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The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Music Director

Present

Mystical Lights

Music for Advent and Christmas

choral  
meditations  
on the  
coming of The Light



## A Note from the President

Why do we value music? We value it because it shapes the way in which we see our world. Music is intrinsic to our life. It moves us, gives us energy, soothes the soul, eases pain, offers escape, enriches our lives and minds, and heals. Music is creativity in its purest form. It hasn't one single value, but rather has many. It is the foundation of every aspect of our lives.

The Cantata Singers work year round to bring a full season of music to you, our patrons, and to provide the community with the ever-popular Festival of Women in the Arts. It is our hope to continue to fulfill our mission of making unique contributions to the musical life and artistic enrichment of the Twin Tiers.

Please consider making a contribution to The Cantata Singers or The Festival of Women in the Arts. We appreciate and offer our heartfelt thanks for your continued patronage and support.

Most sincerely,  
Susan Nagle, President



*if applicable.*

Your tax-deductible donation can be made by check to The Cantata Singers, P.O. Box 952, Elmira, NY 14902; or at our website [cantatasingers.com](http://cantatasingers.com) under Support Us. You will be listed in all concert programs of the season under your level of support. You will receive a receipt. Please enclose your employer's matching gift form,



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Today's Program

Of Mystical Light

Luminosity -- James Whitbourn (1963 - )  
Organ – William Cowdery, Viola – Ben Pawlak  
Tanpura – Naga Shashidhar, Tam-tam – Yvonne Allen  
-- Intermission --

Of the Coming Light of Christ

In dulci jubilo -- Michael Praetorius (1571 - 1621)  
O lux beata Trinitas -- William Byrd (1540 - 1623)  
A Hymn to the Virgin -- Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976)  
The Wild Wood Carol -- John Rutter (1945 - )  
Piano -- Frances McLaren  
Arise, Shine -- Dan Forrest (1978 - )  
Piano -- Frances McLaren

Of Christmas Light

Do You Hear What I Hear? -- Regney & Shayne, arr. Harry  
Simeone  
Verses 1-3 – Cantata Singers  
Verse 4

Said the king to the people everywhere,  
Listen to what I say:  
Pray for peace, people everywhere!  
Listen to what I say:  
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night,  
He will bring us goodness and light,  
He will bring us goodness and light.

Angels from the Realms of Glory -- James Montgomery & Henry Smart

1) Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

*Refrain*  
*Come and worship, come and worship,*  
*Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2) Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:

*Refrain*

3) Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star.

*Refrain*

O Little Town of Bethlehem -- Phillips Brooks & Lewis Redner

1) O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

2) For Christ is born of Mary;  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth;  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (continued)

3) How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

4) O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.



The Cantata Singers wish to extend special thanks to Rev. Connie Seifert, the staff and the people of Grace United Methodist Church. Extra special thanks to Dr. James Hudson, Kathy Scudder and the United Methodist Women for so much help in setting up for this concert. Thanks also to the Horseheads Central School Music program.

The Cantata Singers

**Music Director** Will Wickham  
**Rehearsal accompanist** Frances McLaren

**Soprano**

Megan Donovan  
Robin Fitzgerald  
Cathy Hogan  
Kathy Lovell  
Joy McFarland  
Susan Nagle  
Linda Peters  
Marianna Raho

**Alto**

Loueda Bleiler  
Dee Dunkley  
Martha Horton  
Sara Kuhnel  
Frances McLaren  
Pat Peters  
Jane Poliseo  
Cora Range  
Ruellene Seymour  
Katie Trexler

**Tenor**

Bill Brodgerski  
Michael Hartney  
Felix Kapron  
Tom McCloskey  
Richard Perry  
Gary Tucker

**Bass**

Hilary T. Godard  
Ronnie Joseph  
Stephen Nagle  
Joe Ponzi  
Dave Rappleye  
David Rosplock

Upcoming Cantata Singers Events

**First Rehearsal of the New Year** (new singers welcome!) Sunday, January 8, 2012, 6 pm St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Horseheads

**Young Performers Competition**, January 28, 2012, First Presbyterian Church, 1054 W. Clinton St., Elmira, Times by appointment, Applications at [www.cantatasingers.com](http://www.cantatasingers.com)

**2012 Festival of Women in the Arts** March 1-31, 2012 at venues throughout the greater Southern Finger Lakes area.

**Women, Nature And Peace**, opening concert of the Festival of Women in the Arts, Sunday, March 4, 2012, 3 pm, First Presbyterian Church, Horseheads

