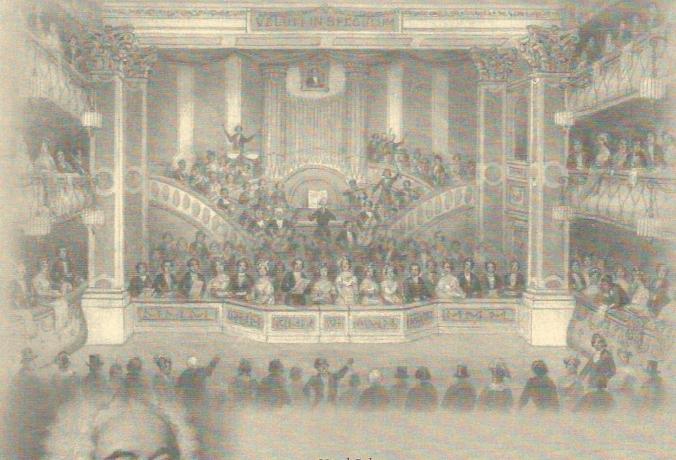
College of Marin Department of Music

College of Marin Community Chorus

Boyd Jarrell, Director

Cantatas of

Bach and Handel



Vocal Soloists Linda Noble Brown, Helen Konowitz, Katherine McKee, Brian Staufenbiel, Jeffrey Fields

Saturday, December 10, 8:00 PM Fine Arts Theater, Kentfield Campus

MARIN

COLLEGE OF MARIN COMMUNITY CHORUS

Boyd Jarrell, Director Jeff Paul, Accompanist

SOPRANO Dianna Baetz Lori Bailey Susan Bridges Candyce Brock Carmen Broomas Elza Burton Elise Cheval Lisa Conlon Leslie Connarn Carol Donohoe Carol Farley Nancy Fickbohm Robin Grean Alice Hakim Helen Hamm Carol Harmon Rosemary Holmes Lavinia Ilolahia Priscilla Imlay Helen Konowitz Soo-Hi Nayer Kaori Okada Hermina Rosskopf Melody Schumacher Shoko Snyder Erin Thompson

Heather Werkheiser

Denise Wylie White Pearl Gerrie Young

ALTO
Judy Alstrom
Annette Arena
Carolyn Ashby
Christine Baer
Gerry Beers
Jan Booth
Molly Bricca
MaryLee Bronzo
Arina Burceva
Elizabeth Chesnut
Fredericka Cobey
Polly Coote
Joyce Davie

Christine de Chutkowski
Jill Dickerson
Donna Dutton
Emily Dvorin
Tiffany Flaming
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Cindi King Gretchen Kucserka Leslie Kwartin Pamela Martin Cathie McKinney Marie Narlock Ruth Nash Monica Oldmen Mary Osterloh Corinne Pluche Summer Richards Lonna Richmond Carin Sinrod Audrey Stolz Katrina Urbach Shelley Winn Spirit Wiseman

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Barbara Wakida

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VIOLIN I Sarah Zaharako, concertmaster Roy Oakley Pamela Carey Julie Smolin

VIOLIN II Lynn Oakley, principal Jonathan Haddox Mark Yanover

VIOLA
Margaret Coote, principal
Dana Phillips
David Dobrinen
Fred Muribus

CELLO
Sam Van Loon,
principal and continuo
Ken Hoppe

BASS Eric Perney

OBOE
Brenda Schuman-Post, principal
Noah Williams
ENGLISH HORN
Brenda Schuman-Post, principal
Suzanne Eraldi

HORN Phillip Hobson Jenny Crane

HARPSICHORD Susan Harvey

Baroque Advent Sacred Cantatas of Bach and Handel

Cantata No.1, Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

- I. Chorus Sarah Zaharako and Roy Oakley, violin obligati
- II. Tenor Recitative
- III. Soprano Aria Brenda Schuman-Post, English Horn obligato
- IV. Bass Recitative
- V. Tenor Aria Sarah Zaharako and Roy Oakley, violin obligati
- VI. Chorale

Cantata No.140, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Johann Sebastian Bach

