

PROGRAM NOTES

Thank you for joining us for this celebration of the glorious Christmas story. We present seven Renaissance pieces illuminating the famous narrative, as well as a medieval mystery play that gives an unusually graphic presentation of the flight of the holy family to Egypt to escape the slaughter of Jewish boys by King Herod.

We begin with *Sanctus* from *Missa Puer natus est nobis* by Pierre de la Rue, who was a long-time associate of the Habsburg-Burgundian musical chapel, and who is considered one of the most famous and influential composers in the Netherlands polyphonic style in the decades around 1500. The *Sanctus*, one of the elements of the Roman Catholic mass, proclaims: "Heaven and earth are full of your glory."

Magnificat is Mary's song when the angel tells her she will bear a son. The text reflects Mary's praise to God and her willingness to be God's servant. The setting of this traditional text is by a Spanish-born composer, Hernando Franco, whose distinguished musical career flourished in Guatemala and Mexico City in the mid-16th century, where he was maestro at the cathedral.

A depiction of the angels' announcement of the birth to the shepherds is presented in *Angelus ad pastores ait* by Samuel Scheidt. Scheidt was a German composer, organist and teacher of the early Baroque era, early in the 1600's. In this programmatic composition one can hear the calling of the angel voices and the Alleluias of the heavenly host.

The hushed awe of those shepherds as they find the infant Jesus and his mother among animals in a stable finds musical expression in *O Magnum Mysterium* by Estêvão Lopes Morago, a Spanish-born composer who studied, lived, worked and died in Portugal.

The shepherds' adoration of Mary is echoed in the hymn *Gaude Maria*, in this setting by the great English Renaissance composer, William Byrd. The text reflects the traditional Roman Catholic belief that Mary remained a virgin and intercedes on behalf of those who call upon her.

Interfectio puerorum ("The Massacre of the Innocents") relates a relatively unfamiliar part of the Christmas story: the rescue of Jesus from the jealous and murderous King Herod. This play is contained in *The Fleury Playbook*, a medieval collection of Latin biblical dramas dating from the end of the twelfth century. It was included in a composite volume of sermons, biblical texts, liturgical dramas, and hymns that was bound and kept at the library of Abbaye Saint Benoît de Fleury, a Benedictine monastery. Sung in chant with simple staging, this play continues the Christmas story after the birth in Bethlehem, weaving stories of joy and sorrow from the Old and New Testaments. The image of Rachel weeping for her children, for example, comes from Genesis and Jeremiah. *Interfectio Puerorum* is horrific in its depiction of Herod's attempt to eliminate the infant king, yet triumphant in depicting the angel Gabriel's rescue of Jesus from Herod and Jesus' rescue of the souls of the innocent children from death.

We close with another mass movement: *Angus Dei* from *Missa Noe Noe* by Pierre de Manchicourt. Manchicourt is an excellent example of a Franco-Flemish composer who learned his craft in northern Europe, and then assisted in the diffusion of the style by traveling to another region, in this case the Spanish court of Philip II, and composing and performing there. *Agnus Dei* ("Lamb of God") is the final segment of the Mass, asking for God to grant us peace.

We hope that *O How Glorious!* will give you a fresh appreciation for the mystery and the majesty of the Christmas story.

The members of Musica Spei are Jeanne Beddoe, Alexandra Bermel, Jim Blake, Lynette Blake, Glenda Brayman, Tyler Cassidy-Heacock, Mary Cowden, Juli Elliot, Joe Finetti, Christopher Gold, Jeff Harp, Eric Lobenstine, Howard Spindler, Brian Story and Jeff Tabor. Steve Marcus is artistic guide emeritus. Many thanks to guest singer Craig Knight.

We are grateful that for almost two decades, the Saint Anne community has supported Musica Spei with rehearsal space and the opportunity to perform in the acoustically magnificent sanctuary, as a member of the "Choir in Residence" program. We are especially grateful to Father Gary Tyman and the staff of Our Lady of Lourdes/Saint Anne Cluster of Communities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, for their ongoing support and encouragement.

