

MUSICA SPEI (*MUSIC OF HOPE*)

presents

**A CHILD IS BORN:
RENAISSANCE CHORAL MUSIC
FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Program

December 2000

(Please feel free to applaud at the end of each half of the program)

Veni, veni Emmauel	Plainchant
O magnum mysterium	Pierluigi da Palestrina (Ital., c.1525-1594)
Nova vobis gaudia	Nicholas Grenon (Fr., c.1380-1456)
Hodie nobis	Thomas Tallis (Eng., c. 1505-1585)
Three motets:	Jacob Handl, aka Gallus (Slov., 1550-1591)
Pueri concinite	
Mirabile mysterium	
Resonet in laudibus	
Noe, noe	Francesco de Layolle (Ital., 1492-c.1540)
Videntes stellam magi	Orlando de Lassus (Flem. 1532-1594)
Videte miraculum	Thomas Tallis

INTERMISSION

Puer natus est	Plainchant
Alma redemptoris mater	Johannes Ockeghem (Flem., 1430-1497)
Noe, noe	Antoine Brumel (Fr., c.1460-c.1515)
Resonet in laudibus	Orlando de Lassus
Hodie Christus natus est	Plainchant
O magnum mysterium	Tomas Luis de Victoria (Span., 1548-1611)
Noe, noe	Antoine Busnois (Fr., c.1430-1492)
O beata infantia	Loyset Pieton (? , fl. c.1530-1545)
Ave Maria	Robert Parsons (Eng., d. 1570)

Translations

Veni, veni Emmanuel

Plainchant

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel! O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them that trust your mighty power to save, and give them victory over the grave. Rejoice!...O come, O Dayspring from on high and cheer us by your drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice!...O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery. Rejoice!...O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law, in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice!...

O magnum mysterium

Palestrina

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that the animals should witness the birth of the Lord in the manger. 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.....Alleluia!

Nova vobis gaudia

Grenon

I bring you new joy: a King is born from the Virgin's womb. My whole life long I will bear this in mind and all you, for your part, say: Noel. The King and Savior of the world is born, the Restorer of a failing people, whom the Jews praise, and little boys, and everyone else, no less, believe: Noel. Eve was seduced by Satan's cunning, and led the man astray, but that cunning is deceived and the Fallen One fails, for the renowned Virgin's offspring comes: Noel. Light is born, sin dies, peace arises and hate is taken away. O king of all, clothed in flesh, grant salvation to the lost: Noel.

Hodie nobis

Tallis

Today, unto us, the king of heaven is born of the blessed virgin in order that he may call fallen mankind back to his celestial kingdoms; the army of angels rejoices because eternal salvation has appeared to all mankind. Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will. Because eternal salvation has appeared to all mankind.

Pueri concinite

Handl

Sing together, children, sing songs to the newborn King; in pious tones, say: Now we see fulfilled the word of Gabriel: Eya, eya! Christ, the Lord of Virgin birth, comes this day from heaven to earth to set us free.

Mirabile mysterium

Handl

A wondrous mystery is today revealed: nature itself is transformed. God is made man. He remained what he was and became what he was not, suffering neither confusion nor division.

Resonet in laudibus

Handl

Let Zion with all its faithful resound in praises with joyful clapping: for he whom Mary brought forth has appeared. Gabriel's predictions are fulfilled. O joy! O wonder! A virgin has borne God as the divine mercy willed. Today he has appeared in Israel. The king is born of the Virgin Mary and comes this day from heaven to earth to set us free. O joy! O wonder! A virgin has borne...

Noe, noe, noe**Layolle**

Noel...A little son is born for us today, the saviour of the world. Noel...Let us sing and celebrate and rejoice in him, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Noel....

Videntes stellam Magi**Lassus**

When they saw the star, they rejoiced. And when they came into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and worshipped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Videte miraculum**Tallis**

Behold the miracle of the Mother of the Lord: a virgin has conceived without a man. Mary, standing laden with her noble burden, rejoices to find herself a mother, though she knows herself to be a wife. She has conceived in her chaste womb one who is fair beyond the sons of men and, being blessed forever, she has brought forth for us God and man. Mary, standing laden with her noble burden...Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. And she rejoices to find herself a mother...

