



**Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir**

**Dec 6 & 7, 2022
7:30pm
Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church**

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS



**Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir**

Jean-Sébastien Vallée
Artistic Director

Festival of Carols

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor

Isabelle Demers, organ

Irene Gregorio, piano

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Toronto Mendelssohn Singers

This performance will run approximately 90 minutes, with no intermission.

For the enjoyment of your fellow patrons and the artists on stage, please



No video
recording



No flash
photography



No noisy
candy wrappers



Mute your
cell phones

If you enjoyed this evening's performance, please consider
making a donation in support of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.
tmchoir.org/donate-now

PROGRAM

Sing-alongs are marked with an asterisk*

The music of the concert is organized into six sections.

We ask that you hold your applause until the end of each section.

Verbum Caro Factum Est

Paul Oros, Incipit

Weihnachten op. 79, 1

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Gabriel's Message

Jacob Abrahamse, Tenor

Emily Parker, Soprano

Noe! Noe!

John Sheppard

Felix Mendelssohn

arr. Matthew Culloton

arr. Olivia Sparkhall

David Bednall

This Christmastide

Rebecca McKay, soprano

O Magnum Mysterium

What Child Is This?

O Come All Ye Faithful*

Donald Fraser

Morton Lauridsen

arr. Paul Halley

Traditional

O Nata Lux

Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars

Noe! Noe!

Christopher Ducasse

Jonathan Dove

arr. Mack Wilberg

Tous les Bourgeois de Chartres

In the Bleak Midwinter

Dan Bevan-Baker, baritone

Adon Olam

arr. Donald Patriquin

Paul Mealor

Coreen Duffy

Lullay, My Liking

Teresa Mahon, soprano

Heartbeat (TMChoir Commission)

Jacob Abrahamse, tenor

Neil Aronoff, bass

Silent Night*

Philip WJ Stopford

Shireen Abu-Khader

Traditional

Carol of the Bells

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

Joy to the World*

Mykola Leontovych

arr. Mack Wilberg

Traditional



**Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir**

The TMChoir acknowledges that the land on which we perform is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We are also streaming this concert across Canada and the world—to lands that are the traditional territories of other indigenous and first nations peoples.

We are honoured to share our music across these lands.

PROGRAM NOTES

Welcome – for many of you, welcome back – to the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir’s Festival of Carols!

A beloved holiday tradition in Toronto, the Festival of Carols offers a chance to hear, sing, and reflect on Christmas carols. This year’s program features a combination of well-known favourite carols, lesser-known pieces that we hope might join the roster of your favourites, and – thanks to the TMChoir’s composer-in-residence, Dr. Shireen Abu-Khader – a new piece of holiday music.

Christmas carols are a much-loved musical tradition that draw on music from numerous cultures, time periods, and styles. As a music historian, I find it especially beautiful and moving to think of the many different, often little-known origins and histories of the carols we sing year after year. Many familiar favourites set Christmas-themed lyrics to folk or dance tunes from their respective cultures, with English lyrics sometimes only appearing later. “Carol of the Bells,” for instance, was originally a setting of the Ukrainian folk chant “Shchedryk,” while “What Child is This?” adapts the English folk song “Greensleeves,” and “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High” sets twentieth-century English words to a sixteenth-century French dance melody entitled “Branle de l’Officiel.” In other cases, a carol was originally composed for one specific time, place, or context, but then became known around the world. Franz Xaver Gruber’s “Silent Night,” for example, was rapidly composed on Christmas Eve in 1818 in rural Austria, for performance on guitar at Christmas Eve Mass after flooding damaged a local parish organ. There are also carols like “O Come All Ye Faithful,” where the eighteenth-century composer, lyricist, and original performance contexts are unclear and unknown, and yet the song has survived and remains a central part of holiday celebrations. Perhaps in part because of their diverse history, carols have joined people in music-making across time and place for hundreds of years. And after a two-year pandemic-caused hiatus, what a joy to be able to sing some of them in community once again tonight!

