



The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society
Presents

A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS



Friday, December 18, 1998
HARRISONBURG High School Auditorium

PROGRAM

Christmas Daybreak Robert Convery (b. 1954)

Words by Christina Rossetti

Christmas Day Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934)

Ave Maria (premiere performance) Scott Williamson (b. 1971)

O Nata Lux Morten Lauridsen (b. 1941)

Eclogue Gerald Finzi (1901 – 1956)

Amy Robertson, piano

In Terra Pax Finzi

Words by Robert Bridges and St. Luke II, 8 - 14

Lawrence Evans, Baritone

Kathryn Gardner, Soprano

INTERMISSION

O Come, All Ye Faithful Traditional – arr. Willcocks

Unto Us is Born a Son arr. Willcocks

A Boy Was Born Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

A Hymn to the Virgin Britten

Summer Wilson, Soprano Amy Robertson, Alto

Mark Williamson, Tenor Bill Vance, Baritone

Fantasia on Christmas Carols R. Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1954)

Lawrence Evans, Baritone

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Traditional – arr Willcocks

Hallelujah (from *Messiah*) Handel (1685 – 1759)

Christmas Daybreak

Robert Convery

Before the paling of the stars, Before the winter morn, Before the earliest cockcrow, Jesus Christ was born: Born in a stable, Cradled in a manger, In the world His hands had made, Born a stranger.

Priest and King lay fast asleep in Jerusalem, Young and old lay fast asleep in crowded Bethlehem: Saint and angel, ox and ass, kept a watch together, Before the Christmas daybreak In the winter weather.

Jesus on His mother's breast In the stable cold, Spotless Lamb of God was He, Shepherd of the fold. Let us kneel with Mary Maid, with Joseph bent and hoary, With saint and angel, ox and ass, To hail the King of Glory.

Ave Maria

Scott Williamson

Hail Mary,
Hail sweetest Mary
True hope and life, sweet refreshment
O Mary, flower of virgins
Pray to Jesus for us

O Nata Lux

Morten Lauridsen

O born light of light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Mercifully deem worthy and accept
The praises and prayers of your supplicants
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost ones,
grant us to be made members
of your holy body.

In Terra Pax

Gerald Finzi

A frosty Christmas Eve when the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone
where westward falls the hill,
And from many a village in the water'd valley
Distant music reach'd me
peals of bells aringing:
The constellated sounds
ran sprinkling on earth's floor
As the dark vault above with stars spangled o'er.
Then sped my thoughts to keep
that first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching
by their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields
and marveling could not tell
Whether it were angels

or the bright stars singing.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,

Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

But to me heard afar it was starry music

Angels' song, comforting

As the comfort of Christ

When he spake tenderly to his sorrowful flock:

The old words came to me

By the riches of time mellow'd and transfigured

As I stood on the hill

Harkening in the aspect of th' eternal silence.

And on earth peace, good will toward men

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:

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God In the highest:

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

Unto Us is Born a Son

O and A, and A and O, Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go, Benedicamus Domino,
Benedicamus Domino.

A Boy Was Born

Benjamin Britten

A Boy was born in Bethlehem; Rejoice for that Jerusalem! Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya.
He let himself a servant be, That all mankind he might set free: Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya.
Then praise the Word of God who came to dwell within a human frame: Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya.

A Hymn to the Virgin
Benjamin Britten

Of one that is so fair and bright
Brighter than the day is light,
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
That I may come to thee.
All this world was forlorn
Till our Lord was born
With ave it went away
Darkest night and comes the day
The well springeth out of thee.
Lady, flower of everything,
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King
Of all thou bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Maid mild, mother

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

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of the vrgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the God head see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Please as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
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,
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.

Orchestra Personnel

Violin I

Wanchi Huang
Joan Griffing
Clarine McCashin

Violin II

Robert McCashin
Deborah Warnaar
Diane Kehlenbrink

Viola

Paul McEnderfer
Rebecca Hunter
Kari Carpenter

Cello

Mary Kay Adams
Monica Frey
Lorna Beth LaMountain

Bass

Richard Pipani

Percussion

Todd Johnson

Choral Society Members

SOPRANOS

Lois Bowman
Betty Coakley
Dolores Hoak
Miriam Kauffman
Doris Lambert
Mamie Mellinger
Leona Myers
Rita Reilly
Ruth Sensabaugh
Mary Smith
Mildred Stoltzfus
Mazie Wampler
Carol Ann Windett

Ruth Burkholder
Kathy Hensley
Margaret Hottel
Sharisa Keim
Jessica Loose
Kathleen Molinari
Edie Pritt
Barbara Riddleberger
Janet Simmons
Joan Smith
Pat Trella
Summer Wilson

ALTOS

Kathy Bunch
Evie Hertzler
Nancy Martz
Martha Miller
Audrey Shenk
Dorothy Weaver
Kay Woolf

Patricia Costie
Sandra Hodge
Barbara Miller
Susan Neary
Jo Umberger
Kay Woolf
Margaret Wurst

TENORS

James Benedict
Philip Market
Welby Showalter
Mark Williamson
John Windett

Linda Bradley
Ann Ridder
William Voige
Matthew Williamson

BASSES

Jim Campbell
William Eicher
Preston Hadley, III
Eugene Lantz
Clarence Moyers
Richard Schiemann
Francis Smith
John Swartzentruber
Bill Vance
Richard Wilson

Tom DeVore
Richard Forbes
Elroy Kauffman
Dwight Miller
Bill Reed
Charles Sensabaugh
Roger Soenksen
Bernard Troutman
Carroll Whitmore
Richard Yoder