessed.
For He that is mighty hath done
great things for me, and holy is His Name.
And His mercy is on them that fear Him
from generation to generation.
He has showed strength with his arm;
He has scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.
He has put down the mighty
from their seats, and exalted them
of low degree.
He has filled the hungry with good things;
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He has helped his 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 Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen

III

PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

Nunc Dimittis (*He Gives Us Joy*)

Steven Sametz

Commissioned for the 25th Anniversary of the Bucks County Choral Society.

The composition and performance of Nunc Dimittis (*He Gives Us Joy*) was made possible by generous contributions from:

Burke, Lawton, Brewer, and Burke	<i>Spring House</i>
Moyer and Son, Inc.	<i>Souderton</i>
Estate of George S. Snyder, Inc.	<i>Hatfield</i>
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts	

Baritone, David Newman

Tenor, Gregg McClain, (Fri), John Leslie, (Sat), Timothy Vogel, (Sun)

Nunc Dimittis (*He Gives Us Joy*) combines the biblical story of Simeon with verses from William Blake's *Songs of Experience* and *Songs of Innocence*. Simeon was promised that he should not die before seeing the Messiah.

Simeon's canticle is framed by Blake's poetry. The work begins with a brooding instrumental introduction, reflecting a darker time for Simeon, and moves into a very simple canon in a minor mode, setting lines from Blake's *On Another's Sorrow*:

*Can I see another's woe,
can I see another's grief,
and not seek for kind relief?
He doth give his joy to all;
He becomes an infant small;
He becomes a man of woe.
Think not thou canst sigh a sigh*

*and thy Maker is not by?
Think not thou canst weep a tear
and thy Maker is not near?
Oh, He gives to us his joy
that our grief He may destroy
till our grief is fled and gone.*

My idea in the opening is that Simeon had experienced the world and its sorrows, and longed for salvation.

The narrator introduces Simeon:

And behold a humble man, Simeon, who awaited Israel's consolation, 'twas revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death 'til he should see the Lord's Christ.

As he sees the Christ and the promise is fulfilled, Simeon sings the words of his canticle:

*Now Lord, lettest Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which shall be to all people,
a light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of Israel.*

There is great joy; the opening canon is transformed from minor to major, and Blake's lines of experience mesh with a verse taken from his *Songs of Innocence*, since the salvation - while an experience itself - also signals a return to a state of innocence.

From Blake's *The Lamb*, the chorus sings:

*He is meek and he is mild,
He became a little child.*

The final section of the work depicts Simeon's release from the life he has longed to leave, a contemplation on the "light" he sees which has come to "lighten the gentiles, and a final note of triumph from the chorus: "he gives us joy".

Throughout the composition - addition to the canon - the traditional Gregorian chant setting of Simeon's canticle, the "Nunc Dimittis" is used. The work opens with the chant in the organ part and the title of the work combines the chant with the words of the poem: "Nunc Dimittis (*He gives us joy*)".

It is with great joy that this work is dedicated to the Bucks County Choral Society and its Director, Elma Heckler, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary year.

Steven Sametz
August 10, 1997
Bethlehem, PA

Intermission

IV

Evergreen

**Daniel Pinkham
text by Robert Hilyer**

How fine the sweetness from the bough, evergreen, ever living,
like the prayer offered now for a whole world's forgiving;
while the Christ Child is sleeping,
worlds of woe in his keeping,
worlds of joy in his dream.
Lord redeem us!

That when thou art waking, the hearts we uplift shall be thy Christmas gift
and be well worth thy taking.

How bright the radiance of the tree, evergreen everlasting.
like the feast day to be after long years of fasting.

Bright in hope Christmas morning to the Christ Child returning.
once again we believe.

Lord receive us!

When we come before thee, the heart's joy we bring Noel!
Noel shall sing, and forever adore Thee.

Patapan

Old French Carol arr. Edwin Fissinger

Patapan! Patapan!
Take your little drum and make a gladsome noise today;
Blow your fife so loud and gay. Turelurelu! Patapatapan!
When we hear the fife and drum, we'll all be frolicsome.
Long ago was born a King, for him our praises ring;
Play your music with good cheer. Turelurelu! Patapatapan!
Let your hearts rejoice and follow the star of Bethlehem.
Let's be merry on this day and keep our spirits high;
For the Savior's come to us.
Sing and dance, give praise to Him for he is Christ the King.
Take you little drum and make a noise today;
Your fife so loud and gay.
When we hear the fife and drum, we'll all be frolicsome.
Patapan!

Angels' Carol

John Rutter

Have you heard the sound of angel voices
ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
to the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
filling all the world with radiance and with light.

