

# The Cantata Singers of Elmira

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# The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director

*present*

## *Music of Reflection, Memory and Dedication*

*with*

Gerald Wolfe, Organist  
Loueda Bleiler, Mezzo-Soprano  
Ethan Chaffee, Pianist

Sunday, February 25, 2007  
3:00 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church  
Elmira, NY



## Concert Program

*Cantique de Jean Racine*..... Gabriel Fauré, ed. John Rutter  
*Ubi caritas*..... Maurice Duruflé  
*3 Gradual Hymns* ..... Anton Bruckner

- I. *Locus iste a Deo factus est*
- II. *Os justi meditabitur sapientiam*
- III. *Christus factus est pro nobis obediens*

*Ondine* from *Gaspar de la nuit* ..... Maurice Ravel

**Ethan Chaffee**, pianist

Winner of the 2007 Young Performers' Competition

*The Lord is My Shepherd* ..... Randall Thompson

### **Intermission**

*A free-will offering will be taken*

*Requiem* ..... Maurice Duruflé

- I. *Introit*
- II. *Kyrie*
- III. *Domine Jesu Christe*
- IV. *Sanctus*
- V. *Pie Jesu*

**Loueda Bleiler**, Mezzo-Soprano

- VI. *Agnus Dei*
- VII. *Lux Aeterna*
- VIII. *Libera Me, Domine*
- IX. *In Paradisum*

## Concert Personnel

**Organist:** Gerald Wolfe

### Cantata Singers

directed by Will Wickham

#### Soprano

Ruth Bruning  
Robin Fitzgerald  
Susan B. Hartney  
Dorothy Hoos  
Kathy Lovell  
Joy Judith McFarland  
Susan Nagle  
Susan Tanner

#### Alto

Bess Barrigar  
Loueda Bleiler  
Shirley Brodgerski  
Martha Horton  
Frances McLaren  
Jane Poliseo  
Cora Range  
Sarah Underwood

#### Tenor

Bill Brodgerski  
Felix Kapron  
Thomas J. McCloskey  
Gary Tucker  
Ron Tunison

#### Bass

Jim Fink  
Lee Martin  
Stephen Nagle  
Dave Rosplock

**Rehearsal Accompanist:** Frances McLaren

**Page Turner for Mr. Wolfe:** Suzanna Mettler

### *Meet our Young Performer, Ethan Chaffee:*

"I am nineteen years old and the youngest of three. I am currently attending Tompkins Cortland Community College as a full-time student and majoring in accounting. After I get my associates, I plan on attending a four-year college where I will major in accounting and minor in music. I work in the frozen foods department at Ithaca Wegmans.

As a young child, I enjoyed messing around with the family piano. My sister's piano teacher suggested that I take piano lessons when I was eight. I spent many hours trying to emulate my teacher, until he left for college. Six months later, I became a student of Mrs. Frances McLaren.

My hobbies and interests include the following: music (mostly impressionistic and romantic), mountain biking, being with my family and friends, playing floor hockey, and snowmobiling. I also enjoy accompanying the children's choir at my church which I have done for the past six years.

Piano is and always will be a very important part of my life."





## Texts & Translations

### Cantique de Jean Racine (Gabriel Fauré)

Verbe, égal au Très-Haut, notre unique  
espérance,  
Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux;  
De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence,  
Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux!  
Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante,  
Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix;

Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante,  
Qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes lois!  
O Christ, sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle

Pour te bénir maintenant rassemblé.  
Reçois les chants qu'il offre à ta gloire immor-  
telle,  
Et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé!

Word, equal to the Almighty, our only hope,  
Eternal light of the earth and Heavens;  
We break the peaceful night's silence,  
Divine Saviour, cast your eyes upon us!  
Spread the fire of your mighty grace upon us  
May the entire hell flee at the sound of your  
voice;  
Disperse from any slothful soul the drowsiness  
Inducing it to forget your laws!  
Oh Christ, look with favour upon this faithful  
people  
Which has now gathered to bless you.  
Receive its singing, offered to your immortal  
glory,  
And may it leave with the gifts you have be-  
stowed upon it!

*Translation from ChoralWiki*  
(<http://www.cpd.org>)

### Ubi Caritas (Maurice Duruflé)

Ubi caritas et amor  
Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where there is charity and love,  
God is there.  
The love of Christ has gathered us together.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Let us revere and love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love one an-  
other.

