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Programme

Matin Responsory Adapted from a *Magnificat* by Palestrina
Robin Maurer, Chris Bradley, Katherine Chan, Sarvenaz Monfaredi, solos

Nesciens mater Jean Mouton (1459-1522)

In nativitatem Domini nostri Jesu Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)
Christi canticum
Sara Grims, Nicki Jenkins, Bronwyn Mitchell, Tim Grantham, Shannon Leonard, solos

O magnum mysterium Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)

Alleluia Algirdas Martinaitis (b. 1950)
Bonnie Pearce, soprano

Two Hands or Wings Gerardo Dirié (b. 1958)

Lully, lulla, Thou little tiny child Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)
Bronwyn Mitchell, soprano

The Angel and the Girl Paul-Antoni Bonetti (b. ?)

Carol to Saint Stephen Jack Body (b. 1944)
Cathy Green, Paul Bonetti, Sara Grims, solos

*Thank you for attending this afternoon's performance.
You are invited to join us on the lawn for refreshments following the concert.*

Texts & Translations

Matin Responsory

Words translated from the First Responsory of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins (early medieval Roman rite)

I look from afar:

and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over they people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

Go yet out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep,

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up they strength, O Lord, and come

to reign over thy people Israel.

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

I look from afar:

and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud cov'ring the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over they people Israel?

Nesciens mater

Antiphon for the Octave of the Nativity

A mother knowing no man, a virgin,

brought forth without pain the eternal Saviour;

and this same king of angels did she, alone a virgin [mother],

suckle at her breast, willed from heaven.

In nativitatem Domini nostri Jesu Christi canticum

Luke 2:8-16

1. Preludium

2. Recitative

The shade of the icy night covered all the earth and plunged everyone into a deep sleep. And the shepherds of Judea kept watch over their flocks. And, lo, an angel of the Lord came and stood beside them, and the glory of the Lord shone about them. Overcome were the shepherds with great fear; but then the angel said to them:

3. Air of the Angel

Fear not, O shepherds. For, behold now, I bring good tidings, tidings of joy, which shall be to all people. For today in the city of David a Saviour unto you is born, and to you shall this be the sign: ye shall find the Babe all wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying within a manger. Quickly go ye, O shepherds, and there adore Him.

4. Chorus of Shepherds

Arise now, let us hasten to go, go unto Bethlehem. There shall we see the Child who is born to us. Arise now, let us hasten to go now unto Bethlehem. There shall we offer praise and there adore Him, God now in form of sinner lowly disguised. Why, why then linger, why then tarry, O ye shepherds so drowsy? Arise now, let us hasten to go now unto Bethlehem.

5. March

6. Recitative of Evangelist

Anon these same humble shepherds did arrive at the place wherein the Child had been born. And when they were come into the house, they saw Mary and Joseph, and the Child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And kneeling there, they sang of their adoration in artless but devoted song of praise, thus saying:

7. Air and Chorus of the Shepherd

Hail, tiny Lordling! Hail, tender newborn King! Now all creation sing Thy praise and worth! Thou heaven dost desert and in this humble birth comest to men on earth our sins to bear.

O Thou the perfect One, deity from heaven come, Thou hast salvation won for men today. Eternal grace we gain, freedom from evil's stain, comfort in woe and pain, now and always.

Boy of the Virgin mild, blessed and undefiled, Thou, heaven's holy child, God's only Son. Praise to Thee, Holy One, praise to the Three in One, praise to Thy kingdom come. Alleluia!

O magnum mysterium

From the Matins of Christmas

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in their manger!
Blessed Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Lord Christ. Alleluia!

Two Hands or Wings

Gerardo Dirie, inspired by Mateo Ricci's On Friendship

My looking went on and found you looking for the same gold.
The light that makes me guides me into the horizon,
and into the voices of another others who find me.
If gone I hold their absence as if they would return.

Lully, lulla, Thou little tiny child

From the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, Coventry, 15th century

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day?
This poor youngling for whom we sing, by, by lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,
Charg'd he hath this day his men of might, in his own sight, all children young to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee!
And ever morn and may, for Thy parting nor say nor sing. By, by, lully, lullay.

The Angel and the Girl

Edwin Muir (1887-1958)

The angel and the girl are met.
Earth was the only meeting place.
For the embodied never yet
Travelled beyond the shore of space.
The eternal spirits in freedom go.

See, they have come together.

While the destroying minutes flow,
each reflects the other's face
Till heaven in hers and earth in his
shine steady there. He's come to her
from far beyond the farthest star,
feathered through time. Immediacy
of strange strangest strangeness is the bliss
that from their limbs all movement takes.
Yet the increasing rapture brings
so great a wonder that it makes
each feather tremble on his wings.

*Jesu dulcedo cordium,
Fons vivus lumen mentium,
Excedens omne gaudium,
Et omne desiderium.*

*(O Jesu! Light of all below!
Thou font of life and fire!
surpassing all the joys we know,
and all we can desire.)*

Outside the window footsteps fall
into the ordinary day,
and with the sun along the wall
pursue their unreturning way.
Sound's perpetual roundabout
rolls its numbered octaves out
and hoarsely grinds its battered tune.

But through the endless afternoon
These neither speak nor movement make,
But stare into their deepening trance
As if their grace would never break.

Carol to Saint Stephen

Based on the Medieval English carol Eya, Martyr Stephane

Eya, Martyr Stephane,
Pray for us we pray to thee.

(Lo, Stephen the martyr)

Of this martyr make we mend,
qui triumphavit hodie.
And to heaven bliss gan wend,
dono coelestis gratiae.

(who triumphed today)

(with the gift of heavenly grace)

Stoned he was with stonés great,
fervore gentis impiae,
Then he saw Christ sit in seat,
innixum Patris dextere.

(by the rage of a wicked race)

(set on the right hand of the Father)

Thou praydest Christ for thine en'mies,
o martyr invictissime,
Thou pray for us that high justice,
ut nos purget a crimine.

(o martyr most unconquered)

(that he may cleans us from sin)

Lord Jesus, accept my spirit.
Lay not this sin to their charge.