

A FESTIVAL CHORUS
and
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PRESENT

H O D I E

"T h i s D a y"

by

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

TONY LEE GARNER, CONDUCTOR

Desiree Earl Barnett-Soprano

Randal Rushing-Tenor

Charles Billings-Bass

The Rhodes College Singers

The High School Honors Chorus

The Memphis State Campus School Children's Chorus

The Rhodes Academy Children's Chorus

MUSIC

THE MEMPHIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Director of Children's Choirs: Susan Van Dyck

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL DIRECTORS:

Hamilton High School - Hattie Tuggle

Millington High School - Nelba Thomas

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Whitehaven High School - Carol Culbreath

White Station High School - Beverly Cox

DECEMBER 5, 1993

2:30 P.M.

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

HODIE

"This Day"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

I. Prologue

Nowell! Hodie Christus natus est: Hodie salvator apparuit: Hodie in terra canunt angeli, laetantur archangeli: Hodie exultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo: Alleluia.

(This day is our saviour born: This day on earth angels are singing, archangels rejoicing. This day just men rejoice, saying, Glory to God in the highest.)
(from the Vespers for Christmas Day)

II. Narration

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream.

"Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus:

He shall be great, and shall be called the son of the Highest: Emmanuel, God with us."
(from Matt. I: 18-21 and Luke I: 32)

III. Song

It was the winter wild, While the Heaven-born child
All meanly wrapt, in the rude manger lies;
Nature in awe to him Had doff'd her gaudy trim,
With her great Master so to sympathise.
And waving wide her myrtle wand,
She strikes a universal peace through sea and land.
No war, or battle's sound, Was heard the world around:
The idle spear and shield were high uphung;
The hooked chariot stood Unstained with hostile blood;
The trumpet spake not to the armed throng;
And Kings sate stille with aweful eye,
As if they surely knew their sovran Lord was by.
But peaceful was the night, Wherein the Prince of Light
His reign of peace upon the earth began:
The winds, with wonder whist, Smoothly the waters kissed
Whispering new joys to the mild ocean,
Who now hath quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmed wave.
(from Hymn on the Morning of Christ's Nativity--Milton)

IV. Narration

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up into the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

(from Luke II:1-7)

V. Choral

The blessed Son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good. Kyrieleison.
The Lord Christ Jesus, God's Son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally. Kyrieleison.
And this he did for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore. Kyrieleison.
(Miles Coverdale, after Martin Luther)

VI. Narration

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory; O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty."

"Let us go now unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And the shepherds came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

(from Luke II:8-17 and the Book of Common Prayer)

VII. The Oxen

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearth side ease.
We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.
So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! yet, I feel
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come, see the oxen kneel,
In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.
(Thomas Hardy)

VIII. Narration

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

(Luke II: 20)

IX. Pastoral

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for thee?
My soul's a shepherd too: a flock it feeds
Of thoughts, words, and deeds.
The pasture is Thy Word; the streams, Thy Grace
Enriching all the place.
Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers
Out-sing the daylight hours.
Then we will chide the sun for letting night
Take up his place and right:
We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should
Himself the candle hold.
I will go searching, till I find a sun
Shall stay till we have done;
A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly
As frost-nipt suns look sadly.
Then we will sing, and shine all our own day,
And one another pay;
His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine
Till even his beams sing, and my music shine.
(George Herbert)

X. Narration

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
(Luke II: 19)

XI. Lullaby

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang,
When she to Bethlem Juda came
And was delivered of a son,
That blessed Jesus hath to name.
"Lulla, lulla, lulla-bye,
Sweet babe," sang she,
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.
"Sweet babe," sang she, "my son,
And eke a saviour born,
Who has vouchsafed from on high
To visit us that were forlorn:
Lalula, lalula, lalula-bye,
Sweet babe," sang she,
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

(W. Ballet)

XII. Hymn

Bright portals of the sky, Embossed with sparkling stars,
Doors of Eternity, With diamantine bars,
Your arras rich uphold, Loose all your bolts and springs
Ope wide your leaves of gold, That in your roofs may come the King of Kings.
O well-spring of this All. Thy father's image vive;
Word, that from naught did come What is, doth reason, live;
The soul's eternal food, Earth's joy, delight of heaven;
All truth, love, beauty, good: To thee, to thee be praises ever given!
O glory of the heaven! O sole delight of earth!
Of mankind lover true, Indearer of his wrong,
Who dost the world renew, Still be thou our salvation and our song!

