

Musica Spei

Presents

Wondrous Mystery

Music for Christmas

Hodie Christus natus est
Missa in Nativitate
Loco Agnus, Loco Deo Gratias
O magnum mysterium
Pueri concinite
Resonet in laudibus
Alma redemptoris mater
O magnum mysterium
Virgo caelesti
Gaude Maria

— Intermission —

Mirabile mysterium
Ave Maria
O magnum mysterium
Ave maris stella
Ave virgo sanctissima
Ave Maria
Resonet in laudibus
Noe, noe, noe

Luca Marenzio (1553-1599)
Loyset Compère (1445-1518)
Giovanni Contino (1512-1574)
Jacobus Handl (1550-1591)
Orlande de Lassus (1532-1594)
Andreas de Silva (1475-1530)
Paolo Bivi (1505-1584)
Compère
Johannes Ockeghem (1430-1497)

Handl
Eustache du Caurroy (1549-1609)
Christobal Morales (1500-1553)
Josquin des Prez (1445-1521)
Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)
des Prez
Handl
Francesco De Layolle (1492-1540)



Saturday, December 13, 2008, 3 p.m.
Saint Luke's Episcopal Church
14 State Street, Brockport

Saturday, December 20, 2008, 8 p.m.
Saint Anne Church
1600 Mount Hope Avenue, Rochester

Program Notes

This concert presents sacred choral music from the European Renaissance celebrating the joy, wonder and mystery of the Christmas season, and telling different aspects of the Christmas story as seen through the eyes of composers who lived 500 or more years ago.

Jacobus Handl (also known as Gallus) was a prolific composer during the short 41 years of his life, leaving a legacy of over 500 compositions. A master of complex compositions for as many as 12 voices, he uses rich harmony to bring out the beauty of his text. An excellent example of this is his *Mirabile mysterium*, from which we take our concert title. In this astonishing piece, richly harmonious and dissonant in turn, his text exclaims the wonder of Jesus' birth, through which God is made manifest to all humanity.

Josquin des Prez is perhaps the best known composer of late 15th century, as evidenced by multiple printings of a volume of his works in 1502, the first volume of works by a single composer ever printed. Josquin's *Ave maris stella* and *Ave Maria* are both hymns to the Virgin Mary, praying for her intercession to redeem mankind from sin and extolling her virtues.

Loyset Compère's *Hodie nobis de Virgine (Missa In Nativitate)* is an example of a rare historical oddity known as a "substitution mass", in which the composer has substituted other texts (in this case from the Christmas Morning service) for the standard mass texts. As far as we know, this form existed only in Milan, Italy, for a brief period in the 1470s. Musica Spei will perform two portions of this work: *Quem vidistis* ("What did you see") retelling the shepherds' story of the nativity, and "*O admirabile commercium*" describing that gift of Jesus' birth, exchanging his life for our sins.

This concert is rounded out with smaller works by Orlande de Lassus, Luca Marenzio and Francesco de Layolle. The *Hodie christus natus est* ("Today is born a Saviour") by Marenzio is a joyful shout in response to the Nativity, and de Layolle's *Noe, Noe, Noe* uses the repeated text like the pealing of bells, announcing the joy of Christmas.

Musica Spei (Music of Hope) formed in the summer of 1995 to explore the vast but rarely performed repertoire of sacred, unaccompanied choral masterworks of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The group currently has a wide-ranging repertoire of well over 100 masses, motets and chants from both Western and East European Orthodox traditions. The goal of Musica Spei is to share the magnificence and beauty of this mostly unfamiliar music with a wider audience and to demonstrate its vibrancy and emotional impact in today's world. The growth and development of Musica Spei, a member of the Greater Rochester Choral Consortium, has been made possible by the support of the parish community of Saint Anne Church.

Musica Spei's Upcoming Concerts

February 22, 2009 (Sunday) Greater Rochester Choral Consortium Prism Concert, Eastman Theater, Rochester, NY

April 10 (Good Friday, 7:30 p.m.): St. Anne Church, Rochester, NY.

April 24 (Friday, 7:30 p.m.): St. Mary's, Auburn, NY. Repeat of Good Friday concert

April 25 (Saturday): Repeat of Good Friday concert, location TBA

Summer Sings (all invited to participate!): St. Anne Church, Rochester, N.Y. Wednesday nights in July and August.

For more information, see our web site: www.musicaspei.org, or call 585-442-4681. If you would like to be on our mailing list for future concert announcements, please fill out one of our contact forms and leave it in the offering plate.

Texts and Translations

Hodie Christus natus est

Marenzio

Hodie Christus natus est: noe, noe.
Hodie Salvator apparuit: alleluia.
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,
laetantur archangeli: noe, noe.
hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Noe, noe, alleluia.

Today Christ is born: noel, noel.
Today the Savior appeared: alleluia.
Today on earth the angels sing,
archangels rejoice: noel, noel.
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Noel, noel, alleluia.

O magnum mysterium

Contino

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio.

Beata Virgo Maria,
cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

O great mystery
and wondrous sacrament,
that the animals should witness
the incarnate Lord lying in the manger.

