

First Presbyterian Church  
2943 Westinghouse Road  
Horseheads, New York

Sunday, December 8, 1996  
at 3:00pm

# Baroque to Contemporary Music for Advent

Present a concert celebrating

The Cantata Singers  
Will Wickham, Musical Director



## The Cantata Singers

<u>Soprano</u>		<u>Alto</u>		<u>Tenor</u>		<u>Bass</u>
Lou Bleiler	Jane Kerber*	Ostara Bedo	Lou Sand	Barbara L. Horn	Richard R. Bauer	
Ruth Bruning	Jamie McLean	Tina Bevilacqua	Betsy Sentigar	Dan Shelles*	David Hauser*	
Lisa DeRouche	Susan Nagel	Betty Hughes	Jeanette Sherrill	Munro Sherrill	David Mix	
Robin Fitzgerald	Peg Rich	Frances McLaren	Florence Suffern*	Kevin Thomas	Sidney Reed	
Rita Grinbergs*	Judith Sheasley	Mimi Petrillose	Frances Vedder	Richard E. Wack	Michael K. Wald*	
Dottie Hoos	Sue Tanner	Jane Poliseo	Carol Wright			
Ann Jennings	Kay Kennedy Wack	Cora Range				

\* Board Members

The Cantata Singers take great pleasure in presenting their concerts without admission charge. The continuation of this practice depends largely upon your contributions at each concert. If you wish to be placed on our mailing list, or are interested in joining us in making music, leave your name and address in the collection plate, or call Jane Kerber at (607) 732-0060 for information.

Special thanks to Frances McLaren, Rehearsal Accompanist

Special thanks to clergy, staff and parishioners of First Presbyterian Church and Grace Episcopal Church

Special thanks to Elmira College

-- soli deo gloria --



This program is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered locally by the ARTS of the Southern Finger Lakes.

*Ann Jennings*

A concert of sacred choral music featuring

Alleluia from Motet VI (Lobet den Herrn, Alle Heiden)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Organist -- William Cowdery

Two Chorals from the Cantata "This Day"

R. Vaughan Williams

1. The Blessed Son of God
2. No Sad Thought His Soul Affright

The Virgin's Slumber Song (Maria Wiegenlied)

Max Reger

Mass in G

Franz Schubert

- I. Kyrie
- II. Gloria
- III. Credo
- IV. Sanctus et Benedictus
- V. Agnus Dei

Vocal Soloists

Soprano -- Sue Tanner    Tenor -- Richard Wack    Bass -- Sidney Reed

Instrumentalists

Violin I -- Sandra La Scarro    Violin II -- Denise Nosewicz  
Viola -- Marnie Holmes    Cello -- Elisa Evett  
Organist -- William Cowdery

**Intermission** -- A freewill offering will be received.

Laudi alla Vergine Maria (from the final canto of Dante's "Paradise")

Giuseppe Verdi

Nativity Madrigals

Daniel Pinkham

1. Guardian Owl
2. Get Up! Said Mary
3. What did the baby give the Kings?
4. How they brought the good news by sea
5. After

Organist -- William Cowdery

Five Pieces

Max Reger

- I. Es kommt ein Schiff geladen
- II. Von Himmeln hoch da komm ich her
- III. Das Wort ward Fleisch
- IV. Schlaf, mein Kindelein
- V. O Jesulein süß

Gloria

Will Wickham

Please join the Cantata Singers in the Community Hall for refreshments.

## GUARDIAN OWL

Company coming by night,  
who *are* you? Whoop?  
I live here. I have the right  
to know what's new.  
Have you come in fear, in flight?  
Is the hang of your life askew?

Then welcome, come so far,  
so much ado.  
I guard the stable a star  
is pointing to.  
Enter, the door's ajar,  
to fit the fullest of you.

Go in, I'll check you off.  
You're overdue.  
Don't push or pinch or shove  
for a better view.  
Just say your name with love  
when I ask, Who *are* you? Whoop?

## GET UP! SAID MARY

Get up! said Mary to the three grown  
men on their knees.  
And since her child was newly born,  
they rose, somewhat stiff, to please  
the serious mother, who  
was shooing off assorted nosy  
animals, *shoo! shoo!*  
that sniffed her infant's toes.

*Sh!* (with severity) It's too much  
commotion for so small  
a thing. Let him breathe. Don't touch!  
Oh what a frightening stableful!

Go now, all of you. Let me raise him  
as one among others, a regular  
boy. Thanks to your praise,  
and what you say about a star.  
I mean, these first few days:  
don't make me look too far.

## WHAT DID THE BABY GIVE THE KINGS?

Three things:

Firstly, a promise, as of every birth  
that freshens earth,  
like dawn which hints anew  
that what was dreamed may come yet true.

Then hope,  
as when you're thrown a rope  
on nearly drowning in a tidal wave.  
This gift as well the baby gave.