(William Drummond)

XIII. Narration

Now when Jesus was born, behold, there came wise men from the east saying, "Where is he that is born King? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." And they said unto them, "In Bethlehem." When they had heard that, they departed; and lo! the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matt. II: 1, 2, and 11)

XIV. The March of the Three Kings

From kingdoms of wisdom secret and far
come Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar;
they ride through time, they ride through night
led by the star's foretelling light.

Crowning the skies
the star of morning, star of dayspring calls,
lighting the stable and the broken walls
where the prince lies.

Gold from the veins of earth he brings,
red gold to crown the King of Kings.

Power and glory here behold
shut in a talisman of gold.

Frankincense from those dark hands
was gathered in eastern, sunrise lands,
incense to burn both night and day
to bear the prayers a priest will say.

Myrrh is a bitter gift for the dead.

Birth but begins the path you tread;
your way is short, your days foretold
by myrrh and frankincense and gold.

Return to kingdoms, secret and far,

Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar,
ride through the desert, retrace the night
leaving the star's imperial light.

Crowning the skies
the star of morning, star of dayspring calls:
clear on the hilltop its sharp radiance falls
lighting the stable and the broken walls
where the prince lies.

(*Ursula Vaughan Williams*)

XV. Choral

No sad thought his soul affright;
Sleep it is that maketh night;
Let no murmur nor rude wind
To his slumbers prove unkind;
But a quire of angels make
His dreams of heaven and let him wake
To as many joys as can
In this world befall a man.

Promise fills the sky with light,
Stars and angels dance in flight;
Joy of heaven shall now unbind
Chains of evil from mankind,
Love and joy their power shall break,
And for a newborn prince's sake;
Never since the world began
Such a light such dark did span.

(*Verse 1-Anon. Verse 2-Ursula Vaughan Williams*)

XVI. Epilogue

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Emmanuel, God with us.

(Adapted from John I: 1-14)

Ring out, ye crystal spheres

Once bless our human ears,

If ye have power to touch our senses so;

And let your silver chime

Move in melodious time,

And let the bass of heaven's deep organ blow;

And with your ninefold harmony,

Make up full consort to the angelic symphony.

Such music (as 'tis said),

Before was never made,

But when of old the sons of morning sung,

While the Creator great

His constellations set,

And the well-balanced world on hinges hung;

And cast the dark foundations deep,

And bid the weltering waves their oozy channel keep.

Yea, truth and justice then

Will down return to men,

Orbed in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing,

Mercy will sit between,

Throned in celestial sheen,

With radiant feet the tissued cloud down-steering;

And heaven, as at some festival,

Will open wide the gates of her high palace hall.

(from *Hymn on the Morning of Christ's Nativity*. Milton)

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Mr. Herbert Regier

Ms. Tommie Pardue

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fisher

Mr. and Mrs. James Springfield

Ms. Jeanne Varnell

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wimmer

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THE CHOIRS

SOPRANO

Abernathy, Leslie
Adams, Jacqueline
Ashir, Candace
Belk, Belinda
Brigden, Jane
Campbell, Shannon
Carter, Felecia
Choudhuri, Nina
Cockrill, Kathryn
Crabb, Lynn
Davis, Macon
Garner, Bette
Garrett, Marloe
Glusman, Laurea
Hall, Emily
Henderson, Julie
Hill, Amy
Isom, Amber
Johns, Jenny
Josephs, Deborah
Knight, Jude
Lanier, Halle
Lovette, Amy
Lucket, Carolyn
Mahnken, Rebecca
Marion, Susan
Masson, Susan
McNab, Lane
Neal, Sheryl D.
New, Elizabeth
Okano, Rose
Patrick, Elaine
Rainey, Jessica
Roesler, Alison
Sobel, Rebekah
Stevens, Cynthia
Vann, Samantha
Wooten, Latonya
Wortham, Rachel
Younter, Mary Clare

ALTO

Archie, Carrie
Bankson, Mary Beth
Bhattacharya, Julia
Canon, Laura
Cawood, Maria
Chen, Annie
Coleman, Heather
Gotten, Lane
Hall, Holly
Hall, Lisa
Harris, Audrey
Haas, Jenni
Hayes, Michelle
Jackson, Kimberly
Jenson, Jenny
Larson, Jennifer
Latimer, Meredith
McDermott, Robin
McLaughlin, Jessica
Meiman, Julie
Nichols, Kenya
Patterson, Rebecca
Richardson, Brooke
Rose, Andrea
Taylor, Merryl
Walcott, Riddell
Wolford, Sarah
Wooten, Katherine
Wright, Felicia
Yannitell, Gina

