

**A FESTIVAL CHORUS**  
and  
**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

PRESENT

**HODIE**

**"T h i s D a y"**

by

**RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**

**TONY LEE GARNER, CONDUCTOR**

Lori Bade - Soprano  
Randal Rushing - Tenor  
Charles Billings - Bass

The Rhodes College Singers  
The Rhodes Mastersingers Chorale  
Memphis High School Honors Chorus  
The Rhodes Music Academy Children's Chorus  
*Director of Children's Chorus: Susan Van Dyck*

WITH

**THE MEMPHIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

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**HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL DIRECTORS**  
Briarcrest Christian School - Scott Brooks  
Collierville High School - Mary Dell Yancey  
Millington High School - Nelba Thomas  
Snowden School - Thomas Hamilton  
White Station High School - Beverly Cox

**This performance is dedicated to the memory of John Wehlan**

DECEMBER 8, 1996

4:00 P.M.

**EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# 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 awful 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. Kyrie eleison.  
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. Kyrie eleison.  
And this he did for us freely,  
For to declare his great mercy;  
All Christendom be merry therefore,  
And give him thanks for evermore. Kyrie eleison.  
*(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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This performance has been made possible in previous years and will be made possible again in 1997 by a grant from the Memphis Arts Council.

This performance is the second in the Rhodes Choral Music Series of 1996-97. The remaining performances are listed in the brochure which was given to you with this program.

Major gifts which have made the Rhodes Choral Music Series possible came from the following:

*The James T. McAfee Jr. and Carolyn T. McAfee Foundation  
James and Donna Springfield  
Ms. Henry Varnell  
Ms. Nina McLemore*

We are indebted to many, many people for this performance. We are especially grateful to the staff and members of Evergreen Presbyterian Church and to the staff of the Music and Theatre Departments and the Rhodes Box Office.



## Program Notes:

Ralph Vaughan Williams was born in Down Ampney, Gloucester. He was one of the leading figures in the renaissance of interest in and use of English folk music. His works include symphonies, operas, film music and many choral works.

"Hodie" was written in 1952-53 and received its premier performance at the "Three Choirs Festival" at the Worcester Cathedral on September 8, 1954. The title is from the well-known text for the Christmas Day Vespers service. It is the work of a master composer at the apex of his creative powers and in possession of great wisdom and understanding.

"Hodie" juxtaposes the biblical (as well as texts from the Book of Common Prayer) narrative of the birth of Jesus and poetry from a wide range of dazzling English poetry. The narration is given, for the most part, to the children's choir. The image of purity conjured up by the use of children's voices makes them the perfect vehicle for bringing us the "word of God" as expressed in the scriptures. There is very little to draw our attention away from the declamation of the text.

The alternation between scripture and personal reflections is not new or unique with Vaughan Williams. We find that same structure in the Lutheran cantatas of J.S. Bach and, most clearly, in his "St. John" and "St. Matthew" passion settings. The poetry in those Bach works and in the "Hodie" serve as a sort of homily on the scriptures, giving us an opportunity for letting our imaginations enrich our spirits. Two contemporary works which also use an alternation of scripture and poetry are Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem" and Leonard Bernstein's "Mass."

There are two sublimely beautiful *a cappella* movements in the work. These are in direct reference to two major influences in the composer's music. One of those was the music of J.S. Bach and most particularly, the chorales. The other influence is that of English folk music. Perhaps it is because these two movements are enriched and informed by these two major influences that they are so extraordinarily beautiful.

There is another very specific reference which is both a tribute to our musical heritage and an intellectual, spiritual, thrill. Vaughan Williams sets the text "and she shall bring forth a son" to the melody used by Beethoven in the great "Missa Solemnis" to set the text "et incarnatus est" (and was made flesh). Vaughan Williams returns to this melody in the final movement of "Hodie" when he sets the text "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God." These are circles within circles of musical and spiritual meaning.

This work has a rich and growing history in Memphis. It received its first performances in the early 1970's at Second Presbyterian Church under the direction of Thomas Ashcraft. Rhodes took up the joy of bringing this work to life in 1978 and 1979. The annual tradition took root in 1992 and for three years the work was performed at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The venue was moved last year to Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

The involvement of youth and children from across our city has been one of the most joyous aspects of this annual performance. There is a clear need for our young people to be exposed to and have the opportunity to perform great works in this kind of event.

