

The Sounds of Christmas

Men's Chorus, University Singers, and Chime Choir

Friday, December 1, 2017, at 8pm

Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Pacific Lutheran University
School of Arts and Communication and The Department of Music present

The Sounds of Christmas

University Singers
Brian Galante, *conductor*

Men's Chorus
Barry Johnson, *conductor*

Chime Choir
Linda J. Miller, *conductor*

with
Paul Tegels, *organ*

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.
Please disable the audible signal on all watches, pagers and cellular phones for the duration of the performance.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM

Due to the nature of this performance, please hold applause until the conclusion of the audience carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful".

Festival Opening: O Come, All Ye Faithful..... arr. Paul Tegels
Paul Tegels, *organ*

CHIME CHOIR
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus.....**HYFRYDOL and VENI EMMANUEL**
arr. Arnold Sherman

MEN'S CHORUS
Alleluia Incantation **Andrew Miller (b. 1983)**
Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head.....**John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)**
arr. Kurt Kaiser
Natalie Breshears, *soprano*

ORGAN SOLO
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645.....**Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**
Paul Tegels, *organ*

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

To Bethlehem.....Gregory Youtz (b. 1956)

Kelli Bower-Hobart, *flute* • Matthew Kusche, *percussion*
Paige Balut, Phyllis Jenkins, Charles Reinmuth, *handbells*
Brian Galante, *piano* • Paul Tegels, *organ*

No. 1—Christmas Eve (Text: Faith Baldwin)

The snow is full of silver light spilled from the heavens' tilted cup. And on this holy tranquil night, the eyes of men are lifted up to see the promise written fair, the hope of peace for all on earth, and hear the singing bells declare the marvel of the dear Christ's birth. The way from year to year is long and though the road be dark so far, bright is the manger, sweet the song, the steeple rises to the Star.

No. 2—Why Do Bells for Christmas Ring? (Text: Lydia Avery Coonley Ward)

Why do bells for Christmas ring? Why do little children sing? Once a lovely shining star, seen by shepherd from a far, gently moved until its light made a manger cradle bright. There a darling baby lay pillowed soft against the hay, and his mother sang and smiled, "This is Christ, the holy child." So the bells for Christmas ring, so the little children sing.

No. 3—The Stork (Text: Anonymous, 1549)

The Stork she rose on Christmas Eve and said unto her brood, "I now must fare to Bethlehem to view the Son of God." She gave to each his dole of meat, she stowed them fairly in, and fair she flew and fast she flew and came to Bethlehem. "Now where is he of David's line?", she asked of house and hall. "He is not here," they spoke hardly, "but in a manger stall." She found him in the manger stall with that most holy Maid; the gentle Stork she wept to see the Lord so rudely laid.

Then from her panting breast she plucked the feathers white and warm; she strewed them in the manger bed to keep the Lord from harm. "Now blessed be the gentle Stork forevermore," quoth He, "for that she saw my sad estate and showed pity. Full welcome shall she ever be in hamlet and in hall, and from henceforth the blessed bird and friend of babies all."

No. 4—A Christmas Legend (Text: Frank Sidgwick)

Hannah Montgomery, Olivia Yanak, Rachel Freidland, *Narrators* • Christina Nelson, *Bell-Weather*
Allyson Jacobs-Lake, *Pan* • Emily Groseclose, *Shepherd*

[Narrators] Abroad on a winter's night there ran, under the starlight, leaping the rills, swollen with snow-drip from the hills, goat-legged, goat-bearded Pan. He loved to run on the crisp white floor, where black hill-torrents chiseled grooves, and he loved to print his clean-cut hooves, where none had trod before. And now he slacked and came to a stand beside a river too broad to leap; and as he panted he heard a sheep that bleated near at hand.

[Pan] "Bell-weather, bell-weather, what do you say? Peace, and huddle your ewes from cold!"

