

RHODES COLLEGE

presents

The

RHODES SINGERS

CHRISTMAS

at

ST. MARY'S

RHODES SINGERS

Tony Lee Garner, Conductor

David Ramsey, Accompanist and Associate Conductor

RHODES MUSIC ACADEMY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Susan Van Dyck, Director

Harriet Turnbull, Assistant Director

RHODES MUSIC ACADEMY YOUNG SINGERS

Cynthia Harris, Director

ETHELINE MAYO MEMORIAL JUBILATE HANDBELL CHOIR

Evergreen Presbyterian Church

Jane Gamble, Director

MATINS HANDBELL CHOIR

Germantown United Methodist Church

James Thrash, Director

RHODES BRASS

DECEMBER 10, 1996

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (EPISCOPAL)

7:30 P. M.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S

- WHAT CHILD IS THIS
Bell choirs arr. Linda McKechnie
- ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY
Bell choirs, Brass, Organist Jane Gamble arr. Linda McKechnie
- PROCESSION (*Ceremony of Carols*)
Children's Chorus Benjamin Britten
(*sung from the ambulatory*)
- CHORAL FANFARE
Rhodes Singers and Brass Ron Nelson
- PROCESSIONAL: HYMN 91 (congregation standing and singing)
Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light harmonized by J. S. Bach
Choirs, Congregation, Brass, Organ
- ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY
INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY
LITTLE BULL
HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST
arr. Shirley W. McRae
arr. Robert Leaf
arr. A. H. Green
Michael Bedford
Children's Chorus
- WINTERSONG
SANCTUS
SUSCEPIT ISRAEL (*Magnificat*)
THE JESUS GIFT
Audrey Snyder
Franz Schubert
J. S. Bach
Gilbert M. Martin
The Young Singers, Organist Sondra Tucker
- RICERCAR DEL PRIMO TUONO
(Prelude in the First Mode)
G. P. Palestrina
Rhodes Brass
- THE GOLDEN CAROL
LET OUR GLADNESS KNOW NO END
Paul Bendit
Louis Claude d'Aquin
arr. Dale Grotenhuis
- PUER NOBIS (UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN)
with The Young Singers William Llewellyn
- LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS
NOËL NOUVELET
Leo Sowerby
Ian Humphris
soloist: *Laurea Glusman*
- IN TIME OF SOFTEST SNOW
HODIE
John Carter
Shirley W. McRae
- MARY HAD A BABY
soloist: *Catherine Cook* Sam Batt Owens
- A BABE IS BORN
DONA NOBIS PACEM (*Mass in B minor*)
William Mathias
J. S. Bach
Rhodes Singers
- HYMN 87 (congregation standing and singing)
Hark! the herald angels sing melody by Felix Mendelssohn
Singers, Children, Congregation, Bell choirs, Brass, Organ

TEXTS

PROCESSION (*Ceremony of Carols*)

Text: Traditional Latin

Music: Benjamin Britten (d. 1976)

Hodie Christus natus est;	Born today is Christ, born for us:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:	Comes today, lo! to us the Savior comes:
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,	Songs today angels sing, sing to men on earth,
laetantur Archangeli:	And their praise Archangels bring:
Hodie exsultant justi dicentes:	Loud today the just men cry out, exulting:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia.	Glory be to God on high, alleluia.

CHORAL FANFARE

Text: Gail Kurtz

Music: Ron Nelson (1960)

The earth is white. A star shines in the east
and angels celebrate the Christmas feast.
With joy for Jesus's birth we sing.
Alleluia.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander

Music: arr. Shirley W. McRae (1994)

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all.
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew.
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew.
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
Alleluia.

INFANT HOLY

Text: Polish carol; trans. Edith M. G. Reed

Music: arr. Robert Leaf (1989)

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you.

LITTLE BULL

Text: A. H. Green

Music: Traditional Latin-American melody arr. A. H. Green (1966)

Al huachi, torito del portalsito.

*Hey, little bull behind the gate, what are you doing up so late?
And, little bull, what have you seen on this starry Christmas E'en?*

If you raise your eyes to heaven you will see the Virgin's Son.
He is clothed in white apparel and is blessing ev'ryone.

