

ARTS CHORALE

OF GREATER LANSING

Holiday Concert

December 8, 2014

- Carol of the Bells
music by Mykola Leontovich
words and arrangement by Peter Wilhousky
- Sanctus (from Requiem)
John Rutter
- Mass in D
Antonín Dvořák
- Kyrie
Quartet: Amy Rittenhouse, Nancy Bieber
Jan Krehbiel, Monty Bieber
- Gloria
- Pie Jesu (from Requiem)
John Rutter
Soprano: Schyler Sheltrown
- The Lord is my Shepherd (from Requiem)
John Rutter
- The First Noel
arr. by Dan Forrest
- Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Robert MacGimsey
Tenor: Jon Oakley

Audience Carols

Ding Dong Merrily on High

arr. by Barlow Bradford

Shepherd's Carol

Bob Chilcott

We stood on the hills, Lady, our day's work done,
Watching the frosted meadows that winter had won.
The evening was calm, Lady, the air so still,
Silence more lovely than music folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady, shone in the night,
Larger than Venus it was and bright, so bright.
Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then
Telling of God being born in the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady, our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves, we give to your son.

Traditional Spirituals

There is a Balm in Gilead

arr. by William Dawson

Soprano: Carole Marvin

Witness

arr. by Jack Halloran

Sussex Carol

arr. by Barlow Bradford

Instrumentalists

Harp: Ellen Grafius

Oboe: Gretchen Morse

Timpani: Steve Wulff

Organ/Piano: Judy Kabodian

"I do sing, because I must . . ."

Audience Carols

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace:
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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 the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

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

Christmas Song

(Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,
Jack Frost nipping at your nose,
Yuletide carols being sung by a choir
And folks dressed up like Eskimos.
Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe
Help to make the season bright.
Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow
Will find it hard to sleep tonight.

They know that Santa's on his way;
He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh
And ev'ry mother's child is gonna spy
To see if reindeer really know how to fly.
And so I'm offering this simple phrase
To kids from one to ninety-two
Altho' it's been said many times, many ways
"Merry Christmas, to you."

Silent Night

(accompanied)

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

(a cappella)

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, loves pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Program Notes

“Carol of the Bells” arranged by Peter Wilhousky (1902-1978)

Peter Wilhousky was a popular American composer, educator, and choral conductor of Ukrainian ethnic extraction. During his childhood he attended the Russian Cathedral Boys Choir of New York City. He received a B.A. degree from the Julliard School of Music and dedicated his life-long career to music education.

“Carol of the Bells” originated from a Ukrainian New Year’s carol titled Shchedryk, a traditional folk chant celebrating the coming new year. Peter Wilhousky first heard the carol performed by the Ukrainian National Chorus during its tour in the United States in October 1921. Upon hearing one of these performances, Wilhousky was inspired to write “Carol of the Bells,” with original lyrics, to the music of Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921). Wilhousky arranged the music into what has become one of the most popularly performed Christmas carols.

“Requiem” by John Rutter (b. 1945)

Requiem was written in 1985 and first performed in October of that year. Following the precedent established by Brahms and Faure, among others, it is not strictly a setting of the Requiem Mass as laid down in Catholic liturgy but instead is made up of a personal selection of texts, some taken from the Requiem Mass and some from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

Of the seven movements written, only the “Sanctus” (an affirmation of divine glory), the “Pie Jesu” (a personal prayer to Christ) and “The Lord is My Shepherd” (a psalm) are being performed tonight.

“The Lord is My Shepherd” was composed as a separate anthem in 1975 in memory of Rutter’s father and was later incorporated in *Requiem* even though the musical setting of this favorite text is not found in normal multi-movement *Requiem* renditions.

John Rutter, born in London, England, has for many years been considered one of the most prolific of choral music composers. He has brought wonderful compositions to the choral world, as well as a long list of arrangements, mostly performed and recorded by his famous Cambridge Singers.

“Mass in D major” by Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

We still tend to think of Dvořák as a composer of orchestral and chamber music – symphonies, concertos, quartets, dances – but choral settings of sacred texts form an equally important part of his output. As a devout Catholic, he rarely missed attending daily Mass all his life. He came into contact with church music as a boy, singing in the choir in his home village of Nelahozeves in Bohemia, and then training as an organist at Zlonice and at the Organ School in Prague. There he obtained a diploma as organist and choirmaster. He later became organist at Prague’s St. Adalbert’s Church.

