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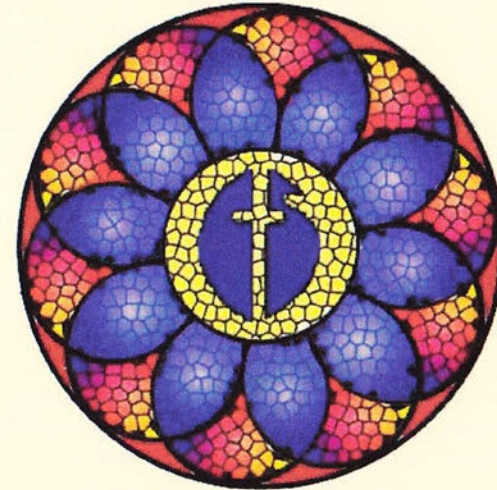


**The Cantata Singers**

Will Wickham, Musical Director

present

**A 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
CONCERT**



**FEATURING MUSIC OF 20TH CENTURY  
AMERICAN COMPOSERS**

**Sunday, May 16, 2004**  
Grace Episcopal Church  
Elmira, New York

***Mr. Robert D. Herrema, Guest Conductor***  
***Gerald Wolfe, Organist***



## PROGRAM NOTES

It's always about the connections. In 1994 the Cantata Singers of Elmira were celebrating 30 years of making music. That same year three college guys started the "game" Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon. Their game was based on the 1990 John Guare play "Six Degrees of Separation," and served to prove that no matter how hard we try to distance ourselves, we are all more closely connected than we might have imagined.

What does all this have to do with a choral concert? Consider this: You are reading this right now along with at least a few other folks. You are connected. You are, or soon will be, enjoying a choral performance by the Cantata Singers celebrating 40 years of Classical Sacred music in Elmira. You are connected with us. Now get this: Through four decades of performances, you are also connected to the eleven conductors, dozens of instrumentalists, hundreds of singers and thousands of listeners who have been associated with our performances through those years; you are only a couple of degrees away from approximately one hundred composers whose music the Cantata Singers have performed which puts you at roughly three or four degrees away from literally millions of folks around the world who have also enjoyed performances of the very same music! Mind boggling.

Besides this sort of general connections we can make, today's performance is also built on a number of connections. All the music on today's program comes from American composers and, although the inspiration might have been from much earlier or further away, all was created in the last 100 years.

New York City resident and composer Lukas Foss is currently listed as a faculty member, since 1991, of the University of Boston. The University commissioned Foss to compose *Behold I Build An House* in 1950 for the dedication of Marsh Chapel on the campus. A former Cantata Singer, Meg Wickham, currently enrolled as a student at BU, has a favorite granite bench in Marsh Plaza in front of the chapel. Additionally, Jack Darling, a sometimes-Cantata Singer since the mid 1970's, sang the work under the direction of the composer as a music student at SUNY Fredonia, also the alma mater of current music director Will Wickham. Connections everywhere! As a composer, Foss has, like his idol J.S. Bach, eagerly embraced the musical languages of his time, producing a body of well over one hundred works that Aaron Copland, called, in 1974, "among the most original and stimulating compositions in American music." Copland is possibly best known for his frequent use of American folk tunes, particularly the Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts*.

Leonard Bernstein, composer of the *Chichester Psalms*, was a very close friend of both Lukas Foss and Aaron Copland. Frequently programming the works of both composers, Bernstein, with the New York Philharmonic, premiered Foss' 1960 work *Time Cycle* for soprano and orchestra. At the premiere, Bernstein, in an unprecedented gesture of respect, performed the entire work twice. In 1985 the Cantata Singers premiered *A Score of Praises* by composer Warren Benson, commissioned for the singers' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As Bernstein did with *Time Cycle*, the work was performed twice on the concert,

which was conducted by a former student of Dr. Benson's, William Payne, the conductor of the singers from 1975 to 1989. The connections continue to grow!

Bob Herrema was the musical director of the Cantata Singers when the group celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 2001 Bob and his wife Joyce commissioned composer Alice Parker to write a choral work in memory of Bob's sister Barbara Herrema Guikema. The Robert Dale Chorale premiered the work, *Psalms for Barbara* under Parker's direction in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in February of 2002. The piece is a modern setting of Psalms of the "Becker Psalter" by 17<sup>th</sup> century German composer Heinrich Schütz. Although Schütz died 13 years before J.S. Bach was born, Bach drew much inspiration from the earlier master. Bach's own mastery would later provide inspiration for many composers, including Lukas Foss - and so the connections grow. Mr. Herrema joins us to conduct this performance of the work.

