



The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director

In collaboration with

The Park Church

Joseph L. Milliken, Musical Director

Present

A Renaissance Christmas

Featuring:

The Park Church Adult Choir

The Park Church Handbell Choir

A Recorder Consort

A Brass Quartet

Saturday, December 10

3:00 p.m.

The Park Church

Elmira, NY

The Programme

Prelude

Bransle de Champagne.....	Claude Gervaise (c. 1550)
Burgundian Dance.....	Claude Gervaise (c. 1550)
Allemande.....	Claude Gervaise (c. 1550)
Ronde.....	Zielman Susato (1500-1561)
Villancico.....	Juan del Encina (1468-1529)

Recorder Consort

Procession

Aro Que Nostre Seigne Es Nat (Now That Our Lord is Born).....	Traditional Provencal, Ed. By Kay Dunlap
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Cantata Singers & Recorder Consort

Festive Opening

Strike Up Your Instruments of Joy.....	Arr. by John Edmunds & Brian Holmes
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Cantata Singers & Brass Quartet

Part The First: Of Mary and the Birth of the Christ Child

Geborn ist Gottes Söhnelein (God's Infant Son).....	Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Coventry Carol.....	Original tune of 1591, from the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors
Blessed Be That Maid Mary.....	English traditional tune, arr. David Willcocks words by G.R. Woodward
with Recorder Consort & Soloists Ruth Bruning & Chris Waterstraat	
The Linden Tree Carol.....	Old German tune, arr. Reginald Jacques, trans. G. R. Woodward
A Virgin Most Pure.....	English traditional carol, arr. Charles Wood
Ave Maria (Hail, Mary).....	Tomàs Luis da Vittoria, arr. Ralph L. Baldwin

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Instrumental interlude

Greensleeves.....	Henry VIII (1491-1547)
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming.....	Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Noël Nouvelet.....	Traditional French
Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella.....	Traditional Provencal

Recorder Consort

Part the Second: Of Angels and Shepherds

Up! Good Christian Folk, and Listen.....	Tune from "Piae Cantiones," 1582, harm. & words by G.R Woodward
Allons, gai bergères (Come, Merry Shepherdesses).....	Guillaume Costeley (1531-1606)
Noël.....	Eustache Du Caurroy (1549-1609)
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks.....	Este's Psalter, 1592, Words by Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
Angelus ad pastores ait (Gabriel said unto the shepherds).....	Hans Leo Hasler (1564-1612)
Pastores, Dicite, Quidnam Vidistis? (O Shepherds, tell us now).....	Cristóbal de Morales (1500-1553)

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Intermission

Part the Third: Of Revelry and Joy

In Dulci Jubilo.....Old German tune, arr. R. L. Pearsall
Ding Dong! Merrily on High.....16th century French tune, harmony by Charles Wood, words by G. R. Woodard
Sons Of Eve, Reward My Tidings.....Spanish Carol, Ed. Noah Greenberg, Eng. Txt by H. Creekmore
A Great and Mighty Wonder.....Old German tune, harmonized by M Praetorius (1571-1621)
Rejoice and Be Merry (A Gallery Carol).....English traditional carol, arr. Reginald Jacques
Jubilate Deo, omnis terra (Praise God, all the earth).....Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)
Fum Fum Fum.....Traditional Spanish Carol, arr. Robert Shaw

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Instrumental Interlude

Ring the Bells.....John Behrke
Shepherd In A Shade.....John Dowland (1562-1626)
Pastime With Good Company.....Henry VIII (1491-1547)

Brass Quartet

Part the Fourth: Of Voices Raised Together

Personent Hodie.....arr. John Leavitt

Park Church Choir
with Piano

Carol singing – Please sing with us!

Words are included on the next page of this programme.

