

MEISTERSINGERS

EXPERIENCE THROUGH SONG

Brian Dehn, Artistic Director



THE ROSE IN WINTER

Marian songs of the season

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 ~ 7PM

Tustin Presbyterian Church
225 W. Main Street, Tustin 92780

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 ~ 7PM

St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church
18631 Chapel Lane, Huntington Beach 92646

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2023 ~ 7PM

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
9 Hillgate, Irvine 92612

MEISTERSINGERS

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DECEMBER 2023



MISSION STATEMENT

Meistersingers, Inc. is dedicated to excellence in the performance of choral music. To enrich our society, educate our communities, and develop our singers, we preserve the past, promote the present and foster the future of the choral art.

Dear Friends,

Welcome to *The Rose in Winter*, a musical journey that captures the essence of the holiday season through the enchanting melodies of choral music.

Tonight, as we gather in the warm embrace of our community, our voices will resonate with songs that evoke the spirit of the holidays. From the "Chelsea Carol" by Eric Whitacre to the timeless "Ave Maria" and the joyous sing-along carols "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," our repertoire will transport you to a world filled with beauty and celebration.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and dedicated volunteers who have made this evening possible. Your support sustains our mission to bring exceptional choral music to our communities.

As we immerse ourselves in this musical celebration, we invite you to join us in supporting our mission. Your involvement, whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading the word about our organization, strengthens our resolve to continue bringing the gift of music to all.

Thank you for being a part of our musical family. We hope *The Rose in Winter* fills your heart with the joy and magic of the season. Together, let us celebrate the power of music to connect, uplift, and inspire. Enjoy the concert!

Sincerely,
Timothy Ryan
*Chairperson of the Board
Meistersingers*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the Pastors and Directors of Music Ministries at Tustin Presbyterian Church, St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church for their support and assistance. We are honored to give these concerts for your communities.



MEISTERSINGERS

EXPERIENCE THROUGH SONG
Brian Dehn, *Conductor* ~ Kevin Phan, *Organ*

THE ROSE IN WINTER

A VE MARIA *Gregorian Chant*

A VE MARIA *Tomás Luis de Victoria*

A VE MARIA *Anton Bruckner*

T HE CHELSEA CAROL *Eric Whitacre*

G ABRIEL'S MESSAGE *arr. Joshua Shank*

QUARTET: *Cristina Navarro, Kate Gremillion, Randall Gremillion, & Emmanuel Miranda*

S ALUTATION CAROL *Traditional English Carol*

SOLOISTS: *Dylan Stewart, Cory Peoples, & Brian Dehn*

PERCUSSIONISTS: *Chelsea Dehn, Susan Lord, & Anne McClintic*

A VE MARIA (ANGELUS DOMINI) *Franz Biebl*

SOLOISTS: *Dylan Stewart & Frank Espinosa*

AUDIENCE SING-A-LONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful ~ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

G AUDETE *arr. J. David Moore*

J OYS SEVEN *arr. James Ludwig*

~ INTERMISSION ~

A VE MARIS STELLA *Javier Busto*

SOLOISTS: *Frank Espinosa, Cristina Navarro & Chelsea Dehn*

A VE MARIS STELLA *Trond Kverno*

A HYMN TO THE VIRGIN *Benjamin Britten*

QUARTET: *Emily Kingsley, Susan Lord, John White & Dave Guido*

O F A ROSE, A LOVELY ROSE *Colin Brumby*

SOLOISTS: *Alane Alfaro, Anne McClintic, Kate Gremillion, Chelsea Dehn, Andrea Hilliard, Frank Espinosa, Randall Gremillion & Emmanuel Miranda*

AUDIENCE SING-A-LONG

Joy to the World ~ Silent Night

M AGNIFICAT *Arvo Pärt*

O F A ROSE *Cecilia McDowall*

Please turn off all electronic devices.



