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We rely on community support to continue to provide these concerts without admission. You can make a tax-deductible gift to the Cantata Singers on the web at [cantatasingers.com/communitysupport.asp](http://cantatasingers.com/communitysupport.asp) or purchase program advertising at [cantatasingers.com/Advertisewithus.asp](http://cantatasingers.com/Advertisewithus.asp) Or you can mail a check to us at PO Box 952, Elmira, NY 14902



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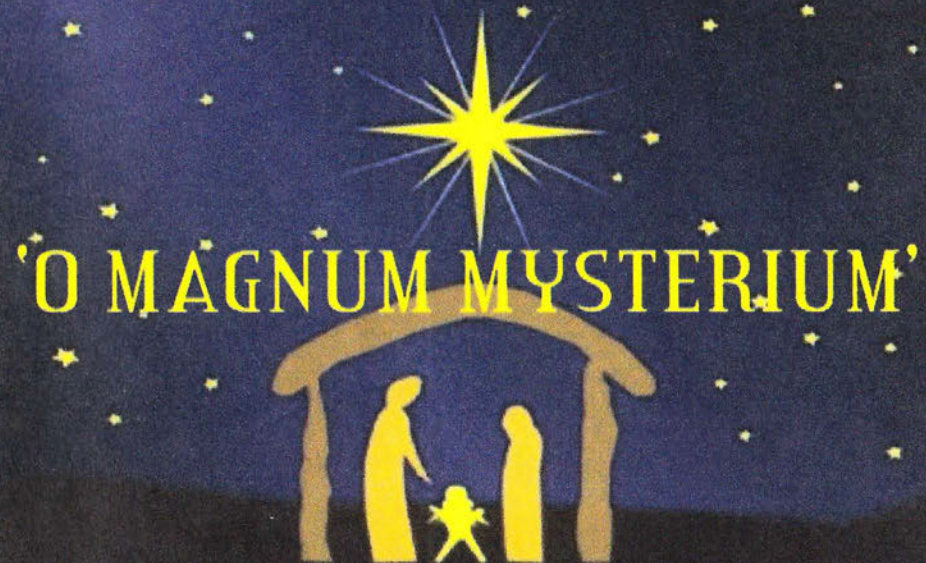
Patrick & Robin Fitzgerald  
John & Dorothy Hoos



## The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director

present



An a cappella choral  
celebration of seasonal music of  
Late Renaissance Composers  
(and those they inspired)

**Ss. Peter and Paul Church**  
**Elmira, NY**

**Today's program:**

**O magnum mysterium** (motet) - Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

**Exultate Deo** - Allesandro Scarlatti (1660-1725)

**Angelus ad pastores** - Andrea Gabrieli(1510-1586)

**Gaude Maria** - William Byrd (1543-1623)

**O magnum mysterium** (Mass) - de Victoria

Cantor - Bill Brodgerski

**Kyrie**

**Gloria**

**Credo**

**Sanctus**

**Agnus Dei**

There will be a 10 minute intermission

**O magnum mysterium** (motet) - William Byrd

**Cantate Domino** - Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

**Up! Good Christian Folk and Listen** - arr. George Ratcliffe  
Woodward (1848-1934)

**What Cheer?** - William Walton (1902-1983)

**A Christmas Carol** - Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1967)

**Qui natus est de Virgine** - Will Wickham (1956- )

**A Boy was Born** - Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

**I Saw Three Ships** - Traditional

Please join us in singing the carols

**Ding Dong Merrily on High**

**Good King Wenceslas**

**Silent Night**



**The Cantata Singers are:**

**Soprano**

Kristin Bennett

Ruth Bruning

Robin Fitzgerald

Susan B. Hartney

Kathy Lovell

Joy McFarland

Susan Nagle \*

**Alto**

Loueda Bleiler

Martha Horton

Frances McLaren

Jane Poliseo

Cynthia Terry

Katie Trexler

Lydia Wickham

**Tenor**

Bill Brodgerski

Michael Hartney

Tom McCloskey

Gary Tucker

**Bass**

Jan Miller

Stephen Nagle

Joe Ponzi

Dave Rosplock

**Music Director** Will Wickham

**Rehearsal Accompanist** Frances McLaren

## Christmas Carols

### *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*

1) Ding dong merrily on high, In  
heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n  
with angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

3) Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

### *Good King Wenceslas*

1) Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter fuel

3) Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him dine  
When we bear him thither.  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather

5) In his master's steps he trod  
Where the snow lay tinted  
Heat was in the very sod  
Which the Saint had printed  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure  
Wealth or rank possessing  
Ye who now will bless the poor  
Shall yourselves find blessing

### *Silent Night*

1) Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

3) Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth "

2) E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!"  
By priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

2) "Hither, page, and stand by me  
If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

4) "Sire, the night is darker now  
And the wind blows stronger  
Fails my heart, I know not how,  
I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, my good page  
Tread thou in them boldly  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

2) Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Saviour is born  
Christ, the Saviour is born



## Program notes

Holiday feasting got a big kick off from King Richard II of England during the 14th century with a Christmas dinner that included the eating of some 28 oxen and 300 sheep, a tradition still adding to the modern waistline! Caroling, a form of expression that included song and dance, became popular during this time. Carols, likely originated by St. Francis in the 13th century, evolved from Latin plainsong and spread quickly. Caroling in celebration of the birth of Christ earned the title of "lewd sport" from a certain "Lady Morely" in a 1459 letter. The heathens! Christmas tree decorating began when Martin Luther first placed candles on the tree to "show his children how the stars twinkled through the night." By mid-century bakers were making shaped gingerbreads and wax ornaments specifically for decorating holiday trees. A 1601 visitor to Strasbourg wrote of a tree decorated with "wafers and golden sugar twists and paper flowers of all colors." Silver tinsel, invented in Germany in 1610, soon became a part of the decorating ritual. St. Nicholas, whose feast-day is celebrated on Dec. 6th, had become widely popular by the mid 16th century. It should be noted that the very generous monk is the patron saint of children and pawnbrokers. Seems rather appropriate somehow.

In the history of western music, the Renaissance was a high point. Hundreds of composers, many now unknown to history, contributed to a rapid development of the musical art. Tomas Luis de Victoria, who probably studied with Palestrina; Gabrieli, who became the first widely renown composer of the "Venetian School"; William Byrd, a student of Thomas Tallis; and Hans Leo Hassler who was the first German-born composer to study in Italy, provide today's performance with music of the late Renaissance. Scarlatti gives us an example of the Baroque take on the motet form while Britten, Wickham, Walton and Kodaly all admit to inspiration by the music of the Renaissance masters in the creation of their works on this concert. The *Piae Cantiones*, published in 1582, is a collection of late Medieval Latin songs and provides the tunes for "Good King Wenceslas" and "Up! Good Christian Folk and Listen." Although the source of the tune is lost to history, the first written record of the words of "I saw three ships" comes from 1666. The "Ding Dong Merrily on High" tune comes from "Orchésographie," a study of late-renaissance dances by French cleric Jehan Tabourot.

We are pleased to present this snapshot of Renaissance and Renaissance inspired music. May this musical offering deepen your celebration of the season.

**Soli deo Gloria.**

Translations and texts:

***O magnum mysterium***

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,  
that the animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger.  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia.

Lord, I heard your voice and was afraid.  
I considered your works and I trembled:  
between two animals, lying in a manger.  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia

***Exultate Deo***

Rejoice in God our helper: sing aloud to the God of Jacob.  
Take the psalm and bring hither the timbrel: the merry harp with the lute.  
Blow the trumpet in the new moon, even on our solemn feast day.

***Angelus ad pastores***

The angel says to the shepherds:  
I bring you tidings of great joy.  
For unto you is born today the Saviour of the world.  
Alleluia.

***Gaude Maria***

Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, for you alone have put an end to all heresies.  
You who believed the words of the archangel Gabriel,  
Still a virgin, you brought forth God and man,  
and after childbirth you still remain an inviolate virgin:  
O Mother of God, intercede for us.

***O Magnum Mysterium Mass***

**Kyrie** – Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

**Gloria** - Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. You that take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For you alone are holy; you alone are the Lord; you alone are most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Credo** - I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, Of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, True God from true God; begotten, not made; of one being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us, and for our salvation, He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake He

was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He shall come again in glory to judge both the living and dead, and His kingdom shall have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; with the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified; He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

**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.

**Agnus Dei** – 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.

***Cantate Domino***

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, and bless his name: announce his salvation from day to day.

Announce among the nations his glory, and his wonders to all peoples.

***Up! Good Christen Folk and Listen***

Ding-dong, ding: Ding-a-dong-a-ding.