In addition to the many Christmas classics included in this concert, tonight’s program also features many lesser-known pieces. In addition to their musical beauty and insight, these pieces have distinct – often liturgical – histories of celebrating Jesus’s nativity. The choir’s opening piece, “Verbum Caro Factus Est” (“And the word was made flesh”) is a medieval chant that was widely performance at Christmas morning mass in the Middle Ages; John Shepperd’s arrangement dates from the 16th century. Morton Lauridsen’s 1994 arrangement of “O Magnum Mysterium” reimagines the Gregorian chant in a more contemporary arrangement, yet maintains the “great mystery” of contemplating the humble nature of Jesus’s birth. The two arrangements of “Noe! Noe!” on the program – respectively, by David Bednall and Mack Willburg – offer radically different interpretations of 15th-century texts and carols that rejoice in the birth of Christ (Noe, a Latin exclamation of joy, translates as Noel in English and French). Donald Patriquin’s arrangement of “Tous les Bourgeois de Châtres” adds a 16th-century French carol – in its original language – to tonight’s program; the carol is also especially popular in Québec.

Alongside songs that celebrate and make merry the Christmas season, the choir is performing Coreen Duffy’s arrangement of “Adon Olam” or “Eternal Lord.” This text, dating

from antiquity, is a well-known hymn in Jewish liturgy that praises the timelessness and eternal nature of God. It remains a central part of Jewish worship.

Dr. Abu-Khader's piece, "Heartbeat," which is being premiered at this concert, attempts to restore something of the soundscape of Bethlehem to musical tellings of Christ's nativity. Drawing on Byzantine chant and Greek melodies, Dr. Abu-Khader works to situate and evoke a particular time and place. At the same time, through her own distinct melodies, and through her choice of subject matter, she strives to think about more universal emotions. "Heartbeat" reflects on the welcoming of children into the world, motherhood, and the connections that sustain us. As a Palestinian Jordanian composer, Dr. Abu-Khader also hopes her piece contributes to diverse musical voices being seen and welcomed in a space and sphere – the often-Eurocentric realm of holiday music – where they have historically been left out. In her own words, she hopes to "translate diverse identity within the Canadian tapestry."

Beloved traditions, joined together with unexpected and joyful surprises, and a special moment of music, unique to and uniquely for our community. This potpourri of carols offers the exact kind of holiday season and memories that we, the entire TMChoir's team of choristers, conductors, and administrators, wish to all of you. Happy holidays!

—**Rena Roussin**, Musicologist in Residence

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir



Jean-Sébastien Vallée, Artistic Director

Named as TMC's Artistic Director in May 2021 following an international search, Maestro Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée is an internationally recognized conductor, scholar, and pedagogue. In addition to his artistic leadership of the TMChoir, he is also Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies, and Coordinator of the Ensembles & Conducting Area at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. Ensembles under his direction have toured throughout Europe and North America and Maestro Vallée's work has been broadcast internationally and can be heard on several recordings. Upcoming activities include engagements with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, l'Orchestre symphonique de Québec, and the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest.



Shireen Abu-Khader, Composer in Residence

Shireen Abu-Khader is a Palestinian Jordanian Canadian artist, composer and educator. She holds a PhD in Music Education from the University of Toronto, a Master's in Choral Music from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Oberlin College Conservatory. In 2002, Shireen founded Dozan wa Awtar Music Establishment which has been an important venture in her personal development as well as the evolution of choral music in Jordan.



Irene Gregorio, Collaborative Pianist

Pianist and chamber musician, Dr. Irene Gregorio recently returned home to Canada following a 15 year career in California where she was on the faculty of the California State University and served as pianist for the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California Chamber Singers. In Guelph, she now serves as the Director of Music Ministry at Dublin St. United Church, and Sessional Instructor of Piano at the University of Guelph.



Isabelle Demers, Organist

Isabelle Demers' recital for the 2010 International Society of Organbuilders-American Institute of Organbuilders convention "left the entire congress in an atmosphere of "Demers fever" something that continues unabated over ten years later. Possessing "bracing virtuosity" (Chicago Classical Review), she has enraptured listeners worldwide with spell-binding performances. Her acclaimed recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels have been heralded as "expressive...profound and searching" (RSCM's Church Music Quarterly). Born in Québec and a graduate of Juilliard, Dr. Demers is the newly-appointed Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University in Montréal, Québec.

Isabelle Demers is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

The Choir

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir is proud to be one of Canada’s oldest, largest, and best-known choral organizations. The Choir presented its first concert on January 15, 1895, as part of Massey Hall’s inaugural season, and has been a leader in choral music in Canada ever since, commissioning works by Canadian composers, and presenting world and Canadian premieres. The Choir also regularly performs and records with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In May 2021 Jean-Sébastien Vallée was named as Artistic Director, only the ninth conductor in TMChoir’s 128-year history.

Through its performances, educational programs, and community engagement, TMChoir aspires to introduce its audiences to choral masterworks from the past and present — making both renowned and lesser-known pieces available, accessible, and inspirational to all.