The first half of our performance concludes with a festival setting of American composer William Doane's 1875 hymn *To God Be The Glory* by contemporary choral composer/arranger Mark Hayes. This heroic arrangement begins with a dramatic fanfare style call-to-worship then builds to a thrilling climax. Here's the connection: Hayes, like Bach, works the original chorale-type hymn to a frenzy of inspirationally glorious music. And, if that's not quite connected enough: Hayes lives and works in Orlando, Florida, literally a hop and skip down the road from composer/arranger David Brunner who is responsible for today's rendition of *Simple Gifts*.

Composer Samuel Barber, like Leonard Bernstein studied at the Curtis Institute. His *Adagio for Strings* was originally the 2<sup>nd</sup> movement of a String quartet and eventually was reworked by the composer into the beautiful and moving *Agnus Dei* on today's program. In the form of a string orchestra piece this music was played following the deaths of two of the great American presidents: Roosevelt and Kennedy.

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit* is one of the best known works of William L. Dawson. Born in Alabama in 1898, Dawson studied as an undergraduate at the Tuskegee Institute. Ten years after completing his Bachelor's degree he returned to found the School of Music at Tuskegee and for 25 years conducted the 100 voice Tuskegee Choir. It was during his tenure that the choir performed for President Roosevelt, creating a connection with the music of Barber.

An outstanding quality of the Cantata Singers is the commitment to new music. This is shown not only through programming of contemporary music during most of the 40 seasons of the groups existence, but especially through the commissioning of new sacred choral music. Our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary commission, *The Power of Music*, is a reflection of the importance of music in God's universe and the dedication of the singers to that music; the connection of all of us to each other and to heaven through the "very throne of God" that is the heart of the connecting love of all being.



**Some Highlights from the Cantata Singers' 40-year history:**

- **May 12, 1974** - Haydn's *Creation*, directed by Robert Shaw  
Soloists: Soprano - Rebecca Reinsmith, Jean Brown; Tenor - Lester Erich; Baritone - Roger Hartman; Bass - James Hudson
  - **December 20, 1980** - Handel's *Messiah* - Clemens Center  
Soloists: Constance Read, Gloria Kirk, Edmund Dana, James Hudson
  - 20th Anniversary Season:** William Payne, Director
  - **May 6, 1984** - Bach Festival - *Cantata 131, Missa Brevis No. 4 in G Minor*  
Soloists: Gloria Kirk, Ned Dana, Richard Byrne
  - **December 9 & 16, 1984** - J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*  
Soloists: Constance Read, Gloria Kirk, Edmund Dana, William Parke, James Hudson  
(Coincided with tercentenary of J. S. Bach)
  - **December 8, 1985** - Warren Benson's *A Score of Praises* - commissioned for the 20th anniversary.
  - **February 1 & 3, 1991** - Mozart Festival - *Ave Verum, Missa Brevis in D Minor, Solemn Vespers*; Also a Chamber Concert & a recital featuring the *Exultate Jubilate*, Andrea Folan, soprano.
  - 1994 - 30th Anniversary Season:** Thomas Folan, Director
  - **May 22, 1994** - Haydn's *Mass of St. Cecilia*; Will Wickham's *Soli Deo Gloria* - commissioned for the 30th anniversary; performed at 1st United Methodist Church in Horseheads; conducted by the composer
  - **Fall 1998** - Haydn's *Mass of Cecilia* with Sage Chapel Choir in Ithaca; directed by Thomas J. Folan
  - **April 25, 2002** - Mozart's *Requiem Mass in D Minor* - combined performance with the choirs of Horseheads High School at the Clemens Center; conducted by Will Wickham  
Soloists: Soprano - Kate Wickham; Alto - Maria Bedo; Tenor - Jonathan Boyd; Bass-Baritone - Mark Webster
- Festival Bach every season since 1970**
- **2004 - 40th Anniversary Season** under the direction of Will Wickham; Commissioned work - *The Power of Music* by Will Wickham; Performed May 16, 2004 at Grace Episcopal

The Cantata Singers are delighted to welcome back Mr. Robert Dale Herrema, former CS director, to conduct *Psalms for Barbara* - three settings by Heinrich Schütz from the Becker Psalter, arranged by Alice Parker. The piece was commissioned by the Robert Dale Chorale of Scranton, Pennsylvania, as a gift from Robert and Joyce Herrema, in loving memory of Robert's sister, Barbara Jeanne Guikema, and was first performed by the Robert Dale Chorale on February 9, 2002, in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

