

Festival of Christmas Music

The Bucks County Choral Society

Elma Heckler, *Artistic Director*
Jason Iannuzzi, *Assistant Director*
Timothy Harrell, *Organ*
Wendy McNally, *Accompanist*

Festive Brass and Percussion Ensemble

December 11 and 12, 1998 - 8 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

December 13, 1998 - 4 p.m.
St. John's United Church of Christ
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

The Mission of the Bucks County Choral Society is
*to influence and enrich the choral experience for ourselves
and our audience through skillful and artistic performance.*

This concert is sponsored by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, which is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

Program

For its 20th Festival of Christmas Music, the Bucks County Choral Society presents a program that features both new works and favorites of past years. The year in parentheses is the date the piece was performed by the Society.

Prelude

Benedicamus Domino	Peter Warlock
Ave Maria	Franz Biebl
Let All the Nations Praise the Lord	Volkmar Leisring
Carol of the Bells	Traditional, arr. Robert Hall
Festive Brass Ensemble	

Processional

On This Day Earth Shall Ring	arr. Gustav Holst 1874-1934
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I

A Hymn to the Virgin (1978)	Benjamin Britten 1913-1976
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Deborah DiMicco, *soprano* Benjamin Tuttle, *tenor*
Susan McDonnell, *alto* Roger Dean, *bass*

Of one that is so fair and bright.
Velut maris stella,
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella:
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia,
That I may come to thee,
Maria!
All this world was forlorn
Eva peccatrice,
Till our Lord was y-born
De te genetrice.

With *ave* it went away
darkest night and come the day
Salutis;
The well springeth out of thee.
Virtutis.
Lady, flower of everything,
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King,
Rosa sine spina,
Gratia divina:
Of all thou bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa:
Maid mild, mother *es Effecta.*
Effecta

Hodie Christus Natus Est
(1995)

Hodie Christus natus est, Noë, Noë.
Hodie Salvator apparuit,
Alleluja.
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,
Laetantur archangeli, Noë, Noë.
Hodie esultant justí dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Alleluja, Noë.

Jan Pieters Sweelinck
1562-1621

This day Christ is born, Noel, Noel!
This day the Saviour did appear.
Alleluia.
This day the angels sing on earth,
the archangels rejoice, Noel, Noel!
This day the just exult, saying
Glory be to God on high
Alleluia. Noel!

There is No Rose of Such Virtue
(1978)

There is no rose of such virtue,
as is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.
For in this rose contained
was heaven and earth in little
space;
Resmiranda.
By that rose we may well see
that He is God in persons three;
Pari forma.

Robert H. Young
(contemporary)

The angels sung the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gaudeamus.
Leave we all this worldly mirth,
and follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

O Magnum Mysterium
(1996)

O magnum mysterium,
Et admirabile sacramentum
Ut animalia viderent Dominum
Natum, jacentum in praesepio!
Beato Virgo, cujus viscera
Meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.
Alleluia!

Morten Lauridsen
(contemporary)

O great mystery,
And wondrous sacrament,
That animals should see the
New-born Lord, lying in the manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
Was worthy to bear the
Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Sir Christémas
(1988)

Nowell, nowell, nowell.
Who is there that singeth so
Nowell, nowell?
I am here, Sir Christémas, Sir Christémas
Welcome, my lord, Sir Christémas!
Welcome to all, both more and less,
Come near, come near.
Nowell, nowell.

William Mathias
(contemporary)

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring;
 A maid hath borne a child full young, which causeth you to sing:
 Nowell, nowell.
 Christ is now born of a pure maid,
 In an ox stall he is laid,
 Wherefore sing we at a brayde:
 Nowell, nowell
Buvez bien, buvez bien par toute la compagnie.
 Make good cheer and be right merry, and sing with us now joyfully,
 Nowell, nowell, nowell!