He is come in love as the child of Mary;
in a simple stable we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Hear the angels singing 'Peace on Earth'.

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
like a bright star shining in the skies above.
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
when he comes in purity and love.

Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born'

V

African Noel

arr. André J. Thomas

Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel.
Sing we all Noel, sing we all Noel.
Come ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer.
The King of Kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel

Mary Had a Baby

William L. Dawson

Soprano, Cheryl Stitzinger

Mary had a baby, my Lord.
Where was he born?
Born in a manger!
What did they call him?
He was called "King Jesus", oh yes!
He is called "King Jesus, Mighty Counsellor, King Emanuel
Mighty God, Everlasting Father".
Mary had a baby, my Lord!

Go Tell It On The Mountain

**American Spiritual
arr. Steve Barnett**

Soprano, Pamela Naudascher

Alto, Carolyn Knower

Bass, Roger Dean

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

VI

Carols for Audience and Choir

arr. David Willcocks

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, 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.

Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King.

The First Noel

The first Noel 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:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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, O come, let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Recessional

Silent Night

arr. Malcom Sargent

You are invited to greet the musicians at a Holiday Reception in the Social Room of the church, immediately following the concert.

Recordings of the Bucks County Choral Society on CD and cassette tape will be on sale.

The Composer:

Steven Sametz is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Lehigh University. After completing his undergraduate studies at Yale University and the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt, he received the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Sametz is active as conductor, composer and editor. He has received commissions from the National Endowment for the Arts, Connecticut Council for the Arts, and Santa Fe Music Festival to create new works for Chanticleer, the Dale Warland Singers, Philadelphia Singers, Pro Arte Chamber Choir, and Santa Fe Desert Chorale. His works have been performed throughout the country and in Canada, as well as in Europe at the Salzburg and Schleswig-Holstein Music Festivals. He has distinguished himself as an orchestral conductor, winning the Redlands Symphony Orchestra conducting competition. Dr. Sametz has served as panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and Chorus America. He has been Director of Choral Activities at Harvard University and is the founder and director of the Lehigh University Choral Union. In the summer of 1990, he made his debut at the Santa Fe Music Festival, conducting his own works in a program entitled "Sametz conducts Sametz." He made his conducting debut in New York and San Francisco conducting Chanticleer in the Monteverdi Vespers of 1610. He has also appeared with the Santa Fe Music Festival, Berkshire Choral Institute, Mozart Club of Winston-Salem and the Netherlands Radio Choir. He frequently conducts regional and clinic choirs.

The Musicians:

Elma Heckler, *Artistic Director*

From a background as a church and school music director, Elma Heckler became Artistic Director of the Choral Society in 1977. Her educational credits include a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Juniata College and a Masters degree in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College, as well as postgraduate courses at the University of Colorado and Eastman School of Music. Twice selected to participate in the Robert Shaw Choral Workshop at Carnegie Hall, she has also honed the conducting techniques taught by her graduate mentor Joseph Flummerfelt, under the guidance of such noted choral conductors as Dale Warland, Gregg Smith, Paul Salamunovich, and Robert Page. She is active in the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, and was formerly a member of the opera/choral panel of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Elinor Armsby, *Assistant Director*

A native of the Boston area, Elinor Armsby received her Bachelor of Science degree in Voice from Indiana University, and her Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Temple University, where she is completing a second masters degree in music history. She also serves as Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church of Germantown.

Wendy McNally, *Accompanist*

Wendy McNally earned the Bachelor of Music cum laude from Ithaca College, and Master of Music from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is the accompanist for Lehigh University Choral Arts, and an instructor for the Musical Arts Academy of Bucks County. She has performed solo and collaborative recitals throughout the eastern United States and at Cours Internationale de Musique in Morges, Switzerland.

David Newman, *Baritone*

Well known to audiences of his native Philadelphia, David Newman is beginning to earn a national reputation for his artistry on the concert stage. He has appeared regularly with The Four Nations Ensemble, including performances at Lincoln Center and Merkin Hall in New York City, and he was an Adams Fellow at the 1995 Carmel Bach Festival, where he returned the following summer to sing the role of Jesus in the *St. John Passion*. Other recent appearances include concerts with Chorale Delaware, the New Jersey Bach Festival, the Philadelphia Classical Symphony, the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, and the Haddonfield Symphony. He appears as the First Villager on the Philadelphia Orchestra's CD of *Pagliacci* alongside Luciano Pavarotti, and was a soloist in the *Chichester Psalms* at Bernstein's memorial concert in Carnegie Hall.

