Sounds of Christmas

University Singers, The Knights Chorus and PLU Ringers

Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 8pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center
Pacific Lutheran University
School of Arts and Communication and the Department of Music present

*Sounds of Christmas*

University Singers, The Knights Chorus and PLU Ringers

Richard Nance, Barry Johnson and Linda Miller, conductors
Paul Tegels, organ

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Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall.
Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the performance.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

**Program**

(Please hold applause until the conclusion of the concert)

**Processional: Creator of the Stars of Night** .................................................................**arr. Jeffery Honoré**
Combined choirs and PLU Ringers • Logan Kropp, student conductor

**Reading: Advent** ..............................................................................................................**Thomas Merton (1915 - 1968)**
Jonny Maier, reader

Charm with your stainlessness
these winter nights,
Skies, and be perfect!
Fly vivider in the fiery dark, you quiet meteors,
And disappear.
You moon, be slow to go down,
This is your full!

The four white roads make off in silence
Towards the four parts of the starry universe.
Time falls like manna
at the corners of the wintry earth.
We have become more humble than the rocks,
More wakeful than the patient hills.

Charm with your stainlessness
these nights in Advent, holy spheres,
While minds, as meek as beasts,
Stay close at home in the sweet hay;
And intellects are quieter
than the flocks that feed by starlight.

Oh pour your darkness and your brightness
over all our solemn valleys,
You skies:
and travel like the gentle Virgin,
Toward the planets’ stately setting,
Oh white full moon as quiet as Bethlehem!

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel** ..........................................................................................**arr. Cynthia Dobrinski (b. 1950)**
PLU Ringers

**Audience Carol: Of The Father’s Love Begotten** (please stand and sing)

1. (All)
   - Of the Father’s love begotten,
   - E’re the worlds began to be,
   - He is Alpha and Omega,
   - He the source, the ending he,
   - Of the things that are, that have been,
   - And that future years shall see,
   - Evermore and evermore.

2. (All)
   - Oh, that birth forever blessed,
   - When the virgin, full of grace,
   - By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
   - Bore the Savior of our race,
   - And the babe, the world’s redeemer,
   - First revealed his sacred face,
   - Evermore and evermore.
3. (All)
Let the heights of heav’n adore him,  
Angel hosts, his praises sing;  
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before him  
And extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev’ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

Nova, Nova, Ave Fit Ex Eva ........................................................................................................................................Williametta Spencer (b. 1927)

Reading: O Simplicitas .........................................................................................................................................................Madeleine L’Engle (1918 - 2007)

Joy Edwards, reader

An angel came to me
and I was unprepared

to be what God was using.
Mother I was to be.
A moment I despaired,
thought briefly of refusing.
The angel knew I heard.
According to God’s Word
I bowed to this strange choosing.

A palace should have been
the birthplace of a king
(I had no way of knowing).
We went to Bethlehem;
it was so strange a thing.
The wind was cold, and blowing,
my cloak was old, and thin.
They turned us from the inn;
the town was overflowing.

God’s Word, a child so small
who still must learn to speak
lay in humiliation.
Joseph stood, strong and tall,
The beasts were warm and meek
and moved with hesitation.
The Child born in a stall?
I understood it: all.
Kings came in adoration.

Perhaps it was absurd;
a stable set apart,
the sleepy cattle lowing;
and the incarnate Word
resting against my heart.
My joy was overflowing.
The shepherds came, adored
the folly of the Lord,

wiser than all men’s knowing.

Gesu Bambino .........................................................................................................................................................Pietro Yon (1886 – 1943)

The Knights Chorus • Skye Gibbs, mezzo-soprano • Rachel King, piano

Sing Noel .........................................................................................................................................................Alfred E. Sturgis (b. 1960)

The Knights Chorus

Candlelight Carol ..................................................................................................................................................John Rutter (b. 1945)

University Singers • Julie Landes, student conductor • Paul Tegels, organ

Audience Carol: The First Noel (please stand and sing)

1. (All)
The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

And so it continued both day and night.

2. (Women)
They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

3. (Men)
And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.
4. (All)
Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav’nly Lord,
That hath made heav’n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel.

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow ................................................................. arr. Frank Almond
The Knights Chorus • Isaiah Taylor, baritone

All Men Draw Near ..................................................................................... Peter Williams (1937 – 2016)
University Singers • Julie Landes, piano

Oh My Dear Heart ........................................................................................ Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)
University Singers

Reading: Carol .............................................................................................. Thomas Merton (1915 - 1968)
Isaiah Taylor, reader

Flocks feed by darkness with a noise of whispers,
In the dry grass of pastures,
And lull the solemn night with their weak bells.