TLG

# THE CHOIRS

## THE FESTIVAL CHORUS

### SOPRANO

Aaron, Starr  
Bell, Candice  
Bertz, Christine  
Childs, Rachel  
Cockrill, Katherine  
Cook, Catherine  
Cook, Erin  
Crockett, Amy Baldwin  
Daniel, Ann  
Davis, Macon  
Dickerson, Jennifer  
Dotson, Pam  
Everett, Ellen  
Garner, Bette  
Gilbert, Allison  
Glusman, Laurea  
Hurayt, Anna  
Johnson, Elizabeth  
Knight, Jude  
Lanza, Telky  
Leith, Maegan  
Lockridge, Heather  
McCaul, Fiona  
McNeese, Cara  
Miller, Shelley  
Miller, Nell  
Moncrief, Anne  
Montminy, Renee  
Nathan, Catherine  
Negelein, Rachel  
Potter, Erin  
Ransford, Carolyn  
Rhew, Jane  
Robbins, Alli  
Rushing, Penny  
Smelser, Judith  
Sobel, Rebekah  
Squire, Sarah  
Turpen, Virginia  
West, Abigail  
Witte, Valerie

### ALTO

Anthony, Amy  
Baldwin, Mary Allie  
Bigham, Jan  
Calicott, Velicia  
Coleman, Heather  
Davis, Jennifer  
Dellinger, Andrea  
Edmonds, Susan  
Gamble, Jane  
Hall, Amanda  
Harris, Jessi  
Heard, Alisa  
Joyner, Meredith  
Land, Elizabeth  
Larson, Jennifer  
Loux, Tara  
McLaughlin, Jessica  
Meiman, Julie  
Meredith, Susan  
Molina, Molly  
Norton, Martha  
Ogden, Emily  
Price, Holly Hall  
Shapiro, Rachel  
Sharp, Ann G.  
Shoemaker, Terron  
Stansell, Audrey  
Taylor, Bethany  
Thomas, Elisabeth  
Watt, Elizabeth  
Whitmire, Mary  
Yates, Leslie

### TENOR

Arnold, Keith  
Baldwin, Richard  
Bishop, Jason  
Cormier, J. Briggs  
Hettinger, Chris  
Jackson, Thomas  
Kurts-Parrish, Linda  
Luter, Chris  
Marus, Rob  
McFarland, Jason  
Phillips, Andrew  
Robert, Stuart  
Sharp, C. Edward  
Stopera, Chris  
Tolley, Blaine  
Townsend, Allen  
Vogel, James

### BASS

Armstrong, Taylor  
Baumert, Stephen  
Flores, Bill  
Fullerton, Barry  
Halvorson, Joel  
Hill, Jon  
Jordan, Sam  
Keuper, Harry  
Klein, Andrew  
Lum, Richard  
Marshall, John  
Neal, Bob  
Olsen, Kevin  
Orr, Matt  
Patterson, Chris  
Patterson, Robert  
Pichon, Edward  
Spitzer, Lee  
Stratton, Kevin  
Wendell, Kevin  
Westbrook, Ben  
Williamson, James  
Willis, Brian  
Wright, Robert

## RHODES MUSIC ACADEMY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Boulden, Dustin  
Boulden, Rachel  
Bryant, Annalise  
Caldwell, Ashley  
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  
Jones, Jennefer  
Joyner, Sally  
Kee, William  
Koon, Laura  
Kvidera, Amy  
Long, Jessica  
Maguire, Erin  
Matthews, Kyla  
McCain, Mia  
McKinzie, Tabia  
McPhee, Seneca  
Means, Lara  
Music, Katie  
Nesin, Sarah

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

## MEMPHIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

### Violin I

Kevin Case, Concertmaster  
Paul Turnbow, Assistant Concertmaster  
Laurie Pyatt, Assistant Principal  
Wen-Yih You

### Viola

Michael Molnau, Principal  
Michelle Walker Fine, Assistant Principal  
Marshall Fine, Assistant Principal  
Irene Wade

### Bass

Scott Best, Principal  
Sara Chiego, Assistant Principal  
Julia Dye

### Oboe

Shelly Sublett, Principal  
Saundra D'Amato (English Horn)

### Bassoon

Leyla Zamora, Principal  
Michael Scott

### Trumpet

Scott Moore, Principal  
Susan Enger

### Bass Trombone

Mark Vail

### Timpani

Frank Shaffer

### Celeste

Deborah Heath

### Violin II

Christine Palmer, Principal  
Gaylon Patterson, Assistant Principal  
Donna Poole, Assistant Principal  
Ann Spurbeck

### Violoncello

Karen Hall, Principal  
David Cho, Assistant Principal  
Phyllis Long, Assistant Principal

### Flute

Karen Busler, Principal  
Christy Tate (Piccolo)

### Clarinet

James Gholson, Principal  
Elizabeth Weimer

### Horn

Jennifer Kummer, Principal  
Jill Wilson, Associate Principal

### Trombone

Greg Luscombe, Principal  
Don Bennett

### Tuba

Charels Schulz, Principal

### Percussion

John Sprott, Principal  
Ed Murray, Assistant Principal