Twenty Years of Christmas

Festival Choir, Jeffrey Brody, Director
Youth Choir, Andrea Hart, Director

Park Avenue Congregational Church
Arlington, Massachusetts
Sunday, December 5, 2010
3:00 pm

This concert is part of the PACC Concert Series for the benefit of the PACC music program. Please join us for a reception following the concert to meet the musicians.

Preludes

Desseins Eternels from *La Nativité du Seigneur*  
O Holy Night  
Philip Sullivan, trumpet

Olivier Messiaen  
Adolph Adam

Carols

Once in Royal David’s City (D. Willcocks, descant)  
O Little Town of Bethlehem (T. Armstrong, descant)  
O Come, All Ye Faithful (D. Willcocks, descant)  
O Holy Night  
Philip Sullivan, trumpet

Red 155, verses 1,3,4  
Blue 134, verses 1-4  
Blue 132, verses 1-2

Festival Choir

Break forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light  
Of the Father’s Love Begotten  
Gloria  
Ave Maria  
Love Came Down at Christmas  
Snow Lay on the Ground  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
Plainchant  
Antonio Vivaldi  
Jeffrey Brody  
Leo Sowerby  
Leo Sowerby

Instrumental

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring  
Gretchen Durning, Andrea Hart, Kazumi Kobayashi, Jayna McLaughlin, flutes  
Sheep May Safely Graze  
Jayna McLaughlin, Andrea Hart, flutes  
Jeffrey Brody, piano  
Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. R. Thurston)  
Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. S. Lawton)

Festival Choir

Kyrie from *Messe de Minuit pour Noël*  
Please to See the King  
Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming  
Psallite  
Carol of the Bells  
Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
Traditional (arr. P. Carline)  
Michael Praetorius  
Michael Praetorius  
Mikhail Leontovich (arr. P. Wilhousky)

Intermission
Festival Choir
And the Glory of the Lord  George Frideric Handel
Coventry Carol  Traditional, 16th century
In the Bleak Midwinter  Sir Harold Darke
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent  Gustav Holst
O Holy Child of Bethlehem  George W. Chadwick

Youth Choir
Only a Baby Came  Natalie Sleeth
God Sent His Son into the World  George Frideric Handel

Hannah Colonnese and Madeline Domenichella, soprano
Gretchen Durning and Kayla Sherwood, alto

Song of the Crib  German, 15th century

Festival Choir
O Magnum Mysterium  Tomas Luis da Victoria
Sing Gloria  Katherine K. Davis
Shepherd’s Farewell  Hector Berlioz
I Wonder as I Wander  Appalachian carol (arr. J. Niles)
Go Tell It on the Mountain  Spiritual (arr. J. Work)
Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts  Camille Saint-Saëns

Carols
The First Nowell (D. Willcocks, descant)  Blue 141, verses 1,2,5
Silent Night, Holy Night  Blue 138, verses 1-3
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (D. Willcocks, descant)  Blue 120, verses 1-3

Postlude
March of the Three Wise Men  Franz Liszt (arr. J. Brody)

Philip Sullivan, trumpet

The Festival Choir

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sopranos</th>
<th>Altos</th>
<th>Tenors</th>
<th>Basses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Fink</td>
<td>Anita Malone Clarke</td>
<td>Connie Dugan</td>
<td>Nick Dokos +</td>
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<td>Kazumi Kobayashi *+</td>
<td>Linda Cohn</td>
<td>Jill E. Lewis</td>
<td>Dick Erickson</td>
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<td>Merrith Sabo-Jones *+</td>
<td>Julia Lee</td>
<td>Doug Record</td>
<td>Mark Ewen +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norma Sherwood</td>
<td>Liz Steinheider *</td>
<td>Jeff Steinheider *+</td>
<td>Keith Truesdale</td>
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<td>Sara Smith</td>
<td>Barbara Wagner</td>
<td>Josh Young</td>
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* soloist; + small ensemble