- I. Chorus
- II. Tenor recitative
- III. Soprano Bass Duet Sarah Zaharako, violin obligato
- IV. Chorale
- V. Bass Recitative
- VI. Soprano Bass Duet Brenda Schuman-Post, oboe obligato
- II. Chorale

=Intermission=

Psalm 110, Dixit Dominus

- I. Dixit Dominus Chorus
- II. Virgam Virtutis Alto Aria
- III. Tecum Principium Soprano Aria
- IV. Juravit Dominus Chorus
- V. Tu Es Sacerdos Chorus
- VI. Dominus a Dextris Tuis Chorus with Soloists
- VII. De Torrente in Via Bibet Soprano Duet with Chorus
- VIII. Gloria Patri Chorus

Linda Noble Brown, Soprano Helen Konowitz, Soprano Katherine McKee, Alto Brian Staufenbiel, Tenor Jeffrey Fields, Bass George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759)

Please turn off all cell phone ringers and electronic devices so that all may enjoy the concert without interruption

Biographies

Western Europe, in opera, musical theatre and oratorio. Favorite leading roles include Zerbinetta, Baby Doe, Cunegonde, the Queen of the Night and Olympia. She holds a Master of Music degree from University of Texas at Austin and her BA in Music from Cal State University, Long Beach. Since 1997, Ms. Noble Brown has been the vocal instructor at College of Marin. A member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, she has an extensive private studio. Originally from Riverside, Ca., Ms. Noble Brown has been a resident of the Bay Area since 1990. In the early part of her career she sang background vocals with the Carpenters and once did a country and western album with a British country star in Germany. She has been on three game shows (winning each!), ran the Big Sur marathon and has one tattoo. She has a wonderful daughter, 22, an amazing son, 14 and is very happily married to the love of her life. Linda would like to dedicate her performance tonight in loving memory of her father, Richard D.Swinnerton (1913-2005).

JEFFREY FIELDS, baritone, has performed regularly throughout California and in the Bay Area since 1999 as a concert soloist. In 1998, he was selected as an Adams Fellow at the Carmel Bach Festival and had numerous solo appearances there, like the role of Jesus in J.S. Bach's "St.Matthew Passion". He also sings regularly with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and American Bach Soloists. Recent engagements include Manoa in Haendel's "Samson" with Philharmonia Baroque, the role of Polyphemus in Haendel's "Acis and Galatea" with Berkeley Opera, Bach's "Magnificat" in E-flat and Cantate 110 the Philharmonia Baroque Ensemble, "St. Matthew Passion" with the Bach Society of St.Louis, the Faureand Mozart-Requiem in Napa, the title role in Mendelssohn's "Elijah" at the Music in the Mountainns Festival, Haydn's "Creation" in Los Angeles, Salinas and Carmel; Bach's "B-Minor Mass" with the San Francisco Bach Choir, Haendel's "Messiah" in Santa Cruz and Mozart's "C-Minor Mass" in Ventura. Jeffrey Fields wide repertoire also includes leading roles in several opera productions.

HELEN KONOWITZ, soprano, earned degrees in music from the University of Chicago and U.C. Berkeley. She teaches piano and music theory privately, and has taught music also at Kenyon College and the College of Marin, as well as previously teaching music fundamentals to members of the Navy Band on Treasure Island. She has been singing in many different choruses since Kindergarten and performs regularly with the Contemporary Opera of Marin under the direction of Paul Smith. Helen currently studies voice with Linda Noble Brown. She lives in San Anselmo with her husband and son.

KATHERINE MCKEE, mezzo-soprano, is active as a soloist both in concert work and on the opera stage throughout the Bay Area. She has performed as a soloist with the American Bach Soloists under the baton of Jeffrey Thomas, Philharmonia Baroque Chorale under the direction of Nicolas McGegan, the San Francisco Symphony with Michael Tilson Thomas, Emil de Cou and Vance George as well as in performances with the San Francisco Choral Society, Oakland Symphony Chorus, Camerata Singers of Monterey, St. Luke's Oratorio Choir, San Francisco Lyric Chorale, College Of Marin Chorus and the U.C. Davis Chorus. During the summers of 2000 and 2003 she was a featured soloist with the San Francisco Boy's Chorus on a two-week tour of Europe under the direction of Ian Robertson. Opera credits include performances with Berkeley Opera, San Francisco Lyric Opera, Spellbound Productions and the Bay Area Summer Opera Theatre Institute in such roles as Azucena in "Il Trovatore", the title role in "Carmen", Principessa in "Suor Angelica" and Madame Flora in "The Medium". Ms.McKee performs regularly with the San Francisco Opera Chorus, American Bach Soloists Choir, Artist's Vocal Ensemble, Schola Adventus and the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale and is on the music faculty of the San Francisco Boys Chorus. She also performs as alto soloist at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin in San Francisco.