**Robert Dale Herrema** is a conductor, Associate Professor and Director of Choral and Orchestral activities at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he has taught since the fall of 1983. He is the founder and Musical Director of the Robert Dale Chorale, the premier chamber ensemble of Northeast Pennsylvania, which he has directed for 26 years. Mr. Herrema holds degrees from Calvin College and the University of Michigan and has completed additional study with Julius Herford, Helmuth Rilling and Robert Shaw. He has conducted numerous choral and orchestral festivals and has prepared several choirs for Robert Shaw, Thomas Wihalik, Hugh Keelon and Hugh Wolf. In addition, he has taken choirs on concert tours in Europe; in fact, he leaves this Monday for another European tour. His creativity in programming is recognized nationally and he is credited with commissioning many composers, as well as composing his own music. His compositions are published by Carl Fischer, Gentry and Walton. As a former critic for *The Scranton Tribune* and the *Choral Journal*, he has contributed nearly 200 published reviews. Mr. Herrema is also credited with the founding of the Annual Scranton Bach Festival (with Amor Musica) and the establishment of the Annual *Messiah* Sing-Along (with Libby Smith and WVIA-FM of Scranton). He will retire from his position at Marywood, as well as from the Robert Dale Chorale this year, and looks forward to spending time singing instead with his eight young grandchildren.



**CONCERT PERSONNEL**

**Director:** Will Wickham  
**Guest Conductor:** Mr. Robert D. Herrema  
**Organ:** Gerald Wolfe  
**Piano:** Frances McLaren

**CANTATA SINGERS**

**Soprano**

Ruth Bruning  
Danielle Edwards  
Robin Fitzgerald  
Isabel Gilroy  
Dorothy Hoos  
Joy Judith McFarland  
Susan Nagle  
Susan Tanner

**Alto**

Loueda Bleiler  
Amy Chrabaszcz  
Lucy Cunnings  
Martha Horton  
Frances McLaren  
Jane Poliseo  
Cora Range  
Lou Sand  
Ginny Shippy

**Tenor**

Jack Darling  
Thomas J. McCloskey  
Gary Tucker

**Bass**

David Edsall  
Jim Fink  
Scott Frye  
Rick Schockner

**Rehearsal Pianist:** Frances McLaren

*Special thanks go to:*

- Fr. Don Matthews and the staff and parishioners of Grace Episcopal Church for hosting this concert
- Rev. Betsey Crimmins and the staff and parishioners of First Presbyterian Church
- Drinker Library in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- StanWyck Productions Youth Theatre

**Concert Program**

***Behold! I Build An House*** .....Lukas Foss  
*Keyboard - Frances McLaren*

***Chichester Psalms*, Third Movement** ..... Leonard Bernstein  
*Soloists: Susan Tanner, Soprano; Loueda Bleiler, Alto;  
Scott Frye, Baritone*

***Psalms for Barbara*** .....Alice Parker  
*Conducted by Mr. Herrema*

***To God Be The Glory*** ..... William Doane, arr. Mark Hayes

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**Intermission**

**A free-will offering will be taken**

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***Agnus Dei*** .....Samuel Barber  
*Danielle Edwards, Soprano Soloist*

***Every Time I feel the Spirit*** ..... William L. Dawson  
*Scott Frye, Baritone soloist*

***Simple Gifts***.....Aaron Copland, arr. David Brunner

***The Power of Music*** ..... Will Wickham  
*Susan Tanner, Soprano Soloist*



Church, Elmira; Return of Robert Herrema, former Cantata Singers director, to conduct *Psalms for Barbara*.

**In the past 40 years, the Cantata Singers have performed...**

- ...all the Bach motets and two dozen of the sacred cantatas (some several times)
- ...Bach's *Mass in B Minor* (4 times)
- ...Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* (twice in its entirety)
- ...Bach's *Magnificat* (twice)
- ...Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*
- ...Bach's *St. John Passion* (4 times)
- ...the entire *Messiah* by Handel
- ...Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* (twice)
- ...Bruckner's *Mass in E Minor*
- ...Duruflé's *Requiem* (twice)
- ...Fauré's *Requiem*
- ...Mozart's *Requiem*
- ...Haydn's *Last Seven Word's of Christ*
- ...Liszt's *Via Crucis*
- ...Poulenc's *Gloria*
- ...Vivaldi *Gloria*

In addition, they have commissioned three major works and have premiered several new works

**The Directors of the Cantata Singers from 1964-present**

- Dr. Robert Finster, founder, 1964-1969
- Fred M. Thayer - 1969-1971
- Mr. Robert Dale Herrema - 1971-1975
- William O. Payne, III - 1975-1989
- (Dr. Kent Hill guest conducted several concerts in 1988 & 1989)
- Thomas J. Folan - 1990-1995
- Michael Krueger - 1995-1996
- Will Wickham - 1996-present

Texts and Translations

*Behold! I Build An House*

Behold! I build an house to the Lord, my God.  
And the house which I build to the name of the Lord is great  
For great is our God.

