



*The  
Shenandoah Valley  
Choral Society  
2007-2008 Season*

# The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society

Presents

## Song of the Angels

*Pastorale and Song of the Angels - John Barr*

*Fantasia on Christmas Carols - Vaughan Williams*

*The Many Moods of Christmas - Arr. Robert Shaw*

*Traditional and Contemporary Carols*

with

*The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society Chamber Orchestra*

*John Barr, Organist*

*Soloists:*

*Brenda Witmer, Soprano*

*Les Helmuth, Tenor*

*Shannon Kiser, Baritone*

*Curtis Nolley, Director*

*Amy Robertson and Debbie McGuire, Accompanists*

*Friday December 21, 2007 - 7:30 p.m.*

*Bridgewater Church of the Brethren*

*Bridgewater, Virginia*

## *Pastorale and Song of the Angels*

Pastorale and Song of the Angels, a short Christmas cantata for soprano and tenor soloists, mixed voices (SATB) and small orchestra, was composed in the mid-Seventies and submitted in partial fulfillment of the doctoral program in Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in New York City under the supervision of Professor Joseph Goodman. It was first performed Sunday, December 18, 1977 by the Sanctus Choir of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren conducted by Jesse Hopkins. A few years ago Don Gaines, one of the basses in that choir, told me that he recorded the performance with a cassette recorder under his chair! Consequently, he has prepared the full score and parts of this cantata with the Finale Music Notation software program and provided all of the print-outs which are being used this evening. I am grateful to Curtis Nolley and the SVCS, soloists and orchestra for preparing and realizing this second performance. This work is dedicated to my mother, the late Mrs. Rebecca Barr, who always encouraged me.

The cantata opens with an orchestral pastorale followed by the tenor and soprano soloists singing the Biblical narrative from St. Luke after which the chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest..." and then concludes with Johann Rist's hymn "Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light" *John Barr*

## *Fantasia on Greensleeves*

In Shakespeare's play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Sir John Falstaff says, "Let the sky rain potatoes, let it thunder to the tune of 'Greensleeves,' hail kissing comfits and eringoes..." This prompted Ralph Vaughan Williams to use the Greensleeves melody as incidental music between acts of Shakespeare's play in a production given in the summer of 1912 at Stratford-upon-Avon. His beautiful modal introduction to this tune has become perhaps his best-known musical signature. In this Fantasia R.V.W. added a middle section using the folk tune, *Lovely Joan* which he collected in Norfolk during 1908. The present orchestration is by Ralph Greaves and was first performed in 1934 by the BBC Symphony, conducted by the composer.

## *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*

This masterful treatment of English Christmas carols presents, respectively, the words and tunes of: *The Truth Sent From Above* (Herefordshire), *Come All You Worthy Gentlemen* (Somerset), and *On Christmas Night* (Sussex). Woven into the musical fabric are tuneful fragments of *The First Nowell* and the *Wassail Bough* (Yorkshire). Two other fragments that listeners tonight may not recognize are: *There Is a Fountain* (Herefordshire), and *The Virgin Unspotted*. This Fantasia was premiered in Hereford Cathedral September 12, 1912, as part of the Three Choirs Festival featuring J. Campbell McInnus, baritone soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra, and conducted by the composer. This work has been aptly described by John Rutter as a handful of rustic carols raised to an "altogether more symphonic level," and by Frank Howes as "this most hearty and mystical Christmas music."

**Pastorale and Song of the Angels**

**John G. Barr**

**I. Pastorale**

**II. Recitative, tenor**

And there were in the country shepherds abiding in the field

**III. Aria, soprano**

Fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy

**IV. Recitative, tenor**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts

**V. Chorus**

Glory to God in the Highest

**VI. Chorale**

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning

**Fantasia on Greensleeves**

**Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)**

**Fantasia on Christmas Carols Ralph Vaughan Williams**

*Orchestra*

**First Violin** Kari Carpenter, Concertmaster  
Julia Long  
Anthony Van Pelt

**Second Violin** Kaye Crowther, Principal  
Sharon Miller  
Jesse Trainum

**Viola** Rebecca Hunter, Principal  
Ben Roth

**Violoncello** Andrew Gabbert

**Doublebass** David Peters

**Flute** Elizabeth Brightbill  
Andrea Nolley

**Clarinet** David Snively

**Trumpet** James Kluesner  
William Dabback

**Trombone** Andrew Lankford

**Percussion** Marlon Foster  
Andrew Richardson

*Intermission*

**The Many Moods of Christmas – Suite Four Arr. Robert Shaw**

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

*Silent Night*

*Pat-a-Pan*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**"A Little Child"**

**Arr. Brightbill/Gabbert**

Elizabeth Brightbill, flute

Andrew Gabbert, cello

**Coventry Carol**

**Arr. Howard Helvey**

Amy Robertson and Debbie McGuire, piano four-hands

**Ding! Dong! Merrily on High**

**Arr. Howard Helvey**

**Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine**

**Arr. Howard Helvey**

**Fum, Fum, Fum!**

**Arr. Mack Wilberg**

**O Holy Night**

**Adolphe Adam**

Brenda Witmer, soprano

**Do You Hear What I Hear?**

**Arr. Harry Simeone**

**Gloucestershire Wassail**

**Arr. Dale Grottenhius**

**We Wish You A Merry Christmas**

**Arr. John Rutter**



The members and Board of Directors of the  
Shenandoah Valley Choral Society  
dedicate tonight's concert to

**DWIGHT and BARBARA MILLER**

Dwight and Barbara have been positive forces in the Choral Society's development since its beginning.

Dwight is one of the founders of the Choral Society and twice has served as president of the Board of Directors.

Barbara has been active in many areas of support for the organization and has also served for several years as a member of the Board of Directors.

Together they have inspired and helped each member to achieve high standards in choral excellence and have worked to mold the Shenandoah Valley Choral Society into the superior music organization it has become today.

It is with great pleasure and heartfelt thanks that we dedicate tonight's concert to Dwight and Barbara.