BRIAN DEHN, *Founder and Artistic Director*

Brian Dehn, founder and conductor, is known as an educator, performer, clinician and pedagogue, and has conducted his ensembles in some of the world's most remarkable venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Sistine Chapel, St. Mark's in Venice, St. Peter's in Rome, St. Mathias in Budapest, St. Tomaskirche in Leipzig, St. Patrick's and The Riverside Church in New York, St. Anne's Cathedral in Sydney, St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's in Dublin and the Beijing Central Conservatory.

His selection of top quality repertoire and special work with vocal development has him in frequent demand as a guest clinician with choirs throughout California and the western United States. Mr. Dehn is privileged to helm two wonderful community choruses in Meistersingers and Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble. With these ensembles he is able to work with professional soloists and orchestras, while committing to assisting amateurs develop and explore their gifts. Both ensembles are unique in the repertoire they choose to perform and have vibrant community support.

He is also proud to be the Music Director at First Christian Church of Orange where he leads the Chancel Choir, two Handbell Ensembles and the worship band. Mr. Dehn is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts at Claremont Graduate University. He recently completed 15 years of teaching at the high school level where his ensembles were awarded consistent "Superior" ratings and invitations to prestigious festivals around the state, including an invitation to perform at the 2018 ACDA Western Region Convention. He has taken his ensembles on performance tours to New York, Spain and Portugal, San Francisco, China, Italy, Ireland and England, and Australia.

ABOUT THE MEISTERSINGERS

Now in its twenty-fourth season, Meistersingers was formed by Brian Dehn in response to the growing demand for quality choral music performance in the community. Created to be a chamber ensemble specializing in the most demanding classical choral works, Meistersingers maintains high standards in literature and chooses outstanding performance venues with

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PROGRAM NOTES

Advent is a season of mystery and rebirth. For tonight's program, we have chosen works that recall the eternal image of motherhood from which all life springs. Beauty can exist in stark times, much like a rose in winter.



We begin with *Ave Maria* on a Gregorian melody for women's voices that leads immediately into a setting for four voices by **Tomás Luis de Victoria's** (1548-1611), one of his most famous and beautiful motets. Victoria composed only sacred music throughout his career, and was considered a composer equal to the great master, Palestrina. He is also considered the greatest Spanish composer of the second half of the 16th century and perhaps the greatest composer of his age.

The third of our four reflections on the 'Ave Maria' text comes from **Anton Bruckner**, a composer known primarily for his symphonies. Bruckner's brief but intense interpretation combines moments of drama and intimacy into each phrase. Remarkable for its economy of means, textural richness, and direct expression, it marked the beginning of his artistic maturity.



The Chelsea Carol by **Eric Whitacre** takes us in a new, decidedly modern, direction. Whitacre taps into the anticipation of the Advent season with darker overtones of our waiting for something long expected, but not yet seen. Haunting and mysterious, this piece is distinct when compared to the well-known harmonic language that has garnered composer and conductor Eric Whitacre renown. *The Chelsea Carol* moves slowly, almost as a dirge, with the organ doubling a substantial amount of the choral material, but still with its own voice and character.

Gabriel's Message by **Joshua Shank** is a Basque carol that envisions a scene of Mary sitting alone in a darkened space. The opening phrase of the piece depicts Gabriel slowly unfolding his wings before he announces his amazing news. The music grows richer and more complex, with twelve overlapping vocal lines all calling the word "Gloria," like the generations that will call Mary blessed. Shank used the original Basque language of the carol, in the first verse and sung by a solo quartet, to add to the mysterious quality of the music, for it contains certain qualities in the combinations of consonants and vowels that the English translation doesn't have.

PROGRAM NOTES *(continued from page 2)*

The *Salutation Carol* is another setting of Gabriel's announcement, though clearly more medieval. You'll hear robust male voices accompanied only by percussion in this simple, yet exciting carol.

