

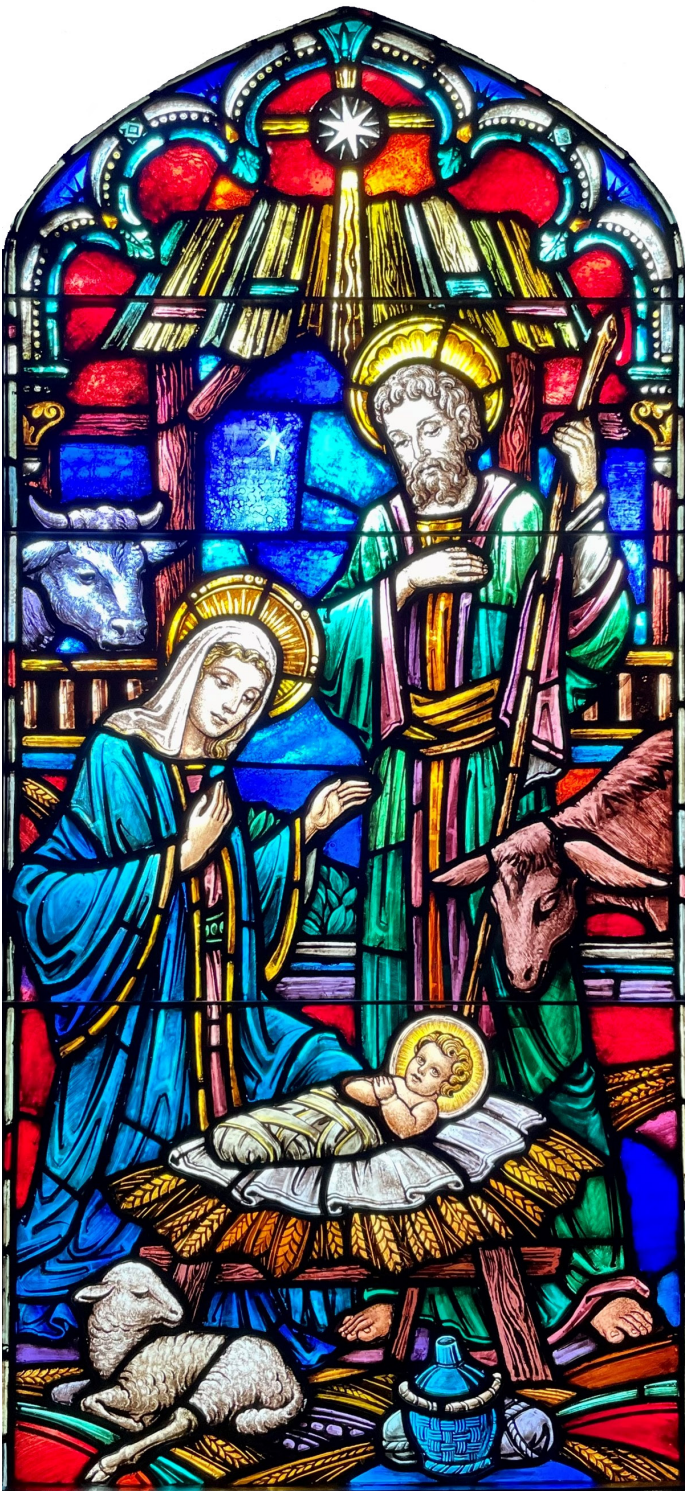
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

THE INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH CHOIR
&
ORCHESTRA

DECEMBER 10, 2023
4:00 P.M.

DR. JEFF R. McLELLAND,
CONDUCTOR

KRISTINE HURST-WAJSZCZUK, *SOPRANO*
BETH MIDDLETON, *MEZZO SOPRANO*
GRETCHEN WINDT, *ALTO*
RODERICK GEORGE, *TENOR*
CHRIS O'REAR, *BASS*



REV. KEVIN J. LONG, *PASTOR*
INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



"Fantasia on Christmas Carols"..... Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Chris O'Rear, *Bass*

This is the Truth

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love:
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I will relate
Is that God at first did man create,
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then after this, 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain, from evil free,
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin;
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose
For so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.

The Somerset Carol

Come all you worthy gentlemen
That may be standing by,
Christ our blessed Saviour
Was born on Christmas day.
The blessed Virgin Mary
Unto the Lord did pray,
O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy!

(continued on next page)

Christ our blessed Saviour
Now in the manger lay-
He's lying in the manger,
While the oxen fed on hay.
The blessed Virgin Mary
Unto the Lord did pray.
O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy!

God bless the ruler of this house,
And long on may he reign;
Many happy Christmases
He live to see again!
God bless our generation
Who live both far and near;
O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy!

Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

From out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen."

"Fantasia on Greensleeves"Ralph Vaughan Williams

I. Choir

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.
My soul doth magnify the Lord.

II. Solo for Mezzo Soprano

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Beth Middleton

***III. Choir**

Vom Himmelm hoch da komm ich her, Ich bring euch gute neue Mär. Der guten Mär bring ich so viel, Davon ich sing'n und sagen will.
From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone! Glad tidings of great joy I bring of which I must both say and sing.