II

Gloria

Randol Alan Bass
 (contemporary)

Choir, Organ, Brass, Percussion

Gloria in excelsis Deo.	Glory be to God in the highest.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.	And on earth peace to men of good will.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.	We praise Thee. We bless Thee.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.	We adore Thee. We glorify Thee.
Gratia agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.	We give Thee thanks for Thy great glory.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.	O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.	O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei. Jesu, Filius Patris.	Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	Who taketh away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.	Who taketh away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis, Jesu.	Who sitteth at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.	For Thou alone art holy. Thou alone art Lord.
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum Sancto spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris.	Thou alone, O Jesus Christ, art most high. Together with the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.	Amen.

III

Carols for Audience, Choir and Brass

Joy to the World

arr. John Ness Beck

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven 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.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

descant, David Willcocks

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 heav'nborn 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.

O Come All Ye Faithful

arr. Blaine Shover

1. Choral Introduction and Brass Interlude.
Audience and Choir
2. 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!

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest glory,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
4. Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be all glory given
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

IV

King Jesus Hath a Garden
(1993)

Dutch traditional
arr. John Rutter

King Jesus hath a garden full of divers flow'rs,
Where I go culling posies gay, all times and hours.
 There naught is heard but paradise bird, harp, dulcimer, lute,
 With cymbal, trump and tymbal,
 And the tender soothing flute.
The lily white in blossom there is chastity;
The violet with sweet perfume, humility.
 R
The crown imperial bloometh too in yonder place,
'Tis charity, of stock divine, the flow'r of grace.
 R
Yet `mid the brave, the bravest prize of all may claim
The Star of Beth`lem Jesus blessed be his Name!
 R
Ah! Jesu Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss complete,
Make thou my heart thy garden plot, fair, trim and neat.
 That I may hear this musick clear: harp, dulcimer, lute,
 With cymbal, trump and tymbal,
 And the tender soothing flute.

All Poor Men and Humble
(1992)

Welsh traditional
arr. Robert Wetzler

All poor men and humble, all lame men who stumble,
 come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid:
For Jesus, our treasure with love past all measure,
 in lowly manger was laid.
All poor men and humble, all lame men who stumble,
 come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid
Tho' Wisemen who found him laid rich gifts around,
 yet oxen gave him their hay:

And Jesus in beauty accepted their duty
contented in manger he lay.
Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise:
Whose love still is able to show us that stable
where softly in manger he lies.

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu

Donald Groff, Stephen Luebke, Stephen Mallon, *baritone*

Ríu, ríu, chíu, la guarda ribera;
Dios guardó el lobo de nuestra cordera

El lobo rabioso la quiso morder
mas Dios poderoso la supo defender;
quiso la hazer que no pudiesse pecar,
ni aun original esta Virgen no tuviera
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

Este qu'es nascido es el gran monarca
Christo patriarca de carne vestido;
hanos redimido con se hazer chiquito,
aun qu'era infinito, finito se hiziera.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

Muchas profecias lo han profetizado
ya un en nuestros días lo hemos alcançado
a Dios humanado vemos en el suelo
y al hombre nel cielo porqu'el le quisiera.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

Yo vi mil garçones que andavan cantando
por aqui bolando, haziendo mil sonos,
diziendo a gascones Gloria sea en el cielo
y pas en el suelo ques Jesus nasciera.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

Este viene a dar a los muertos vida,
y viene reparar de todos la caída;
es la luz del día a queste muçuelo;
este es el cordero que San Juan dixera.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

Mira bien que os cuadre que ansiana lo oyera
que Dios no pudiera hazerla mas madre.
El qu'era su padre hoy della nació
y el que la crió su hijo se dixera.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

Pues que ya tenemos lo que desseamos,
todos juntos vamos presentes elevemos;
todos le daremos nuestra voluntad,
pues a se igualar con el hombre viniera.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

Spanish

ed. Noah Greenberg

Ríu, ríu, chíu, guard our homes in safety;
God has kept the mad wolf from our lamb.