One of Meistersingers most requested pieces of Christmas repertoire is **Franz Biebl's** *Ave Maria (Angelus Domini)*. It was originally composed in 1964 for a chorus of firemen in Germany for TTBB soli and TTBB chorus.

Gaudete, the Latin word for rejoice, recalls a special Sunday during the season of Advent when we take a break from somber reflection ahead of the celebration of Christmas. The source of this carol comes from the first published set of Finnish music in 1582, known collectively as Spiritual Songs. **J. David Moore's** arrangement uses various combinations of voices on the verses and refrain to keep us in the joyous mood.

James Ludwig's *Joys Seven*, "The Seven Joys of Mary," as it is usually referred, is a traditional carol based on events in the life of the Mother of God. Using a tune from an English carol, Ludwig keeps layering voices as each verse adds another reason the good news brings us joy. The contrast of polyrhythms in the combined voices increases the excitement.

We offer two arrangements by living composers on the traditional Latin text, *Ave Maris Stella*, a medieval Latin hymn used in Vespers services. The imagery salutes Mary as the "star of the sea," and the "portal to heaven." **Javier Busto** has written exclusively for the choral medium and is largely self-taught as a musician. His setting of *Ave Maris Stella* evokes the shining light of the star of Mary glimmering over the sea by musically expressing the colors associated with the text. **Trond Kverno**, a Norwegian composer, shares many characteristics in his 1976 setting with the music of the "spiritual minimalists." In a departure from the complex, serial, and experimental compositional styles, the minimalists returned to simplified materials, a strong foundation in tonality or modality, and simple, repetitive melodies.



Benjamin Britten's much-loved *A Hymn to the Virgin* takes its inspiration from the verse anthems of Henry Purcell. Composed for unaccompanied chorus, it dates from 1930. It is an astonishing work of subtlety and

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THE ROSE IN WINTER

Brian Dehn, *Conductor*

Kevin Phan, *Organ*

Ave Maria — *Gregorian Chant*

Ave Maria — *Tomás Luis de Victoria (1549-1611)*

Ave Maria — *Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)*

Ave Maria gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus
Ventris tui: Jesus.
Sancta Maria mater Dei,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you;
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and in the hour of our death.
Amen.*

THE CHELSEA CAROL — *Eric Whitacre (1970-), text by Charles
Anthony Silvestri (1965-)*

Adveni, Sapientia,
Donum Hivernale—
Confirma nos vigilantes
Ad quem adventurum.

*Come thou, Wisdom,
Gift of Winter—
Strengthen us to wait
For Him who is to come.*

Adveni, adveni somnifera,
Aevifera,
Regina solis siderum.

*Come thou, come dream-bearer,
Time-bearer,
Queen of sun and stars.*

Adveni, adveni lunifera,
Glacifera,
Regina mater temporum

*Come thou, come moon-bearer,
Frost-bearer,
Queen and mother of the seasons.*

Sancta domina Regina!
Sancta domina argentea!
Sancta domina purissima

*Holy lady, Queen!
Holy lady of silver!
Purest holy lady!*

Adveni, adveni florifera,
Solifera,
Regina lucis candida.

*Come thou, come flower-bearer,
Sun-bearer,
Queen of gleaming white light.*

Adveni, adveni messifera,
Nivifera,
Regina somnis magistra.

*Come thou, come sheaf-bearer,
Snow-bearer,
Queen, mistress of dreams.*

Adveni, Mater!
Adveni ad nos!
Adveni, Domina!

*Come thou, Mother!
Come to us!
Come, Lady!*

Adveni, sapientia,
Donum Hivernale—
Confirma nos vigilantes
Ad quod adventurum.

