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*Soli Deo
Gloria*

**20th
Century
Sacred Music**

The Cantata Singers
Saturday, May 20, 2000 • 7 pm
Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira
Sunday, May 21, 2000 • 3 pm
First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen

Acknowledgments

The Cantata Singers are deeply grateful to those who have contributed to the preparation of this concert in so many ways:

- ✦ Father Don Matthews and the congregation of Grace Church, Elmira, for their continued support through the use of their facilities;
- ✦ David Ashby for the beautiful program cover design;
- ✦ Beverly Carr-Lyon and the congregation of The First Presbyterian Church of Watkins Glen for hosting our Sunday concert;
- ✦ Loueda Bleiler, Mary Keaton, and Lou Sand for their facilitation of this collaboration and their work in preparing the Schuyler County choir members;
- ✦ Frances McLaren, our rehearsal accompanist;
- ✦ Terri Limes, who filled in for Frances as rehearsal accompanist when she couldn't be there;
- ✦ The First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads for allowing us to use their facility for some rehearsals;
- ✦ Lou & Robert Sand for purchasing "Take My Life for our music library;
- ✦ Our generous donors and supporters, without whom we could not continue.

✦

Thank you!



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



This program is underwritten in part by a grant from
The Community Foundation of the Elmira-Corning
Area, Inc.



The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director

Soli Deo Gloria

20th Century Sacred Music

Gerald Wolfe, Organist
Kathryn Pritt, Cellist
Sunny Miller, Flautist

Featuring guest singers from Church Choirs
of Schuyler County:

Odessa Baptist Church

Randy Stone, Pastor

Loueda Bleiler, Choral Director

Odessa United Methodist Church

Will Baez, Pastor

Lou Sand, Choral Director

First Presbyterian Church of Watkins Glen

Beverly Carr-Lyon, Pastor

Mary Keaton, Choral Director

Saturday, May 20th, 2000 – 7:00 P.M.

Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira

Sunday, May 21st, 2000 – 3:00 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen

Program

The Singers	Warren Benson
Take My Life	Marie Rubis Bauer
Musica Dei Donum	John Rutter
Gloria (from <i>The Masque of Angels</i>)	Dominick Argento
Alleluia	Randall Thompson

Intermission

Soli Deo Gloria	Will Wickham
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- I. Prologue: Song of Joy
- II. Soli Deo Gloria
- III. We are the Singers
- IV. Our Call
- V. Alleluia
- VI. Amen

Organ: Gerald Wolfe
Flute: Sunny Miller
Cello: Kathryn Pritt

The Cantata Singers

SOPRANO

Marylee Ashby
Loueda Bleiler
Ruth Bruning
Robin Fitzgerald
Dorothy Hoos
Ann Jennings
Jane Kerber
Judith Sheasley
Susan Tanner
Jane Tucker
Kate Wickham

ALTO

Ostara Bedo
Amy Chrabasziz
Lucy Cunnings
Sharon Gublo
Pat Hauser
Frances McLaren
Jane Poliseo
Cora Range
Lou Sand
Betsy Sentigar
Florence Suffern

TENOR

Thomas J. McCloskey
Dan Shelles
Ron Tunison

BASS

Jim Fink
David Hauser
Rick Schockner

The following members of church choirs from Schuyler County will join the Cantata Singers for the Randall Thompson "Alleluia":

Odessa Baptist

Brian Bleiler, Tenor
Loueda Bleiler, Soprano
Vince Kotmel, Bass
Mike Scullin, Bass

Odessa Methodist

Kim Caldwell, Soprano
Alice Learn, Alto
Kim Messersmith, Alto
Virginia Peters, Soprano
Lou Sand, Alto
Betty Underdown, Soprano
Norm Underdown, Tenor

First Presbyterian Church of Watkins Glen

Bob King, Bass
Bettina King, Alto
Rose Chedzoy, Alto
Loretta Dean, Soprano
Marzie Lewis, Soprano
Joyce McKinney, Alto
Lincoln Wager, Tenor

Watkins Glen Methodist

Ginny Shippy, Alto

A freewill offering will be received during the intermission.

Program Notes

The Singers

The text of *The Singers* is taken from a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It was composed in 1984 for the Cantata Singers as part of a commission celebrating the group's twentieth season.

Musica Dei Donum

<i>Musica Dei donum optimi</i>	Music, the gift of the supreme God
<i>Trahit homines, trahit deos.</i>	Draws men, draws gods.
<i>Musica truces mollit animos,</i>	Music makes savage souls gentle
<i>Tristeque mentes erigit.</i>	And uplifts sad minds.
<i>Musica vel ipsas arbores</i>	Music moves the very trees
<i>Horridas movet feras.</i>	And wild beasts.

This only other known setting of this text is found in the *Cantiones sacrae* of Orlando di Lassus, first published in 1594.

Gloria (from "The Masque of Angels")

Dominick Argento's *The Masque of Angels* was commissioned in 1963 by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota for its performing arts program, Center Opera. The company, which focused on the composition and performance of new works by contemporary American composers, eventually became an independent entity known as the Minnesota Opera Company, now one of the premiere opera companies in the United States.

Alleluia

Randall Thompson's *Alleluia* is probably one of the best-known sacred works of the twentieth century. It was written at the request of Dr. Serge Koussevitzky for the opening exercises of the Berkshire Music Center in Lenox, Massachusetts. It was first performed by the student body of the Center under the direction of Professor G. Wallace Woodworth on July 8, 1940.

Soli Deo Gloria

Soli Deo Gloria was "commissioned by and dedicated to the Cantata Singers on the occasion of the celebration of 30 years of service to God through Music" in 1994 and was premiered by them in that season.

The work was originally scored for full orchestra; however, Mr. Wickham has re-scored it for this performance for organ and cello obbligato.

THE CANTATA SINGERS ARE men and women who meet to perform great sacred music in a church setting. No church affiliation is required for membership, and we perform wherever our music will receive a proper hearing. The group was founded in 1964 by Robert M. Finster, then organist and choirmaster of Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira. Under his direction we established basic goals and began the steady growth in performing skill that has earned us the continued respect of the musical community. Since 1970 we have been formally organized with a constitution and an executive committee elected by the singers.

REHEARSALS are held Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:30. They're filled with joy, despair, adventure, discovery, bad jokes, and hard work. We go home wrung out but exhilarated with what we have learned together.

OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT comes mainly from free-will offerings at concerts, singers' donations, and gifts from friends of the organization. Contributions to the Cantata Singers are tax deductible. Some recent programs have been made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered by the Chemung Valley Arts Council. We are also indebted to all those area churches, particularly Grace Church, that have opened their doors to us for rehearsals and performances.

JOIN US! If you are interested in becoming part of the Cantata Singers, either as a singer or financial supporter, please contact us at P.O. Box 952, Elmira, NY 14902,