Raging to bite her, the wolf did steal,
But our God defended her with zeal.
Pure He wished to keep her
free of that first sin of man.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

He who's begotten is our mighty Monarch,
Christ our Father, in flesh embodied.
He has brought atonement
being born so humble though immortal,
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

The ancient prophets
Told that He would come in our own time.
We see God in shape of human
We see on earth's domain, as He wished.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

I see a thousand angels
singing a thousand songs,
telling the shepherds, glory on high
and peace on earth, Jesus is born.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

He has come to offer life to the dying,
He comes to atone for the fall of mankind;
Light of the world, this child,
This is the Lamb of God, as John foretold.
Ríu, ríu, chíu...

See, God loved us so deeply
that he would make of her a mother.
He who was Father was born of her tonight;
He who gave her life became the Son.
Ríu, ríu, chíu, . . .

We have now the One we've always prayed for.
Let us all go offer Him our gifts.
Our love and faith to give, Since He came to
live here among us as our Savior.
Ríu, ríu, chíu, . . .

Baloo, Lammy
(1994)

Scottish
arr. Norman Luboff

Merily Nelson, *alto*

This day to you is born a child
of Mary meek, the Virgin mild.
That blessed bairn, so loving and kind
shall now rejoice both heart and mind.
Baloo Lammy.
A star appeared this blessed morn,
and unto us a child is born.
To heaven He'll lead us from near and far,
So follow, follow that wondrous star.
Baloo Lammy.

V

Three American Carols

Settings by Mack Wilberg

Choir, Organ, Brass, Percussion

Awake, Arise and Hail the Morn

The Sacred Harp (1870)

Awake, arise, and hail the morn, Hallelujah,
For unto us a Savior's born, Hallelujah,
See how the angels wing their way, Hallelujah,
To usher in the glorious day, Hallelujah!
To us a child is born in heaven, Hallelujah,
To us the Son of God is given. Hallelujah,
His name the wonderful shall be; Hallelujah,
His wonders heaven and earth shall see, Hallelujah!
Come join the angels in the sky, Hallelujah,
Glory to God who reigns on high, Hallelujah,
Let peace and love on earth abound, Hallelujah,
While time revolves and years roll 'round, Hallelujah!
Hark! What sweet music, what a song, Hallelujah,
Sounds from the bright celestial throng! Hallelujah,
Sweet song whose melting sounds impart Hallelujah,
Joy to each raptured listening heart, Hallelujah!
Our faith in grateful triumph boast, Hallelujah,
These wonders of the Lord of Hosts, Hallelujah,
And trust the zeal that formed the plan, Hallelujah,
To perfect what that zeal began, Hallelujah!

The Blessings of Mary

Traditional North Carolina

Pamela Naudascher, *soprano*

The very first blessing Mary had, it was the blessing of one:
To think that her Son, Jesus, could live a father's son,
Like the Emmanuel in glory,
Father, Son and the Holy Ghost, through all eternity.
The very next blessing Mary had, it was the blessing of two:
To think that her Son, Jesus, could read the Scriptures through,
Like the Emmanuel in glory,
Father, Son and the Holy Ghost, through all eternity.
The very next blessing Mary had, it was the blessing of three:
To think that her Son, Jesus, could set the sinner free.
The very next blessing Mary had, she had the blessing of four,
To think that her Son, Jesus, could live forevermore,
Like the Emmanuel in glory,
Father, Son and the Holy Ghost, through all eternity.
The very next blessing Mary had, she had the blessing of five,
To think that her Son, Jesus, could bring the dead to live.
The very next blessing Mary had, she had the blessing of six,
To think that her Son, Jesus, could heal and cure the sick,
Like the Emmanuel in glory,
Father, Son and the Holy Ghost, through all eternity.