Behold, when they lifted up their voice and praised the Lord  
With Trumpets and Cymbals and instruments of music,  
Saying, "For He is good, for His mercy endureth forever,"  
Behold, Then the house was filled with a cloud,  
For the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

That thine eyes may be open upon this house.

*Chichester Psalms: III. Psalm 131, entire / Psalm 133: 1*

Adonai, Adonai,	Lord, Lord,
Lo gavah libi,	My heart is not haughty,
V'lo ramu einai,	Nor mine eyes lofty,
V'lo hilachti	Neither do I exercise myself
Big'dolot uv'niflaot	In great matters or in things
Mimeni.	Too wonderful for me.
Im lo shiviti	Surely I have calmed
V'domam'ti,	And quieted myself,
Naf'shi k'gamulalei imo,	As a child that is weaned of his mother,
Kagamul alai naf'shi.	My soul is even as a weaned child.
Yahel Yis'rael el Adonai	Let Israel hope in the Lord
Me'atah v'ad olam.	From henceforth and forever.
Hinch mah tov,	Behold how good,
Umah naim,	And how pleasant it is,
Shevet ahim	For brethren to dwell
Gam yahad.	Together in unity.

*Psalms for Barbara*

I . I Praise You, Lord, in Every Hour,	comes relief,
with all my pow'r,	You know that He forgave you.
Since you have heard my crying.	Your Holy God withdraws His rod,
Your arm has vanquish'd all my foes	you go to bed your eyes still red, but
with all their woes,	waken free and joyful.
Their victory denying.	Lord, you are patient, I am weak, until
Dear God, I plead from my deep need,	I seek, and then I find You waiting.
And to my cries Your mercy flies;	You build my confidence and strength,
Your grace relieves my sighing.	and I, at length, see all my fears abat-
Praise God, all you who call him Lord,	ing. How should I not praise you, my
He keeps His word,	God? Your life I see begun in me, New
Remember how He saved you.	joy and hope creating.
His anger lasts a moment brief, soon	



Psalms for Barbara, continued

II. How lovely is your dwelling,  
O God, my hope and strength.  
My spirit longs for shelter, my flesh  
cries out for home,  
Where even swallows nesting beside  
your altar resting  
Are ever praising You.

How blest are those whose travels are  
strengthened by Your hand,  
Who pass thro' darkened valleys and  
find refreshing springs.  
Your rains fall soft as kindness on all  
your faithful pilgrims  
Until they come to You.

Look on me, God of goodness, You  
are my sun and shield.  
One day within Your household is  
what I most desire.  
O guide me in Your mercy along my  
lonely pathway,  
O bring me safely home.

III. Praise ye the Lord with one ac-  
cord, all nations praise and bless him.  
Ye people all upon Him call, your God  
and Lord confess Him.  
Praise ye and bless his kindness, His  
mercy far extending.  
His promise assures, His truth endures,  
And His grace is never ending.  
Alleluia, rejoicing.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins  
of the world, grant us peace.

The Power of Music

In the beginning,  
Before time began,  
There was nothing.  
Even silence was naught.

Then, in the spark of an instant,  
God created the universe;  
The heavens,  
The firmament,  
The stars and our dreams.

Music was there;  
The pulse of creation,  
The rhythm of change,  
The harmony of existence,  
The melody of birth, life and death.

From this beginning,  
Music has power,  
To reach us:  
Our hearts,  
Our minds,  
Our souls.

The greatest power of music  
Draws us ever closer  
To the very throne of God.  
Where all beauty,  
All love,  
Has its beginning  
And its end.

**The Cantata Singers of Elmira**

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<p><i>Lou Sand</i> Celebrating 36 years with Cantata Singers</p>	<p><b>Thomas J. McCloskey</b></p>

# The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

*Soli Deo Gloria*

**Come celebrate 40 years of singing  
with the Cantata Singers of Elmira!**

Our musical celebration will feature American music from the last hundred years including works by Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Lucas Foss, Samuel Barber, William Doane, William Dawson, Alice Parker and a work commissioned specially for the occasion by Will Wickham.

We will be featuring the Cantata Singers including several soloists from within the group. Organ accompaniment will be provided by Gerald Wolfe, Organist and music director at Grace Episcopal Church. In addition, former Cantata Singers director Robert Herrema will join us to conduct a piece that was originally commissioned and performed by the Robert Dale Chorale of Scranton, PA, as a gift from Robert & Joyce Herrema.

**Sunday, May 16th, 2004 - 4PM**

*Grace Episcopal Church*

Corner of Church & Davis Street, Elmira

A freewill offering will be received.



These programs are 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.