

Musica Spei

presents

Noel, Noel

A Renaissance Christmas

December 14, 2007 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Brockport
December 15, 2007 at St. Anne Church, Rochester



Veni, Veni Emmanuel	Plainchant
Salve Sancta Parens	William Byrd (1543-1623)
Missa in Nativitate Deus Noster Jesu Christe	Loyset Compère (1445-1518)
Hodie Christus Natus Est	Luca Marenzio (1553-1599)
<i>Intermission</i>	
Magnificat <i>Quarti Toni</i>	Hernando Franco (1532-1585)
O Magnum Mysterium	William Byrd
Missus est Gabriel / Vera Fides	Jean Mouton (1459-1522)
	<i>Edited by Patrick Macey</i>
Noe, Noe, Noe	Francesco de Layolle (1492-1540)

Singers: Jeanne Beddoe, Alexandra Bermel, Jim Blake, Lynette Blake, Mary Cowden,
Jennifer Dydo, Joe Finetti, Christopher Gold (*rehearsal conductor*), Jeff Harp,
William Hawkins, Eric Lobenstine, Richard Sauvain, Beth Cross Wilhelm
Artistic Guide Emeritus: Steve Marcus

Please withhold your applause until the end of each half of the concert.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Plainchant

Veni, veni Emmanuel, captivum solve Israel,
qui gemit in exilio,
privatus Dei Filio.

Refrain:

Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel.

Veni, O Jesse virgula,
Ex hostis tuos ungula,
De specu tuos tartari
Educ et antro barathri.

Refrain

Veni, veni o oriens!
Solare nos adveniens,
Noctis depelle nebulas,
Dirasque noctis tenebras.

Refrain

Veni, Clavis Davidica,
Regna reclude caelica,
Fac iter tutum superum,
Et claude vias inferum.

Refrain

Veni, veni Adonai!
Qui populo in Sinai
Legem dedisti vertice,
In Maiestate gloriae.

Refrain

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

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.

O come, O come great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Salve Sancta Parens

Byrd

Salve sancta parens, enixa puerpera Regem:
qui caelum terramque regit in saecula saeculorum.
Alleluia.

Eructavit cor meum verbum bonum:
dico ego opera mea Regi.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et spiritui sancto.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Hail, holy Mother, who brought forth the King:
who rules heaven and earth forever.
Alleluia.

My heart overflows with a goodly theme:
I will speak of my deeds to the King.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

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www.musicaspei.org.

Copies of our CD "From the British Isles to the Black Sea" are available in the atrium.

Missa in Nativitate

Compère

Loco introitus:

Hodie nobis de Virgine Christus nasci dignatus est.

Hic praesens testatur dies, currens per anni ciculum,
quod solus a sede Patris mundi salus advenerit.

Christus natus est nobis: venite, adoremus.

Parvulus filius hodie natus est nobis:
et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.

Venite, gentes, et adorate Dominum,
quia per ipsum omnia facta sunt.

Loco Gloria:

Beata Dei Genitrix Maria, cuius viscera intacta
permanent, hodie genuit Salvatorem saeculi.

Beata quae credidit, quoniam perfecta sunt omnia, quae
dicta sunt eia Domino.

Loco Credo:

Hodie nobis Christus natus est, et per totum mundum de
caelo pax vera descendit.

Hodie nobis salvator noster et caelorum Rex de Virgine
nasci dignatus est, ut hominem perditum ad caelestia
dona revocaret.

Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, hodie beata Dei Genitrix
filium genuit, Salvatorem saeculi.

Loco Offertorii:

Genuit puerpera Regum, quem laudant Angeli, throni et
dominationes.

Christe Redemptor omnium, ex patre Patris uniceae,
solus ante principium natus ineffabiliter.

Tu lumen, tu splendor Patris, tu spes perennis omnium:
intende qua fundant preces tui per orbem famuli.

Sanctus – Verbum caro factum est:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.

Verbum caro factum est habitavit in nobis: et vidimus
gloriam eius.