From the tree was born the branch, and from the branch was born the flower.
From the flower was born our Lady, from the Lady the sweet Savior.

Forward, forward, little shepherd, march on bravely, ev'ryone,
Thanking God with hearts o'erflowing for the gift of his blessed Son.

HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST

Text and Music: Michael Bedford (1987)

Hodie Christus natus est!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Alleluia!

The angels sang to the shepherds three, as they knelt on bended knee,
'Christ is born this holy morn! Hurry to Bethlehem and see!
The shepherds left the hillside bare, traveled over the meadows fair,
Till in awe the Child they saw, lying in a manger there.

May we, like those three shepherds poor, come, the Christ Child to adore;
May we here, ev'ry year, worship within the church's door.
Then may we, with joyful call, carry the news outside this hall;
Thus we'll share, ev'rywhere, God's great gift to one and all.

WINTERSONG

Text: Emily Bronte and Audrey Snyder

Music: Audrey Snyder (1993)

Wintersong, wintersong.

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers away, lengthen the night and shorten the day.
Every leaf speaks bliss to me fluttering from the autumn tree.

Winter, a chill is in the air, in frozen beauty none compare.
The wintry world glistens bright. It gleams and sparkles in cold delight.

I will smile when wreathes of snow blossom where the rose should go.
I will sing when night's decay ushers in the winter day.

SANCTUS

Text: adapted by Walter Buszin
Music: Franz Schubert (d. 1828)

Holy is the Lord.
'Fore the world's foundation, 'fore stars shone on high,
Father, Son and Spirit were in essence One.

SUSCEPIT ISRAEL

Text: the liturgical canticle 'Magnificat'
Music: J. S. Bach (d. 1750)

Suscepit, Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae suae.
He hath holpen his servant, Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

THE JESUS GIFT

Text and Music: Gilbert M. Martin (1977)

Shall I gather emeralds, shall I bring him gold?
Shall I shower diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold?
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?

*Give him laughter, bring peace-filled laughter,
Offer him warm laughter and love.*

Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts; kindness he'll use as he leads.
So, give him these gifts, hand him your hearts, honor his birth and you'll need no...

Emeralds nor rubies, silver nor gold;
Neither bright diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold.
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above.

*You'll have sweet peace-filled laughter,
Simple warm laughter and love.*

THE GOLDEN CAROL

Text: 15th c. source
Music: Paul Bendit (1986)

Now is Christemas y-come,
Father and Son together in one,
Holy Ghost, as ye be one, in fere, (*together*)
God send us a good New Year.

I will you sing with all my might,
Of a child so fair in sight,
A maiden bare on Christmas night,
So still, as it was his will.
Three kinges came from Galilee
To Bethlehem, that fair city,
For to offer and to see, by night;
It was a full fair sight.

When they came into the place,
Where Jesus with his mother was,
Offered they up with great solace,
In fere, gold, incense, and myrrh.

LET OUR GLADNESS KNOW NO END

Text: traditional Bohemian carol, 15th c.

Music: Louis d'Aquin (d. 1772)

Let our gladness know no end, Alleluia!
Unto earth did Christ descend, Alleluia!

*On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us.
Noel. Glory to God in the highest!*

See the loveliest blooming Rose, Alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows, Alleluia!

Into flesh is made the Word, Alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, Alleluia!

PUER NOBIS (UNTO US IS BORN A SON)

Text: translated from Latin by G. R. Woodward

Music: tune from 1582 'Piae Cantiones;' arr. William Llewellyn (1986)

Unto us is born a Son, King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heaven descending low, comes on earth a stranger:
Ox and ass their owner know, becradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story:
And O that Mary's gentle Child might lead us up to glory.

O and A and A and O, *cum cantibus in choro, (with the heavenly choirs)*
Let our merry organ go, *Benedicamus Domino. (Let us bless the Lord)*

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Text: Christina Rossetti

Music: Leo Sowerby (d. 1968)

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus: but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, Love be yours and Love be mine;
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

NOËL NOUVELET

Text: trans. from French by James Woodhouse
Music: traditional French carol; arr. Ian Humphris (1986)

Noel, sing Noel, good people, sing with glee.
Thanks to God on high who setteth all folk free.
Noel, Noel, let all the nations sing,
Noel, sing Noel to greet the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field, a small bird sang to them,
'Where's your newborn lamb? Seek him in Bethlehem.'
Noel, Noel, to Bethlehem they run,
Noel, sing Noel, to worship Mary's Son.

