

SUSTAINERS
ARTS of the Southern Finger Lakes

BENEFACTORS
Patrick and Robin Fitzgerald

PATRONS
Loueda Bleiler
Elizabeth F. Hart
John and Dorothy Hoos
Michael and Patricia Wald

SPONSORS
The Hon. & Mrs. Dave Brockway
Mrs. William H. Bruning
Ruth Bruning
Helen P. Clark
Keith & Joan Constanzer Calkins
Catherine S. Craig
Dan and Lenore Dimon
Gwen Egan
Dr. Edward J. & Mrs. Irene Stein Grandt
Gene Herber
Bob and Joyce Herrema
Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Hillman
John and Frances McLaren
Dr. and Mrs. Erving R. Mix
Mount Savior Monastery
Martha Pfeifer Pierce
Virginia Shippy
Susan H. Tanner

DONORS
Mary Jane Brown
Tony and Pat Ciccariello
Richard and Natalie Denton
M. Patricia Faber
Charles and Muriel Friend
Pat Hauser
Mrs. Edward Jack
Merrill and Lydia T. Lynn
Archer and Ellen Martin
Olin E. Jr. and Thelma C. West

FRIENDS
John and Lynda Brand
Joseph and Martha Buck
Loretta Dean
Mr. Matthew Perry
Mary Monroe Smith



The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director

present

*Music for the Nativity:
The Adoration of the Christ Child*

Sunday, December 7th, 2003
3:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church of Horseheads
Broad Street
Horseheads, New York

Featuring:

The Pinnacle Brass Quintet of Ithaca College
Fran Shumway, Alto Soloist
First United Methodist Church Children's Choir
First United Methodist Church Bell Choir
First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir
David Peckham, Organist

Music for the Nativity: The Adoration of the Christ Child

Today we celebrate a special birth in song. Only once in history has there been such a momentous delivery, venerated for more than two millennia. The music that you will hear today is a glimpse of the celebration, the wonder, the awe and the adoration of all who visited Mary, Joseph and the Holy Child in the manger at Bethlehem. Kings, shepherds and wise men who came brought gifts to honor the Christ Child. Our gift, like that of the Angels that night, is music. We come with bells, with horns, with the mighty organ, and with many voices.

The ringing of bells is a long-standing Christmas tradition that reaches back to the first Christmas when legend has it that bells everywhere rang at the birth of the Christ Child. We are pleased to have the ringers of the United Methodist Church Bell Choir, under the direction of Amy Harpster, open our program with selections from *Ring Together Christmas*.

The choral part of our program opens with *Milford*, an early American carol and "fuging tune" that recounts the birth, as many carols do. *Riu Riu Chiu* is a traditional Spanish carol. The title phrase does not translate into English and is meant to evoke the call of the nightingale. Legends of the Nativity of Christ include the miracle of animals talking. In this case it is the nightingale singing about God's protection of the Holy Family from the wolf. In Villa-Lobos' beautiful *Praesepe* we sing of the irony of the humble birth of the King and the adoration of the Baby by the old man who owns the stable. The text comes from the 1563 "Poem to the Virgin" by Fr. Jose de Anchieta. Fr. Anchieta, a missionary to Brazil and a very gifted poet, uses double meanings of much of the Latin text to offer a dramatic, ironic and poignant glimpse of the birth through the experience of the man who owned the stable.

In *Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling*, subtitled "The Shepherds' Farewell to the Holy Family" from the larger work "The Childhood of Christ," Hector Berlioz considers the thoughts of the Shepherds as they say goodbye after adoring the Christ child. Joining us again this year, by popular demand, is the *Pinnacle Brass*, a student brass quintet from Ithaca College. Their musical offerings will be *Scherzo* and a setting of one of the oldest traditional carols, *Greensleeves*. The *Nativity Madrigals*, using Norma Farber's na-

tivity poems from her book "A Birth in the Family," give composer Daniel Pinkham the opportunity for a unique perspective on the reactions of animals and others sharing the stable that night.

Unto Us is Born a Son is a modern setting of an ancient tune that was first set on paper in the 1582 Sacred Latin collection "Piae Cantiones." Will Wickham's *The Blessed Dawn* offers a quiet peak at the humble beginnings of "so great a king" while his *Gloria* recalls the song of adoration offered by the "multitude of heavenly hosts" on that great day.

The Chancel Choir of the Methodist Church, under the direction of organist and choirmaster David Peckham, offers two selections: *Your Song in Me* and *The Christmas Hymn* (The *Echo Carol*), two of their favorite musical offerings. The Cantata Singers and the Chancel Choir combine forces to offer two traditional works from the British Isles. *In the Bleak Midwinter* is a setting of a traditional English carol and from Scotland comes *What Strangers are These* - a glorious setting of text that speaks of the many visitors that night.