*Translation from The Washington Chorus,*  
*Washington, D.C.*  
(<http://thewashingtonchorus.org>)

### 3 Gradual Hymns (Anton Bruckner)

I. Locus iste a Deo factus est,  
inaestimabile sacramentum,  
irreprehensibilis est.  
II. Os justi meditabitur sapientiam,  
et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.  
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius:  
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus. Alleluia.

I. This place was made by God,  
an inestimably holy place.  
It is without blame.  
II. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,  
and his tongue speaks what is just.  
The law of his God is in his heart;  
and his feet do not falter. Alleluia

### 3 Gradual Hymns (continued)

III. Christus factus est pro nobis obediens  
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.  
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit  
illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen.

III. Christ became obedient for us unto death,  
even to the death of the cross.  
Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him a  
Name which is above all names.

*Translations from ChoralWiki*  
(<http://www.cpd.org>)

### Requiem (Maurice Duruflé)

#### I. Introit

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine;  
Et lux perpetua luceat eis.  
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion,  
Et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem;  
Exaudi orationem meam,  
ad te omnis caro veniet.

#### I. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

#### III. Domine Jesu Christe

Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae,  
libera animas omnium fidelium  
defunctorum de poenis inferni et de  
profundo lacu,  
Libera eas de ore leonis,  
ne absorbeat eas tartarus,  
ne cadant in obscurum.  
Sed signifer sanctus Michael repraesentet  
eas in lucem sanctam.  
Quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini eius.  
Hostias et preces tibi Domine laudis  
offerimus. Tu suscipe pro animabus illis,  
quarum hodie memoriam facimus.  
Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad  
vitam. Quam olim Abrahae promisisti et  
semini eius.

#### I. Introit

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord;  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.  
A hymn, O God, becometh Thee in Sion,  
And a vow shall be paid to Thee in Jerusalem.  
Hear my prayer;  
all flesh shall come to Thee.

#### II. Kyrie

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.

#### III. Domine Jesu Christe

Lord Jesus Christ, King of Glory,  
deliver the souls of all the faithful  
departed from the pains of hell and from  
the bottomless pit,  
Deliver them from the jaws of the lion,  
lest they be absorbed by darkness  
and swallowed by obscurity.  
Rather let thy standard bearer, St. Michael,  
lead them into the holy light,  
as Thou didst promise Abraham and his seed.  
We offer to Thee, O Lord, sacrifices and  
prayers. Do Thou receive them on behalf of  
those souls whom we this day commemorate.  
Make them, O Lord, pass from death to life,  
as Thou didst promise Abraham and his seed.

#### IV. Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.

#### IV. Sanctus

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

V. *Pie Jesu*

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.  
Dona eis requiem sempiternam.

VI. *Agnus Dei*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi:  
Dona eis requiem. (x 2)  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi:  
Dona eis requiem sempiternam.

VII. *Lux aeterna*

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine.  
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,  
Domine, quia pius es.  
V. Requiem aeternam dona eis,  
Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.  
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,  
quia pius es.

VIII. *Libera me, Domine*

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna,  
in die illa tremenda;  
Quando caeli movendi sunt et terra;  
Dum veneris judicare saeculum  
per ignem.  
Tremens factus sum ego,  
et timeo, dum discussio venerit,  
atque ventura ira.  
Quando caeli movendi sunt et terra.  
Dies irae, dies illa, calamitatis  
et miseriae, dies magna et  
amara valde.  
Dum veneris judicare saeculum  
per ignem.

IX. *In Paradisum*

In Paradisum deducant te angeli;  
In tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres  
Et perducant te in civitatem sanctam  
Jerusalem.  
Chorus angelorum te suscipiat,  
Et cum Lazaro quondam paupere  
Aeternam habeas requiem.

V. *Pie Jesu*

Blessed Jesus, Lord, grant them rest.  
Grant them rest everlasting.

VI. *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, who takest away  
the sins of the world,  
Grant them rest. (x 2)  
Lamb of God, who takest away  
the sins of the world,  
Grant them perpetual rest.

VII. *Lux aeterna*

Eternal light shine upon them, O Lord,  
With Thy saints forever,  
Lord, who art merciful.  
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon them,  
With thy saints for ever,  
because thou art merciful.