Post Elevationem:

Memento, salutis auctor, quod nostri quondam corporis
ex illibata Virgine nascendo formam sumpseris.

Gloria tibi, Domine, qui natus es de Virgine, cum Patre
et Sancto Spiritu, in sempiterna saecula.

In place of the Introit:

Today for us Christ deigned to be born of a Virgin.

This present day bears witness, running through the cycle
of the year, that the world's unique salvation has come to
us from the seat of the Father.

Christ is born for us: come let us adore him.

A little boy is born for us today:
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Come, people, and adore the Lord,
for through him everything was made.

In place of the Gloria:

Blessed is Mary the Begetter of God, whose womb re-
mains chaste, today she gave birth to the Savior of all
generations.

Blessed is she who believed, for everything was fulfilled
that was said to her by the Lord.

In place of the Credo:

Today Christ was born for us, and through all the world
true peace came down from heaven.

Today our Savior and the King of heaven deigned to be
born of a Virgin for us, to call lost man back to heavenly
gifts.

Today the angels sing on earth, today the blessed Mother
of God bore her son, the Savior of time.

In place of the Offertory:

In giving birth she bore the King, whom Angels, Thrones
and Dominions praise.

O Christ the Redeemer of all, uniquely from and of the
Father, alone born ineffably before the beginning.

You light, you splendor of the Father, you eternal hope of
all: receive the prayers offered by your servants through-
out the globe.

Sanctus – The Word was made flesh:

Holy, Holy Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth.

The heavens and the earth are full of your glory.

The word was made flesh and dwelt in us: and we saw its
glory.

After the Elevation:

Remember, author of our salvation, that you assumed the
form of our body formerly by being born of a spotless
virgin.

Glory to you, Lord, who was born of the Virgin, with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end.

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.

Hodie Christus Natus Est

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.

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, having the eternal name and joys of a mother, yet is seen with the honor of virginity, having none like her before, nor any following.

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.

Marenzio

Today Christ is born:
Today the Savior appeared:
Today on Earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

Intermission

Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo;

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae.
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes
generationes,
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: et sanctum nomen
ejus.

Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies timentibus
eum.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit humiles;
esurientes implevit bonis: et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae
suae; sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et
semini ejus in saecula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in
principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior,

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me
blessed,
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his
name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all
generations.
He has shown might with his arm:
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart

He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath
exalted the humble and meek;
he hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich
he hath sent empty away.

He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his
mercy, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and
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.

Franco

O Magnum Mysterium

Byrd

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 birth of the Lord
in the manger.

Missus est Gabriel / Vera Fides

Mouton

Cantus firmus: Vera fides geniti
Purgavit crimina mundi
Et tua virginitas inviolata manet

The true faith of the Son
Has purged the crimes of the world:
And thy virginity remains inviolate

Missus est Gabriel angelus a Deo
in civitatem Galilee, cui nomen Nazareth,
ad virginem desponsatam viro,
cui nomen erat Joseph, de domo David,
et nomen virginis Maria.
Et ingressus angelus ad eam,
dixit: Ave Maria, gratia plena,
dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus.
Que cum audisset, turbata est in sermone eius,
et cogitabat qualis esset ista salutatio.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth,
to a virgin espoused to a man
whose name was Joseph, of the house of David;
and the virgin's name was Mary.
And when the angel being come in,
said unto her: "Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women."
Who having heard, was troubled at his saying,
and thought with herself what manner of salutation
this should be.

Et ait angelus ei: Ne timeas, Maria,
invenisti gratiam apud Dominum:
ecce concipies in utero,
et paries filium,
et vocabitur nomen eius Jesum.
Hic erit magnus,
et filius altissimi vocabitur,
et dabit illi dominus deus
sedem David patris eius:
et regnabit in domo Jacob in eternum,
et regni eius non erit finis.