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Sanctus from *Missa Puer natus est nobis*
Pierre de la Rue (c. 1452-1518)

<p>Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Osanna in excelsis.</p>	<p>Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</p>
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Magnificat
Hernando Franco (1532-1585)

<p>Magnificat anima mea Dominum. Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: et sanctum nomen eius Fecit potentiam in bracchio suo: dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites dimisit inanes. Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper. Amen.</p>	<p>My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Because he that is mighty hath done great things to me; and holy is his name. He hath shewed might in his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for ever. 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. Amen.</p>
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Angelus ad pastores ait
Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

<p>Angelus ad pastores ait, Annuncio vobis. Gaudium magnum quia natus es vobis hodie salvator mundi. Alleluia!</p>	<p>The angel said to the shepherds I bring you tidings Of great joy For there is born to you this day the savior of the world. Alleluia!</p>
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O magnum mysterium
Estêvão Lopes Morago (c. 1575-after 1630)

<p>O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio. O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum. O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum.</p>	<p>O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger! O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you. Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.</p>
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Gaude Maria

William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

Gaude Maria Virgo, cunctas haereses sola interemisti. Quae Gabrielis archangeli dictis, credidisti. Dum Virgo Deum et hominem genuisti: et post partum Virgo inviolata permansisti. Dei genitrix, intercede pro nobis.	Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, for you alone have put an end to all heresies. You who believed the words of the archangel Gabriel. Still a virgin, you brought forth God and man, and after childbirth you remained an inviolate virgin: O Mother of God, intercede for us.
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INTERMISSION

Interfectio Puerorum (The Massacre of the Innocents)

From the Fleury Playbook (late 12th century)

<p><i>Ad interfectionem puerorum induantur Innocentes stolis albis, et gaudentes per monasterium orent Deum dicentes:</i></p> <p><i>Innocentes:</i> O quam gloriosum est regnum In quo cum Christo gaudent omnes sancti; Amicti stolis albis sequuntur Agnum quocumque ierit.</p> <p><i>Tunc Agnus ex improviso veniens portans crucem, antecedit eos huc et illuc, et illi sequentes cantent:</i></p> <p><i>Innocentes:</i> Emitte agnum, Domine, Dominatorem terre de petra deserti ad montem filie Sion.</p> <p><i>Interim Armiger quidam offerat Herodi sedenti sceptrum suum dicens:</i> Super solium David et super regnum eius Sedebit in eternum, alleluia.</p> <p><i>Interea Angelus super presepe apparens moneat Joseph fugere in Egimtum cum Maria.</i> <i>Angelus dicat tribus vicibus Joseph:</i> Joseph, Joseph, Joseph, fili David!</p> <p><i>Postea dicat hec:</i> Tolle puerum et matrem eius et vade in Egiptum, et esto ibi usque dum dicam tibi. Futurum est enim ut Herodes querat puerum ad perdendum eum.</p>	<p><i>For the slaughter of the children let the Innocents be clothed in white robes, and rejoicing through the church let them pray to God, saying:</i></p> <p><i>Innocents:</i> O how glorious is the kingdom in which all the saints rejoice with Christ; Clothed in white robes they follow the Lamb Wheresoever he may go.</p> <p><i>Then let the Lamb, arriving unexpectedly and carrying a cross, go before them hither and thither, and as they follow let them sing:</i></p> <p><i>Innocents:</i> Send forth, Lord, the lamb, the subduer of the land from the rock of the desert To the mountain of the daughter of Sion.</p> <p><i>Meanwhile let a Man-at-Arms offer the seated Herod his scepter, saying:</i> Over the throne of David, and over his kingdom he will sit forever, alleluia.</p> <p><i>Meanwhile let the Angel, appearing at the manger, warn Joseph to flee to Egypt with Mary.</i> <i>Let the angel say Joseph three times:</i> Joseph, Joseph, Joseph, son of David!</p> <p><i>Then let the angel say this:</i> Take the Boy and his mother, and go to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For it will happen that Herod seeks the Boy to destroy him.</p>
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Joseph abiens, non vidente Herode, cum Maria portante Puerum, dicens:

Joseph:

Egipte, noli flere,
quia dominator tuus veniet tibi,
Ante cuius conspectum movebuntur abissi,
liberare populum suum de manu potencie.