Festive Arts Orchestra

VIOLIN I

Barbara Jaffe
Jean Shook

VIOLIN II

Judith Marlowe
Millie Bai

HARP

Mary Ann Coppa

VIOLA

Louise Jaffe

CELLO

Patricia Daniels

BASS

Jason Fraticelli

PERCUSSION

William Cain

The Festive Arts Orchestra was founded in 1985 by Nancy Kennan Dowlin. The mission of the orchestra is to provide professional orchestral accompaniment for choirs of the greater Delaware Valley. The orchestra has accompanied more than one hundred concerts from the choral works repertoire.

Friends of the Choral Society

Friends assist with ticket handling, ushering, hospitality, business patron contacts, publicity and mailings. If you would like to be a *Friend*, or for further information, call Carola Benecke at 348-9153.

Sponsors

You may wish to contribute to the Choral Society's 1997-1998 Annual Campaign. Make your check payable to the Bucks County Choral Society and mail it to: Bucks County Choral Society, Box 702, Doylestown, PA 18901, or call (215)-598-6142.

Officers and Board Members of the Society

Stephen Luebke, Chairman
Bill Piercy, Vice Chairman, Treasurer
Patricia Winey, President
Carola Benecke
Ralph Canfield
Audrey Close

Shirley Piercy
Cathy Guenzel
Dick Hulbert
Harry Jenkins
Robert Maul
Robert Simpson

Visit the Choral Society Web Site at www.comcat.com/~bccs.

Bucks County Choral Society

Founded in 1972, the Bucks County Choral Society is a 65-voice group that has been under the direction of Elma Heckler, Hatfield, since 1977. In keeping with its mission of influencing and enhancing the choral experience, the Society performs an annual three-concert series that includes a broad spectrum of music from the best-loved choral masterpieces to Broadway classics. Commissioned works have been a feature of the Society's repertoire. The Choral Society has collaborated with other groups in the area, including the Bucks County Symphony, the Delaware Valley Philharmonic, and the Riverside Symphonia. In 1993 the Choral Society was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts. The group has made three invitational tours to Europe, performed at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and has been selected to perform in February 1998, at the American Choral Directors Regional Convention in Providence, RI. The Choral Society is active in community service through its annual benefit concert for Habitat for Humanity, and through educational outreach programs.

1997-1998 Membership

Barbara Adams, *Sellersville*
Carol Amt, *Doylestown*
Elinor Armsby, *Philadelphía*
Betty Barron, *Warrington*
Anne Blanchard, *New Hope*
Elizabeth K. Burke, *Chalfont*
Bud Cassel, *Chalfont*
Doris W. Charles, *Doylestown*
Eugene W. Chrzanowski, *Buckingham*
Audrey E. Close, *Doylestown*
Anne Colombo, *Wrightstown*
Roger Dean, *New Hope*
Cynthia L. Detwiler, *Warminster*
Deborah DiMicco, *Newtown*
David W. Doughy, *Perkasie*
Jill Dulany, *Souderton*
Susan Eastburn, *Chalfont*
Mary Ernst, *Newtown*
Judith Fay, *Hatfield*
Lindee Fitting, *Perkasie*
D. Wayne Focht, *Chalfont*
Philip J. Franchois, *Perkasie*
Ruth A. Geiger, *Doylestown*
Jack N. Graham, *Maple Glen*
Donald E. Groff, *Hatfield*
Catherine Guenzel, *Willow Grove*
Lynne Guest, *Richboro*
David H. Gundrum, *Richboro*
Elaine Harbin, *Harleysville*
Roberta Harding, *Perkasie*
Richard H. Hulbert, *Doylestown*
Tony Islan, *Newtown*
Jim Jackson, *Perkasie*
Suzanne Jenkins, *Doylestown*
Alan F. Johnson, *Warminster*
Edward Johnson, *Richboro*
Susan G. Johnson, *Richboro*

Carolyn Knower, *Lansdale*
Richard Lambert, *New Hope*
John Leslie, *Levittown*
Paul Lewis, *Hatfield*
Stephen W. Luebke, *Doylestown*.
Stephen Mallon, *Wyndmoor*
Nancy S. Maul, *Doylestown*
Susan McDonnell, *Holland*
Gregg McClain, *Hatfield*.
Kay Mengers, *Pipersville*
Bill Moore, *New Britain*
Christie Moore, *New Britain*
Lois H. Moore, *New Britain*
Michael P. Mueller, *Doylestown*
Carol Nase, *Harleysville*
Pamela Naudascher, *Doylestown*
Merily Nelson, *Hatfield*
Lisa Nordland, *Doylestown*
Kathy Payne, *Yardley*
Shirley K. Piercy, *Furlong*
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Janet Whitefield, *Harleysville*
Thomas Whitefield, *Harleysville*
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