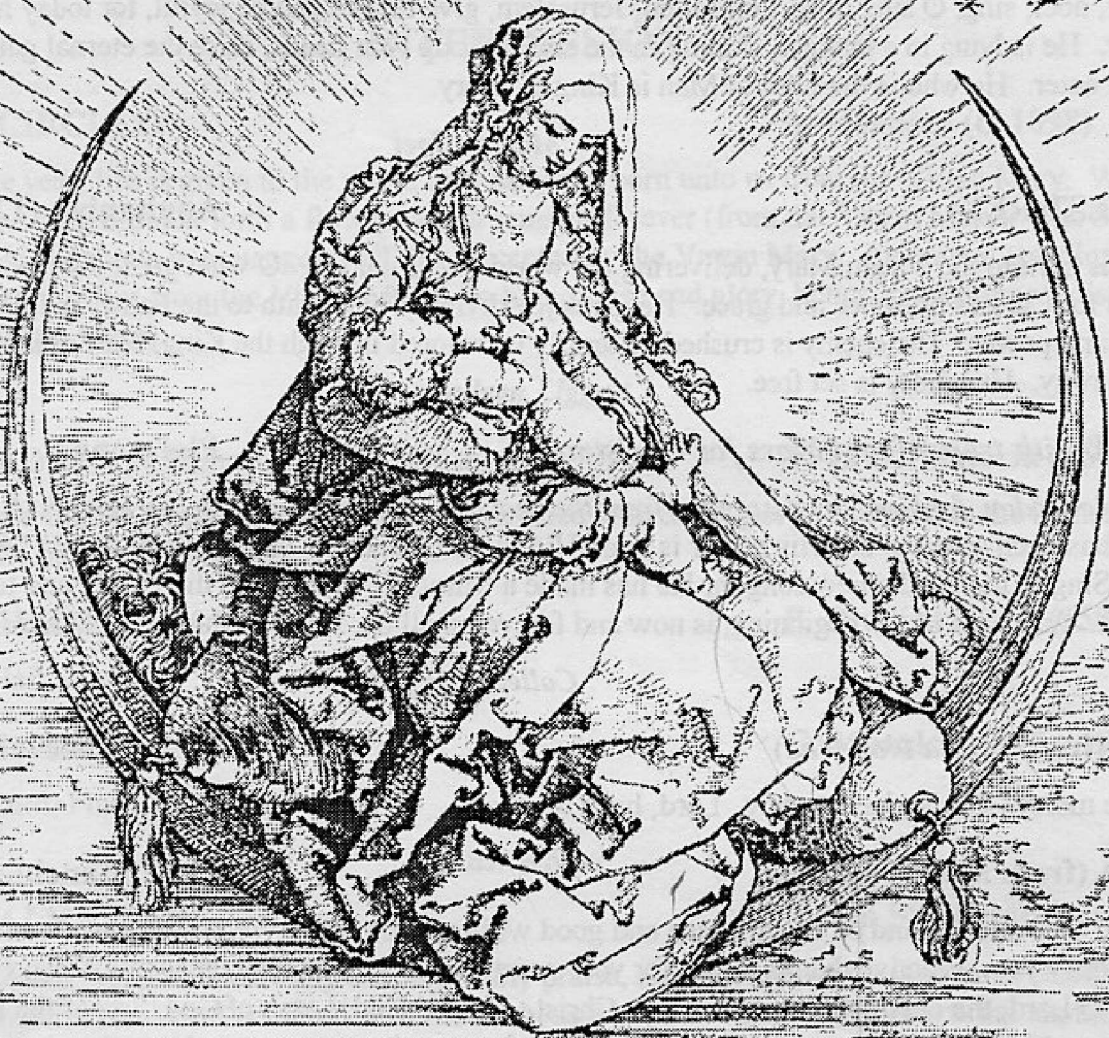


Musica Spei

presents

O Great Mystery:

A Renaissance Christmas Celebration



Colleen Eiggett, guest soprano

Tuesday, December 17 at 7:30 pm

Colgate Rochester Divinity School Chapel
Rochester, New York

PROGRAM

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

Plainsong

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that the animals should witness the birth of the Lord in the manger. Blessed are you, O Virgin, whose womb was deemed worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

G.P. da Palestrina (1525 - 1594)

O great mystery... We saw the child and choirs of angels joining in praise of the Lord. Alleluia. Whom did you see, shepherds? Tell us, proclaim to us - what has appeared to you? We saw the child...