IV. Solo for Soprano

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae; ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent.
For He hath regarded the low estate of His hand-maiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk

V. Choir

Omnes generationes.
All generations.

VI. Solo for Bass

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est, et sanctum nomen ejus.
For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name.

Chris O'Rear

***VII. Choir**

*Freut euch und jubiliert zu Bethlehem gefunden wird Das herzeliebe Jesulein
Das soll euer Freud un Wonne sein.*
Joy and jubilation you will find in Bethlehem. Jesus the love of hearts you'll find with joy.

VIII. Duet

Et misericordia a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.
And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.

Gretchen Windt
Roderick George

(continued on next page)

IX. Choir

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo, dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

He hath showed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

***X. Choir**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Et in terra, pax hominibus bona voluntas.

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth, peace to men with whom he is pleased.

XI. Solo for Tenor

Deposuit potentes de sede et exaltavit humiles.

He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

Roderick George

XII. Solo for Alto

Esurientes implevit bonis et divites dimisit inanes.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.

Gretchen Windt

***XIII. Duet**

Virga Jesse floruit, Emmanuel noster apparuit. Induit carnem hominis, Fit puer delectabilis. Alleluia.

The stem of Jesse will flower. Our Messiah will appear. He will put on the flesh of men and become the wished-for boy. Hallelujah!

Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk
Chris O'Rear

XIV. Trio

Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae suae.

He hath holpen His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk
Beth Middleton
Gretchen Windt

XV. Quintet

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in secula.

As He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and His seed forever.

XVI. Choir

Gloria Patri, gloria Filio, gloria et Spiritui sancto. Sicut erat in principio et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

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.

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir



Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Conductor and Director

SOPRANO

Rachel Hancock
Kris Lindley
Beth Middleton
Janet Ort
Melissa Self Patrick
Mary Rose Patrick
Leah Pickett
Ginni Robertson
Kate Waters
Melanie Williams

ALTO

Carter Cooper
Kelley Feagin
Meagan Malone
Sally Reilly
Karen Shadinger
Angelyn Simmons
Sally Speaker
Jane Stump
Martha Summey
Marliese Thomas
Katie Woodruff

TENOR

Asher Entrekin
Rita Gibbon
Debbie Gray
Nicholas Mathes
Greg Roberson

BASS

Bill Casey
Foster Cook
Lant Davis
Doc Feagin
Andrew Hicks
Jeff Johnson
George E. Keller III
Bentley Patrick
Xavier Roberson
Richard Stump

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

Orchestra

VIOLIN I

Daniel Szasz
Mayumi Masri
Pei-Ju Wu

VIOLIN II

Yuriko Yasuda
Serghei Tanas

VIOLA

Zakaria Enikeev
Rene Reder

CELLO

Warren Samples
Xi Yang

BASS

Richard Cassarino

FLUTE

Lisa Wienhold
Diane Boyd Schultz

OBOE

Machiko Ogawa Schlaffer
Siobhan Ciulla

BASSOON

Tariq Masri

TRUMPET

Nick Ciulla
Joe Ardivino
Brad Sargent

TIMPANI

Jay Burnham

HARPSICHORD

Amy McLelland

Music Notes

FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS is a 1912 work for baritone, chorus, and orchestra by the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. Conducted by the composer, it was first performed on September 12, 1912, at the Three Choirs Festival at Hereford Cathedral. The single-movement work of roughly twelve minutes consists of the English folk carols "The truth sent from above," "Come all you worthy gentlemen," and Sussex Carol ("On Christmas night all Christians sing"), all folk songs collected in southern England by Vaughan Williams and his friend Cecil Sharp a few years earlier. These are interposed with brief orchestral quotations from other carols, such as "The First Nowell."

"GREENSLEEVES" is a traditional English folk song. A broadside ballad by the name "A Newe Northen Dittye of ye Ladye Greene Sleves" was registered by Richard Jones at the London Stationers' Company in September 1580, and the tune is found in several late 16th-century and early 17th-century sources. Christmas and New Year texts were associated with the tune from as early as 1686, and by the 19th century, almost every printed collection of Christmas carols included some version of words and music together, most of them ending with the refrain "On Christmas Day in the morning." One of the most popular of these is "What Child Is This?" written in 1865 by William Chatterton Dix.

This exquisite four-minute orchestral miniature has far eclipsed the song it was inspired by. He didn't create it as a stand-alone piece, though; instead, it was initially used in the third act of the composer's Shakespeare-inspired opera *Sir John in Love*.

BACH'S MAGNIFICAT is believed to have received its first performance in St. Thomas's, Leipzig, at Vespers on Christmas Day, 1723, and was the first major work which the newly-appointed cantor performed in this church. In keeping with contemporary practice, Bach had set not only the text itself but also four Christmas anthems, which were interpolated into the score as a whole. From the Renaissance onwards, there had been a tradition of including extra items of particular relevance to the Christmastide festival. Some years later Bach revised his Magnificat, transposing it from E-flat to D major, expanding the orchestral forces, making a handful of changes to the instrumentation, and removing the Christmas interpolations. Bach's reason for reworking the piece may have been his desire to make the work suitable for any of the Church's high feasts.



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