Dvořák destroyed an early Mass written in his student days, and almost thirty more years elapsed before the present setting appeared. It was commissioned by Josef Hlavka, a distinguished Prague architect and founder of the Czech Academy of Arts and Sciences, for the consecration of his new private chapel at Luzany. Dvořák devoted himself single-mindedly to the task from March to June 1887; at one point he wrote “I pay no heed to the whole world – I am working hard at the new Mass and taking delight in God’s natural realm”. He scored it for voices and organ, and at the consecration ceremony on September 11, 1887 he directed the first performance himself, in which both his and Hlavka’s wives were among the soloists. Hlavka was also the dedicatee. Dvořák wrote to him, “I thank you for having given me the impulse to write a work in this form, otherwise I should scarcely have thought of it, for so far I have written works of this kind only on a big scale. This time I have written with modest resources, and yet I venture to say that I have done a good piece of work”.

In England, where Dvořák had introduced himself three years earlier by conducting his *Stabat Mater* at the Royal Albert Hall and had already become a great favorite, Novello accepted the Mass for publication on condition that it was orchestrated. In complying with this request, Dvořák created a much grander work from the same basic material and in its revised form, it was premiered on March 11, 1893 at the Crystal Palace.

“The Sheperd’s Carol” by Robert “Bob” Chilcott (b. 1955)

Bob Chilcott is a British choral composer, conductor, and singer, based in Oxford, England. He sang in the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, both as a boy and as a university student. In 1985 he joined the King's Singers, singing tenor for 12 years. He has been a composer since 1997.

He is well known for his many compositions for children’s choirs, including *Can You Hear Me?*, which he has conducted in the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, Estonia, Latvia, Germany, and the Czech Republic. He is associated with the New Orleans Children’s Chorus and the Crescent City Festival in New Orleans, for which he wrote *A Little Jazz Mass*, *Happy Land*, *This Day*, *Be Simple Little Children*, and for the 2009 festival, *I Lift My Eyes*.

Chilcott originally wrote *This Day*, a setting of five poems, for a 2006 choral festival in New Orleans which was cancelled after Hurricane Katrina. The work was eventually premiered on June 25, 2007 at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, by 210 singers from around the United States.

His works have been performed by the BBC Singers, The New Zealand Youth Choir, the Chamber Choir of Europe, the Taipei Chamber Singers, and the Addison Singers in Carnegie Hall.

Chilcott was the conductor of the chorus at the Royal College of Music in London for seven years, and is Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers.

“The Shepherd’s Carol” was composed for the 2000 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King’s College, Cambridge. It is a thoroughly modern piece that takes Chilcott’s original melody, repeating and enhancing it from verse to verse spinning a beautiful web of choral music as it does so. Its quality speaks, or rather sings, for itself.

Sopranos

Heather Aemmer
Allison Berg
Rosemary Faiver
Julie Hales-Smith
Jean Kocher
Carole Marvin
Carolyn McQuillan
Mollie Netter
Linda Parks
Rebecca Pratt
Rachael Raymer
Amy Rittenhouse
**Schyler Sheltroun
Diane Singletary
Kristie Wiggert
Jennie Yelvington

Altos

Kathy Ballard
Nancy Bieber
Lois Brennan
Christine English
Barbara Fuller
Kirsten Grady
Ellen Grafius
Laurie Harkema
Jana Jirak
Cheri Johnson
Courtney McMinn
Karen Nault
Bonnie Olson
Sally Potter
Mary Robison
Jenny Sullivan

Tenors

Steve Findley
Dallas Henney
Jan Krehbiel
Curt Liechty
**Jon Oakley
Ralph Putnam
Bill Ruddock
Michael Sullivan

Basses

Sam Austin
Monty Bieber
Jerry Fuller
Matt Gomes
Michael Guthrie
Neil Haven
Tom Kaplan
Jim Kocher
**Nick Kreider
Mike Lipsey
Trevor McMinn
John O'Doherty
*Aaron Petrovich

The *Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing* will present its Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 5, 2015** at the **University Lutheran Church at 1020 South Harrison, East Lansing**. Please note the change of performance date and site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The *Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing* would like to thank:

River Terrace Church: Concert facilities
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Jeff English, Choral Director

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The Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing is a 501c (3) not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. If you wish to contribute financially or place an ad, call Kathy Ballard at 332-1848.

Checks may be made out to: ***Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing*** and mailed to Kathy Ballard at 1428 Somerset Close East Lansing, MI 48823.

The *Arts Chorale* has openings for experienced singers in all voice sections for the 2014-2015 concert season. For audition information, contact Manager Kathy Ballard at **(517) 332-1848** or email her at **kathyjballard@gmail.com** or Conductor Dale Bartlett at **(517) 332-4495** or email him at **bartle17@msu.edu**.

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December 8, 2014

Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing

Dale Bartlett, Conductor

Judy Kabodian, Pianist