*Come thou, Wisdom,
Gift of Winter—
Strengthen us to wait
For Him who is to come.*

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE — *Joshua Shank (1980-) Basque carol,
English translation by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

Birjina gaztetto bat zegoen
Kreazale Jaonaren othoitzen,
Nouiz et'ainguru bat lehiatuki
Beitzen zelutik Jaitchi

*A young maiden was worshipping
the Lord of Creation
when an angel came down
from the heavens to speak to her.*

The angel Gabriel down from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
“All hail,” said he, “Thou lowly maiden Mary.”
Most highly favoured lady,” Gloria!

“For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,”
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name.”
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

§ SALUTATION CAROL – *traditional English carol, Bodleian MS.*

Refrain: ‘Nowell, nowell, nowell!’ This is the salutation of the angel Gabriel.

Tidings true there become new, sent from the Trinity,
By Gabriel to Nazareth, city of Galilee:
A clean maiden and pure virgin, through her humility,
Hath conceived the Person second in Deity.

Refrain

When he first presented was before her fair visage,
In the most demure and goodly ways he did to her homage.
And said, “Lady, from heaven so high, that Lordes heritage,
That which of thee born would be I am sent on message.

Refrain

“Hail, Virgin, celestial, the meek’st that ever was;
Hail, temple of the deity and mirror of all grace.
Hail, virgin pure, I thee ensure, within full little space
Thou shalt receive and Him conceive that shall bring great solace.”

Refrain

Then again to the angel, she answered, womanly,
“Whate’er my Lord command me do I will obey, meekly.

“Ecce sum humilima ancilla Domini;
Secundum verbum tuum,” she said,
“fiat mihi.”

[See, I am a humble servant of
the Lord according to Thy Word,
let me.]

Refrain

AVE MARIA (ANGELUS DOMINI) — Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu sancto.

*The angel of God visited Mary
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus
et benedictus fructus
ventris tui, Jesus.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of
your womb, Jesus.*

Maria dixit:
Ecce ancilla Domini.
fiat mihi secundum
verbum tuum.

*Mary said:
See the servant of the Lord.
May it happen to me
according to your word.*

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus
ventris tui, Jesus.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.*

Et verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis

*The Word was made flesh
And dwelt among us.*

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus
ventris tui, Jesus.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.*

Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

*Holy Mary, mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
Holy Mary, pray for us
now and in the hour of our death.
Amen.*

AUDIENCE SING-A-LONG

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all 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.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

Hail! the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

GAUDETE — *arr. J. David Moore (1962-), traditional English carol*

Refrain

Gaudete, gaudete!
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine: Gaudete!

Tempus ad est gratiae,
Hoc quod optabamus
Carmina laetitiae
Devote redamus.

Refrain

Deus homo factus est,
Natura mirante,
Mundus renovatus est,
A Christo regnante.

Refrain

Ezekelis porta,
Clausa per transitur,
Unde lux est orta
Salus invenitur.

Refrain

Ergo nostra contio,
Psallat jam in lustro,
Benedicat Domino,
Salus Regi nostro.

Refrain

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Christ is born
of the Virgin Mary: Rejoice!*

*The time of grace has come for
which we have prayed.
Let us devoutly
sing songs of joy.*

Refrain

*God is made man,
while nature wonders.
The world is renewed
by Christ the King.*

Refrain

*The closed gate of Ezekiel has
been passed through
from where the light has risen (the
East), salvation is found.*

Refrain

*Therefore, let our assembly sing praises
now at this time of purification,
let it bless the Lord:
greetings to our King.*

Refrain

JOYS SEVEN — *arr. James Ludwig (1982-), traditional English carol*

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one;
to see the blessed Jesus Christ when He was first her Son;
when He was first her son, good man, and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son and Holy Ghost through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go,
to make the lame to go, good man, and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son and Holy Ghost through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see;
to make the blind to see, good man, and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son and Holy Ghost through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to read the Bible o'er;
to read the Bible o'er, good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive;
to bring the dead alive, good man, and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son and Holy Ghost through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to heal and cure the sick;
to heal and cure the sick, good man, and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son and Holy Ghost through all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of seven;
to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of Heaven;
to wear the crown of Heaven, good man, and blessed may he be,
both Father, Son and Holy Ghost through all eternity.



