

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Prelude – Trio Sonata No. 3 in G Major Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
Festive Arts Ensemble

Processional – On This Day Earth Shall Ring arr. Gustav Holst

I

Of a Rose

For centuries the rose has been used in literature and poetry as a symbol of purity and perfection. In *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming*, the rose refers to Jesus; in the latter two pieces the reference is to Mary.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Praetorius
Text: German. 16th Century
Ed. by Alice Parker/Robert Shaw

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When halfspent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To shew God's love aright,
She bore to men a Saviour,
When halfspent was the night.

Wide, Wide in the Rose's Side Joel Martinson
Text: Kenneth Patchen

Wide, wide in the rose's side
Sleeps a child without sin.
And any man who loves in this world
Stands here on guard over him.

There Is No Rose of Such Virtue Robert H. Young
Text: Anonymous

There is no rose of such virtue,
as is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The angels sung the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
(*Glory to God in the highest*)
Gaudeamus, gaudeamus, gaudeamus
(*Let us rejoice*)

For in this rose contained
was heaven and earth in little space;
Resmiranda, resmiranda, resmiranda.
(*Wonderful circumstance*)

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
and follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus,
transeamus.
(*Let us cross over*)

By that rose we may well see
that He is God in persons three;
Pari forma, pari forma, pari forma.
(*Equal beauty*)

II

Laud to the Nativity Ottorino Respighi

The Angel - Cheryl Stitzinger
The Virgin Mary - Teresa Washam
The Shepherd - Timothy Vogel

Festive Arts Ensemble; Joyce Goodwin and Susan Johnson, piano;
Christine Remiker, triangle.

December 8 and 9, 1995 - 8 p.m.
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Elma Heckler, Artistic Director
Joyce Goodwin, Accompanist
Elinor Armsby, Assistant Director

December 10, 1995 - 4 p.m.
St. John's United Church of Christ
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Teresa Washam, mezzo-soprano
Festive Arts Ensemble

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**BUCKS COUNTY
CHORAL SOCIETY**
P.O. Box 702
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Information and tickets:
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This concert is sponsored in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Hymns of praise and devotion, called laude, played an important part in the religious life of the Italian people from the 13th to the 19th centuries. Their origin and early development was closely connected with St. Francis of Assisi. Respighi's lauda setting, composed in 1930, is based on a Biblical narrative by 13th century Franciscan friar Jacopone de Todi.

Taking the form of a dramatic cantata, the piece hearkens back to the archaic with Respighi's use of modality, ancient scales, open fifths, imitative counterpoint, and Gregorian chant.

The piece contains many dramatic touches: the original orchestration for woodwinds, piano (4 hands) and triangle; the humming male-voice accompaniment to the tenor solo; the sudden bursting forth of a medieval carol set to a vigorous dance rhythm; and, at the end, Mary intoning a prayer of great hope, while the Angel rises to an ecstatic high C pianissimo.

Angel

Fear not, ye shepherds abiding yonder upon the hills,

Ye shepherds of Judea.

Raise your eyes and behold me:

I am the angel of eternal glory,

I am the messenger holy,

And I bring to you good tidings of great joy:

This day is born the little Jesus, the Son of God,

That all may rejoice in salvation.

Chorus

And this child, pure and holy,
sent by the Lord against evil to battle,

lies in a stable lowly
within a manger, among the sheep and the cattle.

To shield Him from the breezes

Mary in bands of linen gently bound Him;

His blanket the hay around Him.

Thus art Thou come down to earth, blessed Jesus.

Shepherd

O Lord, Thou hast descended
to earth from Heaven, angels sang in the chorus.

Thou must be sore offended

to lie thus in a stable rude before us.

Poor is the preparation

which we have made to welcome Thine incarnation.

Chorus

Ah, how rude is the stable
where fast asleep the infant Lord we discover!

His Mother was not able

to find a bed, nor a blanket, Him to cover.

