

2010-2011 Season
BARTLESVILLE CHORAL SOCIETY

Susan Mueller, conductor
Dolores McCreary, accompanist
Mark Beckwith, assistant director

presents

**Carols and
Lullabies**

With our special guests:

The Bartlesville Mid-High Choir
Tamara Walker and Wes Singleton, directors

This concert is sponsored by Bank of Oklahoma

Sunday, December 5, 2010, 2:00 p.m.
BARTLESVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER



From the Conductor

We are so pleased to welcome the members of the Bartlesville Mid-High Choir with their directors Tamara Walker and Wes Singleton. The Choral Society is proud of the music education programs here in Bartlesville and we love the opportunity to share the stage with our great school choirs.

The mix of Christmas carols this afternoon is an eclectic one, but each song tells its own story of angels, beasts, parents, babies - the continuation of the magical tale each one of us tells in our own hearts each December. May yours be one of peace, hope, joy and most especially - music!

Susan Mueller, Conductor

Contributors

A special thank you to the Lyon Foundation and
The Bartlesville Community Foundation

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Myrna Hershberger
Maurice Hoss and Judith Buys
Barbara Howenstine
Larry and Carolee Krase
Dennis and Judy Logan
Joan Packer
Velma and Bruce Peterson
Radomir and Miriam Petrovich
Ann Sheldon
Sam and Beverly Taverner
Steve and Debbie Wharry
anonymous

Associate (less than \$25):

Jessie M. Albright

*The Bartlesville Choral Society would like to thank these contributors for their support through the ConocoPhillips Matching Gift Program

The Program

- Hodie, Christus Natus EstHealey Willan
O Magnum MysteriumTomas Luis Vittoria
Translation read by Chellie Bea
O Magnum MysteriumMorten Lauridsen
Carols and Lullabies – Christmas in the SouthwestBy Conrad Susa
¡Oh, mi Belén!
El Desembre Congelat
Alegría
Mark Beckwith, Troy Thomas, soloists
A la Nanita Nana
Las Posadas
Glen Hale, Troy Thomas, Bill Riley, Mark Beckwith, soloists
Campana sobre Campana
En Belén Tocan A Fuego
Magaret Parrett, Amanda Bridges, Wes Singleton, soloists
El Noi de la Mare
Leslie Wilson, Helen Bumpus, Ariel Ortega, Mark Beckwith, soloists
Chiquiriquitín
El Rorro
Leslie Wilson, Becky Davis, soloists
Ding! Dong! Merrily on High16th century French carol, arr. Mack Wilberg

Intermission

- The Friendly BeastsMedieval Carol, arr. Jeffrey Van
Becky Davis, Noel Dagenette, soloists
All My Heart This Night RejoicesZ. Randall Stroope
Infant HolyTraditional Polish Carol, arr. by Cameron Rose
See Dat BabeSpiritual, arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

The Bartlesville Mid-High School Select Choir

- African Noelarr. Andre' J. Thomas
Gabriel's Ave
19th Century Basque Carol
Women of the Choir
Sing a Song of Merry ChristmasWolfgang Mozart arr. Walter Ehret
Men of the Choir
There is Faint MusicDan Forrest
Dashing Through the Snowarr. John Leavitt
Peace, PeaceFranz Gruber

Combined Choirs

- Carol of the BellsPeter J. Wilhousky
Hark! The Herald Angels SingFelix Mendelssohn, arr. Mack Wilberg

Translations

Hodie, Christus natus est

Today, Christ is born. The Savior has appeared. On earth the choirs of angels sing; archangels together rejoice; the righteous rejoice together, saying "Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!"

O Magnum Mysterium

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals might see the birth of the Lord as he lay in the manger. O, Blessed Virgin, who wast worthy of bearing our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

¡Oh, mi Belén!

Oh, Bethlehem! Blest is the hour the Savior comes to you. Light from your city shines so bright; burns like a beacon guiding us safely straight on our way, in dark and daylight.

Alegría

Walking slowly unto Bethlehem, Holy Mary, with her husband; traveling with them though in secret, is the Savior of all nations. For the Virgin passes by us with her husband unto Bethlehem. When to Bethlehem they had traveled, they were searching for a haven, all the innkeepers refused them, dressed so poor and heavy laden.

A la Nanita Nana

(The title is untranslatable, a cooing sound from mother to infant.) Blest be my baby Jesus, now go to sleep. Crystal fountain resounding clearly and brightly, nightingale in the forest, weeping so sweetly, hush, while the child is sleeping lain in a cradle.

Campana sobre Campana

Bell after bell after bell is heard, gathering all who are able! Come to the window and hear the word; you'll see a child in a cradle. Oh, ring the bells of Bethlehem. What are the angels singing, what news do they bring? Now that all your flock is gathered, tell me shepherd, what's the matter? We shall carry to the manger cheese and wine and sweetest butter. Stars in the heavens are shining. Shepherd, where will you go tonight? Run quickly, run to the baby. Watch him slumber so sweetly.

En Belén Tocan A Fuego

There's a fire in Bethlehem, in the stable see the flames! For they say that born of a Virgin from heaven to earth He came! In Bethlehem's humble stable there's a lovely white carnation. It will grow into a purple Lily. Greet the Savior of the nations! Virgin Mary, by the river hangs the swaddling clothes of Jesus. All the birds around her are singing and the river flows rejoicing. Fish in the river are glistening and dancing, dancing and leaping to celebrate his birthday.