~ INTERMISSION ~

AVE MARIS STELLA — *Javier Busto (1949-)*

AVE MARIS STELLA — *Trond Kverno (1945-)*

Ave maris stella,
Dei mater alma,
Atque semper virgo,
Felix caeli portas.

Hail, star of the sea,
Nurturing Mother of God,
And Virgin immortal,
Heaven's blissful portal.

Sumens illud Ave
Gabrielis ore,
Funda nos in pace,
Mutans Hevae nomen.

Receiving that "Ave"
From the mouth of Gabriel,
Reversing the name of "Eva,"
Establish us in peace.

Solve vincla reis,
Profer lumen caecis,
Mala nostra pelle,
Bona cuncta posce.

Break the chains of sinners,
Bring light to the blind,
Drive away our evils,
And ask for all good things.

Monstra te esse matrem:
Sumat per te preces,
Qui pro nobis natus,
Tulit esse tuus.

Show thyself to be a mother,
That, through thee,
He may accept our prayers, he who born
For us, chose to be your Son.

Virgo singularis,
Inter omnes mitis,
Nos culpis solutos,
Mites fac et custos.

O incomparable Virgin,
Meek above all others,
Make us, freed from our faults,
Meek and chaste.

Vitam praesta puram,
Iter para tutum:
Ut videntes Jesum
Semper collaetemur.

Keep our life pure,
Make our journey safe:
So that, seeing Jesus,
We may rejoice together forever.

Sit laus Deo Patri,
Summo Christo decus,
Spiritus Sancto,
Tribus honor unus.
Amen.

Let there be praise to God the Father,
And glory to Christ the most High,
And to the Holy Spirit,
And to the Three be one honor.
Amen

H HYMN TO THE VIRGIN — *Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)*

Of one that is so fair and bright,
 Velut maris stella, [*like a star of the sea*]
Brighter than the day is light,
 Parens et puella. [*mother and maiden*]
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
 Tampia, [*thou Holy One*]
That I may come to thee.
 Maria! [*Mary*]

All this world was forlorn
 Eva peccatrice, [*through Eve, the sinner*]
Till our Lord was y'born
 De te genetrix. [*of thee, the mother*]
With *ave* it went away
darkest night, and comes the day
 Salutis; [*of salvation*]
The well springeth out of thee
 Virtutis. [*of virtue*]

Lady, flower of everything,
 Rosa sine spina, [*rose without a thorn*]
Thou bare Jesu, heaven's King,
 Gratia divina: [*by divine grace*]
Of all that bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise,
 Electa: [*chosen one*]
Maid mild, mother es effecta
 Effecta. [*thou art proved*]



OF A ROSE, A LOVELY ROSE — *Colin Brumby (1933-2018)*

Of a Rose, a lovely Rose,
of a Rose is all my song,

Listen, nobles old and young,
how this rose at outset sprung;
In all this world I know of none
I so desire as that fair rose.

The angel came from heaven's tower
to honour Mary in her bower:
And said that she should bear the flower
to break the Devil's chain of woe.

In Bethlehem that flower was seen,
a lovely blossom bright as sheen.
The Rose is Mary heaven's Queen;
out of her womb that blossom rose.

Of a Rose, a lovely Rose,
of a Rose is all my song.

The first branch is full of might,
that sprouted on Christmas night
when star of Bethlehem shone bright,
for far and wide its lustre shows.

The second branch sprang forth to hell,
the Devil's fearful power to quell.
And there henceforth no soul could dwell,
blessed the coming of that rose!

To heaven sprang the third shoot,
sweet and fair both stem and root,
to dwell therein and bring us good:
in priestly hands it daily shows.

Of a Rose, a lovely Rose,
of a Rose is all my song.