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary,
whose womb was deemed worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

Missa in Nativitate

Compère

Loco Agnus:

Quem vidistis, pastores? Dicite: annunciate nobis, quis apparuit in terris?

In choro angelorum natum vidimus,
Salvatorem Dominum.

Quem genuit puerpera, cuius nomen aeternum et gaudia matris habens cum virginitatis honorem nec primam similem visa est, nec habere sequentem.

Loco Deo Gratias:

O admirabile commercium! Humani generis creator hodie ex virgine nasci dignatus est.

Christus natus est nobis, per quem salus aeterna mundo apparuit.

Beatus auctor saeculi servile corpus induit, ut carne carnem liberans, ne perderet quos condidit.

In place of the Agnus:

Whom did you see, shepherds? Say: tell us, who has appeared on earth?

We saw the son in the choir of angels,
our Savior and Lord.

He was born to one who had the eternal name and the joys of a mother along with the honor of a being a virgin; there was none like her before, and nor will there be hereafter.

In place of Deo Gratias:

O wonderful exchange! The creator of the human race today deigned to be born of a virgin.

Christ was born for us, through whom eternal salvation appeared to the world.

The blessed originator of the ages assumed our servile body, so that freeing flesh by his flesh, he might not lose those whom he founded.

Pueri concinite

Handl

Pueri concinite, nato regi psallite,
pia voce dicite: apparuit, quem genuit Maria.

Sunt impleta, quae praedixit Gabriel. Eia, Eia!
Virgo Deum genuit, quod divina voluit clementia.

Sing together, children, sing songs to the newborn king,
in pious tones, say: He who was born of Mary appears.

Now we see fulfilled the word of Gabriel: Eya, eya!
The Virgin has given birth to God, as the divine mercy willed.

Resonet in laudibus

Resonet in laudibus,
cum jucundis plausibus,
Sion cum fidelibus
apparuit quem genuit Maria.

Sunt impleta quae praedixit Gabriel,
Eia, Eia,
Virgo Deum genuit
quem divina voluit clementia.

Hodie apparuit, apparuit in Israel,
ex Maria virgine: est natus Rex.

Magnum nomen Domini Emanuel
quod annuntiatum est per Gabriel, Eya, eya
Virgo Deum genuit quod divina voluit

Lassus

Let praises ring out,
and joyful acclaim,
to the faithful in Zion.
the one whom Mary bore has appeared

What Gabriel foretold has been fulfilled.
Eia, eia,
A virgin has given birth to God,
as He wished in His divine mercy.

Today he has appeared in Israel,
Through the Virgin Mary a king is born.

Great is the name of the Lord, Emanuel,
Who was announced by Gabriel, Eya, eya.
The Virgin has given birth to God, as the divine mercy willed.

Alma redemptoris mater

Alma redemptoris mater
quae pervia caeli porta manes,
et stella maris,
succurre cadenti surgere qui curat populo;
tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum genitorem.

Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave,
peccatorum Miserere.

Kindly mother of our redeemer,
great portal of heaven always open,
the sea's far-shining star,
provide help to your people who, though fallen, strive to rise again;
you who brought forth to all nature's wonder, your own creator.

A virgin before and hereafter, who at Gabriel's speaking did receive the Hail, towards us sinners show your pity.

de Silva

O magnum mysterium

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio.

Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum.
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum
Jesum Christum.

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament,
that the animals should witness
the incarnate Lord lying in the manger.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you, O Virgin, whose womb was deemed worthy
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bivi

Virgo caelesti

Virgo caelesti decorata partu,
semper humano generi miserata,
iugiter sese tibi dedicantes aspice servos,
Virgo Maria.

Virgin favored by heavenly birth,
ever compassionate to the human race,
watch over your servants, who continually dedicate themselves
to you, Virgin Mary.

Compère

Gaude Maria

Gaude, Maria Virgo, cunctas haereses sola interemisti, quae
Gabrielis archangeli dictis credidisti.

Dum virgo Deum et hominem genuisti, et post partum virgo
inviolata permansisti.

Gabrielem archangelum scimus divinitus te esse affatum:
uterum tuum de Spiritu Sancto credimus impregnatum.

Erubescat Judaeus in felix, qui dicit Christum ex Joseph
semine esse natum.

Dum virgo Deum et hominem genuisti, et post partum virgo
inviolata permansisti.

Rejoice, Virgin Mary; you, unaided, have refuted all heresies and
believed the word of the archangel Gabriel.

You, a virgin, gave birth to God and man and remained a virgin,
inviolated, after giving birth.

We believe that the archangel Gabriel spoke to you by divine
dispensation: your womb was made pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Let blush the unhappy man, who says that Christ was born of
Joseph's seed.

You, a virgin, gave birth to God and man and remained a virgin,
inviolated, after giving birth.

Ockeghem

Intermission

Mirabile mysterium

Handl

Mirabile mysterium declaratur hodie, innovantur naturae.

A wondrous mystery is today revealed: nature itself is transformed.