The Holly and the Ivy.....English Traditional carol, arr. Reginald Jacques
with Organ

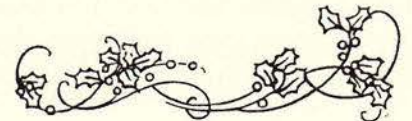
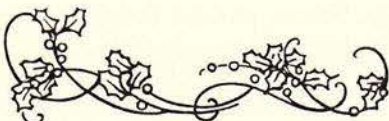
The First Nowell.....English Traditional carol, arr. David Willcocks
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen.....Traditional English, arr. Jerome Epstein

with Organ & Brass Quartet

Postlude

Canzon Festa.....Francesco Rovigo (1541-1597)

Brass Quartet



The Holly and the Ivy (Please join in the refrain)

The rising of the sun, and the running of the deer. The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star, shining in the East beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*
3. And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*
4. This start drew night to the northwest: o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*
5. Then enter'd in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offer'd there in His presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Refrain*
6. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made earth and heav'n of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought. *Refrain*

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Verse one: Cantata Singers Basses

2. In Bethlehem, in Jewry, this blessed Babe was born, and laid within a manger upon this Christmas morn;
The which His mother Mary did nothing take in scorn, and it's tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.
3. God bless the people of this place, and send them long to reign, and many a merry Christmas may live to see again,
Among our friends and kindred that live both far and near, may God send you a happy New Year, happy New Year,
May God send you a happy New Year.
4. Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place, and in true love and brotherhood each other now embrace.
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth efface. Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

Program Notes

Officially, the Church began celebrating the Feast of the Nativity in 336. It was several years later, during the reign of the Emperor Constantine that either Pope Julius I (in 350) or Pope Liberius (in 354) established December 25th as the official celebration of the birth of Christ. Although the specific reasons behind the choice of the date in December are unknown, it seems likely that it was chosen to coincide with existing secular Roman and pagan festivals in honor of the winter solstice.

There is not much undisputable information regarding Christmas celebrations for the first eight or nine hundred years. There is some certainty however, that by the mid 13th century Henry III of England was putting the "feast" in the festival of Christmas. Stories abound of the cooking of "many oxen" as well as enjoyment of Salmon pies and roast Peacock as part of Christmas dinner.

It was about this time that the first "joyful" Christmas Carols were created. Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, it wasn't long before carols were popular throughout Europe. Minstrels would travel from castle to castle singing both sacred and secular carols. By the mid 16th century carols were associated only with Christmas music.

The use of evergreen trees as Christmas decoration can be traced to Germany at about the same time. In fact, the legend of the origin of the evergreen-as-Christmas-tree dates to the 7th century and a monk from Devonshire who traveled to Thuringia using the triangular shape of the fir tree to describe the Trinity. The first known decorated Christmas tree was at Riga in Latvia around 1510.

Meanwhile, back in England, the celebrations of the season had become so commercialized and pagan in nature that Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England and devout Puritan, had Christmas outlawed. By 1659 Christmas was also outlawed in the New World. Violators were fined 5 shillings. Hopefully that law has been officially repealed by now...

It is our pleasure to present a musical cross-section of Christmas celebration in the Renaissance. We give to you Carols, Hymns and Sacred Motets representing musical traditions of Spain, Germany, Italy, France and the British Isles. We might not know everything about historical celebration of the Christmas holiday, but we really like the music!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Texts and Translations

Aro Que Nostre Seigne Es Nat

Aro que nostre seigne es nat,
Lan drigo driquette lan tiro lira,
Ley menestriénous van dona
Cauques ou bado, beou badau bado,
Fretillo sautillo, dre commo faucillo;
Fou ben dansa,
Res non bouge sian may de douge,
Landrigo driquette lan tiro lira.

