

Masterworks Singers

Until Love Is Spoken

Featuring *Magnificat*
for chorus and chamber orchestra
by Taylor Scott Davis
and other beautiful works.

Sunday, November 17, 2024

7:30 pm

St. Theresa Catholic Church

Austin, Texas

With the Masterworks Chamber Orchestra

PROGRAM

And the Night Shall Be Filled with Music

Michael John Trotta

Magnificat

Taylor Scott Davis

I. Magnificat anima mea

II. Shall I Rejoice

Soprano Soloist, Amber-Nicole McIntire

III. Et misericordia

IV. Deposuit

V. Gloria Patri

Soprano Soloist, Amber-Nicole McIntire

Intermission—Mark Stern

Allegro masotoso e vivace from Organ Sonata in C Minor, Op. 65, No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn

Aria (Op. 51)

Flor Peeters

Soon We Will Be Done

Kyle Pederson

Soloists: Everett Lunning, Donna LeBlanc, John Diaz, Mary Lousie Shack

Until Love is Spoken

Karen Marrolli

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Arr. Craig Courtney

Our thanks to chorus member Kathryn King Coleman and to the Jesse T. & Jodie E. King Foundation for underwriting the cost of the orchestra for this performance. Their support of this concert is given in memory of Kathryn's sister, Carolyn King Waller, 1934-2024.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

AND THE NIGHT SHALL BE FILLED WITH MUSIC

Come, read to me some poem, some simple an heartfelt prayer,
That shall soothe this restless feeling, and banish the thoughts of care.

And the night shall be filled with music, and the cares, that infest the day,
They shall fold their tents and as silently steal away.

Who, through long days of labor, and nights devoid of ease,
Still heard in the soul the music of wonderful melodies.

Such songs have power to quiet the restless pulse of care,
And come like the benediction that follows after prayer.
Then read from the treasured volume the poem of thy choice,
And lend to the rhyme of the poet the beauty of thy voice.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (CONT.)

I. MAGNIFICAT ANIMA MEA

Magnificat anima mea Domium.
Et exultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem
ancillae suae:
ecce enim ex hoc
beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna
qui potens est:
et sanctum nomen ejus.

My soul magnifies the Lord.
And my spirit has rejoiced
in God my savior.
For he has regarded the low estate
of his handmaiden:
for behold, henceforth all generations
shall call me blessed.
For he who is mighty
has done great things to me;
and holy is his name.

II. SHALL I REJOICE

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
the first of such to say?
All that this child shall ever say or be
now lives and grows in me.

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
his name forever mine?
I yield to him my life's identity;
Christ lives and grows in me.

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
both glory and disgrace?
My song shall be both joy and agony;
Christ lives and grows in me.

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me
as clouds and shadows rise?
I ponder scenes that I don't want to see.
Christ lives and grows in me.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (CONT.)

III. ET MISERICORDIA

Et misericordia ejus a progenie
in progenies timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;
dispersit superbos
mente cordis sui

And his mercy is on them
who fear him from generation to gener-
ation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud,
even the arrogant of heart.

IV. DEPOSIT

Deposuit potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles.
Esurientes implevit bonis:
et divites dimisit inanes.
Suscepit Israel puerum suum
recordatus misericordiae suae.
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula

He has deposed the mighty from their
seats,
and exalted the humble.
The hungry he has filled with good
things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
As it was spoken to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed forever.

V. GLORIA PATRI

Gloria Patri, et Filio,
Et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper.
Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
an ever shall be, world without end.
Amen!

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (CONT.)

SOON WE WILL BE DONE

Done with hatred and done with war;
Come lift the lonely, come lift up the poor.

Soon we will be done with the troubles of the world
when heaven comes to earth.
No more weepin' and wailin'
when heaven comes to earth.

Done
with the racism, and sexism, and all the isms and prisons that bind us,
that blind us from the hurt of another.

I want to be done,
with addiction, with any affliction that takes a hold and won't let go,
and speaks in lies and fiction.

I want to be done,
with the things that divide us instead of unite us,
like the walls we build, the hate instilled,
we fill with judgement inside us.