1. Up! good christen folk, and listen How the merry church bells ring,  
And from steeple bid good people Come adore the new-born King;
2. Tell the story how from glory God came down at Christmas-tide,  
Bringing gladness, chasing sadness, Showering blessings far and wide,
3. Born of mother, blest o'er other, Ex Maria Virgine,  
In a stable ('tis no fable),  
Christus natus hodie.

***What Cheer***

What cheer? Good cheer!

Be merry and glad this good New Year!

1) 'Lift up your hearts and be glad In Christ's birth', the angel bade,  
Say each to other, if any be sad: 'What cheer?'

2) Now the King of heav'n his birth hath take, Joy and mirth we ought to make;

Say each to other, for his sake: 'What cheer?'

3) I tell you all with heart so free: Right welcome, welcome, ye be to me;  
Be glad and merry, for charity! What cheer? Good cheer! Be merry and glad this good New Year!

***A Christmas Carol***

1) All men draw near, Christmas is here, All the welkin rings.  
Tell the story, Sing all glory To the King of kings.

- 2) He who of old Prophets foretold, Now is come to birth,  
Come one and all To the ox stall: He brings peace on earth!
- 3) See where the star, Gleaming afar, Guides us through the dark,  
God's holy dove Brings back in love Sinners to his ark.
- 4) Tell the story Of his glory, Christ by all adored.  
Songs upraising, Praise him, All men praise the Lord.
- 5) Babe all holy, whom all lowly Ox and ass adore,  
Bless our cattle, Bless our harvest, Bless each house and store.
- 6) Jesu, hear us, Christ, be near us, Make us holy,  
With joyful praise Fill all our days, Hear us when we call. Amen.

#### **Qui natus est de Virgine**

Gloria tibi Domine, qui natus est de virgine. (*Glory to God who is born of the Virgin.*)

- 1) A little child there is ye born, a holy child hath sprung from Jesse's stem  
this morn to save all us who were forlorn.
- 2) Jesus that is so full of might, Ye born he was amid the night angels sang  
with all their might: Gloria!
- 3) Now set we down upon our knee and pray that child that is so free, and  
with good heart now sing we: Gloria in excelsis deo!

#### **A Boy was born**

A Boy was born in Bethlehem; Rejoice for that, Jerusalem! Alleluya.  
He let himself a servant be, That all mankind he might set free: Alleluya.  
Then praise the Word of God who came To dwell within a human frame:  
Alleluya.

#### **I Saw Three Ships**

- 1) I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas Day in the morning.
- 2) And what was in those ships all three, On Christmas Day, on Christmas  
Day?  
And what was in those ships all three, On Christmas Day in the morning?
- 3) The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, On Christmas Day, on Christmas  
Day;  
The Virgin Mary and Christ were there, On Christmas Day in the morning.
- 4) Pray, wither sailed those ships all three, On Christmas Day, on Christmas  
Day;  
Pray, wither sailed those ships all three, On Christmas Day in the morning?
- 5) O they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
O they sailed into Bethlehem, On Christmas Day in the morning.
- 6) And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas Day in the morning.
- 7) And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, On Christmas Day, on Christmas  
Day;  
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing, On Christmas Day in the morning.
- 8) And all the souls on earth shall sing, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the souls on earth shall sing, On Christmas Day in the morning.
- 9) Then let us all rejoice again, On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Then let us all rejoice again, On Christmas Day in the morning.



We would love to have you join us to sing. Rehearsals for the rest of the season will begin Sunday, January 3, 2010 from 6:00 - 8:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church on West Clinton Street in Elmira. For more information please check us out at [www.cantatasingers.com](http://www.cantatasingers.com) or contact music director Will Wickham at 607-796-5034.

#### **CANTATA SINGERS Upcoming Events:**

**January 3, 2010** - 6:00 pm - First rehearsal for "JS Bach and the Ladies"  
- First Presbyterian Church, West Clinton St., Elmira

**January 23, 2010** - Young Performers Competition

**February 28, 2010** - 3:00 pm - Festival of Women in the Arts opening  
Concert: "JS Bach and the Ladies" First Presbyterian Church,  
Westinghouse Rd., Horseheads

**March 2010** - Festival of Women in the Arts - for full details go to  
[www.cantatasingers.com/Festival.asp](http://www.cantatasingers.com/Festival.asp)

**March 7, 2010** - 6:00 pm - First rehearsal for "John Rutter!" - First  
Presbyterian Church, West Clinton St., Elmira

**May 16, 2010** - 4:00 pm - "John Rutter" - Congregational Church,  
Pultney Street, Corning



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