

Concord Concert Series
Annual Christmas Gala featuring



The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1898.

Songs of Mary

selections from Handel's *Messiah*
and traditional Christmas favorites

Sunday, December 19, 7:00pm

PRELUDE

JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING

J. S. BACH (1685-1750)

Robin Mayforth, violin; Kathleen Hastings, violin;
Louise Jaffe, viola; Cheryl Everill, cello
Eileen Grycky, flute

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD (*MESSIAH*)

G. F. HANDEL (1685-1759)

Concert Choir

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

I WONDER AS I WANDER

JOHN J. NILES (1892-1980)

Michael Krueger, bass-baritone
Chris Braddock, guitar

QUIA RESPEXIT (*MAGNIFICAT*)

J. S. BACH

Melanie Sarakatsannis, soprano
Eileen Grycky, flute
Cheryl Everill, cello

For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
Behold, from henceforth, I will be called blessed.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

STEPHEN PAULUS

Concert Choir

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he "Thou lowly maiden, Mary, most highly favour'd lady." Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother Thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor Thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favour'd lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favour'd lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favour'd lady." Gloria!

GABRIEL'S OBOE (*THE MISSION*)

ENNIO MORRICONE (1928-2020)

Barbara Prugh, trumpet
A.T. Moffett, dance

Keira Oppenheimer, soloist

Concert Choir

I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy father you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son

I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now

Breath of Heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, breath of Heaven
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness for you are holy
Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face
If another one should have had my place
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong; Help me be... Help me

GAUDETE! (REJOICE!)

SHELDON CURRY

Concert Choir

Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary – Rejoice!

The time of grace has come – what we have wished for;
Songs of joy let us give back faithfully.
God has become man, with nature marveling,
The world has been renewed by the reigning Christ.

Therefore, let our assembly now sing in brightness
Let it bless the Lord: salvation to our King.

Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary – Rejoice!

OFFERING

GEISTLICHES WIEGENLIED (2 SONGS, OP. 91) J. BRAHMS (1833-1897)

Kerry Ann Erickson-Felps, contralto

Louise Jaffe, viola

You who hover around these palms in night and wind,
You holy angels, silence the tree-tops! My child is sleeping.
You palms of Bethlehem in the raging wind, why do you bluster so angrily today!
O roar not so! Be still, lean calmly and gently over us;
Silence the tree-tops! My child is sleeping.
The heavenly babe suffers distress, Oh, how weary
He has grown with the sorrows of this world.
Ah, now that in sleep His pains are gently eased,
Silence the treetops! My child is sleeping.
Fierce cold blows down on us. With what shall I cover my little child's limbs?
O all you angels, who wing your way on the winds,
Silence the tree-tops! My child is sleeping.

CHRISTMAS LULLABY

J. RUTTER

Concert Choir

Clear in the darkness, a light shines in Bethlehem
Angels are singing, their sound fills the air
Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah
But only a mother and baby lie there

Refrain: Ave Maria, Ave Maria
Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing
Ave Maria, Ave Maria
Maiden and mother of Jesus our King

Where are his courtiers and who are his people?
Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown?
Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people
With peace as his sceptre and love for his crown (Refrain)

What though your treasures are not gold or incense?
Lay them before him with hearts full of love
Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother
Who bore us a Saviour by grace from above (Refrain)

THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND (*MESSIAH*)

G. F. HANDEL

Michael Krueger, bass-baritone

Barbara Prugh, trumpet

The trumpet shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN (*MESSIAH*)

G. F. HANDEL

Concert Choir

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon His shoulders;
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor,
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!

SILENT NIGHT

H. GRUBER

Melanie Sarakatsannis, soprano

Robin Mayforth, violin

A.T. & Simone Moffett, dance

COME TO THE MANGER

JANICE KAPP PERRY/ORRIN HATCH

Matthew Pressley

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

F. MENDELSSOHN/ARR. WILLCOCKS

Concert Choir

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 hosts 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 Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

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

PERSONNEL

DIRECTOR, CONCORD CONCERT SERIES – Matthew Pressley

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST/PIANO/KEYBOARD – Jeffrey DeVault

ASST. TO THE DIRECTOR/COSTUMES/PROPS – Christina Pressley

VIOLIN I, CONCERTMASTER

Robin Mayforth

VIOLIN II, CONTRACTOR

Kathleen Hastings

VIOLA

Louise Jaffe

CELLO

Cheryl Everill

TRUMPET

Barbara Prugh

FLUTE

Eileen Grycky

GUITARS

Chris Braddock

TIMPANI/PERCUSSION

Jeffrey Dombchik

PERCUSSION/LIGHTING/SOUND

Bob Brown

DANCERS

A.T. Moffett

Simone Moffett

MARY

Keira Oppenheimer

JOSEPH

Teyton Pressley

INNKEEPERS

Jared Oppenheimer

Hobie Pressley

USHERS

Peggy & Dick Carter

Marcie Jorgensen

Liz Rowe

CONCORD CONCERT CHOIR

SOPRANO

Carol Lind

Jan Moore

Jessica Murphy

Christina Pressley

Bettye Shirar

Melanie Sarakatsannis

ALTO

Carol Haas

Maria Hess

Cynthia Miller

Lynn Claire Morse

Nancy Tucker

Carol Welch

Kerry Ann Erickson-Felps

TENOR

Gabriel Feldt

Stephen Ferrara

Chip Hazel

Heloise Osborn

BASS

Rob Kennan

Al Lund

Ron McKinney

Don Potter

Jim Silvius

Michael Krueger



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CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT CONCORD

(in-person and livestreamed)

5:00pm

This service will combine elements of the two services we did for many years prior to the pandemic. Lots of singing, telling of the Christmas story, and candle lighting as we sing *Silent Night*. Chris and Jeanmarie Braddock (*The Nearly Valentines*) will share their musical gifts. Bring friends and family and join us for this special celebration. (The service will not include the celebration of the Lord's Supper.)

[NOTE: We will follow the same COVID protocols as for Sunday morning worship, with mask wearing required throughout the service.]



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