Lastly, a laugh like rising sun  
before the day had quite begun,  
so still a mirth, a note  
so quiet in the throat  
of morning, Kings could only guess  
at all its shining tunefulness

Amazed, as monarchs are  
who bring their royal wealth from far,  
the Kings turned back with gifts so rare,  
so right,  
they hovered in the homeward air  
like earthly light.

## HOW THEY BROUGHT THE GOOD NEWS BY SEA

Fish of the sea couldn't come--  
not over dry ground.  
They loitered in sight of the Holy Land,  
and listened for word from Bethlehem.

Close as they dared, whales swam,  
trying not to cough.  
Dolphins surmounted the vaults of surf.  
Starfish hushed the spitting foam.

Deep denizens left their gloom  
for the surface, this once.  
The shallows uncovered half their fins.  
Freshwater gills left lake and stream.

Crabs took a chance or a whim  
to climb the shale  
with crooked claw and jagged shell.  
They hustled back when they heard of Him.

They took the word to the tide--  
which was going out.  
Minnow told plaice, plaice told pout.  
Hear all about it! News! they cried.

## AFTER

After the taming, after  
the manger moment, the baby,  
the bowing down, the gifts,  
the gathering round for one  
last look--thereafter, when kings  
go home and shepherds tend  
again their flocks and stars  
resume their usual course--

oh then let creatures leave  
according to their kind,  
lion fierce and serpent  
fanged and boar a brute  
undaunted by that stable  
pause: the wild of world  
natural still, still  
a glory like a birth.

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along with the following line: *Poems copyright by  
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**Es kommt ein Schiff geladen  
A Ship Comes Laden**

1. A ship comes laden  
up to the deck,  
carrying God's Son, full of grace,  
the Father's eternal Word.
2. The ship lies drifting,  
it carries a precious cargo,  
the sail is love,  
the Holy Spirit is the mast.
3. The anchor is in the ground,  
the ship has landed.  
The Word becomes flesh for us,  
the Son is sent to us.
4. In Bethlehem born  
in a manger, a child  
loses himself for our sake;  
he must be praised.
5. Whoever would receive this child  
with joy and kisses  
must first suffer with him  
great pain and torment
6. and after that also die with him  
and spiritually rise again,  
to inherit eternal life  
as it happened to him.

**Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her  
From Heaven Above I Come**

1. From Heaven above I come,  
I bring you good new tidings,  
I bring so much good news  
of which I wish to sing and tell.
2. For you a child is born today,  
chosen of a virgin,  
a child so delicate and fine,  
that will be your joy and bliss.
3. It is the Lord Christ our God,  
who desires to lead you out of all distress,  
He desires to be your Savior Himself,  
to cleanse you from all sin.
4. O Lord, Creator of all things,  
how lowly you have become,  
to lie there on dry grass  
from which an ox and ass did eat.

**Das Wort ward Fleisch  
The Word Became Flesh**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory of the only-begotten Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word  
was with God, and the Word was God,  
full of grace and truth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
full of grace and truth.

**Schlaf, mein Kindelein  
Sleep, my Child**

1. Sleep, my child, sleep, my little son,  
sings the virgin mother pure.  
Sleep, my dear heart, sleep, my treasure,  
sings the father just as sweetly.

**(Refrain)**

Sing and make music for the little child,  
the honey-sweet, little Jesus!  
Sing and make music, pure angels,  
with a thousand sweet voices.

2. Close your eyes, cover your hands,  
for a sharp wind is blowing.  
Sleep, my child, the donkey  
will keep you warm with its own.  
(Refrain)

3. Sleep, my hope and my comfort,  
Sleep, o joy of my heart!  
Sleep, my delight, sleep, my crown,  
Sleep and close your eyes.  
(Refrain)

**O Jesulein süß  
O Jesus Sweet**

1. O Jesus sweet, o Jesus mild!  
You have fulfilled your father's will,  
have come from the kingdom of Heaven  
and become like us poor humans,  
O Jesus sweet, o Jesus mild!
2. O Jesus sweet, o Jesus mild!  
With joy have you filled the world:  
You come from the halls of Heaven  
and comfort us in this vale of misery,  
O Jesus sweet, o Jesus mild!
3. O Jesus sweet, o Jesus mild!  
You are the image of love;  
Ignite the flame of love in us,  
that we may all love you together,  
O Jesus sweet, o Jesus mild!
4. O Jesus sweet, o Jesus mild!  
Help us do everything you want,  
whatever is ours, is all yours,  
oh, let us be commended to you,  
O Jesus sweet, o Jesus mild!

**Mariä Wiegenlied  
Mary's Lullaby (The Virgin's Slumber Song)**

Mary sits by the rose hedge and rocks her baby Jesus,  
through the leaves softly blows the warm summer wind.  
At her feet sings a brightly colored little bird.  
Sleep, baby, sweet, go to sleep now!

Lovely is your smile, lovelier is the delight of your slumber,  
Lay your tired little head securely on your mother's breast!  
Sleep, baby, sweet, go to sleep now!

# CANTATA SINGERS CONTRIBUTORS--1996-97

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