*Now that our Lord is born,
The minstrels are going to give us some serenades.
Wriggle, jump about
Straight as a sickle,
Let's dance;
Do not move,
We are more than twice twelve.*

Geborn is Gottes Söhnelein

Geborn is Gottes Söhnelein
Zu Bethlehem ein Kindelein,
Und liegt in einem Krippelein,
Gewunden arm in Windelein.
Schlaf' sanft in meines Herzens Schrein,
Dein zugerichtetes Wiegelein:
Verlass mich nicht in Not und Pein,
Emanuel, mein Brüderlein.
Nun lasst uns singen und sein froh
Mit den Spielern *in Organo*
Und mit den Sängern *in Choro*
Benedicamus Domino.

*God's infant Son is born
In Bethlehem, a little child,
And lays in a little crib,
Poorly wrapped in swaddling clothes
Sleep gently enshrined in my heart,
Your rightful little cradle,
Leave me not in grief and pain,
Emanuel, my little brother.
Now let us sing and be merry,
With the players of instruments,
And with the singers of the choir,
Bless the Lord!*

Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus Christus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Christ.
Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners,
Now and in the hour of our death. Amen.*

Allons, gai bergères

Allons, gai, gai, gai, bergères,
Allons, gai, soyez légères, Suivez moi.

*Let us go gaily, Shepherdesses,
Let us go gaily, be gentle, follow me*

Allons, allons voir le Roi,
Qui du ciel en terre est né. Gai, gai.
Allons, gai...

*Let us go see the King,
Who from heaven is born on earth.
Let us go...*

Un beau présent lui ferai, De quoi?
De ce flageolet que j'ai tant gai.
Allons, gai...

*I'll make him a handsome present, What?
This tin whistle I have, so gay.
Let us go...*

Un gâteau lui donnerai, Et moi?
Plein hanap lui offrirai, Gai, gai!
Allons, gai...

*I will give him a cake. And I?,
I'll offer him a full chalice.
Let us go...*

Ho, ho! paix-la!, je le vois;
Il tette bien sans le doigt, le petit Roi!
Allons, gai, gai, gai Bergères
Allons, gai, soyez legeres, Le Roi boit!

*Ah, hush: I see him
He's sucking well, not on his thumb, the little King!
Let us go gaily, Shepherdesses,
Let us go gaily, be gentle, The King is drinking!*

Noël, sors de ton lit

Sors de ton lit paré comme un nouveau soleil. Romps
les lieux et descend Ange du grand conseil: Enfant,
mais homme Dieu fils du très haut qui porte grand
principauté sur ton épaule forte.

*Arise from your bed, like the new sun. Break away from
your place and come down, Angel of the grand counselor:
Infant, yet Man of God, Son of the Most High, whose great
entrance is upon your strong shoulders.*

Angelus ad pastores ait

Angelus ad pastores ait:
Annuncio vobis gaudium magnum,
Quia natus est vobis hodie Salvator mundi.
Alleluia!

Pastores, Dicite, Quidnam Vidistis?

Pastores, Dicite, Quidnam Vidistis?
Et annuntiate nobis Christi nativitatem. Noë!
Infantem vidimus, pannis involutum,
Et choros Angelorum laudantes Salvatorem, Noë!

In dulci jubilo

In dulci jubilo, Let us our homage shew:
Our heart's joy reclineth, in praesepio
And like a bright star shineth, Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O.
O Jesu parvule, we yearn for thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech thee, O Puer optime!
My prayer, let it reach thee, O Princeps gloriae!
Trahe me post te!
O Patris caritas, O Nati lenitas!
Deep were we stained Per nostra crimina;
But thou, thou hast for us gained Coelorum gaudia.
O that we were there.
Ubi sunt gaudia, where, if that they be not there?
There are angels singing Nova cantica,
There the bells are ringing In Regis curia.
O, that we were there!
There are angels singing, there the bells are ringing
In Regis curia.
O, that we were there!

Jubilare Deo, omnis terra

Jubilare Deo, omnis terra
Servite Domino in laetitia:
Intrate in conspectu ejus in exultatione:
Quia Dominus ipse est Deus.