The Youth Choir

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<tr>
<th>Santanna Clark-Palou</th>
<th>Gretchen Durning *</th>
<th>Lane Hogan</th>
<th>Helen Record</th>
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<tr>
<td>Susanna Clark-Palou</td>
<td>Timothy Evans *</td>
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<td>Hannah Colonnese *</td>
<td>Claire Ewen</td>
<td>Atticus Holt-Kane</td>
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<td>Madeline Domenichella *</td>
<td>Jessica Gates</td>
<td>Grace Holt-Kane</td>
<td>Emma Young</td>
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* soloist
Program Notes

Twenty years ago, the Music Committee of the Park Avenue Congregational Church undertook the task of restoring our historic Skinner organ. At that time, a price of $60,000 was quoted for the restoration work. The Organist and Choir Director at the time, John Cavicchia, suggested a Christmas concert as a way to raise money towards the restoration. This was the start of the PACC Concert Series. Over these twenty years, the annual Christmas concert has become PACC’s gift to the community, and has presented music ranging from early plainsong to modern pieces, accompanied by piano or organ, and has also featured additional instruments such as violin, cello, recorder, guitar, flute, trumpet and harpsichord.

Today’s concert is built around a celebration of musical selections from our twenty years of Christmas concerts.

Christmas concert themes have covered a wide range of musical periods and styles, from “Visions of Sugarplums” (a child’s view of Christmas), “Advent Evensong,” “Christmas Through the Centuries,” “An Early American Christmas,” “Lessons and Carols,” to “Christmas Long Ago” (medieval music). Some of today’s selections (“Carol of the Bells,” “Coventry Carol,” “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence,” “Go Tell It on the Mountain”) are from our very first concert.

Some concerts have been built around a complete piece: “Gloria” (the Vivaldi Gloria, with harpsichord and a string quartet), “An 18th Century Christmas” (the J. S. Bach Christmas Oratorio) and “Christmas at Midnight” (Charpentier’s “Midnight Mass”). We feature some selections from these concerts as well.

While our concerts have many familiar carols (“I Wonder as I Wander,” “In the Bleak Mid Winter,” “O Holy Night”) and classical pieces (“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” “Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light”), we also present some less well known pieces: Sowerby’s “The Snow Lay on the Ground,” Chadwick’s “O Holy Child of Bethlehem,” the 15th century German Carol “Song of the Crib.” One that might need a little explanation is “Please to See the King,” a traditional carol from Pembrokeshire in South Wales, from 2006’s “A Celtic Christmas.” The wren was the “king of the birds.” A wren was killed and dressed in ribbons and cloth and placed in a box. On St. Steven’s Day, (December 26) young children carried the wren from door to door as a sort of mumming, usually asking for a penny to show the “King” to the household.

There are some early music pieces (Magnum Mysterium, Psallite), and our current director, Jeffrey Brody, has composed a poignant, ethereal setting reminiscent of early music for the traditional Ave Maria text.

We are also pleased to continue our tradition of instrumentalists and would like to thank our flutists Gretchen Durning, Andrea Hart, Kazumi Kobayashi and Jayna McLaughlin, and our trumpeter Philip Sullivan. We would also like to thank Andrea Hart, the Youth Choir director, for her amazing work with PACC’s Youth Music program. Finally, many thanks to our Organist and Choir Director, Jeffrey Brody, whose talent and leadership have shaped today’s concert and our concert series.

We invite you to enjoy our Christmas celebration and join in the carol singing. Peace on Earth and Good will to all.

Merrith Sabo-Jones

It is a very great pleasure indeed to welcome one and all to this traditional PACC event, the annual Christmas Concert. This year’s program is centered on the concept of plain, pure and simple joy, the joy that fills us all at this special time of the year as we celebrate and rejoice in the birth of Christ Jesus. It is now, more than ever, that the shining beacon light of the Nativity brightens our dark world, beset as it is with recession and depressing problems. This afternoon we can dispel this gloom by listening and enjoying the efforts of a multitude of performers in works of great diversity of compositional style and expression. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in this afternoon’s performance for the many months of unceasing effort which has made this program of difficult and diverse music possible. May our musical endeavors enable us to enjoy a most blessed and joyous Christmastide as we ponder the Mystery of God’s gift to us in the form of his only-begotten Son.