Let us then with honour pray
to her who is our help and stay,
and turns us from the Devil's way.
from her that holy bloom arose.

Of a Rose, a lovely Rose,
of a Rose is all my song.

AUDIENCE SING-A-LONG

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And Heav'n and nature sing,
And Heav'n and nature sing,
And Heav'n and Heav'n, and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And make the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders,
Wonders of his love.

Silent Night

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!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly Hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

MMAGNIFICAT — *Arvo Pärt (1935-)*

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salvatore 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 eius,
et misericordia eius in progenie et 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 eius in saecula.
Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

*My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoiced in God, my savior;
because he looked at the humility of his servant,
for behold, from this all generations will call me blessed;
Because he did great things for me, he who is powerful,
and his holy name;
and his mercy in progeny and progeny
they feared him.
He made power in his arm
he scattered the proud of mind with his heart;
he deposed the powerful from their seats
and exalted the humble,
he filled the hungry with good,
and he let the rich go empty.
Israel received his child
his mercy was remembered
just as he spoke to our fathers,
Abraham and his descendants forever.
My soul magnifies the Lord.*

OF A ROSE — *Cecilia McDowall (1951-), anonymous*
14th century text

Listen, lordynges, old and Yonge,
How this rose began to sprygne;
Such a rose to mine lykyng
In all this world ne knowe I non.
Alleluia.

The aungel came fro hevene tour
To greet Marye with gret honour,
Seyde she should bere the flour
That should breke the fiendes bond.
Alleluia.

The flower sprong in heye Bethlem,
That is both bryht and schen:
The rose is Marye, hevene qwene,
Out of here bosum the blosme sprong.
Alleluia.

The ferste braunche is ful of myht,
That sprong on Chrystemesse nyht,
The sterre schon over Bethlem bryht
That is bothe brod and long.
Alleluia.

The secunde braunche sprong to helle,
The fiendes power down to felle:
There in myht non soule dwelle;
Blyss'd be the time the rose sprong!
Alleluia.

The thredde braunch is good and swote,
It sprang to hevene, crop and rote,
there to dwell and ben our bote;
Ev'ry day it schewit in prystes hond.
Alleluia.



(continued from page 1)

ABOUT THE MEISTERSINGERS

beauty and elegance equal to the music. Believing that choral music is one of the most profound resources for the elevation of the human spirit and committed to enriching community life, Meistersingers has always offered inspiring and educational performances of the highest quality.

The group is made up of individuals who make a commitment of time and effort rivaling that of the best ensembles in the country. They are consistently rewarded with high praise from audiences and a growing anticipation for future projects. With seven highly successful recordings to their credit, as well as invitations to perform all over the world, they are quickly becoming recognized as a major ensemble in the choral world.



Brian Dehn, *Founder and Artistic Director*

Kevin Phan, *Accompanist*

David Abend

Alane Alfaro

Monica Alfredsen

Marin Bradshaw

Timothy Bruckner

Caleb Dehn

Chelsea Dehn

Lucy Dunn

Frank Espinosa

Myrna Goodbaudy

Kate Gremillion

Randall Gremillion

Dave Guido

Teresa Guido

Katrina Herrera

Andrea Hilliard

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Dear Friends of the Meistersingers,

Thank you for your attendance this evening and your support of Meistersingers. This season, our 24th, continues our standard of excellent repertoire and an exquisite vocal sound unlike anything you will hear in our area. This season is also one of preparation. We are already beginning the “ground work” for next season – our milestone 25th anniversary. What you see and hear before you is only a small portion of what we can do, and what we want to do.

For 24 years we have been known as an ensemble that makes beautiful music, commissions new choral pieces, supports local musicians, and builds up our local schools. However, we want to do so much more! You can see in the following pages our vision for more community engagement – performing more elaborate and specialized choral/orchestral masterworks, increasing our scholarships to local schools, increasing staff (i.e., Executive Director), starting a robust marketing campaign, and more – but we can only do this with engaged visionaries that support what we do. Specifically, we need the following:

Passionate art supporters to join our Board of Directors

Supporters willing to commit to financially strengthening our mission

Volunteers for concert and logistical events

Simply put, if you love choral music as much as we do, please join our team! Please see me or any of our fine musicians and we look forward to working with you!