The TMChoir includes 24 professional singers and over 100 auditioned and experienced volunteer choristers and choral apprentices. Auditions are held in the spring and fall to welcome new members.

Our smaller professional ensemble, the Toronto Mendelssohn Singers (TMSingers) was created to deliver more intimate, nimble repertoire pieces in a variety of non-traditional venues, traversing the line between concert and experience and showcasing the individual expression of professional soloists.

Featured Singers



Soprano
Teresa Mahon



Soprano
Rebecca McKay



Soprano
Emily Parker



Tenor
Jacob Abrahamse



Bass
Neil Aronoff



Bass
Dan Bevan-Baker



Bass
Paul Oros

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Soprano

Catherine Alberti
Tia Andriani
Ann-Marie Barrett-Tandy
Jocelyn Belfer
Louise Boyden
Leslie Bradshaw
Hannah Carty
Joanne Chapin *
Amy Chen
Laureen Choi
Arushi Das
Emily Dotzlaw
Kim Finkelstein
Louise Zacharias Friesen
Marina Galeano
Kaveri Gandhi
Rebecca Genge *
Pat M. Irwin
Alysha Ladha
Jisue Lee
Marlene Lynds
Teresa Mahon *
Sachiko Marshall
Lindsay McIntyre *
Rebecca McKay *
Cathy Minnaar
Camila Mussa
Emily Parker *
Ariane Prescott
Alison Price
Olivia Pryce-Digby
Mary Ridgley
Heather Rowe
Alessia Signorella
Jaclyn Siou
Joanne Tang
Jennie Worden
Sophya Yumakulov

Alto

Jane Agosta
Marlo Alcock
Renée Ardiente
Julia Barber *
Frances Chan
Nina Coutinho
Kristin Crawford
Adrienne Eastwood
Kirsten Fielding *
Ruxandra Filip
Manda Fischer
Gillian Grant
Sue Kim
Alison Massam
Hilary McCrimmon
Ryan McDonald *
Heather McGrath
Jennifer McGraw
Bethany Jo Mikelait
Annie Odom
Parnian Parvin
Pamela Psarianos
Alison Roy *
Yara Rubb
Namratha Sridevi
Eva Stone-Barney *
Jan Szot
Jennifer Ujimoto
Kiley Venables
Patti Vipond
Emma Willemsma
Tarquin Wongkee
Susan Worthington
Jessica Wright *
Virginia Wright
YuYang Wu
Mitzi Wolfe Zohar

Tenor

Jacob Abrahamse *
Rafael Avila
Sam Broverman
Thomas Burton *
Karel Cantelar Ramos
Michael Clipperton
Peter DeRoche
Omar Flores
John Gladwell
Nicholas Gough *
Jamie Hillman *
Valdis Jevtejevs *
Clement Kam
Eric Lee
Walter Mahabir *
Timothy McPhail
Daniel Meeks
Neil Payne
Christopher Wenman

Bass

Neil Aronoff *
Jeffrey Baker
Dan Bevan-Baker *
Hernan Botero
Tony Churchill
Matthew Conte
Scott Crocker
Steven Foster
Kieran Kane *
John Lemke
Matt Lozinski
Colin Mackey *
Joseph McGowan IV
Magnus Mee
Paul Oros *
Milovan Prelevic
Seymour Stern
Chia-An (Victor) Tung
Sean van Wyk
Jonah Wall
Eric Yang
Isaiah Yankech
David Yung *
Bruce Yungblut

*TMSingers

Text & Translations

VERBO CARO FACTUM EST – John Sheppard

Verbum caro factum est
Et habitavit in nobis
Cujus gloriam vidimus
Quasi unigeniti quasi unigeniti
Quasi unigeniti a patre, a patre
Plenum gratiae et veritatis

*And the Word was made flesh
And dwelt among us
And we beheld his glory
The glory as of the only begotten
of the Father
Full of grace and truth*

WEIHNACTHEN OP. 79, 1 – Felix Mendelssohn

Frohlocket, ihr Völker auf Erden,
und preiset Gott
Der Heiland ist erschienen, ist erschienen,
den der Herr verheißen
Er hat seine Gerechtigkeit der
Welt offenbaret
Halleluja, halleluja
Er hat seine Gerechtigkeit der
Welt offenbaret
Halleluja, halleluja
Halleluja, halleluja, halleluja
Frohlocket, ihr Völker auf Erden
Halleluja

*Rejoice, ye people of the earth,
and praise God
The redeemer is come,
whom the Lord has promised
He has revealed his justice to the world
Hallelujah, hallelujah
He has revealed his justice to the world
Halleluja, halleluja
Halleluja, halleluja, halleluja
Rejoice, ye people of the earth
Hallelujah*

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING – arr. Matthew Culloton

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

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 Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Refrain

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 the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Refrain

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE – arr. Olivia Sparkhall

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,

Refrain: Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,

Refrain

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.'