Sunny Bank

Traditional Virginia

As I sat on a sunny bank, on Christmas Day in the morning.
I saw three ships come sailing by, on Christmas Day in the morning.
And who was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?
'Twas Joseph and his fair lady, on Christmas Day in the morning.
Then he did whistle and she did sing, on Christmas Day in the morning.
Pray whither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?
O, they sailed into Bethlehem, on Christmas Day in the morning.
And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day in the morning.
And all the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas Day in the morning.
They sing for joy, the newborn King, on Christmas Day in the morning.
Then let us all rejoice again, on Christmas Day in the morning!

Recessional

Silent Night

arr. Malcolm Sargent

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

The Musicians

Elma Heckler, *Artistic Director*

From a background as a church and school music director, Elma Heckler became the artistic director of the Bucks County Choral Society in 1977. A graduate of Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, with a Bachelor of Science degree in music education, she also holds a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College. Twice selected to participate in the Robert Shaw Choral Workshop at Carnegie Hall, she has honed the conducting techniques taught by her graduate mentor, Joseph Flummerfelt, under the guidance of such noted choral conductors as Robert Page, Dale Warland, Gregg Smith, and Paul Salamunovich. Active in ACDA and Chorus America, she has been a member of the opera/choral panel of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and serves as adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor for school, church, and community organizations.

Jason Iannuzzi, *Assistant Director*

Jason Iannuzzi is serving in his first season as assistant director of Bucks County Choral Society. In May, he will graduate from Westminster Choir College with a bachelor of music degree in music education. A member of the Westminster Symphonic Choir and Westminster Singers, Mr. Iannuzzi studies voice with Elem Eley. Mr. Iannuzzi is also baritone soloist with the Calvary Chorale of Summit, NJ, and was a soloist in its performance of Bach's *Mass in B-minor* last concert season. Mr. Iannuzzi's conducting credits include Menotti *The Unicorn, Gorgon and Manticore*, Ives *The Celestial Country*, and *Brigadoon* with the Westminster Conservatory Chorale; *Once on This Island* with The Theater People; Sondheim's *Company* with The Westminster Players; and Faure *Requiem*, Haydn *Te Deum* and Schubert *Mass in G* with Magnum Opus, a Princeton-based choral ensemble which he founded.

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 for the Montgomery County Community College Choir. She is also 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 International de Musique in Morges, Switzerland.

Timothy W. Harrell, *Organist*

Timothy W. Harrell is organist and choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury PA. He is also University Organist at Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA, and accompanist for Choral Union. Mr. Harrell most recently served as organist and choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Trenton, NJ. He earned a BS degree in organ performance from Old Dominion University, Norfolk VA, studying with Dr. Charles Vogan, and a MM degree in organ performance and church music from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ, where he studied with Joan Lippincott. He was on the staff at Doylestown Presbyterian Church for ten years. As a member of the Princeton Singers, he has been the organist on three of their CD's, *Welcome Yule*, *In The Midst Of Life*, and *A Fond Farewell*. This is the third year he has accompanied the Bucks County Choral Society's Christmas Concert.

Festive Arts Brass Ensemble

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

trumpet:

John Thyhsen
William Scheible
Nancy Dowlin

trombone:

Robert Hall,
Darrell Hendricks,
Russell Mehrtens

tympani:

William Cain

percussion:

Florence Ierardi

horn:

Joan Dowlin,
Christopher Griffin

tuba:

Peter Krill

The Bucks County Choral Society

Now celebrating its 26th season, the Bucks County Choral Society is a 70-voice volunteer choir. In keeping with its mission of "influencing and enriching the choral experience," the Society performs an annual three-concert subscription series which 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 Society, which recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Arts in Bucks County, has made three European tours, and will tour Germany in the summer of 1999.

In February 1998, the choir was selected to perform at the American Choral Directors' Association Regional Convention in Providence, Rhode Island. In June, the choir performed at the Mann Music Center, joining with three Philadelphia choirs and the Philadelphia Orchestra at the first annual Marian Anderson Award presentation honoring Harry Belafonte.