And the angel said to her: "Fear not, Mary,
for thou hast found grace with God.
Behold thou shall conceive in thy womb,
and shalt bring forth a son,
and thou shall call his name Jesus.
He shall be great,
and shall be called the Son of the most High;
and the Lord God shall give unto him
the throne of David his father;
and he shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever,
and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Dixit autem Maria ad angelum:
Quomodo fiet istud,
quoniam virum non cognosco?
Et respondens angelus, dixit:
Spiritus sanctus superveniet in te,
et virtus altissimi obumbrabit tibi.
Ideoque et quod nascetur ex te sanctum,
vocabitur filius dei.
Et ecce Elisabeth cognata tua,
et ipsa concepit filium in senectute sua:
et hic mensis sextus illi, que vocatur sterilis:
quia non erit impossibile apud deum omne verbum.
Dixit autem Maria: Ecce ancilla domini,
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

And Mary said to the angel:
"How shall this be done,
because I know not a man?"
And the angel answering, said to her:
"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee,
and the power of the most High shall overshadow thee.
And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee
shall be called the Son of God.
And behold thy cousin Elizabeth,
she also hath conceived a son in her old age;
and this is the sixth month with her that is called barren:
because no word shall be impossible with God."
And Mary said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
be it done to me according to thy word."

Noe, Noe, Noe

de Layolle

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

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

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

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

Program Notes

Musica Spei's concert this Christmas season showcases three quite different pieces, written between about 1470 and 1620. Chosen for their texts, they highlight the story of Christmas, from the Annunciation to the celebration of the shepherds at the Nativity. Using a new edition by Patrick Macey (Professor of Musicology at the Eastman School of Music), Musica Spei presents Jean Mouton's smoothly polyphonic *Missus est Gabriel*, which uses the Gospel text of the Annunciation to Mary. Mouton's very calm style focuses on the interplay of voices more than the text itself. The musical texture is enhanced by the use of duets and trios; the alto line is a sumptuously extended rendition of the traditional chant *Vera fides*, celebrating the purity of the Virgin Mary.

Although trained in Spain, Hernando Franco spent most of his professional life in the New World, first as choir-master in the cathedral in Guatemala, and later in Mexico City. His magnum opus was a series of 16 Magnificats, which present the rejoicing of Mary at the news she has received. Musica Spei will sing the *Magnificat Quarti Toni*. In this piece, chant alternates with austere four-voice polyphony throughout, except in the final movement where Hernando adds two voices singing a slow canon.

Loyset Compere, composing at the court of the Duke of Milan in the 1470s, created a series of "substitution masses", taking sacred texts favored by his patron Duke, and setting them as short motets, to be used in place of the standard Mass parts. The *Missa in Nativitate* tells the story of the Nativity and, unlike the focus on the musical texture found in Mouton's and Franco's works, here the text is paramount. Each individual motet has significant imitation between voices, and most of them end in a triple meter, lending a lilt and lightness to the work.

This concert is rounded out with smaller works by William Byrd, Luca Marenzio and Francesco de Layolle. Byrd celebrates Mary with his hymns of adoration and wonder, *Salve santa parens* ("Hail, Holy Mother") and *O magnum mysterium* ("O great mystery"). 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*, the title piece for this concert, uses the repeated text almost like the pealing of bells, announcing the joy of Christmas.

Musica Spei (Music of Hope) explores the vast repertoire of rarely performed sacred, unaccompanied choral masterworks of the 15th, 16th and early 17th centuries, and shares these riches with audiences throughout central and western New York. Musica Spei has twice been included in the "Best of Rochester" listings in City Newspaper. In 2001 it organized the first Rochester Early Music Festival, which brought together many of Rochester's early music groups for a three day period of concerts and lectures. Musica Spei also offers Renaissance Summer Sings for members of the community who enjoy singing this repertoire and sharing this joy with other singers. Musica Spei is unique for a Renaissance choral ensemble in that it performs without a conductor and (in the spirit of a jazz or chamber music ensemble) develops its interpretations in a collaborative fashion based on communication and interaction among the performers.

Where did you hear about this concert? If you would take a few moments during the intermission or after the concert to fill out the (very short) survey on the tables as you came in, it would help us make our publicity more effective!