It is often said that Christmas is for children. Amy Harpster leads the Children's Choir in selections from *Archangel Gabriel's Awesome Adventure*, a Christmas musical that will be presented here at the Methodist Church. Since a 'merry organ' is an important part of the tradition of sound that celebrates the miracle of the Nativity, David Peckham presents an organ setting of *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella* for our celebration.

Last, and definitely not least, what is Christmas if not a community event? Please join all of us as we conclude our celebration with traditional carols. Join with us in the music of celebration: the adoration of the birth of Christ, the miracle birth that saves the world.



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.

PROGRAM

- Selections from "Ring Together Christmas"Arr. K. McChesney
Bell Choir
- Milford.....J. Stepheson
Cantata Singers
- Riu Riu Chiu.....Traditional
Cantata Singers
Scott Frye, soloist
- PraesepeH. Villa-Lobos
Cantata Singers
Fran Shumway, soloist
- Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly DwellingH. Berlioz
Cantata Singers
- Scherzo.....J. Cheetham
Pinnacle Brass
- Nativity CarolsD. Pinkham
Cantata Singers

Intermission

A free will offering will be taken.



PROGRAM

- Unto Us is Born a Son..... Traditional
Cantata Singers
- Two Pieces for ChristmasW. Wickham
The Blessed Dawn
Gloria
Cantata Singers
- Greensleeves - arr. David Uber
Pinnacle Brass
- Your Song in MeR. Hatton
Chancel Choir
- Christmas Hymn (Echo Carol)..... arr. H. Jungst
Chancel Choir
- In the Bleak Mid-Winter..... H. Darke
Combined Choirs
Susan Tanner & Jack Darling, soloists
- What Strangers are These arr. R. Purvis
Combined Choirs
Loueda Bleiler & Scott Frye, soloist
- Selections from "Archangel Gabriel's Awesome Adventure" .. B. Merrill &
A. R. Petker
Childrens Choir
- Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella.....arr. K. Chapman
David Peckham, organist
- Traditional carols -*The audience is invited to join with us in singing these
carols. Words can be found on the following page.*

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen.....arr. D. Willcocks

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray;

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heav'nly Father A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name:

Refrain:

3. The Shepherds at those tidings Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway This blessed babe to find:

Refrain

4. But when to Bethlehem they came, Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger, Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling, Unto the lord did pray:

Refrain

5. Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas All others doth deface:

Refrain

Angels We Have Heard On High..... Traditional

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain:

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain:

Joy To The World!..... Traditional

1. Joy to the world! the Lord has come: Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Organist: David Peckham

United Methodist Chancel Choir: Directed by David Peckham

Soprano	(Soprano)	Tenor
Ida Beard	Elizabeth Panosian	Dalton Flatt
Mary Lou Benedict	Beverly Ring	Don Peterson
Nancy Boyle	Janice Updike	Tom Rankin
Diane Brown		
Marolyn Hackett	Alto	Bass
Mandi Hall	Jan Aiello	Gerry Austin
Carol Hallenbeck	Sally Davidson	Brent Arnold
Jean Jones	Pam Fluent	Marshall Updike
Pauline LeShure		

United Methodist Children's Choir directed by Amy Harpster

Molly Aiello	K.J. Mayhood	Alex Stryker
Ethan Campanelli	Matthew Mayhood	Ryan Stryker
Emily Craven	Corey McCann	Larie Wagner
Laura Cruttenden	Katie McCann	Larissa Wagner
Emily Dobson	Justin McMaster	Kelly Walters
Whitney Hauptman	Ryan McMaster	Shana Weston
Ashley Mayhood	Alexis Smith	

Bell Choir: Directed by Amy Harpster

Jan Aiello	Connie Gillette	Elizabeth Panosian
Molly Aiello	Carol Hallenbeck	Tom Rankin
Brent Arnold	Brian Harpster	David Seymour
Megan Brennan	JoAnn Hunt	Dyane Smith
Pam Fluent	Pauline LeShure	

Pinnacle Brass Quintet of Ithaca College

Casey Large and Jesse King, trumpets
Tyler Ogilvie, French horn
Matt Haines, trombone
Christian Carichner, tuba

Cantata Singers

Soprano	Alto	Tenor
Ruth Bruning	Loueda Bleiler	Jack Darling
Robin Fitzgerald	Amy Chrabaszcz	Thomas J. McCloskey
Isabel Gilroy	Joan Cunnings	Gary Tucker
Dorothy Hoos	Martha Horton	
Joy McFarland	Frances McLaren	Bass
Kate Nagle	Jane Poliseo	David Edsall
Susan Nagle	Cora Range	Jim Fink
Laurie Scullin	Lou Sand	Scott Frye
Susan Tanner	Ginny Shippy	Michael Wald
Sarah Underwood		

Rehearsal Accompanist: Frances McLaren