



North Shore Choral Society — **Ring in the Season!** — November 21, 2010 Concert

Orientis Partibus

Arranged by Lee R. Kesselman

This song is derived from a 12th century Latin lyric song, or conductus, "Orientis Partibus." The words and tune originally appeared in France and were written to give thanks for the donkey on which Mary rode. It was a solemn occasion, but the tune became very popular in 17th and 18th century Germany. Arranger Kesselman graduated from Macalester College and earned his Masters from the University of Southern California. He has been the Director of Choral Activities at the College of DuPage (COD), Glen Ellyn, since 1981. He directs the DuPage Chorale, the COD Chamber Singers and is founder and director of the New Classic Singers.

Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

This Chorale is from *The Christmas Oratorio* (No. 12, Chorale), 1734, Part 2, For the Second Day of Christmas, St. Luke 2:8-14. Bach composed *The Christmas Oratorio* for the Christmas season of 1734 and incorporated music from earlier compositions, including three secular cantatas written during 1733 and 1734 and a now lost church cantata, BWV 248a. Johann Sebastian Bach needs little introduction as one of the most prolific and well-known composers of the Baroque period. Bach penned hundreds of chorales such as "Break Forth O Beauteous, Heavenly Light" – harmonizations for choral and congregational singing with well-known tunes in the soprano voice and expressive harmonies.

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

This Christmas carol of German origin first appeared in print in the late 16th century. This familiar harmonization was written by Michael Praetorius in 1609. Michael Praetorius was a German composer and organist who began composing at the beginning of the 17th century. Heavily influenced by the Italian style and especially Gabrielli in his later works, Praetorius wrote numerous pieces of liturgical and religious music including masses, hymns, and Magnificats. "Lo How a Rose" is his most famous surviving work, written in the German protestant chorale style and performed today in English translation by the tenors and basses of the NSCS.

Ave Maria Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

Biebl's best known work is his "Ave Maria" (1964), in which are set portions of the Angelus as well as the Ave Maria. Brought to the USA by the Cornell University Glee Club, the "Ave Maria" gained widespread popularity after becoming part of the repertoire of Chanticleer. Originally scored for male voices, after it became popular the composer himself rearranged it for mixed voices. Biebl was a German composer and choir director who served as professor at the Mozarteum academy of music in Salzburg, Austria.

Recitative, Trio and Chorus –
There Shall A Star from *Christus* Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

Mendelssohn began composing an oratorio, *Christus*, which was left unfinished when he died at the age of 38 after suffering a series of strokes. This sequence of Recitative, Trio, and Chorus displays the compositional prowess of Mendelssohn's hugely successful oratorios, *Elijah* and *St. Paul*. *Christus* is based upon biblical texts concerning the life of Jesus of Nazareth. "There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth" combines a lovely melody with a dramatic middle section, ending with the familiar chorale "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star."

The World's Desire

Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

Born and raised in Parry Sound, Ontario, Eleanor Daley received her Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and holds diplomas in piano and organ from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto and Trinity College, England. She currently lives and works in Toronto, Canada. In "The World's Desire," she provides a new setting of G.K. Chesterton's (1874-1936) familiar text. This piece was commissioned by the Halifax Camerata Singers in 2005.

Creator of the Stars of Night

Jeffrey Enns (b. 1972)

Jeff Enns is a native of Waterloo, Ontario where he grew up surrounded by music. He studied organ, viola and composition at Wilfrid Laurier University. He has won a number of composition competitions and had his music performed across North America, as well as in Ireland, the U.K and Japan. North Shore Choral Society is excited to present the American premier performance of "Creator of the Stars of Night." The work was commissioned for the Conrad Grebel Chapel Choir and is dedicated to the composer's wife, Valerie. The piece skillfully manipulates and weaves the texts and tunes of two well-known hymns, "Creator of the Stars of Night" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovich (1877-1921)

Arranged by Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978)

Mykola Dmytrovich Leontovich wrote the Ukrainian New Year's carol "Shchedryk" in 1919. The beautiful melody inspired Peter Wilhousky to write original lyrics and arrange the music into "Carol of the Bells" in 1936. Wilhousky was of Czechoslovakian heritage, received his B.A. from the Damrosch Institute of Musical Arts (Julliard) and was an eminent music educator. "Carol of the Bells" was brought to American audiences by the Ukrainian Republican A Cappella Choir in the mid-twentieth century. Each section of the choir imitates different bells. This arrangement is for equal voice chorus, performed by the sopranos and altos of the NSCS.

