

Inspire musicians to gladden the hearts of

Light From The West

people by filling the air with God's gift

American Insights

of music and reminding them of the divine

of the Church Tradition

Musician who created all beauty. Amen

York County Choral Society

Rock Hill, SC, USA

David Lowry, *Conductor* • Shirley Fishburne, *Organ*

Tour of Wales & England 2000

Light from the West

American Insights of the Church Tradition

York County Choral Society, Rock Hill, South Carolina
David Lowry, Music Director
Shirley Fishburne, Organist

Tour of Wales and England
MUSIC BY AMERICAN COMPOSERS

The York County Choral Society has its home in Rock Hill, South Carolina just over the state line from Charlotte, North Carolina. Rock Hill is in York County, adjoining Chester and Lancaster Counties in South Carolina, with Charlotte (named for Queen Charlotte) in Mecklenberg County, North Carolina. While this hardly constitutes an "English" heritage, at least in name the region has links to the UK.

Founded in the 1980-81 season, members of the YCCS began inquiring two years ago about celebrating its twentieth year with a tour. The decision was made early that the repertory would be all American. Many American leaders admire greatly the choral traditions of the United Kingdom, and sing many of the works of Britten, Stanford, Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Howells, MacMillan, Purcell, et al. However, it is true that, especially during the 20th century, the influences from the East side of the Atlantic have greatly influenced the shaping of many new styles which are nothing less than distinctly American.

In the USA, there are legions of fine composers in various disciplines. Choosing only a few composers who write for the church in the spirit of the traditional approach is hardly a fair display of what has been accomplished throughout the last 100 years. Yet each of the compositions selected reflects something of the insight of the church tradition. To be sure, the "church" in America covers an extraordinary breadth of sects and styles and sizes. Many American Christian churches have never heard a single composition we bring with us, much less those of British heritages. By the same token, members of the YCCS may well not know much about the music of many American sects.

Our choices of music for this tour are drawn from composers who strive to maintain a standard of excellence in church music. The choices reflect European heritages, American jazz harmonic idioms, and American folk traditions.

DAVID LOWRY is the co-founder, with Shirley Fishburne, of the YCCS and has served as its music director since its beginning. He is professor emeritus of Winthrop University in Rock Hill, and internationally recognized as a leader in church music. He is currently Treasurer of the Royal School of Church Music in America and is a past president of the Association of Anglican Musicians. For the latter, he has led two conferences in the UK. He is a concert organist, having appeared across the USA and in Austria and Switzerland as well as the UK. He has a few compositions published which includes "The morning shall awaken" which was written in memory of Elisabeth Williams Dakers and first performed as an introit to evensong at Salisbury Cathedral, Richard Seal conducting.

SHIRLEY FISHBURNE, co-founder of YCCS, is the organist and choirmaster of the Church of Our Saviour in Rock Hill. She has for many years been a leader in children's music and in music education, as well as an organist and leader in professional organizations. She currently is on the Training Courses Committee of the RSCM in America and is course manager for the Carolinas Girls' Course.

In residence

ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL, PEMBROKESHIRE, WALES

Evensong, Saturday, July 22, 2000 - 6 p.m.

Responses - Davison

Psalm 103 - Fenstermaker in B flat; Lowry in F

Evening Service - Powell in F

Anthem: *How can I keep from singing?* - Staheli

Holy Eucharist, Sunday July 23, 2000 - 11.15 a.m.

Introit: *The morning shall awaken* - Lowry

Psalm 101:1-6 - Hurd in F

Mass: *Missa Dorica* - Webster

Anthems: *Now there lightens upon us* - Sowerby

Ave Maria - Conte

Evensong, Saturday July 23, 2000 - 6 p.m.

