

Illinois State University

ISU ReD: Research and eData

School of Music Programs

Music

12-17-1970

Christmas Recital: The Treble Choir, December 17, 1970

Donald Armstrong Conductor

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/somp>



Part of the [Music Performance Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Armstrong, Donald Conductor, "Christmas Recital: The Treble Choir, December 17, 1970" (1970). *School of Music Programs*. 5005.

<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/somp/5005>

This Performance Program is brought to you for free and open access by the Music at ISU ReD: Research and eData. It has been accepted for inclusion in School of Music Programs by an authorized administrator of ISU ReD: Research and eData. For more information, please contact ISUReD@ilstu.edu.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

present

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RECITAL
THE TREBLE CHOIR

Dr. Donald Armstrong, Conductor

St. John's Lutheran Church
Thursday, 17 December, 1970
7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

TO BE SUNG FROM THE REAR CHOIR LOFT

MAGNIFICAT IN THE EIGHTH MODE

Guillaume Dufay
1400-1474

The text is from the first chapter of St. Luke, the reply of Mary to the angel Gabriel upon her annunciation as the Mother of the Messiah. The twelve verses are divided into four equal groups, with the first, second, and third verses of each group similarly composed. Verses 2, 5, and 8 are set for two solo voices in Imitative texture.

Soloists: Roxanne Brauer, Vicki Davis, Judy Ingle, Beth Briggs, Jean Mullen, Katie Ellis.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For He hath regarded the humillity of His handmaid:

For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For He that is mighty hath done great things unto me,

And holy is His name.

And His mercy is from generation unto generation:

Unto them that fear Him.

He hath shewed might in His arm:

He hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:

And hath exalted the humble.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:

And the rich He hath sent empty away.

He hath received Israel His servant,

Being mindful of His mercy,

As He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen.

SACRAE CANTIUNCULAE NOS. 12 and 16

Claudio Monteverdi
1567-1643

Monteverdi's *Sacrae Cantiunculae*, apparently his earliest published works, appeared in 1582 when he was 15 years old. They are all for three voices. The text of the first is from the third antiphon of Lauds in the liturgical office, while the second is the antiphon to be properly sung at the celebration of the Magnificat.

ANGELUS AD PASTORES AIT

The Angel said unto the shepherds:

I bring you tidings of great joy;

For this day is born unto you

The Saviour of the world.

HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST

This day, Christ is born. This day, the Saviour appeared;

This day, the Angels sing on earth; the Archangels rejoice;

This day, the just exult, saying:

Glory to God in the highest—Alleluia!

TWO MARIAN ANTIPHONS

Giovanni P. da Palestrina
1525-1594

The Marian Antiphons are customarily sung at the close of Compline, the final service in the office (midnight). The first of these two is after the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the second after the feast of the Holy Trinity.

AVE REGINA COELORUM

Hail, Queen of the heavens; Hail, Queen of the angels.
Hail root and portal, from whom all light springs.

Rejoice, O glorious Virginity, beautiful above all things.
Strengthen us, Thou completely beautiful one,
And pray to Christ for us.

TYRLE, TYRLOW, TYRLE, TYRLOW

Healey Willan
b. 1880

This composition of 1928 uses a 16th century English text, with a repetitive phrase of the two-word title, words which describe the sound of the shepherds' pipes. Willan is one of the most important English-Canadian choral composers of this century.

TO BE SUNG FROM THE SANCTUARY

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Leo Smit
b. 1921

The American composer Leo Smit is primarily known for his ballet music, large orchestral works—*Joan of Arc*, and *Biblical Episodes*—and music for the piano. This small carol written in 1949, is for two choral voices, treated nearly equally, in a very free melodic manner. The relationship between the two voices is imitative and quite chromatic. The text is an anonymous Medieval carol, describing the delicacy of the birth of Christ.

ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS

Zoltan Kodaly
1882-1968

Kodaly was one of the leading European choral composers of this century. His interest in making choral music available to all people led him to develop his now widely practiced methods of teaching singing to children and adolescents. This composition is a dialogue between the angels, with their annunciation of *Gloria in Excelsis*, and the shepherds with their fear and excitement at the glad tidings. The English translation is by Elizabeth Lockwood.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Ulysses Kay
b. 1917

Kay is one of the leading Negro composers of serious music today. Many choral works with varying texts have been composed by him. The text for this work, composed in 1943, is by Sara Teasdale. It is a simple description of the nativity and the pomp of the attendants, yet the child Jesus sleeps. The music is equally simple in three parts.

AVE MARIA

Gustav Holst
1874-1934

This composition of 1900 is for eight part female choir, in two choruses. The text is from St. Luke, the annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary.

NOVA, NOVA, AVE FIT EX EVA

Williametta Spencer

The 15th century text is another description of the annunciation of the Angel Gabriel. The title words extol Mary as the true successor of the first woman, Eve. The sound of the finger cymbals gives a certain charm to the work.

SEVEN JOYS OF CHRISTMAS

Kirke Mechem
b. 1925

Mechem is a native American composer presently at San Francisco State College. This composition, opus 25, 1965, uses traditional carols and texts in arrangements by the composer.

1. The Joy of Love: This is the truth (Herefordshire carol).
2. The Joy of Bells: Ding Dong! Merrily on high (Thoinot Arbeau, 1589).
3. The Joy of Mary: Joseph dearest, Joseph mine (a mystery play of ca. 1500).
4. The Joy of Children: Patapan (Bernard de la Monnoye, ca. 1700).
5. The Joy of the New Year: New Year Song (Traditional Japanese).
6. The Joy of Dance: Fum, fum, fum! (Traditional Spanish).
7. The Joy of Song: God bless the master of this house (Traditional English—combines elements of number 2 above, Joy to the World, and Angels We Have Heard on High).

CONCIERTO DE NAVIDAD

Paul Csonka

The simple settings of the traditional Spanish religious poems by the Cuban composer Csonka maintains the Spanish flavor in their use of characteristic harmonies and rhythms. The combination of the instrumental sounds and the vocal lines is sometimes rather complex, though the composition is strictly traditional rather than progressive.

Harpist: Joyce Rosenfield, University of Illinois

1. Amoroso Pastorcillo - Dionisio Solis

Sing ye and dance ye, gentle shepherds!
Ye, who in darkness and in the shadows
Can worship the sun that has not yet appeared!

2. Al Nino Jesus - Ventura de la Vega

To the hymns of the angels that on high resound,
We lift up hosannas from our humble ground.
Sing to him mortals, the Redeemer, the Child
The only-begotten, who down from His throne
Comes this day to die and for evil atone!
Glory to Him who from heaven descends in the Lord's name!

3. La Nana - R. S. Gomis

Sing and lull him blessed Mother, lull and sway and sing!
Drowsy is my little Jesus; Blessed may He be!
Sprig of sweetest spice, my loved one, lily blossom, he!
Sleep, my soul, my life, my dear one, while I sing to Thee!
Sleep, while up from out my bosom wells my tender lay,
And each note, so full of rapture, sings my love to Thee!
Babe, whose flashing eyes so sparkling mean the sun to me,
When you close them darkness covers all that I would see;
Yet the time has come to shut them; close those eyes so clear!
Rivulet that runs and babbles, cease thy murmur now.
While the cradle swings, be silent, nightingale, yes thou!

(Free translations by S. R. Rosenbaum)