*The angel said unto the shepherds:
"I bring you word of great joy:
Today your blessed Saviour is born.
Alleluia!"*

*Shepherds, tell us, what did you see there?
Give us, we pray thee, the news of the Christ Child. Noël!
We saw the Infant Child, all wrapped in swaddling clothes,
And choirs of angels singing praises to the Saviour, Noël!*

*With sweet rejoicing, Let us our homage show:
Our heart's joy reclineth, in a manger
And like a bright star shineth, on His mother's lap.
You are the Alpha and Omega..
O little Jesus, we yearn for thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech thee, O peerless boy,!
My prayer, let it reach thee, O Prince of Glory,
Draw me to you!
O love of the Father, O leniency of the Son!
Deep were we stained through our sins;
But thou, thou hast for us gained the joys of heaven.*
O that we were there.
Joys there are, where, if that they be not there?
There are angels singing a new song,
There the bells are ringing in the King's court.
O, that we were there!
There are angels singing, there the bells are ringing
In the King's court.
O, that we were there!*

*Praise the Lord, all the earth
Serve ye the Lord your God with gladness and joy.
Come into His presence with praise and singing:
For the King of Hosts is the Lord God.*

Special Thanks:

The Staff & Congregation of Park Church, especially the Park Church Music Ministry; Gail Lajoie; and the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira.

The Cantata Singers will begin preparing for our second concert of the season on December 18th at 4:00 p.m. The concert, which will feature Arthur Honegger's "King David," will be performed on Sunday, February 26th, 2006. New members are welcome; we rehearse Sunday afternoons from 4:00-6:30 at the First Presbyterian Church in Elmira. If you are interested in joining us, please contact a member of the Cantata Singers for further details.

Singers and Players



Cantata Singers *Directed by Will Wickham*

Soprano

Ruth Bruning
Robin Fitzgerald
Isabelle Gilroy
Cathy Hogan
Dorothy Hoos
Joy Judith McFarland
Kathy Lovell
Susan Nagle
Susan Tanner

Alto

Loueda Bleiler
Shirley Brodgerski
Amy Chrabaszcz
Martha Horton
Jane Poliseo
Cora Range
Ginny Shippy
Sarah Underwood

Tenor

Bill Brodgerski
Felix Kapron
Thomas J. McCloskey
Gary Tucker

Bass

Jim Fink
Christopher Waterstraat
Lee Martin

Rehearsal Accompanist

Frances McLaren

Recorder Cons...

Soprano Recorder:

Cathy Hogan

Soprano & Alto Recorders:

Richard S. Perry

Alto Recorder:

Pam Walker

Assisted by:

Bill Brodgerski
Shirley Brodgerski

Brass Quartet

Trumpet:

Jay Stolfus
Bill Arnts

Trombone:

Craig Harrigan
Sarah Jane Harrigan

Dark Church Bell Choir

Directed by Joseph L. Milliken

Barbara Butler
Eli Cadwallader
Christi Eckel
Mary Jane Todd Eckel
Roberta Hoffman
Grennan Milliken
Connie Morse
Judy Stewart

Dark Church Choir

Directed by Joseph L. Milliken

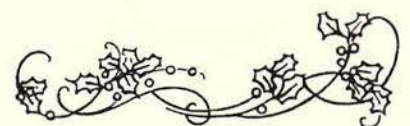
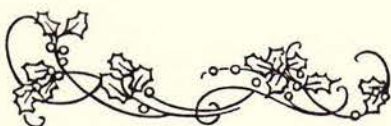
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Barbara Butler
Gina Cesari
Christi Eckel
Mary Jane Todd Eckel
Roberta Hoffman
Mary Hungerford
Dustin Lanterman
Daniel Menges
Grennan Milliken
Ralph B. Moore
Connie Morse
Dorothy Poppleton
Alan Preucil
Barbara Preucil
Cora Range
Ann Rose

Organ

Gary Tucker

Piano

Terri Limes



The Cantata Singers of Elmira

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