God’s glory, now,
is kindled gentler than low candlelight
Under the rafters of a barn:
Eternal piece is sleeping in the hay,
And Wisdom’s born in secret
in a straw-roofed stable.

And O!
Make holy music in the stars, you happy angels.
You shepherds, gather on the hill.
Look up, you timid flocks, where the three kings
Are coming through the wintry trees;

While we unnumbered children of the wicked centuries
Come after with our penances and prayers,
And lay them down in the sweet-smelling hay
Beside the wise men’s golden jars.

Audience Carol: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (please stand and sing)

1. (All)
It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. (All)
Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lonely plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. (Combined Choirs)
Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain has rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

4. (All)
For lo! The days are hast’ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.
Reading: Not Celebrate? ................................................................. Ann Weems (1935 – 2016)

Erica Lee, reader

Not celebrate?
Your burden is too great to bear?
Your loneliness is intensified
during this Christmas season?
Your tears have no end?
Not celebrate?
You should lead the celebration!
You should run through the streets
to ring the bells and sing the loudest!
You should fling the tinsel on the tree,
and open your house to your neighbors,
and call them in to dance!
For it is you above all others
who know the joy of Advent.
It is unto you that a Savior is born this day,
One who comes to lift your burden
from your shoulders,
One who comes to wipe the tears from your eyes.
You are not alone,
For He is born this day to you.

The Knights Chorus • Alex Putnam, tenor

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen..............................................arr. Philip Kern
The Knights Chorus • Rachel King, piano

Christmas the Morn.................................................................Kirke Mechem (b. 1925)
University Singers

Reading: It Is Not Over ............................................................... Ann Weems (1935 – 2016)
Jamie McNeil, reader

It is not over, this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which God can throw stars.
When we begin to think that we can predict the
Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,
that’s just the time that God will be born
in a place we can’t imagine and won’t believe.
Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening, always listening for angel words.

Benediction .............................................................................. James Early
Kody Allen, reader

May your heart hear the songs of angels,
and may the star of Bethlehem
shine on the gift you bring the Christ Child.

Audience Carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (please stand and sing)

1. (All)
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2. (All)
Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see!
Hail, the incarnate deity!
Pleased as us with all to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
3. (All)
Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,

Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

(Appplause welcome and appreciated here!)

Postlude: Noël Suisse ................................................................. Louis-Claude Daquin (1694 – 1772)

Paul Tegels, organ

Personnel

PLU Ringers
Linda Miller, conductor • Logan Kropp, student conductor

Natalee Aalgaard Sabrina Hussein Jessica Le Poidevin Sophie Schroeder
Kelli Bower Phyllis Jenkins Katie McGregor Ethan Warwick
Natalie Breshears Carl Johnson Monique Otter-Johnson
Rebecca Heberling Logan Kropp Charles Reinmuth

The Knights Chorus
Barry Johnson, conductor • Logan Kropp, student conductor
Rachel King, accompanist

Tenor
Kaleb Cenci Logan Kropp Alex Putnam Alex Youngquist
Logan Kropp Tomick Necessary Dylan Ruggeri
Malcolm Omri Terran Stack

Bass
Kody Allen Aidan Bartness Avery Carlson
Dalton Best Mark Burch Carson Fujisaki

Avery Carlson
Dominique Hart

The University Singers
Richard Nance, conductor • Julie Landes, student conductor

Soprano 1
Rosemary Bennett Daylyn Carrigan Jessica Furnstahl Abigail Kunkel Emily Miller
Marissa Moultrie Timari Moxcey Stephanie Pfundt Kristin Sorensen Jessica Swanson Savannah Truluck

Soprano 2
Natalee Aalgaard Molly Costello Kristen Joy Edwards Jacqueline Jackson Whi Jung
Drew Hoyt Julie Landes Erica Lee
Jamie Rose McNeil Sarah Nelson Helen Plotkin
Caitlin Sarwono Hailey Wharton

Alto 1
Amanda Ades Yuliya Borenko Kelli Bower
Sadie Brownlee Dominique Hart Teresa Keck
Kate Lychik Krista Osborne Kaitlin Reagin
Rhyonna Rosales Erin Smith

Alto 2
Tiana Berg Madi Dever Skye Gibbs Emily Groseclose
Colby Handle Colby Handle Celeste Jessop
Sahara Jones Janelle Purser Eric Query
Kylie Steves

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