BRIAN STAUFENBIEL, tenor, director, has gained considerable recognition and critical acclaim for his performances in oratorios, operas and solo recitals in the United States and Canada. His more recent opera performances include leading roles in Rossini's "L'Italiana in Algeri," Britten's "The Rape of Lucretia", Poulenc's "Les mamelles de Tiresias", Ravel's "L'enfant et les sortileges", Kurt Weill's "Mahagonny" and Mechem's "Tartuffe". Staufenbiel has appeard at the Boston Early Music Festival, the Rochester Bach Festival in New York State and sings frequently throughout the Bay Area. He is well known for his dramatic interpretation of the Evangelist role in Bach's "Saint Matthew" and "Saint John Passion". In addition to live performances Staufenbiel has recorded for Musical Heritage Society, Koch International Classics and Helicon Records. Brian Staufenbiel's great love of art song has led him to perform dozens of recitals in various concert series across the American continent. Staufenbiel holds a Doctorate in vocal performance from the Eastman School of Music. He is currently on the faculty at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he teaches voice and directs the opera program

BOYD JARRELL, CONDUCTOR

With this concert, Boyd Jarrell begins his second season as Director of Choral Activities at the College of Marin. As a conductor as well as a bass-baritone soloist, he is familiar to California audiences through his appearances with the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, the Oakland Symphony and the Santa Cruz Symphony. As a Baroque specialist, Mr. Jarrell has performed with the California Bach Society, the Baroque Choral Guild, the American Bach Soloists and the San Francisco Bach Choir. He toured with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in Haendel's "Acis and Galitea" and performs frequently with the Magnificat Baroque Ensemble. Mr. Jarrell toured and recorded with the acclaimed conductor Paul Hillier and Theatre of Voices. He has conducted his chamber choir, the California Vocal Academy, in repeat engagements on the prestigious New Music Series at Mills College. He appeared onstage with the San Francisco Ballet, singing the music of Brahms in the George Balanchine production of "Liebeslieder Walzer". Mr. Jarrell served at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral as Cantor and Associate Choirmaster for over twenty - five years. He has recorded on the Angel/EMI, Harmonia Mundi, Gothic and Koch International labels.

Program Notes

Bach's appointment in 1723 as director of music for four city churches in Leipzig gave him the opportunity to provide "properly regulated church music" in the form of cantatas for every Sunday and church festival of the liturgical year, except those in the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. Cantatas in the Lutheran church service of his time were not simply a musical interlude, but rather an integral part of the church's teaching and preaching, conveyed through the medium of choral music.

The occasions for the two cantatas on our program tonight point toward the Christmas season, #1 having been composed in 1725 for the feast of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, March 25 (exactly 9 months before Christmas), and # 140 for the 27th Sunday after Trinity, the last Sunday before Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas) in 1731, one of the rare years when the Trinity season extended to 27 Sundays. These two, like most of the 2nd cantata cycle of 1724-5, are chorale cantatas based on seasonal hymns. Both written by the Lutheran pastor Philip Nicolai (1556-1608), the chorales speak of the anticipated coming of Christ using the imagery of a marriage feast, Christ as bridegroom and the individual soul as bride, as well as images from Old Testament. The marriage feast image is prominent in # 140, as the chorale alludes to the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids in Matthew 25, while the imagery in the duets draws from the Song of Solomon. Prophecies concerning the messiah are the source of the watchman figure in #140 as well as the "morning star" -- not the star of Matthew's magi-- and the "shoot from the stem of Jesse" in #1.