I want to be done,
done with violence, and the silence when facing injustice,
but I wonder if you'd trust us if love was our compass.

SOON, when we come together, when
WE stand up for each other, we
WILL offer these hands and feet and
BE love, compassion and grace; come heaven to earth, oh Thy (we) will be
DONE.

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS (CONT.)

UNTIL LOVE IS SPOKEN

Grant us gentleness in power.

Grant us strength to face this hour, to forgive,
to offer grace, and nurture peace in every place.

Grant us hope when all seems dire.

Grant us faith to spark a fire,
to fiercely burn, to drown the night, and set the world ablaze with light.

And when we meet resistance and our call puts us in danger,
grant us patience and persistence to stand up for friend and stranger.

Grant us courage to be kind.

Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear,
so only love is spoken here.

And when our path of justice leads us to the dreadful fight, grant us vigor, and
entrust us with the power to do what's right.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

PROGRAM NOTES

The Magnificat text is rich and historic, and though it's an unwritten rule, it seems each composer get one chance to declare what they believe the text means to them. Is it possible to capture the sound of Mary going from typical teenage child to God's chosen one? Is it feasible to spend five movements cycling through all of the emotions the story elicits? What helps narrate and what seems overly dramatic? As I approached the text, the following became my interpretation:

Magnificat anima mea

Joy, honor, and bewilderment. A child-like exclamation at the beginning yields to a warm melody by measure 28, where the men begin singing of God's regard for Mary's lowly status. A murky section afterward leans on the word *anima*, which is feminine and means "breath", "air", or "life force." Before returning to joy, we have incredibly stately chords as the choir sings about what mighty work God has done through Mary.

Shall I Rejoice

To add a modern voice, I asked Dr. Terry York to write a new text, and his words connected with me deeply. There is a musical simplicity to this movement, but the piece builds around Dr. York's text as he very uniquely channels Mary's intuition to foreshadow the trouble ahead for her son. That uncertainty peaks as the words "joy and agony" sound like they unravel. Still, every phrase ends with release and determination.

Deposuit

A solo violin becomes Mary's character, and you can hear the uncertainty in her voice. The violin is minor, it's questioning, it's fearful. And the text from the choir is about fearing God, who will show strength, and scatter the proud and arrogant. The movement ends with an unexpected peace, as the violin represents Mary's understanding of what this means.

Et misericordia

Movements three and four are very much linked. The sixteenth notes remain, but their hurried sound turns major as the choir sings about God exalting the humble and feeding the hungry, leaving behind the fearful nature of the previous movement.

Gloria Patri

The final movement begins with jubilation: *Gloria Patri* ("Glory be to the Father"), the choir sings, as the accompaniment sings "As it was in the beginning" is the translation, as the choir then sings a gentle, simple melody. The Latin word *semper* seems to go in circles about halfway through, as it means "always". A slowed down version of the opening melody is sung by a soloist in an ethereal way, before the choir energetically closes by singing about what this means for "generations of generations."

CONDUCTOR & ACCOMPANISTS

DR. H. MORRIS STEVENS, JR—CONDUCTOR

Dr. H. Morris Stevens, Jr., is the Director of Music Ministry at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Austin, Texas. In May 2020, he retired from St. Edward's University where he served for 13 years as Head of the Music Department. While at St. Edward's University, he founded the Masterworks Project, which became a leading Community Outreach Music program consisting of a large Chorus and full Orchestra. During those 13 years, the Masterworks Singers toured every two years, and gave concerts in such countries as Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland.

Dr. Stevens is recognized as a clinician/conductor of Honor Choirs in many states and adjudicates choral competitions nationally. Throughout his career he has commissioned many new choral works from outstanding composers. The Masterworks Singers have so far, commissioned four major works with the support of the Edward D. Anderson Fund.

Dr. Stevens is most proud of his wonderful family, his wife Polly, his children, Sarah, Patrick and Rebekah, their wonderful spouses, and his six grandchildren, Ruaridh, Evie, Birdie, Margot, Murray & Ruby Dru.