Refrain

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:

Refrain

NOE! NOE! – David Bednall

Noe
Resonet in laudibus,
Cum jucundis plausibus
Sioncum fidelibus
Apparuit quem genuit Maria
Noe
Parvulus filius hodie natus est nobis
Salvator mundi
Cantemus et exultemus et laetemur
in eo dicentes
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo

Noel
Let Zion resound in praises
And with joyful acclaim, together with
the faithful,
He whom Mary bore has appeared.
Noel
A tiny son has been born for us today,
The saviour of the world.
Let us sing, rejoice, and be glad in him,
saying:
Glory to God in the highest.

THIS CHRISTMASTIDE – Donald Fraser

Green and silver, red and gold
And a story born of old

*Refrain: Truth and love and hope abide
This Christmastide, this Christmastide*

Holy, ivy, mistletoe,
And the gently falling snow

Refrain

From a simple ox's stall
Came the greatest gift of all

Refrain

Children sing of peace and joy
And the birth of one small boy

Refrain

Let the bells ring loud and clear,
Ring out now for all to hear

Refrain

Trumpets sound and voices raise
In an endless stream of praise

Refrain

Green and silver, red and gold
And a story born of old

Refrain

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM – Morton Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praeseptio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt,
portare Dominum Christum.
Alleluia, alleluia

O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament
that animals should see the new-born Lord
Lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord
Alleluia, alleluia

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? – arr. Paul Halley

What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping,
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*Refrain: This is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary*

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh
Come, peasant, king, to own him:
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him

Refrain

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL* – Traditional

*Sing-along

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created:

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

Refrain

O NATA LUX – Christopher Ducasse

O nata lux, de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum laudes
preces que, preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis
Nos membra confer effici tui
beati corporis.
Amen.

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus redeemer of the world.
With loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed
in flesh for the sake of the lost,
Grant us to be members of thy
blessed body.
Amen.*

SEEK HIM THAT MAKETH THE SEVEN STARS – Jonathan Dove

Seek him that maketh the seven stars
Seek him that maketh the seven stars,
And Orion,
And turneth the shadow of death
Into the morning, the morning and
Turneth the shadow of death
Into morning
Seek him that maketh the seven stars, ah!
That maketh the seven stars
That makes the stars
Seek him that turneth the shadow of death,
Of death, of death, of death into morning
Into morning
Alleluia, alleluia
Yea, the darkness shineth as the day,

NOE NOE! – arr. Mack Wilberg

Shepherds, rise – look up and see
New light yonder breaking,
Brighter than the noonday sun,
All your sheep awaking.

Wonder, whisper, “Ah, Noe!”
Christ is born this holy day!
He is come to you,
Lowly shepherds, true!

He is come unto you;
He is come unto you,
Morning Star and New Day!
Wonder, whisper, “Ah, Noe!”

Shepherds, turn your eyes and see
In the manger, sleeping,
Prince of Peace and Heav’nly King,
In His mother’s keeping.

Worship Him who brings Noe
He who turns the night to day!
He is come to you,
Lowly shepherds, true!

He is come unto you;
He is come unto you,
Morning Star and New Day!
Worship Him who brings Noe!

Shepherds, look about and see
In the darkness pining
All God's children long to hear
Of the new Light shining.

Witness of the true Noe!
Share glad tidings of this day!
He is come to you,
Lowly shepherds, true!

He is come unto you;
He is come unto you,
Morning Star and New Day!
Witness of the true Noe!

Noe! Noe! Noe! Noe!

TOUS LES BOURGEOIS DE CHÂTRES – arr. Donald Patriquin

Tous les bourgeois de Châtres
Et ceux de Monthléry
Menèrent grande joie
Cette journée ici,
Qui naquit Jésus Christ
De la Vierge Marie,
Près le boeuf et l'ânon,
Don don, entre lesquels coucha,
La la, en une bergerie.

Des anges de lumière
Ont chanté divers tons
Aux bergers et bergères
De cette région.
Qui gardaient leurs moutons
Paissant sur la prairie,
Disant que le mignon,
Don don, était né près de là
La la, Jésus le fruit de vie.