TENOR

Abele, Rodney
Almond, Josh
Baker, Chris
Browning, Robert
Burdett, Aaron
Coleman, Keshawn
Cormier, Jason
Nick Cummins
Hutcheson, Hutch
Joy, Mason
Little, John
Luter, Chris
Macon, David
Marus, Rob
McFarland, Jason
Miller, Scott
Stevens, Jeff
Stoker, Michael
Tucker, Roger
Turner, Stuart
Vogel, James
Wilkins, Herman

BASS

Ankerman, J.L.
Balfour, David
Clark, Charles
Cook, Gary
Crowder, Ric
Goodson, Jeremy
Harr, James O.
Harrington, Gerald
Hines, Taurus
Hornsby, Darin
London, Karl
Mathes, Thomas
Parker, Edward M.
Price, Don
Rose, Joel
Scott, Ben
Smith, Jason
Ware, Shane
Williamson, James
Wilson, Calvin
Wright, Bobby

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Alexander, Ariane	Gatlin, Miranda	Owens, Amanda
Allendorfer, Will	Gootzeit, Mandy	Parks, Anna
Anderson, Sarah	Gutch, Stephanie	Pettigrew, Tara
Barton, Michael	Head Beth	Pickens, Ashley
Bell, Candice	Hicks, Janayah	Pruitt, Becky
Bell, Carmen	Hunt, Jennifer	Rolfe, Josalyn
Bell, Kori	Hunter, Heather	Rolfe, Sarah
Bivens, Kelly	Jennings, Angela	Russell, Anna
Bivens, Matthew	Johnson, William	Quasney, Erin
Bland, Lauren	Johnston, Ali	Sanders, Maggie
Bollinger, Lisa	Jones, Maiysha	Sicola, Margaret
Brophy, Maeve	Kee, Laura	Sullivan, Amy
Brown, Tedra	Kelley, Kristen	Tate, Meagan
Cagle, Caroline	Klyce, Polly	Taylor, Lexie
Chiarmonte, Megan	Lark, Cedric	Thompson, Arienne
Cole, Alexandria	Liggins, Caroline	Tucker, Kelsey
Craft, Ashley	Lofties, Denise	Wade, Tamara
Doss, Shanitha	May, Jessica	Watte, Jessie
Doss, Tashaye	Montgomery, Sarah	Wilkes, Jessica
Duncan, Jamie	Moore, Clarissa	Williams, Constance
Dunham, Jamie	Music, Jaycie	Williamson, Jason
Fite, Nathan	Ogburn, Nichole	Wilson, Morgan
Friedlander, Rachel	Okwumabua, Akumdi	Winterburn, Jessica
Garner, Margaret	Orr, Sarah	Young, Rathi

Program Notes:

At the beginning of the twentieth century England experienced a revival of interest in its own musical heritage. Attention was focused on the masters of Tudor church music, the Elizabethan madrigalists, and the art of Henry Purcell. The central figure in this movement was Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). The son of a Gloucestershire clergyman, he grew up acutely aware of traditional church music. He received both a musical and a general degree from Trinity College, Cambridge. Early in his career he became the editor of a new hymnbook. He later said of this experience, "Two years of close association with some of the best (as well as some of the worst) tunes in the world was better musical education than any amount of sonatas and fugues." He included in the new hymnbook several of his own new tunes. These reflected the character of the English tradition in church music and also the spirit of regional folk song.

Through his long career he wrote extensively in all branches of composition. When he was writing choral works he was very careful in his selection of texts. He was extremely sensitive to the power of the English language. Among the wide range of poets whose works he used are Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Coleridge, Shelley, Tennyson, Hardy, and Whitman.

Hodie is a Christmas cantata based on the Biblical text, "This day is our saviour born." It was written in 1954, just four years before the composer's death. Its first performance was at the Three Choirs Festival at Worcester Cathedral on September 8, 1954. It is scored for chorus, children's choir, and orchestra. The texts are a combination of Scriptures and the works of Milton, Coverdale, Hardy, Herbert, Drummond, and Ursula Vaughan Williams. The music shows the various influences of English folksong, Protestant chorales, and the sacred music of J.S. Bach. The overall message is one of joy at the celebration of the coming of Christ and of hope for the future.

Dr. Patricia Gray