INTERMISSION**Puer natus est nobis****Plainchant**

A child is born for us and unto us a son is born; the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called messenger of great counsel. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous things. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

Alma redemptoris mater**Ockeghem**

Gentle mother of the redeemer, you ever remain a road and gateway to heaven, and star of the sea, who provides help to the fallen and raises up the people. You who by wondrous means bore your holy parent. Virgin before and after - You to whom Gabriel, kneeling, uttered his "Hail" - show pity to all sinners. Amen.

Noe, noe, noe**Brumel**

Noel, noel, noel....

Resonet in laudibus**Lassus**

Let Zion with all its faithful resound in praises with joyful clapping: for he whom Mary brought forth has appeared. Gabriel's predictions are fulfilled. O joy! O wonder! A virgin has borne God as the divine mercy willed. Today he has appeared in Israel. The king is born of the Virgin Mary and comes this day from heaven to earth to set us free. Great is the name of the Lord, Emmanuel, as Gabriel proclaimed it. O joy! O wonder! A virgin has borne...

Hodie Christus natus est**Plainchant**

Today Christ is born, today the Savior has appeared; today the angels sing on earth, and the archangels rejoice; today the just exult, saying: glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

O magnum mysterium**Victoria**

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that the animals should witness the birth of the Lord in the manger. O blessed Virgin, whose womb was worthy of bearing Jesus Christ, our Lord. Alleluia.

Noel, noel, noel
Noel, noel, noel.

Busnois

O beata infantia

Pieton

O blessed infancy, through which life was restored to mankind! O most welcome and delightful wails, through which we have evaded eternal weeping! O happy swaddling clothes, with which the stains of sinners have been scrubbed away! O splendid manger, in which not only the hay of the animals lay, but also the food of Angels was discovered!

Ave Maria

Parsons

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Amen.

Graphics: Corinne Stukas.

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David Ahn, Jeanne Beddoe, Jim Blake, Lynette Blake, Tina Curren, Kathy Duhig,
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Musica Spei (Music of Hope), now in its sixth season, was formed in the summer of 1995 to explore the vast but largely unperformed repertoire of sacred, unaccompanied choral masterworks of the 15th, 16th and early 17th centuries. Nonsectarian and comprised of non-professional Rochester singers, Musica Spei performs without a conductor and gives several concerts each season at various locations in the Greater Rochester, Buffalo and Canandaigua communities. Musica Spei has performed with other local groups, including *Madrigalia* and *Air de Cour*, participated in several choral PRISM concerts presented by the Eastman School of Music in the Eastman Theatre, and appeared twice during the 1999-2000 season at Memorial Art Gallery exhibition previews. This season, Musica Spei was invited to perform at the national conference of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, return to the Memorial Art Gallery and, on April 11th, perform on WXXI's "Live at Hochstein" concert series. Every summer since 1995, Musica Spei has sponsored Renaissance Summer Sings at Saint Anne Church for members of the community who enjoy singing this repertoire.

Musica Spei's repertoire spans five centuries of music from Gregorian chant and medieval music to the complex polyphony of the early 17th century. The group's concerts have included music from Spain, Italy, Germany, England, Scotland, the Flemish countries and Slovenia by such well known Renaissance composers as Palestrina, Victoria, Lassus, Tallis, Byrd, Josquin, Gesualdo and others as well as by such lesser known Renaissance masters as Ockeghem, Handl (Gallus), Lobo, de Rore, de Wert, Senfl, Peebles, Guerrero, Vaet and many others.

The goal of Musica Spei is to share the magnificence and beauty of this mostly unfamiliar music with a wider audience and to demonstrate the music's 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 is also the recipient of a generous grant from the New York State Legislature, the New York State Council on the Arts and the Arts and Cultural Council for Greater Rochester.

If you wish to be placed on Musica Spei's mailing list for notification of future concerts and/or auditions, please fill out one of the cards located at each of the entrances (indicate your voice category, if applicable); send your name and address to Musica Spei, c/o Steve Marcus, 1025 East Avenue, Apt. #2, Rochester, New York 14607; call (716) 244-7764; or contact us through our new website at www.musicaspei.org. Future local appearances include a Memorial Art Gallery preview party on January 27; "Live from Hochstein," broadcast over WXXI, on April 11; Good Friday at Saint Anne on April 13; and our final Saint Anne concert of the season later in the spring.