



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

Olivier Messiaen
Adolph Adam

Philip Sullivan, trumpet

Carols

Once in Royal David's City (D. Willcocks, descant) *verse 1 choir only* Red 155, verses 1,3,4
O Little Town of Bethlehem (T. Armstrong, descant) Blue 134, verses 1-4
O Come, All Ye Faithful (D. Willcocks, descant) 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 Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. R. Thurston)
Gretchen Durning, Andrea Hart, Kazumi Kobayashi, Jayna McLaughlin, flutes
Sheep May Safely Graze Johann Sebastian Bach (arr. S. Lawton)
Jayna McLaughlin, Andrea Hart, flutes
Jeffrey Brody, piano

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
Coventry Carol
In the Bleak Midwinter
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent
O Holy Child of Bethlehem

George Frideric Handel
Traditional, 16th century
Sir Harold Darke
Gustav Holst
George W. Chadwick

Youth Choir

Only a Baby Came
God Sent His Son into the World

Natalie Sleeth
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
Sing Gloria
Shepherd's Farewell
I Wonder as I Wander
Go Tell It on the Mountain
Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts

Tomas Luis da Victoria
Katherine K. Davis
Hector Berlioz
Appalachian carol (arr. J. Niles)
Spiritual (arr. J. Work)
Camille Saint-Saens

Carols

The First Nowell (D. Willcocks, descant)
Silent Night, Holy Night
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (D. Willcocks, descant)

Blue 141, verses 1,2,5
Blue 138, verses 1-3
Blue 120, verses 1-3

Postlude

March of the Three Wise Men

Franz Liszt (arr. J. Brody)

Philip Sullivan, trumpet

The Festival Choir

Sopranos

Kathy Fink
Kazumi Kobayashi *+
Merrith Sabo-Jones *+
Norma Sherwood
Sara Smith

Altos

Anita Malone Clarke
Linda Cohn
Julia Lee
Liz Steinheider *
Barbara Wagner

Tenors

Connie Dugan
Jill E. Lewis
Doug Record
Jeff Steinheider *+
Josh Young

Basses

Nick Dokos +
Dick Erickson
Mark Ewen +
Keith Truesdale

* soloist; + small ensemble

The Youth Choir

Santanna Clark-Palou
Susanna Clark-Palou
Hannah Colonnese *
Madeline Domenichella *

Gretchen Durning *
Timothy Evans *
Claire Ewen
Jessica Gates

Lane Hogan
Reese Hogan
Atticus Holt-Kane
Grace Holt-Kane

Helen Record
Owen Record
Kayla Sherwood *
Emma Young

* 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, sight-singing, 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.