Responses, Psalm 13, Evening Service - Davison *St. Kilda*

Anthem: *Surge illuminare* - Rorem

Organ works by Locklair, Near, and Woodman

**CONCERT AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PRESTBURY,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Tuesday, July 25, 2000 - 7:30 pm

<i>Surge illuminare</i>	Ned Rorem
<i>O magnum mysterium</i>	Morten Lauridsen
<i>Phos hilaron</i>	Gary Davison
<i>Ave Maria</i>	David Conte
<i>"The Peace may be exchanged" from Rubrics</i>	Dan Locklair
<i>The morning shall awaken</i>	David Lowry
<i>Serenity</i>	Charles Ives
<i>Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary</i>	Thomas Foster
<i>Now there lightens upon us</i>	Leo Sowerby
<i>"...the heavens were opened" (Baptism Dance) from Windows of Comfort</i>	Dan Locklair
<i>My Lord, what a moanin'</i>	Adolphus Hailstork
<i>Steal away</i>	Nicholas White
<i>How can I keep from singing?</i>	Ronald Staheli
<i>Bright Canaan</i>	Robert Shaw/Alice Parker

CONCERT AT DURHAM CATHEDRAL

Thursday, July 27, 2000 - 1:30 pm

<i>Now there lightens upon us</i>	Leo Sowerby
<i>Serenity</i>	Charles Ives
<i>O magnum mysterium</i>	Morten Lauridsen
<i>Steal away</i>	Nicholas White
<i>How can I keep from singing?</i>	Ronald Staheli
<i>The morning shall awaken</i>	David Lowry
<i>Surge illuminare</i>	Ned Rorem

CONCERT AT LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

Friday, July 28, 2000 - 1:10 pm

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH DIED ON THIS DATE IN 1750,
250 YEARS AGO. THE DAY WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT
SINGING ONE OF HIS CHORALE HARMONIZATIONS.

<i>O Welt, ich muß dich lassen</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>Bright Canaan</i>	Robert Shaw/Alice Parker
<i>Ave Maria</i>	David Conte
<i>Serenity</i>	Charles Ives
<i>O magnum mysterium</i>	Morten Lauridsen
<i>The morning shall awaken</i>	David Lowry
<i>Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary</i>	Thomas Foster
<i>My Lord, what a moanin'</i>	Adolphus Hailstork
<i>Steal away</i>	Nicholas White
<i>How can I keep from singing?</i>	Ronald Staheli

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS -

David Conte (b. 1955) is professor of composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The "Ave Maria" was commissioned by the remarkable American male ensemble *Chanticleer*. Mr Conte is published exclusively by E. C. Schirmer of Boston, and composes for all media.

Gary Davison (b. 1961) is the organist and choirmaster of St. Francis' Church, Potomac, Maryland. Mr. Davison's catalog includes a number of anthems and organ works. In 1997 he was commissioned by the Association of Anglican Musicians for an anthem "How shall I sing that majesty," text by John Mason, which was first performed in Southwark Cathedral and conducted by David Lowry.

John Fenstermaker (b. 1942) has been the organist and choirmaster of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco since 1971. Prior to that he held positions in Indianapolis and at the National Cathedral in Washington.

Thomas Foster (b. 1938) is the organist and choirmaster of All Saints Church, Beverly Hills, California. A highly respected musician in the Episcopal Church, his hymn tune *Fisk of Gloucester* appears in the current hymnal of the Episcopal Church USA. The tune is named for the late Charles Fisk, notable organ builder whose shop is in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The descant was composed by Mr. Foster for this tour of the YCCS.

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1942) is one of America's most prominent African-American composers. He holds a doctorate from Michigan State University. He has studied at the American Institute at Fontainebleau with Nadia Boulanger. He credits his intense interest in music to being a treble in the choir of men and boys at All Saints Cathedral, Albany, New York. He has in recent years enjoyed commissions from major symphony orchestras throughout America.

David Hurd (b. 1950) is professor of church music and organist at General Theological Seminary, New York City, a post he has held since 1976. Mr. Hurd is another prominent African-American who has contributed much to the church through his teaching and compositions. His catalog of works include many hymns, chants, anthems and organ works.

