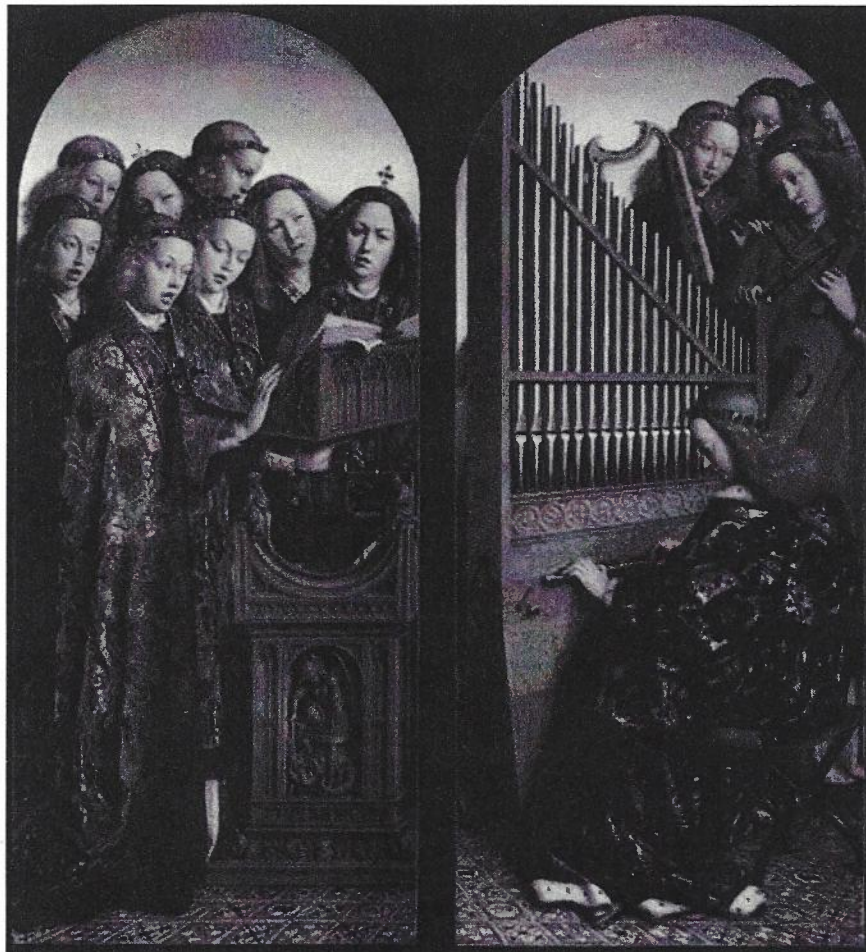


# *York County Choral Society*



*Clearly Spake the Angels With a New Song  
Cum Novo Cantico*

*Sunday, November 20, 2011 – 4 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, South Carolina*

# York County Choral Society

31<sup>st</sup> Season - 2011-2012

DAVID LOWRY, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR  
SUSAN READ, ACCOMPANIST AND VOCAL COACH



## *CLEARLY SPAKE THE ANGELS WITH A NEW SONG*

MUSIC BY CRAIG PHILLIPS,  
GERALD NEAR, AND MICHAEL SITTON

CATHERINE HUNSINGER, SOPRANO  
SUSAN READ AND LOUIS SHIRER, ORGAN

JENNIFER DIOR, FLUTE

HOLLIS ULAKY, OBOE

MICHAEL HOUGH, CLARINET

RICH GOLDFADEN, HORN

HILARY YOST, BASSOON

The cover is from the Altarpiece at St. Bavo Cathedral, Ghent, Belgium.  
The 15<sup>th</sup>-century artists are Hubert and Jan van Eyck.  
The angels are two of twenty-four framed panels forming *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*.

[www.yorkcountychoralsociety.org](http://www.yorkcountychoralsociety.org)

## PROGRAM

### GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

MUSIC BY CRAIG PHILLIPS (B. 1961)

Basque Carol; paraphrase by Sabine Baring-Gould

### CUM NOVO CANTICO

MUSIC BY GERALD NEAR (B. 1942)

#### 1. Antiphon and Chorale

Latin Antiphon from the O Antiphons of Advent

*Veni Emmanuel*: stanza versified by Hal M. Helms.

*Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen*: Tr. by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

#### 2. Noel and Lullaby

*Noël Nouvelet*, Tr. K. W. Simpson, alt., St. 5, GN.