Interim Armiger, nuncios Magos per aliam viam redisse, salutatur prius Regem, postea dicat:

Rex in eternum vive!
Delusus es domine;
Magi viam redierunt aliam.

Tunc Herodes, quasi corruptus, arrepto gladio, paret seipsum occidere; sed prohibeatur tandem a suis et pacificetur, dicens:

Herodes:

Incendium meum ruina restinguam.

Interea Innocentes, adhuc gradientes post Agnum, decantent:

Agno sacrato pro nobis mortificato,
Splendorem patris splendorem virginitatis,
Offerimus Christo sub signo luminis isto,
Multis ira modis ut quos inquit Herodis
Agno salvemur; cum Christo conmoriemur.

Armiger suggerat Herodi dicens:

Discerne, domine, vindicare iram tuam,
et stricto mucrone iube occidi pueros;
forte inter occisos occidetur et Christus.

Herodes tradens et gladium dicens:

Armiger eximie,
Pueros fac ense perire.

Interim, occisoribus venientibus, subtrahetur Agnus clam, quem abeuntem salutant Innocentes:

Innocentes:

Salve, Agnus Dei!
Salve, qui tollit peccata mundi,
alleluia.

Tunc Matres occidentes orient occisos:

Oremus, tenere natorum parcite vite.

Postea, iacentibus Infantibus, Angelus ab excelso ut moneat eos, dicens:

Vos qui in pulvere estis,
expergiscimini et clamate.

Joseph, going away, unseen by Herod, with Mary carrying the Boy, saying:

Joseph:

Egypt, do not weep,
because your ruler will come to you,
before whose glance abysses will open up,
to save his people from the hand of power.

Meanwhile a Man-at-Arms, announcing that the Magi have returned by a different route, first greets the King; then let him say:

King, live forever!
You have been deceived, my Lord;
the Magi have returned by another route.

Then Herod, as if devastated, should snatch up a sword and make as if to kill himself; but let him at length be prevented and calmed by his attendants, saying:

Herod:

I shall extinguish my fire by destruction.

Meanwhile the Innocents, until now walking behind the Lamb, should continue singing:

To the consecrated Lamb, done to death for our sake,
to Christ we offer the glory of the Father,
the glory of virginity, beneath that banner of light.
So that those whom Herod's anger seeks in many ways
may be saved by the Lamb, we shall die with Christ.

Let the Man-at-Arms prompt Herod, saying:

Lord, resolve to vent your anger,
And with drawn blade order the children to be killed;
possibly among the dead Christ too will be killed.

Herod, handing him his sword, saying:

Exceptional man-at-arms,
make the children perish on the blade.

Meanwhile, as the murderers arrive, let the Lamb be quietly drawn away, and let the Innocents hail him as he goes:

Innocents:

Hail, Lamb of God!
Hail to him who takes away the sins of the world,
alleluia.

Then let the Mothers appeal to the killers for the slain:

We beseech, spare the tender life of the children.

Then, as the Infants are lying, let the Angel from on high instruct them, saying:

You who are in the dust,
wake up and shout.

Infantes iacentes:

Quare non defendis sanguinem nostrum,
Deus noster?

Angelus:

Adhuc sustinete modicum tempus
donec impleatur numerus fratrum vestrorum.

*Tunc inducatur Rachel et Consolatrices; et stans
super Pueros plangat, cadens aliquando, dicens:*
Heu! teneri partus laceros quos cernimus artus!
Heu! dulces nati, sola rabie iugulati!

