

### The Cantata Singers of Elmira

**Soprano:** Loueda Bleiler, Ruth Bruning, Deborah Courtney, Robin Fitzgerald, Dorothy Hoos, Nancy Husician, Jane Kerber, Kathy Lovell, Judith Sheasley, Kay Kennedy Wack

**Alto:** Patricia Hauser, Janet Hill, Eileen Lambert, Frances McLaren, Patricia Peters, Cora Range, Lou Sand, Florence Suffern, Frances Vedder, Julia Youngman

**Tenor:** Dan Shelles, Richard E. Wack, Will Wickham, Douglas Yaleh

**Bass:** Richard F. Bauer, Marvin Munch, Mahbud Burton, David Hauser, David Mix, Michael K. Wald

### The Orchestra

**Thirteen Strings** - Thomas Folan, director

Violin: Augusto Diemecke, Simon Griffiths, Peter Jarvis, Susan Jarvis, Rachel Lauber, Denise Nosewicz, Stacy Shuck, Lydia Werbizky

Viola: David Budil, Naomi Graf Rooks

Cello: Laura Kramer, Christine Lowe-Diemecke

Bass: Michael Griffin

with

David Peckham, organ  
Gary Holmes, trumpet  
Susan Laib, oboe  
Daphne Strouthes, horn  
Edward Gobrecht, bassoon

Theodore Rounds, timpani  
Scott Kelley, trumpet  
Anita Pawlak, oboe  
Brenda Ladestri, horn  
Catherine Speck, bassoon

### Special Thanks

Frances McLaren, rehearsal accompanist

Horseheads High School

Horseheads First UM Church, its pastors and music committee

Andrea Folan, Program typesetting

Nancy Peckham



The Cantata Singers take great pleasure in presenting their concerts without admission charge. The continuation of this practice depends largely upon your contribution at each concert. This anniversary season in particular we ask you to be generous in view of the scope of our presentations. And please consider joining our list of contributors for next year.

~ Our season and this program have been made possible in part by funding from the New York Council for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered locally by the Chemung Valley Arts Council.

## The Cantata Singers of Elmira

Thomas Folan, music director/conductor

present in celebration  
of their 30th Anniversary Season

Joseph Haydn's

# *Mass in honor of Saint Cecilia*

and

the world premiere of

## *Soli Deo Gloria*

by Will Wickham

with

Andrea Folan, soprano

Joanne Ball, alto

David Parks, tenor

Keith Earle, bass

and

Thirteen Strings

First United Methodist Church  
Horseheads, New York

Sunday, May 22, 1994  
8:00 pm

## Program

### Missa Sanctae Caeciliae (1773)

Joseph Haydn

"Mass in honor of Saint Cecilia"

*Kyrie* Lord, have mercy on us...  
*Gloria* Glory to God in the Highest...  
  
(Pause)  
*Credo* I believe in one God...  
*Benedictus* Blessed is He...  
*Agnus Dei* Lamb of God...

Andrea Folan, soprano David Parks, tenor  
Joanne Ball, alto Keith Earle, bass

\* \* Intermission \* \*

### Soli Deo Gloria (1994)

Will Wickham

*Prologue: Song of Joy* (Chorale)  
For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
The mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into song!  
Soli Deo Gloria!  
*Soli Deo Gloria*  
Soli Deo Gloria!  
*We are the Singers*  
We are the singers of God!  
We praise him in song,  
We sing what is true,  
We sing what is just,  
we sing what is pure and holy!  
Oh sing with us; Oh sing God's glorious song;  
God's own song!  
We sing!  
We sing the greatest joy!  
We sing of greatest joy!  
*Our Call* (Chorale)  
God gave us to sing of his creation;  
We join in the music of the hills and trees.  
We give thanks; we sing praise in this,  
Our glorious song of Joy!  
*Allelula*  
Allelula  
*Amen*  
Amen  
Soli Deo gloria,  
Amen.

Haydn's **Cecilia Mass** is spectacular music worthy of any great celebration and, as St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music, it is particularly appropriate for today's performance. Like Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, the *Cecilia Mass* exceeds the normal performing and musical parameters of the standard mass format. Spectacular choral writing, including a number of complex fugues, combines with full symphonic writing reminiscent of many of Haydn's string symphonies. Multiple sections within each movement showcase solo instruments and voices. These diverse elements combine to imbue the work with a unique sense of drama, matched by only a handful of similar works. In its original setting the movements would have been performed at the appropriate moments during the Catholic service, rather than as one long work (thus the necessity for a pause after the Gloria).

Commissioned by the Cantata Singers for their 30th Anniversary, **Soli Deo Gloria** draws its name from the Latin phrase meaning "only to the glory of God", the Cantata Singers' motto. The six movement work opens with the orchestra and soloists "calling" the choir to join in their song of joy, until, as one voice, all are proclaiming "Soli Deo gloria."

"We are the singers" simply states who and what the Cantata Singers are. The exuberant music shares the excitement and pure joy that singing praise to God can bring. The following chorale states the mission of all singers of sacred music. The most complex section of the piece, the "Alleluia" is also the most exciting to sing and experience. Its many different rhythms in some cases all happen at the same time. The final "Amen" is pastoral, and designed to give listener and performer a chance to reflect. The movement integrates much of the main thematic material from the other movements, to recall the joy and glory that is the sung praise of the Cantata Singers.

This has been a most enjoyable project. The Cantata Singers' ability and purpose served well to dictate the text, the musical style and the difficulty of the piece. It is my prayer that the joy I have felt in the creation of **Soli Deo Gloria** will shine through the performance, and that the joy and praise contained within the piece will touch all who come to sing, play, and listen.

- W. Wickham

**Will Wickham** is an honors graduate from the Fredonia State University School of Music, with a degree in music theory and composition, studying under composers including Donald Bohlen, and Walter S. Hartley. He has composed for a wide variety of media, including solo instrumental, electronic, choral, orchestral, and chamber music. Among his recent works are "Memorial Prayer", a orchestral work commissioned and premiered by the Elmira Symphony and Choral Society in memory of Leonard Bernstein; "Resurexit", a work for solo organ, commissioned by St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Corning, that was premiered at the dedication recital on their restored pipe organ; and several sacred choral works, including "Gloria", "Qui natus est di Virgine", and "The Blessed Dawn", all premiered by the Cantata Singers of Elmira.

In addition to composing, Will owns *Virtuoso Piano Service*, a piano tuning service. He also serves as director of music at St. Mary's Church in Corning, where he directs the choir, arranges much of their music, sings as cantor, and occasionally substitutes as organist. Will is also a trombonist and plays with the Elmira Trombone Choir, and does other freelance work. Will has also served on advisory panels for several area arts organizations.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, FOUNDATIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONS. THEY HAVE, COLLECTIVELY, PROVIDED OVER EIGHTY PERCENT OF OUR FUNDING.

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