Chiquiriquitín

(The title is a variant of chiquero, meaning "stable" or "manger".) He is laid in a manger bed. Follow us, follow us to the manger. Find them all through the doorway, there in the stable, Mary, Joseph and Jesus, their holy baby.

Program Notes

Hodie Christus Natus Est is a short Christmas antiphon dating back to earliest plainchant. It has been set in expanded four-part form by many composers, such as Palestrina, Sweelinck and Gabrieli. Healey Willan (1880-1968) was born in England, then immigrated to Toronto in 1920 to begin teaching duties at the Royal Conservatory there.

O Magnum Mysterium is a responsorial chant from the Matins service of Christmas. Our juxtaposition of two of the hundreds of settings of this text highlights the versatility of the expression, whether approached from a 16th or a 21st century sensibility.

Tomas Luis de Vittoria (1548-1611) is often described as the Spanish Palestrina. His sacred music is full of devotion and mysticism.

Morten Lauridsen was composer-in-residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale (1994-2001) and has been a professor of composition at the University of Southern California for more than 30 years. His setting of the *O Magnum Mysterium* was composed in 1995 and premiered by the Los Angeles Master Chorale when today's conductor, Mark Beckwith, was a member of the chorale.

The genesis of *Carols and Lullabies* was a suggestion by Phillip Brunelle, director of the Plymouth Music Series, that Conrad Susa write a companion piece to Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. A few years later a friend of Susa's introduced him to a collection of traditional Spanish carols he had sung as a boy in Arizona. At the composer's suggestion, we will perform some of these songs in English.

Conrad Susa was born in Springdale, Pennsylvania and educated at Carnegie Institute and the Juilliard School. In 1988 he joined the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he is chair of the composition department.

The tune of *Ding Dong Merrily* on High dates back to the 16th century. The lyrics are from English composer George Ratcliffe Woodward (1849-1934), who possibly was inspired by his interest in church handbells.

Mack Wilberg is a retired professor at Brigham Young University and frequently composes for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

The tune for the Christmas carol *The Friendly Beasts* seems to have originated in 12th-century France. The current English words were written by Robert Davis in the 1920's. The scene describing the gifts each animal brings to the Christ child continues the mystical notion of animals taking on miraculous qualities at the nativity begun in the two *O Magnum Mysteriums*.

The text of *All This Night My Heart Rejoices* was written by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), one of the greatest hymn writers Germany ever produced. Catherine Winkworth translated the lyric in 1858.

Z. Randall Stroope is a widely known conductor, lecturer and composer. He currently is head of choral activities at Oklahoma State University.

Infant Holy is based on a traditional 18th century Polish Christmas carol, "W żłobie leży", and was translated to English by Edith M. G Reed. Dr. Cameron Rose is director of choral activities at the University of Texas at Tyler.

The origins of the Christmas gospel song *See Dat Babe*, like so many spirituals, is obscure, but its themes – identifying with the Christ child's poverty, redemption and final reward for the downtrodden – are very clear.

Originally a Ukrainian New Year's carol written by composer Mykola Leontovich, *Carol of the Bells* came to the attention of American composer Peter J. Wilhousky when he heard it performed by the Ukrainian Republican A Cappella Choir on their North American tour in the 1920's. Inspired by the beauty of the melody, Wilhousky wrote original lyrics and arranged the music into what has become an American Christmas masterpiece.

Can you imagine *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* sung to any other tune than the familiar one by Felix Mendelssohn? But Charles Wesley originally intended his hymn to be set to the same tune as *Christ The Lord is Risen Today*. The Mendelssohn melody was paired with the famous Wesley lyrics by William H. Cummings in 1855.

Bartlesville Choral Society Singers

SOPRANOS

Chellie Bea
Cassie Blount
Tressa Bird
Deanna Boone
Helen Bumpus
Kate Carroll
Becky Davis
Sarah Eppinger
Marjorie Green
Ada Grillot
Adrienne Kittleman
Carla Korthase
Erin McBee
Erin Pallayi
Laura Riley
Amy Rogers
Deidre Schexnayder
Kathleen Scribner
Mary Alice Sigmon
Megan Stewart
Ruth Tatroe
Leslie Wilson
Codie Wolf
Kimberly Wright

ALTOS

Marilyn Boone
Amanda Bridges
Lisa Chapman
Donna Copeland
Cheri Elliott
Audrey Eubank
Diana Farris
Kristi Fjare
Lieseбет Gravley
Melanie Jay
Michaela Lawson
Tricia Lewis
Claudia McCurry
Angelynn Miller
Vicki Nett
Margaret Parrett
Stephanie Penn
Pam Pierce
Deanna Roszel
Lisa Scritchfield
Lisa Soules
Kathy Stewart
Kim Walling
Kathy Wright

TENORS

Dwain Baker
Mark Brant
Fred Cook
Noel Dagenette
Domer Dougherty
Mark Gard
Glen Hale
Nate Lemay
Nick Lemay
Michael Marshall
Chris Nulf
Ariel Ortega
Wes Singleton
Wilson Van Tine
Arlen Wiens

BASSES

Mark Beckwith
Bill Caughell
Tom Chamberlain
Luke Cowles
John Ervin
Michael Garner
Christoph Klawun
Charles Lee
Chuck McCarthy
Tom McCurry
Stan Mueller
Fred Pierce
Bill Riley
David Stewart
Troy Thomas
John Welch

Instrumentalists

Harp: Lorelei Barton
Guitar: Caleb Sanderson
Marimba: Jenny Lawless
Flute: Emily Elkins

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by donating to the Choral Society's foundation.
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P.O. Box 283, Bartlesville, OK 74005

