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I CANTANTI
CHAMBER CHOIRS

A FESTIVAL OF NINE
Lessons & Carols

PETER SCHLEIF & WAYNE KIVELL
DIRECTORS

Sunday, December 1 at 4:00pm Skinner Memorial Chapel Northfield	Sunday, December 8 at 4:00pm Trinity Lutheran Church Faribault
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A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

We ask that you hold your applause until the designated time near the end of the program.

Once in Royal David's City Henry Gauntlett
(v.1: solo, Elijah Wagner; v. 2: choir; v. 3-4: all)

v. 3: And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love.
For that Child, so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

v. 4: Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
We shall see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high,
When, like stars, his children, crowned
All in white shall wait around.

∞ FIRST LESSON ∞

Greg Carlson (Northfield)
Jeffrey Evenmo (Faribault)

Genesis 3: 8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of a woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Akehkho Ofana No Jesu arr. Daniel Jackson
Mija Van der Wege, Megan Engel, Carson Babbini,
soloists

Sung in isiZulu

There is no one like Jesus.
We search—there is no one.
We turn—there is no one.
We walk—there is no one.

Sung by congregations throughout Africa, this traditional song begins with a call and response section. The basses then imitate instruments before the choir comes back in with eight part harmonies. The improvised solos throughout are a hallmark of sub-Saharan vocal music. Daniel Jackson is Professor of Music at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego where he conducts the University Choir and chairs the music department.

∞ SECOND LESSON ∞

Carrie Carrol (Northfield)

Caryl Jorgensen (Faribault)

Genesis 22 :15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed the nations of the earth be blessed.

Caritas Abundat

Michael John Trotta

I am the great and fiery force,
That breathes life into all things:
I am what awakens and supports life
And enkindles all living things.
I am the great and fiery force,
That breathes life into all things:
Everything in the cosmos
Is encircled with my wisdom.
I am the beauty in the fields,
The force that moves like a graceful wind.
I shine in the waters, and burn in the sun
Glimmering in the stars.

Caritas abundat in omnia. (Grace abounds for everyone)
From: *(Liber Divinorum Operum (Book of Divine Works))*

This composition is an energetic reimagining of timeless text and tune from the 12th century poet, composer, and philosopher Hildegard of Bingen. The marriage of the chant *Caritas Abundat* with a text taken from *Liber Divinorum Operum* (The Book of Divine Works) creates an entirely new work that expresses themes of empowerment. There is a reflective sense of the empowerment that comes from singing in a choir, especially the power of belonging to a group united for a purpose greater than oneself.

I CANTANTI CHAMBER CHOIRS

Peter Schleif, music director: I Cantanti

Wayne Kivell, music director: Le Donne

Christa Carlson, manager

Karla Miller, piano

Joanne Rodland, organ

Charles Gray, Jillian Ray, Deonne Gray, Parker Sneary, Lydia Miller, violin

Anika Maakestad, Norah Purcell, Will Weaver, viola

Cameron Gray, Alaina Bailly, cello

Mackenzie Perkins, bass

David Drentlaw, Isaac Schleif, percussion

Jesse Streitz, clarinet

MEMBERS OF I CANTANTI

Soprano
Lynsey Boudreau
Birch Carlson
Katie Casson
Vera Coleman
Megan Engel
Kaitlin Hohenstein
Hannah Johnson
Christine Kallman
Kristin Kivell
Joanna McLees
Donna McMillan
Carolyn Melby
Krista Middlebrooks
Kristin Partlo
Lori Ramig
Julie Schwartz
Deesa Staats

Alto
Emily Beeman
Christa Carlson
Becka Coates
Ann Gosack
Ellen Haefner
Melissa Flynn Hager
Rachael Huener
Alicia Jacobsen
Dianne Kelly
Britta Overbee
Emily Peterson
Diana Postlethwaite
Lucy Thiboutot
Mija Van Der Wege
Nancy Veverka

