

The Cantata Singers of Elmira

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The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director

present



**Sunday, December 3rd, 2006
3:00 p.m.**

**Trinity Episcopal Church
304 North Main Street - Elmira, NY**

Concert Program

The Christmas Story Hugo Distler

- I. Introduction: "The people that walked in darkness"
- II. The Christmas Story
 1. Chorale: "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"
 2. Chorale: "Isaiah 'twas foretold it"
 3. Chorale: "O Savior, hear our pleading
The Birth of Christ
 1. Chorale: "This Flower whose fragrance tender"
The Shepherds and the host of angels
Chorus of Angels: "Glory to God in the highest"
Chorus of Shepherds: "Let us go now"
 1. Chorale: "At once the shepherds answered"
Herod and the Wise Men
Chorus of Wise Men: "Where is the new-born King:
Chorus of Chief Priests and Scribes: "In Bethlehem"
6. Chorale: All thanks to God the Father:
Simeon
7. Chorale: Now sing we all, so be it!"
- III. Final Chorus: "For God So Loved the World"

Soloists (in order of appearance)

- ◆ Evangelist – **Bill Brodgerski**, Tenor
- ◆ Angel – **Ron Tunison**, Tenor
- ◆ Mary – **Sarah Underwood**, Alto
- ◆ Elizabeth – **Kathy Lovell**, Soprano
- ◆ Herod – **Lee Martin**, Bass
- ◆ Simeon – **Carl Steidel**, Bass

◆ Keyboard - **Frances McLaren**

Intermission

A free will offering will be taken

Concert Program

Gloria..... Francis Poulenc

- I. Gloria
- II. Laudamus Te
- III. Domine Deus
- IV. Domine fili unigenite
- V. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei
- VI. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris

Susan Tanner, soprano
Dr. William Cowdery, Organ

We invite you to join with us in singing the following carols: (*Words and music can be found at the back of this program; they are also in the hymnal as numbers 96 and 87, respectively.*)

Angels We Have Heard On High..... Traditional
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing..... Traditional

Soli Deo Gloria!

Concert Personnel

Organist: Dr. William Cowdery

Keyboardist: Frances McLaren

Cantata Singers

directed by Will Wickham

Soprano

Ruth Bruning
Robin Fitzgerald
Dorothy Hoos
Kathy Lovell
Joy Judith McFarland
Susan Nagle
Janet Powers
Susan Tanner

Alto

Shirley Brodginiski
Amy Chrabaszcz
Martha Horton
Gail Lewis
Frances McLaren
Jane Poliseo
Cora Range
Sarah Underwood

Tenor

Bill Brodginiski
Felix Kapron
Gary Tucker
Ron Tunison

Bass

Jim Fink
Lee Martin
Stephen Nagle
Dave Rosplock
Carl Steidel

Rehearsal Accompanist: Frances McLaren

Program Notes

In spite of a tragically short life (1908-1942), Hugo Distler's organ and choral music is widely performed and loved to this day. Many of his compositions are based on ancient and traditional music, creating a link between the present and the past. *The Christmas Story (Die Weihnachtsgeschichte)* is based on the ancient Carol *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* that we know today as *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*. Distler presents several variations on the 1609 harmonization by M. Praetorius amidst a telling of the Christmas Story by a combination of solo characters, a narrator (evangelist) and choral settings of text that is sometimes a part of the story and at other times is more of a commentary about the story.

Program Notes (continued)

Works created late in a composer's life typically contain much of that life – a sort of career summary. Consider the great, albeit unfinished, *Requiem* of Mozart. In the case of Francis Poulenc (1899-1963), a self-taught composer who admitted using much "borrowed" material in his own music, the later works are created using an extremely wide ranging palette of musical colors and sounds. His *Gloria* is no exception. The work begins with a sweeping majesty and ends quietly, invoking the eternal mysteries of God and Creation. The musical kaleidoscope between captures well the eternal excitement of the original *Gloria*, the angels heralding the birth of the baby Jesus.

Texts & Translations

I. Gloria

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.*

*Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace to men
of good will.*

II. Laudamus Te

*Laudamus te
Benedicimus te
Adoramus te
Glorificamus te
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.*

*We praise Thee
We bless Thee
We adore Thee
We glorify Thee
We give thanks to Thee
for Thy great glory.*

III. Domine Deus

*Domine Deus, Rex caelestis.
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Gloria.*

*O Lord God, heavenly King.
God, the Father Almighty.
Glory.*

IV. Domine Fili Unigenite

*Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus unigenite,
Jesu Christe.*

*Son of God, the only begotten One,
Jesus Christ.
Lord God, the only begotten One,
Jesus Christ.*

(continued on next page)

V. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei

*Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris.
Rex caelestis Deus.*

*Lord God, Lamb of God,,
Son of the Father.
Lord, King of Heaven.*

*Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Thou who takest away the sins of the world
have mercy upon us.*

*Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.*

*Thou who takest away the sins of the world
receive our prayer.*

Deus Filius Patris.

Lord, Son of the Father.

VI. Qui Sedes Ad Dexteram Patris

*Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.*

*Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy upon us.*

*Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
Amen.*

*For Thou only art holy,
Thou only art the Lord,
Amen.*

*Tu solus altissimus,
Jesu Christe.*

*Thou only art most high,
Jesus Christ.*

*Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.*

*With the Holy Ghost
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

Special thanks:

Rev. William Lutz and the staff and parishioners of Trinity Episcopal Church; Gary Tucker; Lee Martin and the Corning Community College Music Library; StanWyck Productions Youth Theatre.

We are also grateful to First Presbyterian Church for the use of rehearsal space.

We hope you will support our business sponsors seen on the following pages. If your business is interested in supporting the Cantata Singers through the purchase of advertising space, please contact one of our members for more information.

Angels We Have Heard on High

traditional French Carol
trans. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.

Gloria, traditional French carol
arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, alt.

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing through the night
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing,
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, Whom the an - gels praise a - bove.

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?
come a - dore on ben - ded knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in lovè.

Glo - - - - - ri - a -

in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

words by Charles Wesley

music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn
adapt. William H. Cummings

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing. "Glo - ry to the new - born King, peace on earth and
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -
3. Mild He lays His glo - ry by, born that we no more may die. Born to raise us

mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise,
held him come, earth, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God - head see;
from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth. Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings

Join the tri - umph of the skies; with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in
hail th'in - car - nate de - i - ty, pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em -
Light and life to all He brings, Hail the Sun of right - eous - ness! Hail the heav'n - born

Beth - le - hem!" Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing. "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"
man - u - cl. Prince of peace!