NOE, NOE

J. Mouton (1459 - 1522)

Noel, noel, noel, sing, O sing noel. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, give thanks and be joyful, for today is born the new King, our Savior. He is lying in a manger, shining in the sky. Lift up your heads, raise the eternal gates and the King of Glory will enter. He who is the Lord of Man is King of Glory.

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NATUS EST REX

Aquitanian (12th Century)

The King is born to the Virgin Mary, delivering the world to eternal life. O what great joy resounds in the church for Christ's presence and grace. He gives joy divinely. The path to the Father is full of treachery, arrogance and power. The enemy is crushed. Eternity is restored through the King, born as a human, freely given and taken away. Humanity is set free.

INTROIT *with trope* (from *Mass for Christmas*)

Plainsong

Let us rejoice today, for God has descended from the heavens and is on earth on our behalf. A child is born for us and a son has been given to us: His power is upon His shoulder and His name will be called Messenger of Great Counsel. Sing to the Lord a new song for He has made a Miracle. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and forever shall be, world without end. Amen. A child is born...

Colleen Liggett

KYRIE (from *Missa Noe Noe*)

J. Arcadelt (1505 - 1568)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA (from *Missa Noe Noe*)

P. de Manchicourt (1510 - 1564)

Glory be to God on high and on earth, peace and good will towards men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you. We give thanks to you for your great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. You who...receive our prayer. You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us. For only you are holy. Only you are the Lord. Only you, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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CASTITATIS LILIUM

Aquitanian (c. 1098)

The lily of purity has blossomed, for the son of God has appeared. May this festal day shine forth! At the birth of the King, let the multitude of the heavenly host rejoice with praises. The star tells the wise men, and the angel tells the shepherds, to go immediately to see Him. The shepherds announce the Savior, the wise men foretell the birth of God with gifts. The virgin mother keeps these things in her heart and blesses the Lord before all.

RADIX JESSE**Aquitanian (12th Century)**

The root of Jesse, the lily of chastity, the new star, the gentle rose and glittering lily, gives off a new light. Exiled, captive, given to death, the mother gives off a new light: the son of God, who is the salvation of all. He, who has no beginning, comes to this place of exile to give us sustenance. Proclaim it; let harmony sing out; let symphony sound forth to the Father, the immortal Son of the Virgin Mary. For these joys, the court of heaven rejoices; let the Church rejoice, crying out the miracles in this solemn ceremony: the Father is born of the daughter.

*Colleen Liggett***O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM****Clemens non Papa (1510 - 1555)**

O great mystery...Noel, noel...Lord, I have heard your voice and trembled. I have seen your works and shuddered. I am between two animals.

*Musica Spei***INTERMISSION****IN HOC ANNI CIRCULO****Aquitanian (c. 1098)**

In this season of the year, life is given to the world by a baby boy born unto us from the Virgin Mary. Without knowledge of man, a twig brought forth a flower, which remains forever (from the Virgin Mary). The Son of the heavenly Father is given abode in a manger, willingly accepted by the Virgin Mary. An animal standing over him venerates this newborn infant from the Virgin Mary. To him, praise and glory, honor, power, grace, distinction and victory (from the Virgin Mary).

*Colleen Liggett***SANCTUS (from Missa O Magnum Mysterium)****T. L. de Victoria (1548 - 1611)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM**P. Bivi (Aretino) (1508 - 1584)**

O great mystery...Hail Mary...

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM**C. Morales (1500 - 1553)**

O great mystery...Lord, I have heard your voice...