In Bethlehem Mary and Joseph see
Donkey and ox, the child lies in between.
For him no cradle a hard crib lined with hay.
Noel, sing Noel, sing, sing Noel today.

See the eastern kings to Bethl'em make their way;
One bright star to guide them, darkness turns to day.
Follow the kings and loudly raise the strain.
Noel, sing Noel, sing, sing Noel again.

One offers gold, the other myrrh also.
Fair smelling incense the other doth bestow.
Sweet scene of Paradise that garden seemed to be.
Noel, sing Noel, good people, sing with glee.

IN TIME OF SOFTEST SNOW

Text: Mary Kay Beall
Music: John Carter (1985)

In time of softest snow three kings did go to find a tiny child beneath a star.
And there in Bethlehem the three wise men came upon the child beneath a star.
In time of winter's chill beside a hill, the shepherds found a child beneath a star.
A pure and gentle Lamb, the great I Am, the tiny child who slept beneath a star.
And there, there in a stable bare on bed of hay he lay;
There, there a Rose so rare blooms on Christmas day.
In time of shining sky the earth did sigh, to greet a tiny child beneath a star.
As angels wait above, we kneel in love, and bless the tiny child beneath a star.

HODIE

Text: traditional Latin with 16th c. German
Music: Shirley W. McRae (1995)

Hodie Christus natus est.
(*This day Christ is born*)

Alleluia.

A babe was born in Bethlehem; rejoice, Jerusalem.
He lay within a lowly stall, who rules forever over all.

MARY HAD A BABY

Text: Traditional African-American

Music: African-American spiritual, set by Sam Batt Owens (1996)

Mary had a baby, my Lord!

What did she name him. my Lord?

She called him King Jesus, my Lord.

A BABE IS BORN

Text: Anonymous, 15th century

Music: William Mathias (1971)

A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us.

To him we sing both night and day.

Veni Creator Spiritus. (Come, Creator Spirit)

At Bethlehem, that blessed place, the child of bliss now born he was;

And him to serve God give us grace,

O lux beata Trinitas. (O Trinity, blessed light)

There came three kings out of the East, to worship the King that is so free,

With gold and myrrh and frankincense,

A solis ortus cardine. (Risen from the quarter of the sun)

The angels came down with one cry, a fair song that night sung they

In worship of that child:

Gloria tibi Domine. (Glory to you, O Lord)

A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us.

To him we sing both night and day.

Venite Creator Spiritus.

O lux beata Trinitas.

A solis ortus cardine.

Gloria tibi Domine.

Noel!

DONA NOBIS PACEM

Text: Ordinary of the Mass

Music: J. S. Bach (d. 1750)

Dona nobis pacem.

(Grant us peace.)

THE RHODES SINGERS

Sopranos

Bertz, Christine
Cook, Catherine
Cook, Erin
Davis, Macon
Dickerson, Jennifer
Everett, Ellen
Gilbert, Allison
Glusman, Laurea
Johnson, Amanda
Lanza, Telky
Leith, Maegan
Lockridge, Heather
McCaul, Fiona
McNeese, Cara

Tenors

Bishop, Jason
Hettinger, Chris
Jackson, Thomas

Miller, Shelley
Moncrief, Anne
Montminy, Renee
Potter, Erin
Ransford, Carolyn
Rhew, Janet
Robbins, Alli
Smelser, Judith
Sobel, Rebekah
Squire, Sarah
Stansell, Audrey
West, Abigail
Witte, Valerie

Robert, Stuart
Stopera, Chris

Altos

Anthony, Amy
Calicott, Velicia
Coleman, Heather
Davis, Jennifer
Dellinger, Andrea
Hall, Amanda
Harris, Jessi
Heard, Ailsa

Basses

Baumert, Stephen
Fullerton, Barry
Hill, Jon
Jordan, Sam
Lum, Richard
Marshall, John
Olsen, Kevin

Land, Elizabeth
Loux, Tara
Meredith, Susan
Molina, Molly
Ogden, Emily
Thomas, Elisabeth
Watt, Elizabeth
Whitmire, Mary Ann