Yours in music,

Brian Dehn

Founder and Artistic Director, Meistersingers



As we gear up to celebrate 25 years of Meistersingers in our next season, we're already hard at work planning for an extraordinary year of music and memories. We invite you to join us in launching our 25th season with a bang by supporting our ambitious \$100,000 fundraising goal.

Our 24th Season

Over the past 24 seasons, Meistersingers has been a source of joy and inspiration for our Orange County community. From historic performances to collaborations with talented musicians, we've created cherished moments and shared the magic of choral music.

25th Year Vision

Your Support: To kickstart our 25th season and achieve our \$100,000 goal, we need your help. Your contributions will:

- **Alumni Concert:** A reunion of former Meistersingers, bridging past and present.
- **Premiere Composition:** A new choral masterpiece, a legacy for the future.
- **Carnegie Hall?:** A dream to perform on one of the world's most prestigious stages.
- **25-Part Motet:** A choral challenge showcasing our talent.



Your Support

To kickstart our 25th season and achieve our \$100,000 goal, we need your help. Your contributions will:

- Commission new music that enriches choral repertoire.
- Provide scholarships for young singers.
- Expand our reach to new venues and audiences.
- Maintain our excellence and vibrancy.

Celebrate Early

Join us in celebrating our upcoming 25th season. Attend our concerts, share in our joy, and help us launch our fundraising campaign early.

Consider donating today to support our 25th-year initiatives. Every contribution, regardless of size, makes a significant impact on our journey.

Together, we'll continue to inspire, uplift, and connect through choral music. Thank you for being part of our story.

Donate Now



For more information on how you can help, contact Brian Dehn, Artistic Director at bdehn@meistersingers.org or write to:

Friends of the Meistersingers
8941 Atlanta #187
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

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www.meistersingers.org

PROGRAM NOTES *(continued from page 3)*

maturity written when he was only sixteen years old while a student at Gresham's School in Norfolk, England.

Of a Rose, a Lovely Rose is Australian composer Colin **Brumby's** lyrical arrangement of an anonymous medieval carol text that likens the Virgin Mary to a Rose, from which arise the branches that will save mankind.

Estonian composer **Arvo Pärt's** *Magnificat* is a stark, often intense presentation of Mary's response to the news that she has been chosen to give birth to one who will bring good news to the whole world. Composer Arvo Pärt began his formal music education at the Tallinn Music Middle School in 1954. After becoming a recognized composer of serious music, his works are characterized by the blending of diatonic scales and triadic arpeggios, which he calls the style *tintinnabuli* (from the effect of sound lingering after a bell has struck and its retreating overtones) and describes it as "music of essentials, music of few notes, but of great strength and purity."



Cecilia McDowall composed *Of a Rose* based on a 14th century verse using Middle English spellings and pronunciations. The poetry tells of how the rose shall grow to overtake the fiends of hell and break the bonds that have ensnared humankind. McDowall is one of the UK's leading contemporary composers. Her distinctive style fuses fluent melodic lines with occasional dissonant harmonies and rhythmic exuberance. *Of A Rose* is medieval in its inspiration and with a sense of dance, but subversive elements never let us forget that this is seriously contemporary music. Lovely, lilting sections are pitted against more straightforward rhythmic units. Stark dynamic contrasts and chasing melodic lines all characterize this short but highly effective carol.

~ Program notes by Emmanuel Miranda, Dave Roman and Brian Dehn

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*Tickets are available at the door and at www.meistersingers.org
In person: Adults \$25/\$45, students 12 and over \$10, Children free;
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