



Robert L. Harris, conductor

presents

# *A Choral Christmas*

December 16, 1996

8:00 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church

# program

**Christus nobis natus est**

**Joseph Seger**  
(1716-1782)

Seger was a Czech organist-composer who spent most of his professional life in Prague. This motet which celebrates the birth of Christ was composed in an archaic style more typical of the Renaissance

**O magnum mysterium**

**Thomas Luis de Victoria**  
(1549-1611)

**O magnum mysterium**

**Kevin Hampton**

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament that animals should see their new-born Lord lying in their manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

**Ave Maria**

**Franz Biebl**  
(1908- )

This gentle setting of the Ave Maria, while composed in the 20th century, is more typical of an earlier age.

The angel of the Lord made his annunciation to Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hail, Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with you; Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus. Mary said: Behold the handmaiden of the Lord. Let it be unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary ...

And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

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

**Stacie O'Connor, soprano**

**Sonia W. Yoder, mezzo soprano**

**Raymond R. Ellis, jr., baritone**

**Alleluja, freuet euch ihr Christen alle Andreas Hammerschmidt**  
(1612-1675)

Alleluia! Come ye, Christians, and rejoice, rejoice all ye who can: God has done great things for us. Raise your voices and rejoice that He has honored us and deigned to make of us His friends.

Joy, joy upon joy, Christ defends against all woe, Bliss, bliss upon bliss,  
He is the sun of mercy.

Look, my soul, look well and see how thy Savior comes to thee, how his constant burning love brings him for thy sake, to lie in the manger-cave forlorn, to redeem thee with his blood.

Joy, joy...

How shall I thank Thee, Jesus Lord? I acknowledge that my weal is Thy doing, so let me not ever waver from Thy side: take me as Thine own, that I with heart and soul may ever know

Joy, joy...

Jesus, take Thy fellow-man deeper still into Thy grace. Grant what Thou alone can give: to Thy brethren comfort and cheer; unto every Christian here bestow peace and blessings all the year.

Joy, joy... Alleluia!

Nathaniel Roper, baritone

Henry S. Gibbons, baritone

S. Erich Landstrom, bass

Gene L. Jarvis, organ

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Michael Praetorius

(1571-1621)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Steven Curtis Lance

Linda Estes, flute

Totus Tuus

Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki

(1933- )

I dedicate myself to you, O Mary, mother of our Redeemer, virgin of God, virgin holy, mother of the Saviour of the world.

Alleluya, A New Work Is Come on Hand

Peter Wishart

## intermission

Estampie Natalis

Vaclav Nelhybel

(1919-1996)

The boy born in Bethlehem, Halleluia, rejoice Jerusalem - In joy of heart let us adore the new born Christ with a new song. The son has assumed flesh - the virgin has conceived a Son - here He lies in the manger - He who rules without end. With joy let us adore Christ with a new song. In joy of this birth, let us bless the Lord. Let the Holy trinity be praised. Give thanks unto God.

Nathaniel Roper, baritone

Stacie O'Connor, soprano

Sonia W. Yoder, mezzo soprano

Hodie\*

Vaclav Nelhybel

Today Christ is born; today the Saviour has appeared; today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice; today the righteous rejoice, saying: "Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia"

Three Slovak Christmas Carols	arr. Richard Kountz
Alleluia! Jesus Is Born	
Come Ye All to Bethlehem	
On This Holy Christmas Morn	
Lullay Lord Jesus (Poland)	arr. George Thalben-Ball
All My Heart This Night Rejoices (Germany)	arr. Leo Nestor
The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem (USA)	arr. Ralph Johnson
Mimi Ellis, soprano	
Sonia W. Yoder, percussion	
The Lamb	John Tavener
The Wexford Carol (Ireland)	arr. Robert Wetzler
Carol of the Birds (Catalonia)	arr. Shaw/Parker
Diane R. O'Brien, soprano	
The Boar's Head Carol (England)	arr. Shaw/Parker
Sing We All of Our Saviour Mild (France)	arr. Bradley Ellingboe
Gene L. Jarvis, recorder	
Linda Estes, recorder	
Billy Wooten, percussion	
Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella (France)	arr. Shaw/Parker
Masters in this Hall (France)	arr. Richard Zgodava

**\*world premier performance**

Tonight I Cantori has the honor to present the premier of **Hodie** which was commissioned from the great Czech/American composer, Vaclav Nelhybel. He took his early music training in his native country at the Prague Conservatory, and later, in Switzerland. After teaching there and working for Radio Free Europe during the 1950's he came to the United States in 1957, becoming a naturalized citizen in 1962. He was renowned for his compositions, particularly those for symphonic band. He was also in great demand as a conductor and clinician. Those who knew him treasured his musicianship but also his gentle humor and his dedication to the training of future musicians. It was with a deep sense of loss that the music world mourns his passing. It was a singular honor for us that **Hodie** was the last work he completed before his death.