Patterson, Chris
Pichon, Ed
Spitzer, Lee
Wendell, Kevin
Willis, Brian
Wright, Bobby

MUSIC ACADEMY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Boulden, Dustin
Boulden, Rachel
Bryant, Annalise
Caldwell, Ashley
Carpenter, Thomas
Chandler, Julianne
Compton, Susan
Craft, Richard
Craft, Virginia
Dawkins, Ross
Douglass, Dani
Downs, Keri
Doyle, Bennett
Flores, Sarah
Fly, Jacob
Foster, Kristin

Fountain, Casey
Goodwin, Robin
Harkness, Melissa
Harris, Amanda
Harris, Ashley
Heiberg, Haley
Higgs, Ashlea
Hill, Elizabeth
Hinson, Jessica
Hutcheson, Ashley
Jett, Amber Nykole
Jones, Jennefer
Joyner, Sally
Kee, William
Koon, Laura
Kvidera, Amy

Long, Jessica
Maguire, Erin
Matthews, Kyla
McCain, Mia
McKinzie, Tabia
McPhee, Seneca
Means, Lara
Morris, Carli
Music, Katie
Nesin, Sarah
Parks, Rebekah
Parrish, Lauren
Peterson, Frank
Powell, Elizabeth
Rogers, Eric
Ross, Heather

Rushing, Brandon
Sawyer, Crystal
Scott, Zach
Shea, Eileen
Smith, Aaron
Spence, Emily
Spraberry, Sarah
Springfield, Anna
Steward, Shayna
Stiles, Lauren
Strong, Christopher
Tom, Matthew
Wilensky, Abby
Williams, Becky
Willis, Julie

MUSIC ACADEMY YOUNG SINGERS

Aaron, Starr
Craft, Ashley
Demetrio, Christy

Edmonds, Brett
Gala, Michelle
Garner, Margaret
Greer, Katie

Hoback, Jessica
Phillips, Kelly
Ross, Erin

Scott, Lauren
Smith, Jeremy
Smith, Myla

EVERGREEN BELL CHOIR

Baldwin, Mary Allie
Baucum, Ireys
Champion, Mardi
Childers, Jenny
Crumpley, Merrie Jo
Garner, Bette

Nathan, Catherine
Trentham, Wendy
Vogel, Amanda
Wallace, Barbara
Watson, Sue Ellen

GERMANTOWN BELL CHOIR

Boudinet, Sue
Bradley, Jo
Eggers, Pam
Fleetwood, Susan
Hill, Jennifer
McLendon, Dana

Osborn, Ivy
Thurner, Lisa
Van Alstine, Gaylene
Walton, JoAnn
Wilson, Roz

THE RHODES BRASS

Lee Weimer, Joel Rusche, Chris Carillo, *trumpet*
Mark Rogan, Mark Vail, *trombone*

THE RHODES SINGERS

The Rhodes Singers, in addition to this tenth annual Christmas concert at St. Mary's, have this past weekend participated in Ralph Vaughan Williams's 'Hodie' for the fifth consecutive year. They will join alumni and members of the Rhodes Mastersingers Chorale April 27, 1997 in the quinquennial performance of the Bach 'Mass in B minor,' with Tony Lee Garner conducting the singers, soloists and the Memphis Symphony Chamber Orchestra.

The touring tradition of the Singers has been alive for most of the twentieth century. In May of 1996 the ensemble, augmented by members of the Rhodes Mastersingers Chorale, travelled to the Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria, marking the seventh European tour for the Singers, and continuing the global tradition that dates back to the Romanian tour of 1976. The sixtieth tour takes the Singers to Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi in May of 1997.

Professor Tony Lee Garner became conductor of the Singers in 1967. In addition to holding the conducting post, he is Chair of the Music and Theatre departments at Rhodes, Artistic Director of the McCoy Theatre on campus, Conductor of the Rhodes Mastersingers Chorale, and Director of Music at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. He was founder and principal conductor of the Masterpiece Festival Chorus and Orchestra, Conductor of the Rhodes Chamber Orchestra, and was for twenty-seven years Musical Director at Theatre Memphis. In 1994 he attended his fourth session in southern France as a member of the Robert Shaw Institute Singers. This group has recorded four discs for Telarc and performs in New York annually as a part of Carnegie Hall's concert series.