Jeffrey Brody
Jeffrey Brody, Festival Choir director and organist

Currently Music Director of Longwood Opera and Principal Accompanist of the Paul Madore Chorale, Jeffrey Brody enjoys an active musical career as composer, conductor, vocal coach, collaborative pianist, and organist. Appointed to the musical staff of Seattle Opera in 1986, he has done the musical preparation of that company’s critically acclaimed production of Wagner’s “Ring,” serving as Assistant Conductor and Prompter. He has also done musical preparation for Sarah Caldwell’s Opera Company of Boston, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera New England, MIT Chamber Opera and the Princeton June Opera Festival. Mr. Brody has been Music Director of Longwood Opera since 1998 and was appointed Musical Advisor of the Boston Wagner Society in 2005. He was named Music Director and Organist of Park Avenue Congregational Church in 2007 and serves as Staff Accompanist at New England Conservatory.

He made his orchestral conducting debut with the Richmond Festival Orchestra in 1995 in a program of all original works. Most recently, he guest-conducted the Salem Philharmonic Orchestra at the invitation of Music Director and Conductor Alan Hawryluk, and is a frequent guest conductor of the Harvard Musical Association Reading Orchestra. His compositions have won international acclaim and have been performed on three continents in some of the world’s most prestigious venues including Boston’s Symphony Hall, Jordan Hall, the Washington National Cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the prestigious festival “la città, la musica e il sacro” in Venice, the Temple of the Shinji Kai in Shiga, Japan and on National Public Radio. Mr. Brody’s compositions are published exclusively by Ashbrook Music and currently appear on the SPC and AFKA labels.

Mr. Brody is a member of the International Siegfried Wagner Society; the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; the National Association of Teachers of Singing; the American Guild of Organists; and is a founding member of the Boston Singers Resource, for which he has served as audition adjudicator. In honor of the many years of his artistic collaboration with the late Boston Symphony Orchestra Organist, Berj Zamkochian, the Gomidas Organ Fund presented Mr. Brody with the baton used by Dr. Charles Munch, Music Director and Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra from 1949-1962.

Andrea Hart, Youth Choir director

Andrea Hart joined PACC as Youth Music Director four years ago, after enjoying several years of musical work with PACC’s children and youth as a volunteer. For twenty years, Ms. Hart has taught piano, flute, music theory, sightsinging, and choral ensembles in both private studio and school settings. She has also worked for a number of cultural organizations, most recently as General Manager and Booking Representative for nationally acclaimed World Music Ensemble Libana, and as Director at Creative Arts, a community school for music and the visual arts. She has sung with The Boston Cecilia, The Mudville Madrigal Singers, The Longy Chamber Singers, and various Boston area church choirs. Ms. Hart holds a Bachelor of Music from Boston University and a Masters in Education from Harvard University.

The Skinner Organ

The E. M. Skinner Organ was built for St. Mark’s School in Southboro in the 1920s and moved to PACC in 1961. Skinner was a gifted, innovative and often controversial builder whose work was of the highest quality. In recent years, the musical and historic qualities of these organs have engendered increasing esteem and appreciation from a growing number of organists. Of this particular instrument, Peter Sykes, organist of the First Church in Cambridge, has written, “It’s a grand, beautiful resource; value it, and take care of it. You will never regret it, I can assure you.”

The Concert Series

In 1991 the Music Committee of the Park Avenue Congregational Church undertook the task of restoring our historic Skinner organ. At that time, a price of $60,000 was quoted for the restoration work. The Committee resolved to raise the necessary funds by holding a series of concerts. This was the start of the PACC Concert Series. In addition to our annual Christmas concert, we have invited a number of soloists and groups, all professionals, to perform in the acoustically vibrant Sanctuary as well as more informally in the Parish Hall. Concerts have ranged from classical, to choral, to folk coffeehouses. Thus far, your contributions have paid for the restoration of the Choir, Swell and Great, the three keyboard divisions of the organ.

Become a Friend of the PACC Concert Series

Would you like to become a Friend of the PACC Concert Series? Please give us your name and address on our Concert Mailing List book, and we will place you on our mailing list for future concert notification.