Ils prennent leurs houlettes,
Avec empressement,
Leurs hautbois, leurs musettes
Et s'en vont promptement
Tout droit à Saint-Clément
A travers la montagne,
Étant tous réjouis,
D'aller voir cet enfant,
Joseph et sa compagne
Ravis, naissant,
Joseph et sa compagne

*All villagers of Châtres
and those from Monthléry
Were overcome with joy
this day of mystery
When Christ was born on earth
of Holy Virgin Mary
The ox and ass looked on, Don don,
As he lay in his stall, La la,
Within a manger lowly*

*The angels in the heavens
all sang in harmony
To shepherds in the meadows
as they their watch did keep
The guardians of the sheep
which grazed in nearby pastures
Told all about the Son, Don don,
Who came to save us all, La la,
The fruit of Life, this Jesus*

*They gathered up their crooks anon
With bagpipes and with oboes
They soon were packed and gone
Straight way to Saint Clement
across the mountain prairie
Rejoicing one and all
to see the infant child,
and Joseph and his Mary
They gathered up their crooks anon
And hastened forth anon*

De Saint-Germain la bande
Vint en procession
Et traversa la lande
Pour trouver L'Enfanson,
Ayant ouï le son
Et la douce harmonie
Que faisaient les pasteurs Chanteurs
Lesquels n'étaient pas las
La la, de faire symphonie

Ding dong, ding dong, ding dong!
Messire Jean, vicaire
de l'église d'Eglis
Fit porter, pour mieux braire,
Du vin de son logis
Monsieur les écoliers,
toute cette nuitée
Se sont mis à crier, chanter,
Ut ré mi fa sol la
La la, à gorge déployée
Or prions tous Marie
Or Jésus son cher fils
Qu'il nous donne la vie,
La sus en Paradis;
Après qu'aurons vécu
En ce mortel repaire
Qu'ils veuillent garder
D'aller tous en enfer là bas,
La la, En tourment et misère

*From Saint Germaine a band
came all clad in bright array
They crossed the mountain prairie
to where the Infant lay
For they had heard the sound,
the gentle harmony
The songs the shepherds sang, Don don,
Without a weary note, La la,
A tireless, endless symphony*

*Ding dong, ding dong, ding dong!
Now Father John the vicar
who lived in old Eglis
Had brought along a wine cask
from his own rectory
The masters and the boys,
enjoying all their drinking,
Began to laugh and sing, haha,
do re mi fa sol la, la la,
Such wild abandon singing!
So let us pray to Mary
and Jesus her dear Son
That we may dwell in heaven
when we our course have run
That when our days are o'er
and we have ceased our breathing
We might remain above, Don don,
And not go down below, La la,
To torment and misery*

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER – Paul Mealor

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long ago

Angels and archangels may have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air
Only His mother in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a wiseman, I would do my part
Yet what I can, can I give Him, give my heart

ADON OLAM – Coreen Duffy

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| אֲדוֹן עוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר מֶלֶךְ, בְּטָרֵם כָּל יִצִּיר נִבְרָא. לַעֲת נַעֲשֶׂה בְּחֶפְצוֹ כָּל, אֲזִי מֶלֶךְ שְׁמוֹ נִקְרָא. וְאַחֲרֵי כָּכֵלֹת הַכֹּל, לְבָדוֹ יִמְלֹךְ נוֹרָא. וְהוּא הֵינָה, וְהוּא הֵנָּה, וְהוּא יִהְיֶה, בְּתִפְאָרָה. וְהוּא אֶחָד וְאִין שְׁנֵי, לִהְיוֹת שִׁלּוֹ לְהַחְבִּירָה. כִּלְיָ רֵאשִׁית כִּלְי תַּכְלִית, וְלֹו הֶעָז וְהַמְשָׁרָה. וְהוּא אֵלֵינוּ חַי גָּאֻלֵּנוּ, וְצוֹר חֲבָלֵינוּ בְּעֵת צָרָה. וְהוּא נָסִי וּמִנּוּס לֵנוּ, מִנֵּת כּוֹסֵינוּ בְּיוֹם אֶקְרָא. בְּיָדוֹ אֶפְקִיד רוּחֵנוּ, בְּעֵת אִישׁוֹן וְאַעֲרִירָה. וְעַם רִיחֵנוּ גּוֹנֵתֵנוּ, יְיָ לֵנוּ לֹא אִירָא. | <i>The God of all who reigned supreme 'Ere first Creation's form was framed When all was finished by God's will God's name almighty was proclaimed When this our world shall be no more In majesty God shall reign Who was, who is, who will for aye In endless glory still remain Alone is God beyond compare Without division or ally Without initial date or end Omnipotent God rules on high God is my God and savior too To whom I turn in sorrow's hour My banner proud, my refuge sure Who hears and answers with God's power Then in God's hand myself I lay And trusting, sleep, and wake with cheer My soul and body are God's care My God doth guard, I have no fear</i> |
|---|---|