Here Joseph also lies a-sleeping,

too old and weary for to aid the Mother.

Thus she alone is keeping

watch o'er the child, fairer than any other.

Mary

My Child, sweet be Thy slumber;

though Thou must lie here in a manger,

bright angels without number

hover around Thee, guarding Thee from danger.

My Son, with what affection I gaze upon Thee!

Filled with awe on Thy birth I ponder!

Beholding Thy perfection

I am removed far from poverty and sadness.

My heart is filled with gladness,

for joy far greater than my joy maternal

comes from Thee, Child of wonder!

Chorus

O fountain of joy eternal,

lying upon the hay here we behold Thee.

Mary

How blest am I who bore Thee!

Alas, how poor the arms which now enfold Thee.

Chorus

Take our cloaks for the Baby,

O blessed Mary, that sheltered thus He may be.

Our flocks unguarded stand, we cannot tarry.

Now no longer care we for the cold:

we have beheld Him, the Infant Jesus!

Mary

As Lord we worship and adore Thee;

Thou art descended from on high to save us.

Though poorly we now receive Him,

though naked He lies in the hay, it will not grieve

Him,

if we only will believe on Him,

this heavenly Infant whom the Father gave us.

Chorus

Praise to Thee, honor, unto Thee be glory,

Father in Heaven, God Almighty.

O Saviour of God begotten

and born of a Virgin in humiliation,

give light to every nation,

that by man Thy birth here may never be

forgotten.

Ever joyful would we go truly content back to
our flocks,

If we might touch Him, if we might only touch
the Baby.

Yet we dare not ask this favor.

We are but simple shepherds, we are unworthy.

We are but humble shepherds, poor and ragged.

We are most unworthy.

Mary

That ye may go rejoicing,

men of the fields, draw near and kneel before

Him,

touch Him and adore Him.

Thus blest by Him, go forth, your praises

voicing.

Chorus

Glory, praise and honor and glory to Thee,

O Father on high, Thou God Almighty!

Glory to God in the highest

and on earth peace

among all men of good will.

To save the world from evil Thou cam'st in pity;

it was not Thy duty, O child of heavenly beauty.

Laud we Thy name, extol Thee,

Lord of all majesty, Father everlasting.

Angel and Chorus

Glory be unto God in Heaven.

Peace on earth, good will

toward all men of good will.

Mary

Upon me God bestowed His favor,

and I shall cease to laud and praise Him never.

I bore to men a Saviour

who shall be King of earth and Heaven forever.

I bow in humble devotion

over the child who has come to save us from error.

No rose was ever fairer;

His beauty fills my soul with pure emotion,

My thoughts I cannot capture.

My spirit lifts in rapture; it soars ever higher!

Angel

For born is the promised Messiah!

Chorus

Amen!

III

Chamber Singers of the Bucks County Choral Society

A Virgin Unspotted

A Christmas Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

William Billings

Charles Ives

Traditional French

Arr. Alice Parker

IV

Women of the Choral Society

Elinor Armsby directing

Die Weihnachts Nachtigall*

From the repertoire of the Trapp Family Singers

Ed. Franz Wasner

Mary Finnegan Berk, Lois Bliss Herbine, flute

Sweet nightingale awake,

Awake, come forth fair warbler now,

High in the tree on yonder bow,

Sweet music quickly make for Jesus mild!

Him God gave us, for to save us, He forgave us.

Sing, sing, sing and praise the Holy Child!

Fly to the manger here,

O feathered sister, take thy flight,

Sing joyous songs with all thy might.

Sing nightingale, sing clear to Jesus mild!

Sweetly singing, loudly ringing, gaily winging.

Sing, sing, sing and praise the Holy Child.