Deus homo factus est, id, quod fuit permansit, et quod non erat, assumpsit,

God is made man. He remained what he was and became what he was not,

non commixtionem passus neque divisionem.

suffering neither confusion nor division

Ave Maria

du Caurroy

Ave Maria gratia plena, Dominus tecum:
tua gratia sit mecum.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you:
may your grace be with me.

Benedicta tu in mulieribus
et benedicta sit Sancta Anna mater tua,
ex qua sine macula et peccato processisti,

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed be Saint Anne, your mother,
from whom you were born without stain or sin,

Virgo Maria: ex te autem natus est
Jesus Christus filius Dei vivi.

Virgin Mary: from you, moreover, was born
Jesus Christ, the son of the living God.

O magnum mysterium

Morales

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio.

O great mystery
and wondrous sacrament,
that the animals should witness
the incarnate Lord lying in the manger.

Beata Virgo Maria,
cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary,
whose womb was deemed worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

Domine, audivi auditum tuum et timui;
consideravi opera tua, et expavi;
in medio duorum animalium

Lord, I heard your voice and I was afraid;
I thought upon your works and I trembled with fear:
In the midst of two animals.

Ave maris stella

des Prez

Ave, maris stella, Dei mater alma,
atque semper Virgo, felix celi porta.

Hail, star of the sea, bountiful mother of God,
and ever Virgin, auspicious gateway of heaven.

Sumens illud "Ave" Gabrielis ore,
funda nos in pace, mutans Evae nomen.

Taking upon yourself that greeting from Gabriel's mouth, thus
Changing the name of Eve [to Ave], confirm peace within us.

Solve vincla reis, profer lumen caecis,
mala nostra pelle, bona cuncta posce.

Break the fetters of sinners, make the blind see,
thrust aside our evil, plead urgently for our good.

Monstra te esse matrem, sumat per te preces
qui pro nobis natus tulit esse tuus.

Show yourself a mother; may He who was born for us
and submitted to be your son hear our prayers through you.

Virgo singularis inter omnes mitis,
nos culpae solutos mites fac et castos.

Supreme Virgin, mildest of all, keep us from guilt, meek and
chaste.

Vitam praesta puram, iter para tutum,
ut videntes Iesum semper collaetemur.

Keep our life's journey pure, so that, at last seeing Jesus, we may
always rejoice.

Sit laus Deo Patri, summo Christo decus,
Spíritui Sancto tribus honor unus.

Praise to God the Father, honor to Christ on high,
and honor, too, to the Holy Spirit, third of the Three-in-One.

Ave virgo sanctissima

Ave virgo sanctissima,
Dei mater piissima,
maris stella clarissima.

Salve semper gloriosa, margarita pretiosa,
sicut lilium formosa, nitens,
olens velut rosa.

Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, Virgo serena.

Ave cuius conceptio, solemniter plena gaudio, caelestia, ter-
restria, nova replet leticia.

Ave cuius nativitas nostra fuit solemnitas, ut Lucifer lux
oriens, verum solem preveniens.

Ave pia humilitas, sine viro fecunditas cuius annuntiatio
nostra fuit redemption.

Ave vera virginitas, immaculata castitas, cuius purifica-
tio nostra fuit purgatio.

Ave, praeclara omnibus angelicis virtutibus, cuius fuit
assumptio nostra glorificatio.

O mater Dei, memento mei. Amen.

Resonet in laudibus

Resonet in laudibus,
cum jucundis plausibus,
Sion cum fidelibus:
apparuit quem genuit Maria.

Sunt impleta quae praedixit Gabriel,
Eia, Eia, Virgo Deum genuit
quem divina voluit clementia.

Hodie apparuit, apparuit in Israel,
ex Maria virginem: est natus Rex.

Noe, noe, noe

Noe, noe, noe. Parvulus filius hodie natus est nobis,
salvator mundi. Noe, noe, noe.

Cantemus et exultemus et letemur in eo dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Noe, noe, noe.

Guerrero

Hail, holy Virgin,
most blessed Mother of God,
brightest star of the sea.

Hail, ever glorious, precious pearl,
beautiful as the lily, shining and
giving perfume like the rose.

des Prez

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, serene
Virgin.

Hail, you whose conception, full of great joy, fills
heaven and earth with new gladness.

Hail, you whose birth brought us joy, like Lucifer, the
morning star, going before the true sun.

Hail, pious humility, fruitful without man, whose annun-
ciation brought us salvation.

Hail, true virginity, immaculate chastity, whose purifica-
tion brought our cleansing.

Hail, glorious one in all angelic virtues, whose assump-
tion was our glorification.

O mother of God, remember me. Amen.

Handl

Let praises ring out
and joyful acclaim:
the one whom Mary bore has appeared
to the faithful in Zion.

What Gabriel foretold has been fulfilled.
Eia, eia, A virgin has given birth to God,
as He wished in His divine mercy.

Today he has appeared in Israel,
through the Virgin Mary a king is born

de Layolle

Noel, noel, noel. A little son is born for us today,
the savior of the world. Noel, noel, noel.

Let us sing and celebrate and rejoice in him, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Noel, noel, noel.