*Coventry Carol*, text by Robert Croo, 1534

#### 3. Cum Novo Cantico

*Puer Natus*. Latin text from the *Liber Cantualis*

English text Tr. N. S. T.

### THE RISK OF BIRTH

MUSIC BY MICHAEL SITTON (B. 1958)

#### 1. INVOCATION

While all things were in quiet silence,  
and night was in the midst of her swift course,  
thine Almighty Word, O Lord,  
leaped down out of thy royal throne. Alleluia.

*Wisdom of Solomon*

18:14-15

*Vespers for Christmas,*

*Western Rite*

#### 2. THE RISK OF BIRTH, CHRISTMAS, 1973

This is no time for a child to be born  
With the earth betrayed by war & hate  
And a comet slashing the sky to warn  
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was to time for a child to be born,  
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;  
Honour & truth were trampled by scorn—  
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?  
The inn is full on the planet earth,  
And by a comet the sky is torn—  
Yet Love takes the risk of birth

*Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007)*

#### 3. IN THIS TIME

In this time God hath sent  
His own Son to be present,  
To dwell with us in verament,

God that is our Savior.

In this time that is befall,  
A Child was born in an oxstall,  
And after He died for us all,

God that is our Savior.

In this time an angel bright  
Met three shepherds upon a night  
He bade them go anon right

To God that is our Savior

In this time now pray we to Him  
That died for us on Tree,

On us all to have pity,

God that is our Savior.

*Anonymous, 16<sup>th</sup> C.*

#### 4. CHORUS OF ANGELS

Unto you a Child,

A Son is given

Praising, proclaiming the ingression of Love.

Earth's darkness invents

The blaze of Heav'n,

And frigid silence

Meditates a song;

For great joy has filled  
The narrow and the sad,  
While the emphasis  
Of the rough and big,  
The abiding crag  
And wandering wave,  
Is on forgiveness:  
Sing Glory to God, and good will to men.  
All, All of them Run to Bethlehem.  
*W. H. Auden (1907-1974)*

### 5. INCARNATE ONE CONTINUE

Incarnate one continue.  
Small Savior do not blind us  
with your transfigured brightness,  
lose us in the maze of thought,  
retire into the attic of abstractions.  
Continue to be born,  
laid, tiny and vulnerable  
on our inhospitable earth,  
Be of a piece with the milk on the doorstep,  
the parabola of the falling leaf,  
the robin and the snowflake.  
Be hatched in the box of our little world.  
Illuminate the curt winter days  
and be the silver cord in the tangle of our lives  
leading somewhere, renewing the tired will,  
into our speech and into our silences  
as dew in April from the unfathomable skies.  
Come all so still where your mother is,  
come where your mother lies  
from the unfathomable skies.  
*Kevin Nichols (1929-2006)*

### 6. AT THE MANGER MARY SINGS

O shut your bright eyes that mine must endanger  
With their watchfulness; Protected by its shade  
Escape from my care: What can you discover  
From my tender look but how to be afraid?  
Love can but confirm the more it would deny.  
Close your bright eye.

Sleep. What have you learned from the womb  
that bore you  
But an anxiety your Father cannot feel?

Sleep. What will the flesh that I gave do for you,  
Or my mother love, but tempt you from His will?  
Why was I chosen to teach His Son to weep?  
Little One, sleep.

Dream. In human dreams earth ascends to  
Heaven  
Where no one need pray nor ever feel alone.  
In your first few hours of life here, O have you  
Chosen already what death must be your own?  
How soon will you start on the Sorrowful Way?  
Dream while you may.  
*W. H. Auden*

### 7. CHRISTMAS AFTER WAR

Shall misery make mirth,  
Lord of our disbelief?  
What gift of joy has earth?  
Bring me your grief.

How shall old fables heal  
Our world of woe and sin?  
When you through fable feel  
The truth within.

There is no guiding star;  
The heavens are black and blind.  
The Magi journeyed far;  
So must mankind.

What singing angels press  
Bright wings down these wild skies?  
Courage and Faithfulness  
And Sacrifice.

Madonna? Child? Are we  
Shepherds to seek for them?  
Love! Peace! Let your heart be  
Their Bethlehem.