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Christmas Dance of the Shepherds

Lois Bliss Herbine, piccolo

Zoltán Kodály

V

How Still He Rests

Judith Fay, soprano

Stephen Labiner, oboe

Brent Pierce

King Jesus Hath a Garden

Mary Finnigan Berk, flute

Dutch Traditional

arr. John Rutter

VI

CAROLS FOR AUDIENCE, CHOIR, WOODWINDS, AND PIANO

DECK THE HALLS

Old Welsh

1. Deck the halls with boughs of holly

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Tis the season to be jolly, Fa, la, etc.

Don we now our gay apparel, Fa, la, etc.

2. See the blazing Yule before us, Fa, la, etc.

Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa, la, etc.

Follow me in merry measure, Fa, la, etc.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa, la, etc.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Richard S. Willis

1. It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.
2. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

White Christmas

Irving Berlin
arr. Roy Ringwald

GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN

English traditional

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.
2. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Sing Hey! It's Christmas Day

Imant Raminsh

Recessional – Silent Night

arr. Malcolm Sargent

ELMA HECKLER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

From a background as a church and school music director, Ms. Heckler became Artistic Director of the Choral Society in 1977, and has shepherded most of its growth and development. 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 professionally active in the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, and was formerly a member of the opera/choral panel of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. She often shares her knowledge with other singing groups as a guest conductor or choral clinician.

JOYCE GOODWIN, ACCOMPANIST

In her maiden season with Bucks County Choral Society, Ms. Goodwin provides the group with that rare combination of great performance ability and sensitivity to the needs of choral singers. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, her Bachelor of Science from Mankato State College and Master of Arts from Bob Jones University. She has served on the music faculty of two universities and has had many years experience as an accompanist, church pianist and church organist. Currently, in addition to her duties with the Choral Society, she teaches privately in her home in Pipersville.

TERESA WASHAM, mezzo-soprano, Souderton, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania during which time she performed with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony. Along with being a cantor for St. Maria Goretti Church, she has recently given a full recital there, and has appeared locally as a soloist with the Doylestown Presbyterian Church, the Zion Mennonite Church/Community Choir, the Festival Singers, and has been both a member and soloist for the Bucks County Choral Society and the Bucks County Chamber Singers. This year she will also be performing in master classes at Temple University with the all-professional Philadelphia Singers. Teresa currently is a teacher of Music in the Souderton School District and studies voice with Randi Marrazzo.

CHERYL STITZINGER, soprano, received her Bachelor of Science degree from Pillsbury Bible College in Owatonna, Minnesota, where she studied voice and piano. In college she rang handbells as well as soloing with the college choir. She has toured extensively with the Pillsbury College Trio on both the west and east coasts, and recorded with them as well.

Cheryl is much in demand in the Central Bucks area as an inspirational soloist for seminary functions, weddings, funerals, banquets and other ceremonial occasions. She often shares a program with her talented young daughter, Hannah, a violinist. Regular BCCS concertgoers have heard her as a featured soloist many times over the nine years she has been singing with the choir. Currently she studies with Ms. Tracy Chebra, M.M., head of the Vocal Conservatory at Westminster Choir College.

TIMOTHY VOGEL, tenor, has recently moved to Langhorne and is enjoying his second season with the Choral Society. His choral credits include singing with The Pittsburgh Symphony directed by Andre Previn as part of the Penn State University Choir and singing the premier of *Peter Quince at the Clavier* by Dominic Argento with the Penn State Singers. Tim has also enjoyed the opportunity of singing with the Harrisburg Symphony and the Altoona Symphony as well as touring England with the Penn State Singers. In addition, he sings in a folk/pop music duo and in community theater productions. Tim has a Bachelor of Science degree in physics.

THE FESTIVE ARTS ENSEMBLE

The Festive Arts Orchestra has performed throughout the tri-state region for over a decade with the Bucks County Choral Society, the Choral Society of Montgomery County and The Choristers of Upper Dublin as well as annual performances at the Great Auditorium in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. As a result, the orchestra has participated in producing many great works from the choral arts repertoire. As seasoned performers of the Festive Arts Orchestra woodwind section, these musicians come together to perform Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity*. We are pleased that 1995 marks the 10th year of collaboration between the Bucks County Choral Society and Festive Arts Ensembles.