[Bell-Weather] "Master, but ere we went to fold our herdsman hastened away: Over the hill came other twain and pointed away to Bethlehem, and spake with him, and he followed them, and has not come again. He dropped his pipe of the river-reed; he left his scrip in his haste to go; and all our grazing is under snow, so that we cannot feed."

[Pan] "Left his sheep on a winter's night?" (Pan folded them with an angry frown.) "Bell-weather, bell-weather, I'll go down where the star shines bright." (Down by the hamlet he met the man.) "Shepherd, no shepherd, thy flock is lorn!"

[Shepherd] "Master, no master, a child is born royal, greater than Pan. Lo, I have seen; I go to my sheep; follow my footsteps through the snow, but warily, warily see thou go, for child and mother sleep."

[Narrators] Into the stable-yard Pan crept, and there in a manger a baby lay, beside his mother upon the hay, and mother and baby slept. Pan bent over the sleeping child, gazed on him, panting after his run. And while he wondered, the little one opened his eyes and smiled. Smiled, and after a little space struggled an arm from the swaddling-band, and raising a tiny dimpled hand, patted the bearded face. Something snapped in the breast of Pan: his heart, his throat, his eyes were sore, and he wished to weep as never before since the world began. And

out he went to the silly sheep, to the fox on the hill, the fish in the sea, the horse in the stall, the bird in the tree, asking them how to weep. They could not teach, they did not know; the law stands writ for the beast that's dumb that a limb may ache and a heart be numb, but never a tear can flow. So, bear you kindly today, O Man, to all that is dumb and all that is wild, for the sake of the Christmas Babe who smiled in the eyes of great god Pan.

No. 6—Long, Long Ago (Text: Anonymous)

Winds through the olive trees softly did blow, round little Bethlehem long, long ago. Sheep on the hillside lay whiter than snow; shepherds were watching them, long, long ago. Then from the happy sky angels bent low, singing their songs of joy, long, long ago. For in a manger bed, cradled we know, Christ came to Bethlehem, long, long ago.

No. 6—An Ancient Christmas (Text: Anonymous)

Allyson Jacobs-Lake, Timari Smith, Teresa Keck, *soloists*

He came all so still, where his mother was as dew in April that falleth on the grass. He came all so still, where his mother lay as dew in April that falleth on the spray. He came all so still, to his mother's bower as dew in April that falleth on the flower. Mother and maiden was never none but she; well may such a lady God's mother be.

No. 7—A Christmas Carol (Text: Gilbert K. Chesterson)

Timari Smith, *soprano*

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap, his hair was like a light. (O weary, weary were the world, but here is all aright.) The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast his hair was like a star. (O stern and cunning are the kings, but here the true hearts are.) The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart, his hair was like a fire. (O weary, weary is the world, but here the world's desire.) The Christ-child stood on Mary's knee, his hair was like a crown, and all the flowers looked up at Him, and all the stars looked down.

No. 8—Christmas Eve (Reprise)

CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful (Verse 1)

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

MEN'S CHORUS

Lullaby for a King.....**J. Edmund Hughes and Mary Ellen Loose**
Josh Carlisle, *piano* • Devin Morris, *flugelhorn* • Julie Landes, *conductor*

Of the Father's Love Begotten.....**arr. Edwin T. Child (b. 1945)**
Carl Johnson, Logan Kropp, Andrew Riecke, Sophie Schroeder, *chimes*

CHIME CHOIR

The Cherry Tree Carol.....**English Traditional Carol**
arr. Victor L. Gamma
Paige Bailut, *flute*

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

The Holly and the Ivy**English Traditional Carol**
arr. John Rutter (b. 1949)
Christina Nelson, *conductor*

MEN'S CHORUS

The Boar's Head Carol.....arr. Alice Parker (b.1925) and Robert Shaw (1916-1999)

Wassail Song..... arr. J. Edmund Hughes (b. 1947)

Laudate PueriFelix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*Praise, ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore.*