SUSAN NEFF, PIANIST

Susan Neff spent 32 years in the music/choral classroom retiring from public school teaching in 2014. Her next three years she accompanied choirs in various school districts and supervised music student teachers at the University of Texas. She returned to the private school classroom for 3 years as the choral/piano teacher at Hyde Park High School. She now continues to accompany and consult for school choir programs. She is also a pianist for the gam choir at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Austin, Tx. She lives in Pflugerville where she loves spending time with her grown sons David and Mark, daughter in law Lindsey, and special Mimi time with her grandson Dylan.

MARK STERN, ORGANIST

Mark Stern is a native Austinite and has lived in Central Texas his whole life. He joined the Masterworks Singers in the Fall of 2016 and has been a tenor in the group ever since. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with a minor in Music, and a Master of Arts in Psychological Research. During his undergraduate education, Mark studied organ with Dr. John Schmidt and is currently studying organ privately with Dr. Eun Joo Fierro.

Mark is Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Department of Psychology at Texas State University and teaches a variety of classes, particularly in the cognitive psychology field. In addition to his work at Texas State, Mark is the Organist at The Church at Highland Park & Associate Organist at St. Theresa Catholic Church.

CHORAL PERSONNEL

SOPRANO

Cheryl Alvarado
Ann Benson
Nancy Brady
Tami Cole
Elizabeth Danze
Dr. Leonore Frierson-Stroud
Iris Garcia
Marett Hanes
Anne Klock
Martha Kuhl
Hannah Martin
Amber-Nicole McIntire
Stacey McTaggart
Stella Miller
Harmony Muse
Teresa Nguyen
Molly O'Neal
Rebecca Peace
Robyn Pereira
Sara Radebaugh
Stephanie Rayl
Molly Sheehan
Polly Stevens
Katie Vukovics
Rose Wiederkehr
Martha Zornes

ALTO

Julie Adams
Emily Burns
Julia Campos
Colleen Cawthon
Dr. Lydia Coffman
Barbara Colicchio
Pamela Dowd Bohn
Donna Gervase
Mimi Graser
Chacha Guerrero
Patricia Jacobs
Kathryn King Coleman
Sue Kemp
Dona LeBlanc
Carola Lofton
Janet Martin
Marty Moulthrop
Peggy Naylor
Kristy Oliver Jones
Ann Peace
Toni Powell
Marni Roberson
Dr. Megan Robinson
Mary Louise Shack
Joydene Ternus
Daniela Trifan-Garcia
Colleen Webb

TENOR

John Blood
Earl Carter
Barry Colvin
Guillermo Delgado
Michael Gianotti
Jose Guerrero
Tim Hissam
Peter Jacobs
Jackson King
Jerome LeBlanc
Mark Stern
Dana Taipale
Shane Walden

BASS

Jim Coffman
Michael Davis
Robbie Daywood
John Diaz
Colwyn Dunlap
Gary Graser
Trevor Heim
Nigel Jacobs
Kelan Latimer
Everett Lunning
Vincent Pham
Gary Pyle
Michael Saclolo

ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

PIANO

Susan Neff

FLUTE

Kyndra Cullen

OBOE

Herson de la Garza

CLARINET

Angel Lopez

BASSOON

Chuck Hazlewood

VIOLIN I

Melissa Ruof

VIOLIN II

Deb Weltzer

Laura DeGraw

VIOLA

Dr. Robert Radmer

CELLO

John Cox

BASS

Amanda Aubrey

PERCUSSION/TIMPANI

Jason Russell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rev. Larry Covington — Pastor, St. Theresa Catholic Church

Rev. Barry Cuba— Parochial Vicar, St. Theresa Catholic Church

The Hospitality Ministry at St. Theresa Catholic Church

Staff of St. Theresa Catholic Church & School

OPEN INVITATION TO JOIN MASTERWORKS SINGERS

The Masterworks Singers organization is a community of individuals who love the best of choral music. Since its beginning, it has never excluded anyone who wished to experience the joy of sharing the exploration of choral music with friends. We have the mission of peace through the beauty of music. We continually invite all individuals who wish to share in this mission and joy of music making to consider joining. To be included in the Masterworks Singers mailing list, please email Dr. Morris Stevens at

morris_stevens@masterworkssingers.org

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