A highlight of the past several seasons for the community has been the annual joint concert for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity with Philadelphia's Bright Hope Baptist Church Celestial Choir, Donald Dumpson, Director. Other outreach programs include giving an annual scholarship to a qualified singer at the Bucks County High School Chorus Festival, providing financial aid to Bucks County students attending Summer Vocal Workshops at Westminster Choir College, and presenting free preconcert lectures for our audiences.

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.

Officers and Board Members of the Society

Stephen Luebke, *Chairman*
William Piercy, *Vice Chairman, Treasurer*
Audrey Close, *Recording Secretary*
Shirley Piercy, *President*
Nancy Maul, *Corresponding Secretary*
Carola Benecke
Judith Hohmann
Richard Hulbert

Harry Jenkins
Pamela Naudascher
JoAnn Roberts
Hervey Schofield
Patricia Winey
Elma Heckler (*ex officio*)
Jason Iannuzzi (*ex officio*)

Bucks County Choral Society

1998-1999 Membership

Barbara Adams, *Sellersville*
Shirley Albright, *Frenchtown, NJ*
Carol Amt, *Doylestown*
Betty Barron, *Warrington*
Boyce Budd, *Erwinna*
Karen Budd, *Erwinna*
Elizabeth K. Burke, *Chalfont*
Bud Cassel, *Chalfont*
Doris W. Charles, *Doylestown*
Eugene W. Chrzanowski, *Buckingham*
Anne Colombo, *Wrightstown*
Richard Dahl, *Langhorne*
Paul Daniels, *Telford*
Roger Dean, *New Hope*
Cynthia L. Detwiler, *Warminster*
Maria Dewey, *Morrisville*
Deborah DiMicco, *Newtown*
David W. Doughty, *Perkasie*
Susan Eastburn, *Chalfont*
Mary Ernst, *Newtown*
Judith Fay, *Hatfield*
Lindee Fitting, *Perkasie*
D. Wayne Focht, *Chalfont*
Ruth A. Geiger, *Doylestown*
Jack N. Graham, *Maple Glen*
Gary Granzow, *Carversville*
Donald E. Groff, *Hatfield*
Catherine Guenzel, *Willow Grove*
Lynne Guest, *Richboro*
David H. Gundrum, *Richboro*
Roberta Harding, *Perkasie*
Laurie Harrington, *Holland*
Richard H. Hulbert, *Doylestown*
Tony Islan, *Yardley*
James W. Jackson, *Perkasie*
Suzanne Jenkins, *Doylestown*
Alan Johnson, *Warminster*
Edward Johnson, *Richboro*
Susan G. Johnson, *Richboro*
Richard Lambert, *New Hope*
Paul Lewis, *Hatfield*
Stephen W. Luebke, *Doylestown*
Stephen Mallon, *Wyndmoor*
Nancy S. Maul, *Doylestown*
Susan McDonnell, *Holland*
Kay Mengers, *Pipersville*
John W. Moore, *New Britain*
Christie Moore, *New Britain*
Lois H. Moore, *New Britain*
Michael P. Mueller, *Doylestown*
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Merily Nelson, *Hatfield*
Lisa Nordland, *Doylestown*
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Steven Rock, *Doylestown*
George Rounds, *Warminster*
Kit Ruland, *Richboro*
Mary Scherrer, *Doylestown*
Pat Seaver, *Chalfont*
Marcy Spielvogel, *Lansdale*
Cheryl L. Stitzinger, *Warrington*
Ronald T. Tempest, *Hatboro*
Barbara Tull, *Doylestown*
Benjamin Tuttle, *Mainland*
Frances W. Waite, *Doylestown*
Janet Whitefield, *Harleysville*
Thomas Whitefield, *Harleysville*
Claudia Whittaker, *Doylestown*
Jocelyn Whitted, *Sellersville*
Patricia Winey, *Warminster*