VIII. *Libera me, Domine*

Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death  
on that awful day;  
When the heavens and the earth shall be shaken;  
When thou shalt come to judge the world  
by fire.  
I am seized with fear and trembling,  
until the trial shall be at hand,  
and the wrath to come,  
When the heavens and the earth shall be shaken.  
That day of wrath, of calamity  
and of misery, a great day and  
exceeding bitter,  
When Thou shalt come to judge the world  
by fire.

IX. *In Paradisum*

May the angels receive thee in Paradise,  
May the martyrs receive thee at thy coming  
And lead you into the holy city of  
Jerusalem.  
May the choir of angels receive thee,  
And with Lazarus, who once was a beggar,  
Mayest thou have eternal rest.

**Soli Deo Gloria!**



## Program Notes

Music is a language. It is referred to as the "language of love," the "universal language" and the "language of the soul." Music can, and does, convey emotion, set or heighten a mood and can bring to the mind of the listener memories of times long past. All of this combines to make music the most powerful of the arts to help us to reflect, remember and memorialize.

The *Cantique de Jean Racine* is one of Gabriel Faure's (1845-1924) earliest compositions. It is based on a prayer written by 17<sup>th</sup> century master playwright Jean Racine, who in his young life was studying for the priesthood. The text is a morning prayer, inviting God to be with the waking soul; dedicating the coming day to His service.

Maurice Duruflé's (1902-1986) *Ubi caritas* is a Latin hymn most often directly associated with the Catholic Eucharist during the Holy Thursday service. As it is typically part of the ceremonial washing of feet, it is a hymn of dedication to service to and of Christ.

From the pen of Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) we have a collection of 3 "Gradual Hymns." Gradual hymns are part of the "Proper" of the Catholic Mass, which is made up of hymns, readings and prayers that vary depending on the day or the season. *Locus iste a Deo factus est* is specifically a hymn for the dedication of a church. Bruckner's setting was written in 1869 for the dedication of the votive chapel at the New Cathedral of Linz, Austria and is specifically dedicated to his close friend Fr. Otto Loidol. *Os justi meditabitur sapientiam* was written in 1879 and dedicated to Ignaz Traumihler, the music director at the St. Florian Abbey. The text is taken from Psalm 37 and the music is carefully crafted in the Lydian mode in honor of the Cecilian movement in Catholic Church music of which Traumihler was a strong proponent. The Cecilian movement aimed to restore Gregorian plainchant and the a cappella polyphonic styles of the great Renaissance composers. By his own request, Bruckner is buried at the Abbey. *Christus factus est pro nobis obediens*, like the gradual *Locus iste*, was dedicated to his close friend Fr. Otto Loidol, who at the time the work was written was at the Benedictine Abbey at Kremsmünster where Bruckner spent much time.

For several years our Young Performers' Competition has given us the opportunity to share the talents of many young performers of our area. This year is no exception as we welcome Ethan Chaffee. *Ondine* is the first movement of the Suite *Gaspar de la nuit* by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937). The inspiration for Ravel's music was the very descriptive and intense poetry of the same name by Aloisius Bertrand, an early

19<sup>th</sup> century poet who lived a short and tortured life. The music captures Bertrand's imagery and energy and is among the most difficult of the standard piano repertoire.

In 1962 Randall Thompson (1899-1984) was commissioned by the students, family and friends of Dorothy C. Drake, former head of the Music Department of the Chapin School, New York City, and Conductor of its Choral Club from 1953-1961 to create a work in memory of Ms. Drake. The result was the beautiful and evocative *The Lord is My Shepherd* which was first performed in May 1964, by the Chapin School Choral Club with the composer conducting.

Of the many religious liturgies celebrated throughout the world, none can match funeral rites for reflection and memory. From the Catholic tradition comes the Requiem, a series of prayers for the salvation of the soul of the departed. Reflection and memory are strongly woven into the textures of Maurice Duruflé's setting of this powerful set of prayer texts. The combination of the traditional Gregorian musical themes with the harmonies and rhythms of the 20<sup>th</sup> century weave an emotional tapestry that summons all of our individual and collective memories into a beautiful testament of the hope of an eternal life with God in heaven.

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### Special thanks:

- ◆ Father Donald Matthews, Aida Wellington and the staff and parishioners of Grace Episcopal Church for hosting this program
- ◆ StanWyck Productions Youth Theatre for the loan of equipment
- ◆ First Presbyterian Church (Elmira) for the use of space for rehearsal and for the Young Performers' Competition.

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