Heu! quem nec pietas nec vestra coercuit etas!

Heu! matres misere que cogimur ista videre!

Heu! quid nunc agimus? cur non hec facta
subimus?

Heu! quia memores nostrosque levare dolores,

Gaudia non possunt nam dulcia pignora desunt!

Consolatrices excipientes eam cadentem dicentes:
Consolatrices:

Noli virgo Rachel, noli dulcissima mater,
Pro nece parvorum fletus retinere dolorum.

Si que tristarum exulta que lacrimaris,

Namque tui nati vivunt super astra beati.

Item Rachel dolens:

Heu! Heu! Heu!
Quomodo gaudebo dum mortua membra videbo,
Dum sic commota fuero per viscera tota?

Me facient vere pueri sine fine dolere.

O dolor!

O patrum mutataque gaudia matrum!

Ad lugubres luctus lacrimarum fundite fluctus
Iudee florem patrie lacrimando dolorem.

Tunc Consolatrices esupinantes Infantes dicentes:

Consolatrices:

Numquid flendus est iste,
qui regnum possidet celeste,
quique prece frequenti miseris fratribus
apud Deum auxiliatur?

Item Rachel cadens super Pueros:

Anxiatus est in me spiritus meus;
in me turbatum est cor meum.

The Infants, as they lie:

Why do you not defend our life-blood,
our God?

The Angel:

Wait for a brief time,
until the number of your brothers is made complete.

*Then let Rachel and Comforters be led on; and standing over
the Children let her weep, falling from time to time, saying:*
Alas! tender offspring, what mangled limbs we see!
Alas! sweet children, with throats cut in a single act of
madness!

Alas! for the one whom neither proper respect nor your age
could restrain!

Alas! miserable mothers, we who are forced to witness
these acts!

Alas! what are we now doing, why do we not submit to
these deeds?

Alas! because we remember, and no joys can lighten our
griefs,
because our sweet children are no more.

The Comforters should catch her as she falls, saying:
The Comforters:

Do not, maidenly Rachel, do not, sweetest mother,
restrain your weeping in anguish
for the slaughter of the little ones.

If you are lamenting something, rejoice in what you are
weeping for.

For your sons are living in blessed happiness beyond the
stars.

Again Rachel, grieving:

Alas, alas, alas!

How shall I rejoice, when I see the dead limbs;
when I have been so distressed through the whole core of
my being?

Truly the Children will make me grieve unendingly.

O grief!

O altered joys of fathers and mothers!

Pour out floods of tears in anguished mourning by weeping
your sorrow for the flower of the land of Judea.

*Then the Comforters, laying out the Infants on their backs,
saying:*

Comforters:

Should that child be wept over
who possesses the heavenly kingdom,
and so with constant prayers can intercede
with God for his brothers?

Again Rachel, falling on the Children:

My spirit is in turmoil within me;
within me is my heart troubled.

Tunc Consolatrices abducant Rachel, et Angelus interim de supernis dicat antiphonam que sequitur:
Angelus:
Sinete parvulos venire ad me;
talium est enim regnum celorum.

Ad vocem Angeli surgentes Pueri intrent chorum dicentes:

Pueri:
O Christe, quantum patri exercitum iuvenis,

doctus ad bella maxima populis predicans colligis,
umbras suggens cum tantum miseris.

Interim Angelus ammonerat Joseph in Egiptum, quo prius secessit, dicens:

Angelus:
Joseph, Joseph, Joseph, fili David!
Revertere in terram Iudam;
defuncti sunt enim qui querebant animam pueri.

Tunc Joseph revertatur cum Maria et Puero, secedens in parte Galilee, dicens:

Joseph:
Gaude, gaude, gaude, Maria virgo;
cunctas hereses sola interemisti
in universo mundo.

Cantor incipit:
Te Deum laudamus:.