**American Originals: Music of Bernstein, Copeland and Others** Saturday, May 19, 2012, 7 pm, First Congregational Church, Pulteney Street, Corning





## Program notes

**Light.** Christmas lights. The light of Christ. Inner light. Loves true light. The light at the end of the tunnel. "And God said, "Let there be Light" and there was light." Our very human-ness is truly all about light. Humankind has spent countless millennia seeking ways for light to overpower the darkness. This theme exists in our science and history and, perhaps more tellingly, in the writings of scholars, mystics, poets, musicians and so many more throughout history. Today's program brings some of those writings together in celebration of the coming "Light of Christ" that we celebrate in the Advent and Christmas seasons of the Christian calendar.

Our program begins with a simple, yet profound and timeless new work by contemporary British composer James Whitbourn. *Luminosity* is based on aphorisms written over a span of some 1,800 years by a handful of mystical thinkers. The music that envelopes these texts is, according to the composer, "a fusion, drawing from elements of Western and Eastern music in a way which seemed to me to be natural and unforced. This grows from the multicultural nature of the great truths of life, which are unconfined. The obvious sonic reference to Indian traditional music begins at the very start of the piece, with the introduction of a tanpura [the Indian drone instrument] which establishes the tonality for the entire piece. To me, traditional Indian music in the hands of expert players is one of the miracles of all music - a combination of intensely complex structure with an absolute freedom. The rules which make up the tonalities and rhythms [raga and tala] are a lifetime's study in themselves, and yet in performance the impression to the listener is one of such freedom that the structures all but disappear. The absence of tonic modulation is also a quality that contributes to a feeling that the music is not constrained by time - that phenomenon which otherwise defines the dimensions of a work and the time span allowed for its appreciation."

The theme of light, tightly woven through Christian traditions, carries through in the second half of the program as well. *In dulce jubilo*, the double choir setting by Michael Praetorius, speaks of the light of the infant Christ shining from Mary's lap while William Byrd's six-voice motet *O lux beata Trinitas* evokes the light of the Holy Trinity. Benjamin Britten set an old traditional text in his *A Hymn to the Virgin* that identifies the light of the virgin mother of Christ. Dan Forrest, who grew up in the Breeseport area of Chemung County, says this about his work on today's program *Arise, Shine!* has great personal meaning for me, portraying Christ as the Light of the world. [New Testament passages including Revelation 21:1-2, 23, John 8:12, and Matthew 5:16] greatly influenced my textual interpretation and musical setting of this Old Testament passage from Isaiah."

Look for the light in the carols you sing with us at the conclusion of this performance. It is there in abundance. Not only in the texts, the light is with, and within, every one of us, much as the light of day floods our earth. May the light of which we sing and the music that we share this day stay with us all for this season and for all time. Soli Deo Gloria! - - will wickham

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Please Join Us! If you like to sing we'd love for your voice to join with ours!  
Rehearsals are Sunday evenings, 6:00 – 8:30 pm at St. Matthew's Episcopal  
Church parish hall, 408 S. Main St., Horseheads, NY. For more information  
contact director Will Wickham at [607] 796-5034 or check us out at  
[www.cantatasingers.com](http://www.cantatasingers.com)



## Texts & Translations

### Luminosity

I. Illuminare. Lux in tenebris lucet et tenebrae eam non comprehenderunt.

*[The light shines in darkness and the darkness has not overpowered it.] - John the Apostle*

II. Sixty-six times have these eyes beheld the changing scenes of Autumn. I have said enough about moonlight, ask me no more. Only listen to the voice of cedars and pines, when no wind stirs. - **Ryonen** (b 1797), Zen Buddhist nun

III. Silence is a mystery of the age to come, but words are instruments of this world. - **Isaac of Nineveh** (d. c 700)

IV. He showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand. I looked at it with my mind's eye and thought, 'What can this be?' And answer came, 'It is all that is made'. I marveled that it could last. And answer came into my mind, 'It lasts and ever shall because God loves it.' And all things have being through the love of God. **Julian of Norwich** (b. c 1342)

V. It came to me that the soul is like a castle, a castle of diamond or very clear crystal. In this castle are a multitude of dwellings, just as in heaven there are many mansions. - **Teresa of Avila** (1515-1582)

VI. Ask the beauty of the earth, ask the beauty of the sea, ask the beauty of the sky. Question the order of the stars, the sun whose brightness lights the day, the moon whose splendor softens the gloom of night. Ask the living creatures that move in the waves, ask the creatures that roam the earth, ask the creatures that fly in the heavens. Question them and they will answer, 'Yes we are beautiful'. Their very loveliness is their confession to God: for who made these lovely mutable things, but He who Himself who is unchangeable beauty? **Augustine of Hippo** (354-430)

VII. Because of our good Lord's tender love to all who shall be saved, he quickly comforts them, saying 'The cause of all this pain is sin. But all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well'. **Julian of Norwich**

Alleluia.