Tenor
Carson Babbini
Lee Engquist
Grant Furgiule
Francisco Galecio
Phil Peterson
Dan Ray
Kyle Roth
Dan Schonebaum
Paul Thiboutot
Tiny Tschann

Bass
Peder Bolstad
Ben Chadwick
Ron Eicher
Randall Ferguson
Luke Froelich
Charles Hellie
Bruce Hemmah
Brent Kivell
Tim Knutson
Steve Lawler
Edward Malnar
Paul Ramig
Bryan Reed
Michael Schaefer
Andy Thompson

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Catherine Engle
Hannah Johnson
Christine Kallman
Joanna McLees
Donna McMillan
Carolyn Melby
Kristin Partlo
Julie Schwartz
Deesa Staats
Nikki Thayer

Soprano II
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Vera Coleman
Megan Engel
Kristin Kivell
Wiebke Kuhn
Sara Line
Krista Middlebrooks
Kate Niemisto
Lori Ramig
Laurie Williams

Alto I
Christa Carlson
LeAnn Finger
Melissa Flynn Hager
Kaitlin Hohenstein
Rachael Huener
Annie Kruse
Erica Mesa Arroyo
Susan Oftedahl
Emily Peterson
Lucy Thiboutot
Mija Van Der Wege

Alto II
Alison Byerly
Ann Gosack
Ellen Haefner
Dianne Kelly
Carol Lysne
Britta Overbee
Diana Postlethwaite
Alyssa Senne
Cindy Starkey Robinson
Nancy Veverka
Lauren Williams

∞ NINTH LESSON ∞

Bob Kaul (Northfield)
Bryan Reed (Faribault)

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Noel **arr. Brad Holmes**

Michael Schaefer, Carson Babbini, soloists

Sung in Kituba dialect.

Noel! Noel!

Jesus has come to live with us.

If you want to know the Child,

you have to come kneel.

This joyful setting of the Kituba text from central Africa gives the singers a chance to really let loose. Using stomping and clapping to add to the celebration, the song escalates from the opening duet to a rousing finish, highlighting the simple joy of the word “Noel.”

Your applause is welcome at this time.

HYMN: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Audience (remain seated) and Choirs

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”

Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;

with angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,

Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Descant by Daniel Kallman

Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo (BWV 729) J. S. Bach

∞ THIRD LESSON ∞

Patricia Richardson (Northfield)
Barb Mrosko (Faribault)

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Nearer My God to Thee Lowell Mason

Ellen Haefner, Carson Babbini, Kyle Roth, soloists

In articulo mortis

caelitus mihi vires.

Deo adjuvante non timendum in perpetuum.

Dirige nos Domine

ad augusta per angusta.

Sic itur ad astra excelsior.

At the moment of death

my strength is from heaven.

God helping, nothing should be feared forever.

Direct us, O Lord, to high places by narrow roads.

Such is the path to the stars, ever upward.

Originally written for and performed by BYU Vocal Point, one of the many student a cappella groups at Brigham Young University, the video for this setting went viral in 2014. This rhythmic setting by James L. Stevens of the traditional Lowell Mason hymn adds both color and texture, providing a pop music feel.

∞ FOURTH LESSON ∞

Barb Farmer (Northfield)
Char Scurry (Faribault)

Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

The peace that Christ shall bring is foreshown.

O Magnum Mysterium Morton Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium

Et admirabile Sacramentum

Ut animalia viderent Dominum natum

Jacentem in praesepe!

Beata Virgo, cujus viscera

Meruerunt portare

Dominum Christum

Alleluia

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!

Blessed is the virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Lauridsen’s lush setting of this ancient text creates an air of mystery using long, sustained phrases, and thick harmonies. The composer’s text painting is most evident around the words “virgo” and “alleluia”. Considered one of the greatest living choral composers, Lauridsen lives in Southern California and is regularly a composer in residence for some of the finest choirs in the world.