Flute - Mary Finnigan Berk
Flute/Piccolo - Lois Bliss Herbine
Oboe - Stephen Labiner
English Horn - Terence Belzer
Bassoon - Karin Meyer
Bassoon - Michael Pedrazinni

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.

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 Vierne's *Messe Solennelle*, Op. 16.

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BUCKS COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

From its first concert on June 3, 1973 featuring excerpts from "*Brigadoon*", the Bucks County Choral Society has steadily grown in size, accomplishment and prestige, attaining in 1993 the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts from the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce. The Society has brought to the area quality performances of renowned choral masterworks featuring outstanding soloists and instrumentalists, as well as adding to the choral repertoire by commissioning new works. By presenting each season an eclectic mixture of old and new, sacred and secular, short pieces as well as long, it has sought to attain its mission of "influencing and enriching the choral experience". Choir members participate each year in workshops led by such outstanding choral directors as Robert Page, Elaine Brown, Greg Funfgeld and Constantina Tsolainou. The choir has made three invitational singing tours abroad, and performed at home with the Bucks County Symphony, the Delaware Valley Philharmonic, The Orchestra Society of Philadelphia and the Festive Arts Orchestra. For the last two years, a co-concert in mid-October with Bright Hope Baptist Church Celestial (gospel) Choir has raised thousands of dollars for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bucks; the choir is proud to be a part of this effort.

1995-1996 Membership List for Bucks County Choral Society

*Barbara Adams, Sellersville	Susan Johnson, Richboro
Elinor Armsby, Philadelphia	Lori M. Jones, Harleysville
*Kathy R. Benner, Richboro	*Carolyn Knower, Lansdale
Elizabeth Burke, Chalfont	Thomas Lever, Lansdale
*Bud Cassel, Chalfont	Adam Luebke, Doylestown
Doris W. Charles, Doylestown	*Stephen W. Luebke, Doylestown
Eugene W. Chrzanowski, Buckingham	Nancy S. Maul, Doylestown
Audrey E. Close, Doylestown	*Ladd S. McCoy, Chalfont
Anne Colombo, Richboro	Bill Moore, New Britain
Merrill M. Detweiler, Sellersville	Christie Moore, New Britain
Cynthia L. Detwiler, Warminster	Lois Moore, New Britain
*Jill Dulany, Souderton	Merily Nelson, Hatfield
*Susan Eastburn, Chalfont	Esther H. Paist, Newtown
Mary Ernst, Newtown	*Kathy Payne, Yardley
Judith Fay, Hatfield	Shirley Piercy, Furlong
Wayne Focht, Chalfont	Jay Poko, Perkasio
Philip J. Franchois, Perkasio	Christine M. Remiker, Doylestown
Ruth A. Geiger, Doylestown	James Ringler, East Windsor, N.J.
Jack N. Graham, Maple Glen	Kit Ruland, Richboro
Donald E. Groff, Hatfield	*Dr. Ronald P. Salfen, Hartsville
Catherine Guenzel, Willow Grove	Mary Scherrer, Doylestown
Lynne Guest, Richboro	Cheryl L. Stutzinger, Warrington
David Gundrum, Richboro	Ronald T. Tempest, Hatboro
Roberta Harding, Perkasio	*Barbara Tull, Doylestown
Frances Hemstreet, Newtown	*Tim Vogel, Langhorne
Richard Hulbert, Doylestown	Frances W. Waite, Doylestown
Tony Islan, Newtown	Janet Whitefield, Harleysville
Suzanne Jenkins, Doylestown	Tom Whitefield, Harleysville
*Alan F. Johnson, Warminster	*Claudia Whittaker, Doylestown
Edward Johnson, Richboro	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