LULLAY, MY LIKING – Philip WJ Stopford

*Refrain: Lullay, my liking, my dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay, my dear heart, my own dear darling!*

I saw a fair maiden sitten and sing:
She lulled a little child, a sweete lording

Refrain

That eternal Lord is he that made alle thing:
Of alle lordes he is Lord, Of alle kinges King.

Refrain

There was a mickle melody at that Childes birthe
Though the songsters were heavenly
They made mickle mirth

Refrain

Angels bright they sang that night
And saiden to that Child:
'Blessed be thou and so be she
That is both meek and mild!'

Refrain

Pray we now to that Child and to his mother dear,
God grant them all his blessing
That now maken cheer!

Refrain

HEARTBEAT – Shireen Abu-Khader (TMChoir Commission)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| يا نجوم هَلّلي | O stars, rejoice and sing! |
| يا جبال اسْجُدي | O mountains, kneel before Him! |
| طفلاً كنور الفجر آتٍ مجده للأبد | Like light into the world, comes a newborn child, An everlasting glory! |
| هو المحبة هي السلام | He is Love, she is peace! |
| هو المحبة هي السلام | He is Love, she is peace! |
| من الله نطلب المحبة، الرحمة والسلام | We ask our divine for love, mercy and peace |
| | I am warm, but scared There is love, there is care By this grace I'll pray Courage I shall bear Let us all embrace Kindred souls pure and brave Breathing love on earth With this wondrous birth With a cry, they come Beating hearts, fast and strong Open souls, how they shine With might, how divine |

About This Piece, by TMChoir's Composer in Residence, Shireen Abu-Khader

How would Christmas be without the Virgin Mary? How would the world be without mothers? Two heartbeats, a newborn child, cries that turn to lullabies, with every birth. Experience the connection between all these themes with Heartbeat, a – literally – heartfelt carol for SSATBB choir.

Story

The starting point for composing this carol stemmed from the composer asking the question 'why do all beautiful Christmas carols that the world knows don't match the soundscape of the actual birth of Christ, Bethlehem?'

The piece celebrates mothers and their children. It starts with a familiar traditional Greek melody that the composer grew up hearing. It celebrates the Virgin Mary. The text was adapted to celebrate the coming of a child to the world.

As for the newly composed section, it focuses on the mothers' emotional state before the arrival of their child. Mothers feel scared and vulnerable. However, the bitterness is alleviated by the welcoming of children with all the blessings they bring to the world.

The piece develops to a traditional Byzantine chant carrying a universal message of praying for peace and love underneath the heartbeat of a child.

SILENT NIGHT* – Traditional

***Sing-along**

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

(Choir only)

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

CAROL OF THE BELLS – Mykola Leontovych

Hark! how the bells, sweet silver bells
All seem to say, "Throw cares away."
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer
To young and old, meek and the bold

Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song
With joyful ring, all caroling
One seems to hear words of good cheer
From ev'rywhere, filling the air

Oh how they pound, raising the sound,
O'er hill and dale, telling their tale,
Gaily they ring while people sing
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here

Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas

On, on they send, on without end
Their joyful tone, to ev'ry home

DING! DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH – arr. Mack Wilberg

Ding dong merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing

Refrain: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below
Let steeple bells be swungen
And "io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen

Refrain

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chyme, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers

Refrain

JOY TO THE WORLD* – Traditional

***Sing-along**

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

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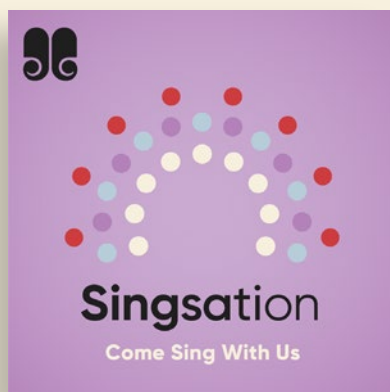


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