Chorus:
Te Dominum confitemur.
Te eternum Patrem omnis terra veneratur.
Tibi omnes angeli, tibi celi et universe potestates:
Tibi cherubim et seraphim
incessabili voce proclamant:
Sanctus: Sanctus: Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt celi et terra maiestatis glorie tue.
Te gloriosus: apostolorum chorus:
Te prophetarum laudabilis numerus:
Te martirum candidatus laudat exercitus.
Te per orbem terrarum sancta confitetur Ecclesia:
Patrem immense maiestatis.
Venerandum tuum verum, et unicum Filium:
Sanctum quoque Paraclitum Spiritum.
Tu rex glorie, Christe.
Tu Patris sempiternus es Filius.
Tu ad liberandum suscepturus hominem,
non horuisti Virginis uterum.
Tu devicto mortis aculeo,
aperuisti credentibus regna celorum.
Tu ad dexteram Dei sedes, in gloria Patris.

Iudex crederis esse venturus.

Then let the Comforters lead Rachel away, and meanwhile the Angel on high should declaim the antiphon that follows:
Angel:
Suffer the little children to come to me,
for such is the Kingdom of God.

Rising in response to the voice of the Angel, let the Children enter the choir, saying:

The Children:
O Christ, a young man trained for the greatest wars,
how huge an army you are gathering for the Father,
preaching to the people, raising the shades so much with
the sufferers.

Meanwhile let the Angel advise Joseph in Egypt, where he went before, saying:

The Angel:
Joseph, Joseph, Joseph, son of David!
Return to the land of Judaea,
for they are dead who were seeking the life of the Boy.

Then let Joseph return with Mary and the Boy, withdrawing to the area of Galilee, saying:

Joseph:
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, Virgin Mary;
you alone have banished all heresies
in the whole world.

The Cantor begins:
O God we praise thee;

The Choir:
we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.
Everlasting Father, all the earth doth worship Thee.
To Thee all the Angels, the Heavens and all the Powers,
all the Cherubim and Seraphim,
unceasingly proclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy glory.
The glorious choir of the Apostles,
the wonderful company of Prophets,
the white-robed army of Martyrs, praise Thee.
Holy Church throughout the world doth acknowledge Thee:
the Father of infinite Majesty;
Thy adorable, true and only Son;
and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.
O Christ, Thou art the King of glory!
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
Thou, having taken it upon Thyself to deliver man,
didst not disdain the Virgin's womb.
Thou overcame the sting of death
and hast opened to believers the Kingdom of Heaven.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the
Father.
We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge.

<p>Te ergo quesumus, tuis famulis subveni, quos pretioso sanguine redemisti. Eterna fac cum sanctis tuis in gloria numerari.</p> <p>Salvum fac populum tuum Domine, et benedic hereditati tue. Et rege eos, et extolle illus usque in eternum. Per singulos dies, benedicimus te. Et laudamus nomen tuum in seculum, et in seculum seculi. Dignare Domine die isto sine peccato nos custodire. Miserere nostri Domine, miserere nostri. Fiat misericordia tua Domine super nos, quemadmodum speravimus in te. In te Domine speravi: Non confundar in eternum.</p> <p><i>Sic finit.</i></p>	<p>We beseech Thee, therefore, to help Thy servants whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy Precious Blood. Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in everlasting glory. Save Thy people, O Lord, and bless Thine inheritance! Govern them, and raise them up forever. Every day we thank Thee. And we praise Thy Name forever, yea, forever and ever. O Lord, deign to keep us from sin this day.</p> <p>Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in Thee. O Lord, in Thee I have hoped; let me never be confounded.</p> <p><i>Thus it ends.</i></p>
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Agnus Dei from *Missa Noe Noe*
Pierre de Manchicourt (c. 1510-1564)

<p>Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.</p>	<p>Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace.</p>
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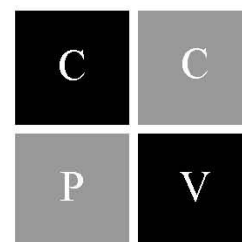
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