### In dulci jubilo

In sweet joy,  
Sing and shout all below!  
He for whom we're pining  
Lies in a manger;  
Like the sun is shining  
In His mother's lap.  
Who is beginning and the end.  
Who is beginning and the end.

### The Wild Wood Carol

Sing o the wild wood, the green holly  
The silent river and barren tree  
The humble creatures that no man  
sees  
Sing O the wild wood

A weary journey one winter's night  
No hope of shelter, no rest in sight  
Who was the creature that bore  
Mary?  
A simple donkey

And when they came into  
Bethlehem town  
They found a stable to lay them  
down  
For their  
companions that Christmas night  
An ox and an ass

And then an angel came down to  
earth  
To bear the news of the Savior's  
birth  
The first to marvel were shepherds  
poor  
And sheep with their lambs  
Sing O the wild wood

### O lux beata Trinitas

1) O Trinity of blessed light,  
O Unity of princely might,  
The fiery sun now goes his way;  
Shed Thou within our hearts Thy ray.  
2) To Thee our morning song of  
praise,  
To Thee our evening prayer we raise;  
Thy glory suppliant we adore  
Forever and forevermore.  
3) All laud to God the Father be;  
All praise, Eternal Son, to Thee;  
All glory, as is ever meet,  
To God the Holy Paraclete.

### Arise, Shine!

Arise, shine! For thy light is come,  
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee!  
For behold the darkness shall cover the  
earth.  
But the Lord shall arise upon thee,  
And His glory shall be seen upon thee.

The sun shall be no more thy light by day,  
Neither for brightness shall the moon give  
light;  
But the Lord shall be unto thee an  
everlasting light,  
Thy God shall be thy glory.  
And the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

Arise! Thy light is come.  
Lift up thine eyes and see:  
All nations shall come to thy light,  
And kings to the brightness of thy rising,  
Lift up thine eyes.

### A Hymn to the Virgin

One that is so fair and bright,  
*Velut maris stella*, [as a star of the sea]  
Brighter than the day's light,  
*Parens et puella*. [mother and maiden]  
I cry to thee, then look on me.  
Lady pray thy Son for me,  
*Tam pia*, [So tender]  
That I may come to thee,  
*Maria*.

All this world was forlorn  
Eva peccatrice, [Eve having been a  
sinner,]  
Till our Lord was y-born  
De te genetrix. [Of you, his mother,]  
With ave it went away Darkest night,  
and comes the day  
Salutis; [Of salvation,]  
The well springeth out of thee.  
Virtutis. [Of virtue.]

Lady, flow'r of ev'rything,  
Rosa sine spina, [Thornless rose,]  
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King,  
Gratia divina: [By divine grace,]  
Of all thou bear'st the prize, Lady, queen  
of paradise  
Electa: [Chosen,]  
Maid mild, mother es Effecta. [You are  
fulfilled]  
Effecta. [Fulfilled]



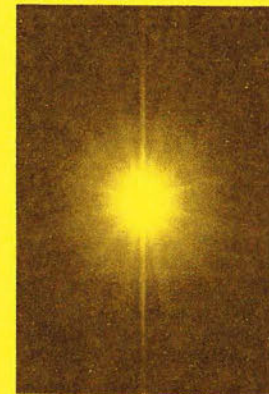
# The Cantata Singers

Will Wickham, Musical Director  
Present

## **Mystical Lights**

Music for Advent and Christmas  
Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 - 3 pm

Grace United Methodist Church,  
191 Bridge Street, Corning, NY



Featuring "*Luminosity*", a work for choir, organ, tanpura and solo viola, by British composer James Whitbourn. Also featured is seasonal music by Praetorius, Byrd, Rutter, Britten and Horseheads native Dan Forrest.

As always, the program will include the traditional seasonal sing-along! Light refreshments will be served.

*A freewill offering will be received.*

*For Further information visit [www.cantatasingers.com](http://www.cantatasingers.com)*