## personnel

### I Cantori

#### soprano

Peggy Breese  
Mimi Ellis  
Mari Harris  
Diane R. O'Brien  
Stacie O'Connor  
Beth Pafford

#### alto

Charlotte Caplan  
Linda Estes  
Carol Gray  
Tonya Hillis  
Lori Wacker  
Sonia W. Yoder

#### tenor

Randy Canady  
Raymond R. Ellis, jr.  
Nathaniel Roper  
Jody Turner  
Timothy Wheelles  
Billy Wooten

#### bass

Darien C. Bohannon  
Daniel C. Cohen  
Henry S. Gibbons  
Jeff Herrin  
Gene L. Jarvis  
S. Erich Landstrom

#### manager

Diane O'Brien

#### treasurer

Raymond R. Ellis, jr.

#### wardrobe

Anita Turner

### orchestra

Marina Lindblom, violin

LiZhou Liu, viola\*

Lui Chong, cello\*

Shannon Sprinkle, piccolo\*

John Warren, clarinet

Laura Najarian, bassoon

Rod Wilks, trumpet

Michael Brubaker, French horn

Steven Stepson, trombone

Jesse Jordan, percussion\*

Amy Dominee, percussion\*

Kevin Orr, percussion\*

\*Estampie Natalis



## acknowledgments

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Fr. William Ralston, rector  
Kenneth Yates, choirmaster

Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Dr. James Anderson  
Dr. Chris White  
Dr. Jon Wacker

On-Site Sound

Viewfinder Consulting - Melissa Emery

Becky Bowden - The Anderson Group

Sponsorship contributions can be designated for use in support of the I Cantori Scholarship in Choral Music. This award, which covers full tuition for one year, goes to an outstanding music student at Armstrong Atlantic University who is preparing for a career in choral music. The award winner for 1996-97 is Darren Harrison. The past winner is Sonia Yoder.

I Cantori also welcomes support for our ongoing project of commissioning new compositions by eminent choral composers. In 1995 we premiered "Four Fragments from John Donne" by Daniel Pinkham. Last Spring we had the honor of presenting the first performance of "And the White Rose Is a Dove" which was commissioned from Williametta Spencer. Tonight we present the premier of "Hodie" by Vaclav Nehlybel.

This Spring we will premier a new work based on the Beatitudes which we have commissioned from the Czech composer, Zdenek Lukas. I Cantori had the honor of premiering his "Requiem" four years ago. Peter Schickele has been commissioned for a new work for March of 1998. We are also joining with Temple Mickve Israel in commissioning a new setting of the Jewish Sacred Service by the Republic of Georgian composer, Joseph Bardanashvili. Significant donors can have their name included in the printed edition of the work when it is published. Any support is most welcome. For more information call 925-7866.

We would like to add your name to our mailing list so that we can inform you of upcoming concerts. Won't you please take the time to fill in the information on the form enclosed in tonight's program and give it to an usher or to one of the singers.

## **upcoming events**

**March 3, 1997 - 8:00 p.m.**

***Chorus Lite - 98% less serious***

***Five Centuries of humor in Choral Music***

**St. John's Episcopal Church - Madison Square**

Chorus Lite will present humorous selections from the choral repertoire of five centuries. This concert will be presented as a part of Savannah on Stage.

**Spring 1997 - Date TBA**

***An Evening of Premiers***

**St John's Episcopal Church**

We will feature the world premier of a newly commissioned composition from Zdenek Lukas from the Czech Republic. We are finalizing arrangements with the composer to fit our concert into his schedule so that he can attend. We will also give the first modern performances of several newly edited works by the Italian Baroque composer, Francesco Durante.



Vaclav Nelhybel  
1919 - 1996