



*Shenandoah Valley
Choral Society*

2002 - 2003
season



PROGRAM NOTES

Magnificat

The **Magnificat**, or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:46-55) is a poetic outpouring of praise, joy and trust in God. Ascribed by Luke to the Virgin Mary on learning that she was to give birth to Christ, this canticle has always been one of the most familiar and well-loved scriptural texts.

Magnificat is to be interpreted as a personal expression of joy and thanksgiving and, symbolically, as the thanksgiving prayer and praise of all Israel for the Incarnation's fulfillment of God's promise of redemption. Mary, the Virgin Mother, is also "the highest and most perfect personification of Israel, the virgin daughter Sion" who rejoices at the inestimable favor bestowed on her (and Israel's) lowly estate. She sings praises to God her Savior (verse 46-50), recalls the mercies shown to Israel (verses 51-53), and sings of the Incarnation's fulfillment of God's ancient promise to Abraham (verses 54-55).

Rutter follows the compositional tradition of adding to the liturgical text with the inclusion of the old English poem 'Of a Rose' and the prayer 'Sancta Maria'. To this song of rejoicing sung by Mary during the Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, the Roman liturgy appends the traditional doxology, 'Glory be to the Father'.

The Composition of the **Magnificat** by Rutter took place in early 1990. The premier took place on 26 May 1990 in Carnegie Hall, New York, under the direction of the composer.

The English translation of the Latin liturgical text used in tonight's performance was* adapted by John Rutter from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society has suffered the loss of one of its singers during preparation for this concert. The life of Joel West is lovingly remembered.

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society gratefully acknowledges the Harrisonburg First Church of the Brethren for use of its facilities for rehearsals

Magnificat

John Rutter

Kim Tate, soprano

1. Magnificat

Magnificat! My spirit praises God the Lord.
My soul, in gladness ever exulting, rejoices in God my Savior.
He in his mercy has looked with favor upon his handmaid so lowly.
Blessed shall they call me from this time forth, forever.
Come, all generations, praise him!

2. Of a Rose

Of a Rose, a lovely Rose,
Of a Rose is all my song.

Hearken to me, both young and old,
How this Rose began to spring;
A fairer Rose to my liking
In all this world ne know I none.

Five branches of that rose there been,
The which be both fair and sheen;
The rose is called Mary, heaven's queen.
Out of her bosom a blossom sprang

The first branch was of great honour:
That blest Marie should bear the flower;
There came an angel from heaven's tower
To break the devil's bond.

The second branch was great of might,
That sprang upon Christmas night;
The star shone over Bethlem bright,
That man should see it both day and night.

The third branch did spring and spread;
Three kinges then the branch gan led
Unto Our Lady in her child-bed;
Into Bethlem that branch sprang right.

The fourth branch it sprang to hell,
The devil's power for to fell:
That no soul should dwell,
The branch so blessedfully sprang.

The fifth branch it was so sweet,
It sprang to heaven, both crop and root,
Therein to dwell and be our bote*;
So blessedly it sprang.

Pray we to her with great honor,
She that bare the blessed flower,
To be our help and our succour,
And shield us from the fiendes bond

*bote=salvation (15th C. English)

3. Mighty is Jehovah

Mighty is Jehovah, and great his strength;
And holy is his name.

Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are filled with praise, glory and worship.
Hosanna in the highest.

4. Like a shepherd with his lambs

Like a shepherd with his lambs,
God will show his loving kindness to all who fear his name.
His goodness and compassion, revealed from age to age, will deliver us.

5. He has shown mighty strength

He has shown mighty strength,
And stretched forth his right hand in majesty.
Princes bow down before his throne of judgement and power.
He has scattered the proud in all their empty splendor.
The Lord casts down the mighty from power;
And raises up the humble poor.

6. The poor and needy shall find God's blessing

The poor and needy shall find God's blessing
And he shall fill them with every good thing;
And all the rich are cast out with nothing.

His servant Israel, whom he has chosen,
Has been granted favor and help through God's great mercy.

For thus he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and all generations
For evermore and evermore.

7. Glory to the Father

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

O holy Mary, help, we pray, all in need;
Strengthen those whose spirit fails,
Comfort those whom grief assails;
Pray for thy people here, for thy Holy Church so dear,
Intercede for all thy servants, Mother of all women;
Grant us all the favor of thy gracious help;
Succour us, comfort us, we humbly implore thee.

Alleluia. Amen.

Orchestra

Violin I Joan Griffing, Concertmaster
Rebecca Hunter
Anthony VanPelt

Violin II Gail Little
Jessie Trainum
Kaye Crowther

Viola Paul McEnderfer
Sharon Miller

Cello Edward Gant

Bass William Boulia

Harp Heidi O'Gara

Flute Carol Noe

Oboe Michele Kirkdorfer

Clarinet Leslie Nicholas

Bassoon Susan Barber

Horn Candace Kluesner

Organ Lucille McDaniel

Percussion Marlon Foster
Jeff Melton

INTERMISSION

Salvation is Created

Pavel Chesnokov

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

Lucille McDaniel, organ

Felix Mendelssohn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lydia C. Velek, soloist

Arr. Katherine Hoover

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Dale Wood

Wachet aus, ruft uns die Stimme

J.S. Bach

Lucille McDaniel, organ soloist

Baby, What You Goin' To Be?

Natalie Sleeth

Pat-A-Pan

Carol Noe, flute
Marlon Foster, snare drum

Arr. Robert J. Batastini

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

Silent Night

Heidi O'Gara, harp

Arr. Carlos Salzedo

I Wonder as I Wander

Nancy Hanna, soloist

Arr. John Jacob Niles

Fum, Fum, Fum

Amy Robertson & Deborah McGuire, piano four-hand

Arr. Mack Wilberg

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Arr. John Rutter



Thank you for attending our concert!

Join us for the Spring Concert of our season of quality performances

The Creation

*An Oratorio
By Joseph Haydn*

A musical composition based on the biblical story of GOD's creation of the world

April 25, 2003

*Bridgewater Church of the Brethren
With The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Orchestra
100-voice Chorus and Soloists*