AUDIENCE CAROL:

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

(Please stand and sing)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heav’n’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast’ning on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When Christ shall come and all shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And saints shall meet Him in the air,
And with the angels sing.

**A free will exit offering will be taken after the performance to help offset concert expenses.
Your participation is greatly appreciated.**

∞ FIFTH LESSON ∞

Clark Cary (Northfield)

Larry Schreck (Faribault)

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

Et Misericordia **Kim André Arnesen**

Kaitlin Hohenstein, soloist

Sung in Latin:

Et misericordia eius et progenies,

In progenies timentibus eum.

And his mercy is on them that fear him

From generation to generation.

Born in 1980 and raised in Trondheim, Norway, it was natural for Arnesen to sing as a youth in the famous Nidaros Cathedral Boy Choir and later to attend the city's Music Conservatory. This piece is from his first large scale work, a *Magnificat*, which is the Song of Mary. The text is from Luke 1:50.

∞ SIXTH LESSON ∞

Maryann Kaul (Northfield)

Bill Peterson (Faribault)

Matthew 1: 18-23

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Song of Mary **Carl Fischer**

Birch Carlson, soloist

All ye who wander 'neath the palms yonder,

O holy angels, see how he slumbers,

So sweetly my child.

Hold ye the branches, calm ye the wind.

Originally arranged for mixed voices by Albert Kranz, this arrangement for three-part treble voices and soloist was done by Le Donne's director.

The Peace of Wild Things

Jake Runestad

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.
Wendell Berry

The words of poet, activist, community-builder, and farmer, Wendell Berry, serve as the inspiration for "The Peace of Wild Things." Berry's appreciation for the larger circle of existence is evident in this text that explores humanity's relationship with the earth. When we are so caught up in our human-centered existence, Berry reminds us how the wild things around us "do not tax their lives with forethought of grief." My attempt to illuminate Berry's words begins with swells of anxious, clustered harmony that give way to the basses, the lowest and darkest voices of the choir, who chant the opening lines, "When despair for the world grows in me..." Throughout the work, the musical gestures and harmonies rise and lighten until the highest voice, the sopranos, close the piece on the word "free." The piano provides an earthly palette throughout, underscoring the scene at the edge of a mountain lake.

AUDIENCE CAROL: Away in a Manger
(Please stand and sing)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

∞ SEVENTH LESSON ∞

Linda Zolnosky (Northfield)

Richard Jorgensen (Faribault)

Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

O Little Town of Bethlehem Arr. Dan Forrest

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see the lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning star together,
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessing of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell!
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord, Emmanuel.

Dan Forrest's setting of this traditional carol features chamber orchestra and clarinet. Using meter changes to highlight key words, Forrest paints a simple and reverent scene that builds over time to the phrase "O holy child". Dan Forrest is an active composer and Professor of Composition at Forman University.

∞ EIGHTH LESSON ∞

Pauline Jennings (Northfield)

Mark Remold (Faribault)

Matthew 2: 1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Kling, Glöckchen, Kling Arr. Robert Sieving

Sung in German & English

Ring, little bells, ring-a-ling-a-ling.
Let me in, children, the winter is so cold.

Open up the doors, don't leave me here to freeze!
Listen, girls and boys, open up your house!

I bring you gifts; you'll be so pleased!
Brightly glow the candles, open to me your hearts!
I will dwell there happily, pious child so blessed.

This is a traditional German children's carol. In his retirement, Robert Sieving has created many choral arrangements. His choral conducting career took place at Apollo High School in St. Cloud and at Augsburg College.

Silent Night **Kestutis Daugirdas**

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

A newly reimagined setting of the timeless carol, composer Kc Daugirdas uses pacing changes and specific dissonances to create an atmosphere of quiet mystery. This rhythmic middle section gives way to an ethereal ascent to "sleep in heavenly peace."