AUDIENCE CAROL

O Come, All ye Faithful.....ADESTE FIDELES, arr. David Willcocks

ALL
God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the
Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created.
O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

UNIVERSITY SINGERS
Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest'.
O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

ALL
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this
happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing.
O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Performance Notes

It is never difficult to hear the sounds—or take in the sights—of Christmas. Merchants begin blasting holiday music through their stores shortly after Halloween; lights, ornaments, inflatable reindeer and Santas appear in home improvement stores and drug stores alike, so anyone who aspires to a “Griswold-like” wonderland has easy access to a wide variety of visual delights.

But sometimes lost amidst the visual and aural stimulation of the season is a focus on Christmas texts, a consideration of the imagery, beauty and craft of the poetry and prose dedicated to this popular day of celebration.

Our concert tonight, though titled *The Sounds of Christmas*, could equally be labeled “The Texts of Christmas,” as we explore texts, both familiar and new, that address the paradox of Christmas—a child of innocence born to die. A central piece in our performance tonight is *To Bethlehem*, a cycle of seven original Christmas carols with texts published in popular American magazines in the early 20th century. In a preface to his score, composer Gregory Youtz writes that he was drawn to these texts because, “from the eloquent to the naive to the mysterious, these poems explore the imagery and faith of the Christmas season.” Through a clever sequence of movements and interpolation of texts, Youtz contrasts a child’s enthusiasm for the Christmas season with the humble condition of Jesus’ first days on earth and his journey into adulthood.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful,” which makes an appearance in the final movement of *To Bethlehem*, unifies the concert, as we all participate in the spiritual journey toward Bethlehem. We invite you to follow where our story leads, and join with us in a joyous celebration of the Sounds (and texts!) of Christmas.

University Singers

Brian Galante, *conductor* • Christina Nelson, *student conductor*

SOPRANO I

Rosemary Bennett
Jaein Cho
Sabrina Husseini
Allyson Jacobs-Lake
Haley Kling
Sarah Koenig
Erica Lee
Hannah Montgomery
Kaela Munson
Nina Skeele

SOPRANO II

Hailey Castagnozzi
Molly Costello
Madison Foster
Kelli Greene
Kiyomi Kishaba
Christina Nelson
Sarah Nelson
Timari Smith
Abigail Trenary
Rachel Tseng

ALTO I

Skylar Fitzgearld
Emily Groseclose
Drew Hoyt
Whi Jung
Teresa Keck
Zoryana Lakotiy
Janelle Purser
Rachel Ross
Sheyla Tai Hook

ALTO II

Megan Cummings
Rachel Friedland
Madison Smith
Gina Snyder
Kylie Steves
Kaitlynn Turner
Olivia Yanak

PLU UNIVERSITY MEN'S CHORUS

Barry Johnson, *conductor* • Julie Landes, *student conductor and pianist*
Stephanie Pfundt, *rehearsal pianist*

TENOR

Jordan Harris
Khrysster Ipalari
Raj Kumar
Devin Morris
Tomick Necessary
Robert Rodriguez

BASS

Jordan Bluhm
Jordan Bowles
Wendell Brunk
Dalton Rouse

THE CHIME CHOIR

The PLU Chime Choir is a new student club, formed in September 2016, that meets weekly to ring. Students belong for a variety of reasons: some are acquiring a skill they hope to use in their teaching or church work, some come to practice their sight reading, and some participate for the relaxation of playing music in a low-pressure environment. The choir is not intended to be regular performing ensemble, but is honored to have been included in this celebration of the season.

Paige Balut
Kelli Bower-Hobart
Natalie Breshears
Sabrina Husseini
Phyllis Jenkins

Carl Johnson
Alex Justice
Logan Kropp
Ian Lindhartsen
Katie Molyneaux

Andrew Riecke
Charles Reinmuth
Sophie Schroeder
Abby Trenary