*Katharine Le Bates (1859-1929)*

8. FINALE repeats the text of the  
Invocation.

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The next concert by YCCS will be Johannes Brahms' *A German Requiem*. The  
concert will take place in the new worship space of  
**UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORT MILL.**

The two soloists are Kristen Wunderlich, soprano, and Eric Kesler, baritone.  
The accompaniment will be Brahms' own arrangement for piano, four hands,  
which he wrote for the first performance in England,  
where it was sung in English, as YCCS will do.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2012 AT 4:00 P.M.**



THE TEXT TO CRAIG PHILLIPS' *GABRIEL'S MESSAGE* IS FOUND IN  
*THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL*, NO. 16.

§ § §

TEXT: *CUM NOVO CANTICO*

I. Antiphon and Chorale

<i>O radix Jesse,</i>	O Root of Jesse
O come thou Root of Jesse, rise;	
<i>Qui stas in signum populorum,</i>	who stands as Sign for the people
A sign before thy servant's eyes;	
<i>Super quem continebunt reges os suum,</i>	Before whom kings shall close their mouths:
<i>Quem gentes deprecabuntur:</i>	Whom the nations shall entreat.
Before whom kings shall silent be,	
O haste to set all nations free.	
<i>Veni ad liberandum nos,</i>	Come to free us
Rejoice! Rejoice!	
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!	
<i>Jam noli tardare.</i>	Now do not delay!

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!  
O Jesse's lineage coming As men of old hath sung.  
It came a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, The Virgin Mary kind.  
To show God's love aright, She bore to man a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.

II. Noel and Lullaby

Clearly spake the Angel: "Shepherds, come away! Peaceful and rejoicing Bethlem seek this day! This little Lamb is born to be our king!" Noel, Noel, Noel, Let your voices ring!	
<i>Gloria in excelsis Deo.</i>	Glory to God in the highest
<i>Et in terra pax hominibus</i>	And on earth peace to mankind
<i>bonæ voluntatis, bonæ voluntatis.</i>	of goodwill.
Sing Noel, Noel, and let your voices ring!	

There thy found together Joseph, Mary blest,  
Cradling from the weather Jesus at her breast!  
Only in a manger for the Heavenly King!  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Let your voices ring!  
*Gloria...*

Kings draw nigh to greet Him, Neath the shining star,  
Seeking Bethlem city From their countries far.  
Here, in the dawn they find their infant King!

See! One beareth incense, Others gold and myrrh!  
Offerings to our Saviour Sleeping sweetly there.

See! In the manger, beauty blossoming!  
Noel...

O sisters too, How may we do For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling For whom we do sing, By, by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king, In his raging, Charged he hath this day,  
His men of might, In his own sight, All young children to slay.

That woe is me, Poor child for thee! And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting neither say nor sing By, by, lullyl lullay!

### III. "Cum Novo Cantico"

*Puer natus in Bethlehem, alleluia:  
Unde gaudet Jerusalem, alleluia, alleluia.  
In cordis jubilo Christum natum adoremus,  
Cum novo cantico.*

A child is born in Bethlehem:  
For this Jerusalem rejoices.  
In joy of heart we adore the newborn  
Christ, with a new song.

*Hic jacet in praesepio, alleluia,  
Qui regnat sine termino, alleluia, alleluia.  
In cordis jubilo Christum natum adoremus,  
Cum novo cantico.*

Here He lies in a manger,  
He Who reigns without end.  
In joy of heart we adore the newborn Christ,  
with a new song.

*Ut redderet nos hominess, alleluia,  
Deo et sibi similes, alleluia, alleluia.  
In cordis jubilo Christum natum adoremus,  
Cum novo cantico.*

To return us men  
to God and make us like Himself.  
In joy of heart we adore the newborn Christ,  
with a new song.

A boy was born in Bethlehem; alleluya.  
Rejoice for that, Jerusalem! Alleluya, alleluya.  
*In cordis jubilo Christum natum adoremus,  
Cum novo cantico.*

In joy of heart we adore the newborn Christ,  
with a new song.

For low he lay within a stall, Alleluya.  
Who rules for ever aver all: Alleluya, alleluya.  
*In cordis jubilo Christum natum adoremus,  
Cum novo cantico.*

In joy of heart we adore the newborn Christ,  
with a new song.

Then praise the Word of God who came, Alleluya,  
To dwell within a human frame: Alleluya, alleluya.  
*In cordis jubilo Christum natum adoremus,  
Cum novo cantico.*

In joy of heart we adore the newborn Christ,  
with a new song.

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