Charles Ives (1874-1954) is perhaps the most important name in early twentieth-century American music history. A native of Connecticut, his earliest composition from the 1890s are conceived with little regard for past musical practices. So remarkable are his atonal and bitonal techniques that it was not until after World War II that his works became objects of intense interest, much of it through the efforts of Leonard Bernstein.

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) is professor of composition at the University of Southern California. His works occupy a permanent place in the standard vocal repertoire. Written in 1994, *O magnum mysterium* has become one of the most performed compositions in the past decade.

Dan Locklair (b. 1949) is professor of composition at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He has a remarkable catalog of fine works for several media, including organ and sacred choral works.

Gerald Near (b. 1939) has become one of the most important and prolific composers for the church in America in the last two decades. His choral and organ works as well as service music are heard throughout the USA, especially in Episcopal churches.

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932) has over 200 anthems and numerous organ works, many of which are useful to churches throughout the USA in many Christian denominations. He is the organist and choirmaster of Christ Church, Greenville, South Carolina, where he has been since 1968. Prior to that he was the assistant organist of New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine under Alec Wyton.

Ned Rorem (b. 1923) is a composer of great admiration throughout America. His remarkable, near-Schubertian ability to write for the solo voice makes his mark on twentieth-century music history, as well as orchestral works, one of which won the Pulitzer Prize. It is gratifying that a small but significant portion of his output has been in the field of church music.

Robert Shaw (1916-1999) was arguably one of America's finest and most valuable choral conductors, establishing new standards for American choral music. While not known as a composer of original works, his long-time collaboration with **Alice Parker**, arranging many pieces based on American hymnody and folk music has left a significant contribution to American choral literature.

Leo Sowerby (1895-1968) was for many years a Chicago musician. Idioms of early Chicago jazz harmonies are found in many of his works. His works include all genres of music, but the church is probably the greatest benefactor of his devotion. After retirement from St. James' (now) Cathedral, Chicago, he went on to become director of the College of Church Musicians at the National Cathedral in Washington.

Ronald Staheli is a professor at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where his choral program has risen to one of the top programs in universities in the USA. The setting of Robert Lowry's "How can I keep from singing?" is an indication of his facile knowledge of sonority for choruses.

Richard Webster (b. 1952), sometime organ scholar at Chichester Cathedral, has been the musician at St. Luke's Church, Evanston, Illinois, since 1974, as well as staff organist for the Chicago Symphony. He has consistently presided over a fine training program at St. Luke's, producing superb girls' choirs, and boys and men choirs. The *Missa Dorica* is in frequent use at St. Luke's for choirs and congregation.

Nicholas White (b. 1967) is a native of London and went up as organ scholar to Clare College, Cambridge. He immigrated to the USA in 1989 where, among other positions, he served as assistant organist of the National Cathedral. He recently became organist and choirmaster of St. Michael's Church, New York City. His work in choral conducting is notable, and he has published a number of choral works in the USA.

James Woodman (b. 1957) is among the remarkable circle of musicians in Boston where he is self-employed as a composer in many media. His attention to organ works receives much admiration. Grounded in tonal idioms, he finds fresh methods of expressing music in a distinctly twentieth-century way.

Members of the YCCS Tour of Wales and England

SOPRANO

Robyn Brown
Martha Cowan
Jane Culp
Wendy
Wingard-Gay
Pat Johnson
Miriam Mick
Virginia Moe

ALTO

Sara Castillo
Faye Daniel
Louisa Dills
Veta Evans
Beth Joyce
Betty Salmond
Linda Shealy
Jan Westerman

TENOR

Bill Blough
Gordon Breakfield
Brad Brown
Sharon Collins
Jeff Culp
Chip Grant
Billy Fallaw
Priscilla Jennings

BASS

Andres Castillo
Guillermo Castillo
Allen Clayton
David Cowan
Harry Holder
Mickey Johnson
Timothy Moe
Larry Nipe



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James Lancelot, Organist, and Miss Anne Heywood,
The Chapter Steward, Durham Cathedral
Andy Westbrook, graphic artist