*Musica Spei***JUBILEMUS SALVATORI****Adam St. Victor (12th Century)**

Let us sing to the Savior whom the heavenly choirs joyfully praise, announcing peace. The earth is joined to heaven, the church to the angels. The Word is united with the flesh, as was predestined. Without carnal sin the Virgin gives birth, the temple of the Lord standing alone throughout the ages. O new and wondrous thing, the fire glows in the ruby but does not destroy it. Heavenly dew, rain clouds and mountain streams flow: the root of Jesse grows. From the root a flower arises, fulfilling the prophecy. The root of Jesse is King David, the stem the Virgin Mother, the flower the Child. Wondrous is the beauty of the flower. We are recreated in this flower which invites us by its taste, its smell and its appearance. Jesus, immortal child, may this day of thy birth give us peace and joy. Flower and fruit of a Virgin whose perfume is life-giving, praise and glory are yours.

*Colleen Liggett***O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM****T. L. de Victoria**

O great mystery... Hallelujah.

AGNUS DEI (from *Missa O Magnum Mysterium*)

G. P. da Palestrina

Lamb of God, You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You who take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

THREE SEASONAL MOTETS

J. Handl (Gallus) (1550 - 1591)

PUERI CONCINITE

Sing together, children, sing songs to the newborn King, in pious tones, say: He who was born of Mary appears. The things that Gabriel foretold have come to pass: Eya, eya! The Virgin has given birth to God, as the divine mercy wished it to be.

MIRABILE MYSTERIUM

Miraculously, the divine mystery is proclaimed today; nature is renewed. Today God was made man; that which he always was, he has remained and that which he was not, he has become - suffering neither fusion nor division.

RESONET IN LAUDIBUS

Let praises resound with joyful noise. Sion and the faithful: He has appeared whom Mary has borne. The things that Gabriel foretold have come to pass. Eya, eya! The Virgin has given birth to God, as the divine mercy wished it to be. Today He appeared in Israel. From the Virgin Mary the King was born.

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Acknowledgments: Translations - Thomas W. Baker, Robert Blake, Cynthia Farber-Soule, Colleen Liggett, Peter Gram Swing. Design - Corinne Stukas. Special thanks to E. C. Schirmer, the Sibley Music Library, the NEH Medieval Lyric Institute.

Jeanne Beddoe, Jim Blake, Lynette Blake, Michael De Luca, Sharon Emerson, Joseph Finetti, Justin Gumlak, Micaela Gutierrez, Jim Holden, Eric Lobenstine, Stephen Marcus, Katie Orem, Rachel Plotinsky, Jenny Saffran, Richard Sauvain

Musica Spei (Music of Hope) was formed last season to explore the vast - but largely unperformed - repertoire of sacred, unaccompanied choral masterworks of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. 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, relevance and emotional appeal in today's world. Comprised of non-professionals and performing without a conductor, Musica Spei gave its debut concert, "As Beautiful As A Dove," last February in Buffalo and Rochester and a second concert, "A Silence in Heaven" in June. Last October, the group was invited to participate in "Rochester Sings," a gathering of major Rochester choruses at the Eastman Theatre to celebrate the 75th birthday of the Eastman School of Music. The growth and development of Musica Spei has been made possible by the unwavering support of the parish community of Saint Anne Church in Rochester.

Colleen Liggett, guest soprano, is a leader of the early music scene in Rochester and is well known as both instrumentalist and singer from numerous performances throughout this area. She earned degrees from Douglass College of Rutgers University and the Eastman School of Music and has been a highly regarded teacher at the Hochstein School of Music for over 10 years. She performs with Deborah Fox, lutenist, as the duo *Cantar e Sonar*, has recorded two albums of Shaker songs with Mitzie Collins and led a panel discussion on Singing Medieval Lyric in Translation at the 1996 International Medieval Congress.

The next concerts in these series will be a program of music for Good Friday tentatively scheduled for Saint Louis Church on March 21, Saint Anne Church on March 28 (Good Friday) and Colgate Rochester Divinity School Chapel on April 2, 1997. If you wish to be placed on Musica Spei's mailing list and notified of future appearances, please write your name and address on the index cards located at the entrance to the Chapel, call Steve Marcus at 244-7764 or write to him c/o Musica Spei at 1025 East Avenue, Apt. 2, Rochester, New York 14607.