Professor David Ramsey is the associate conductor and accompanist for the Singers. Mr. Ramsey, in wide demand as a concert artist and accompanist, is Organist-in-Residence at Rhodes and Director of Music and Organist at St. John's United Methodist Church. He was organist for the Memphis Chicks professional baseball team for twenty-two years. In the fall of 1996 he completed a tour of Italy as organist for the St. Francis of Assisi Church choir of Memphis, a trip highlighted by two appearances at St. Peter's Basilica.

THE RHODES MUSIC ACADEMY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The MACC ensemble, a 60-voice community chorus, is in its fifth year at Rhodes. The fourth through seventh graders perform at a variety of occasions in the Memphis community throughout the school year, including two annual appearances with the college Singers, at Christmas and the spring concert.

The conductor is Susan Van Dyck, whose infectious enthusiasm for teaching and working with children has had much to do with the success of the choir. She graduated from Rhodes, then received her Master of Education degree from the University of Memphis. She is Orff Music Specialist at the Campus School of UM and Director of the Children's Chorus for Opera Memphis productions. A 1993 recipient of the Rotary Award for Teacher Excellence, she is an active clinician, holding workshops around the country for elementary music educators.

THE RHODES MUSIC ACADEMY YOUNG SINGERS

The newest ensemble of the Academy is under the aegis of Rhodes and Evergreen Presbyterian Church. Students in grades 7-12 comprise MAYS, which is making its performing debut in the St. Mary's and campus Christmas concerts this week.

Their director, Cynthia Harris, is a doctoral candidate at the University of Memphis and a Kodaly specialist.

OUR COMPACT DISC RECORDINGS

The Rhodes Singers newest CD, "Make a Joyful Noise: A History of Communal Singing in America," recorded at the conclusion of the 1994 spring tour, was released in late 1994. It is available after tonight's concert in the adjoining Parish Hall for the price of \$15.

The Singers Christmas CD, "O Magnum Mysterium," previously released in 1992, features settings by Victoria, Poulenc and Rhodes alumnus Hayes Biggs of the timeless Christmas text "O Magnum Mysterium." It also includes music by Memphis composer Shirley W. McRae, Kenneth Leighton and others, and is also available for \$15.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ART

Everyone knows that producing art is an expensive enterprise. Everyone knows that encouraging young performers is one of the brightest hopes for our future as a society. If you would like to be a part of producing art at Rhodes College and if you would like to encourage our young performers in the pursuit of their art, you are invited to make a gift to any one of the following restricted funds which are available. Simply mail your tax deductible gift to the Development Office, Rhodes College, 2000 North Parkway, Memphis, TN 38112, naming the fund and any specific designation for its use.

- The Adams Music Library Fund (*for general support of library program*)
- The Gladys Cauthen Memorial Fund (*for general support of the music program*)
- The Lois Maer Memorial Fund (*for piano rebuilding*)
- The Jane Soderstrom Music Fund (*for maintenance of instruments*)
- Tuthill Chamber Music (*for support of chamber music performance*)
- The Maude Walker Memorial Fund (*for general support of the music program*)
- The Rhodes Choral Music Series (*for support of choral concerts*)
- The Rhodes Academy Scholarship Fund (*for support of worthy students*)

CHORAL MUSIC AT RHODES 1996-1997 REMAINING CONCERTS (for ticket information call 726-3839)

February 23, at 2:30 p. m. * Evergreen Presbyterian Church
St. Matthew Passion (Bach)

**Mastersingers Chorale
Memphis Symphony Chamber Orchestra**

April 27, at 2:30 p. m. * Evergreen Presbyterian Church
The Fourth Quinquennial Performance
Mass in B Minor (Bach)

**Rhodes Singers, Alumni and Mastersingers Chorale
Memphis Symphony Chamber Orchestra**

May 16, at 7:30 p. m. * Evergreen Presbyterian Church
Annual Spring Concert

**The Unicorn, Gorgon and Manticore (Menotti) and The Music of Spain
Rhodes Singers, Children's Chorus and Young Singers of the Academy**