I Saw Three Ships

Traditional, Arranged by Edwin Fissinger (1920-1990)

This traditional carol originated in England and was published in William Sandy's (1792-1874) book of Carols in 1833. It is sometimes referred to as an upbeat version of "Greensleeves," which has a similar meter. Since Bethlehem is landlocked, the three ships are thought to be a metaphor for the three kings. Arranger Edwin Fissinger received his bachelor's and master's degrees in composition from the American Conservatory of Music; his Doctorate in choral conducting and literature was from the University of Illinois. He was a charter member of the American Choral Directors Association and had an active career as a conductor and composer for forty-five years. His arrangements are intricate and entertaining both to listen to and sing!

In Dulci Jubilo

Arranged by Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795-1856)

Originally an English lawyer, Robert Lucas Pearsall was brought up in Bristol, England. A mild stroke in 1825 encouraged him to travel and he eventually settled in Switzerland although frequently returning to Britain. Fundamentally an amateur composer, Pearsall's personal wealth and comfortable situation meant that he rarely sought publication of his work. He is principally remembered for reviving the madrigal and was also a prolific composer of church music. His arrangement of "In Dulci Jubilo" is typical of his part-song arrangements that expanded on the style of the Renaissance and utilizes a variety of forces from trio and octet to full eight-part chorus.

The Snow Lay on the Ground

Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski (b. 1950)

This is a traditional carol in an arrangement by Cynthia Dobrinski that incorporates the chorus of "O Come, All Ye Faithful". A Fulbright Scholar, Cynthia Dobrinski was educated at Texas Christian University, Northwestern University, and the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik, Cologne, Germany. She is a preeminent U.S. handbell arranger and composer.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski (b. 1950)

This familiar carol, as arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski, incorporates a verse of "Away in a Manger" in the middle section of the work.

O Holy Night (with Silent Night)

Arranged by Joel Raney (b. 1956)

This classic carol written by Adolphe Adam (1803 – 1856) in 1847 is arranged by Joel Raney to include the melody of "Silent Night." Joel Raney was educated at the University of North Alabama and received a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School of Music in piano performance. He has his own production company and studio and lives in River Forest, IL where he serves as the Worship Pianist at the First Presbyterian Church of River Forest.

Mary Had A Baby

Negro Spiritual, Arranged by William Dawson (1899-1990)

African-American composer and arranger William L. Dawson was graduated from the Horner Institute of Fine Arts with a Bachelor of Music and later studied at the Chicago Musical College. He received his Masters degree from the American Conservatory of Music. After serving as a trombonist both with the Redpath Chautauqua and the Chicago Civic Symphony Orchestra, Dawson became Choral Director at Tuskegee Institute where he taught from 1931 to 1956. He is well known for his arrangements and variations on spirituals. "Mary Had a Baby" is a slow, intimate setting featuring call and response amongst the choral voices.

Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King

Based on the Negro Spiritual "Go Tell It on the Mountain"
Arranged with additional words and music by Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

Moses George Hogan is recognized as a leading force in promoting and preserving the African-American musical experience. Hogan was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and graduated from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. He did additional study at New York's Juilliard School of Music and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He is known for his contemporary and accessible choral settings of spirituals and has earned an international reputation as a gifted pianist, conductor and arranger. "Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King" is a joyous call and response version of the familiar spiritual "Go Tell It On the Mountain."

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Arranged by Jeffrey Rickard (b. 1942)

The music for this carol first appeared as a secular 16th century dance tune. The lyrics are from English composer George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848–1934), and it was first published in 1924 in his book of carols. Woodward's interest in church bell ringing is evident. Arranger Jeffrey H. Rickard graduated from the University of Redlands, Redlands, California and served as Director of Choral Activities there during his 1970-2007 teaching career. Mr. Rickard also is the founder-director of the Community Chorus of Redlands, an auditioned ensemble of about 100 voices. "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" treats the melody playfully with bell-like accompaniment from the other voices.

~Julia Davids and Karen Rigotti