The chorale cantatas typically open with a chorale fantasia on the first stanza of the chorale, as the sopranos carry the hymn tune over the elaborate polyphony of the lower parts. They close with a homophonic 4 part singing of the final stanza, in which the congregation, who knew the hymn well, could join, thus, as the closing words of #140 say, becoming one with the company of angels singing around God's throne. In #140 the hymn tune returns also in the middle section sung by the tenor voice while the strings play a lilting countermelody. Between the choral sections, Bach's librettist provided poetic paraphrases of the hymns' themes for solo recitatives, arias, and duets.

"Dixit Dominus," a messianic psalm much quoted in the New Testament, is one of the psalms appointed for vespers every Sunday. It's not clear, however, that Handel's setting, composed in Rome in April 1707, was intended for a complete vesper service on any particular occasion. What was a north German-bred Lutheran doing in Rome in 1707? Before eventually settling down as composer for the Hanoverian rulers of Anglican England, the 22 year old Handel, like many of his compatriots, spent a "junior year abroad" (actually 3 years) in Roman Catholic Italy, expanding his

experience of the world in many ways. Musically the main objective was to learn about writing Italian opera, but Handel explored other genres as well, including choral music in Latin for liturgical use. The cantata on psalm 110 demonstrates his newly acquired mastery of the Italian concerto style, offering a complex and vivid musical interpretation of the puzzling, even violent text. Little translation is needed to get the sense of the hammering "donec ponam inimicos" - "until I place your enemies [as a footstool under your feet]" the fugal "secundum ordinem Melchizedek" - "following the order of Melchizedek", the percussive "conquassabit" - "he will smash", and the gorgeously baroque, like swirling clouds of angels on a painted ceiling, final Gloria.

By Polly Coote

Translations

Cantata No. 1

1. Chorus

How brightly shines the morning star with truth and blessing from the Lord, the darling root of Jesse! Thou, David's son of Jacob's stem, my bridegroom and my royal king, art of my heart the master, lovely, kindly, bright and glorious, great and righteous, rich in blessings, high and most richly exalted.

2. Recitative

O thou true son of Mary and of God, O thou the King of all the chosen, how sweet to us this word of life, by which even earliest patriarchs both years and days did number, which Gabriel with gladness there in Bethlehem did promise!

O sweet delight, O heavenly bread, which neither grave, nor harm, nor death from these our hearts can sunder.

3. Aria

O fill now, ye flames, both divine and celestial, the breast which to thee doth in faith ever strive! The souls here perceive now the strongest of feelings of love most impassioned and savor on earth the celestial joy.

4. Recitative

No earthly gloss, no fleshly light could ever stir my soul; A sign of joy to me from God has risen, for now a perfect gift, the Savior's flesh and blood, is for refreshment here. So must, indeed, this all-excelling blessing, to us eternally ordained and which our faith doth

5. Aria

Let our voice and strings resounding unto thee evermore thanks and sacrifice make ready. Heart and spirit are uplifted, all life long and with song, mighty king, to bring thee honor.

now embrace, to thanks and praise bestir us.

6 Chorale

I am, indeed, so truly glad my treasure is the A and O, beginning and the ending; He'll me, indeed, to his great praise receive into his paradise, for this I'll clap my hands now. Amen! Amen! Come, thou lovely crown of gladness, be not long now, I await thee with great longing.

Cantata No. 140

1. Chorus

Wake, arise, the voices call us of watchmen from the lofty tower; Arise, thou town Jerusalem! Midnight's hour doth give its summons; they call to us with ringing voices; Where are ye prudent virgins now? Make haste, the bridegroom comes; rise up and take your lamps! Alleluia! Prepare to join the wedding feast, go forth to meet him as he comes!

2. Recitative

He comes, he comes, the bridegroom comes!

O Zion's daughters, come ye forth, his journey hieth from the heavens into your mother's house. The bridegroom comes, who to a roebuck and youthful stag is like, which on the hills

doth leap; To you the marriage meal he brings. Rise up, be lively now! The bridegroom here to welcome! There, look now, thence he comes to meet you.

3. Duet

When comest thou, my Savior? I'm coming, thy share. I'm waiting with my burning oil still.

Now open the hall for heaven's rich meal. Come, Jesus! I'm coming; come, O lovely soul!

4. Chorale

Zion hears the watchmen singing, her heart within for joy is dancing, she watches and makes haste to rise. Her friend comes from heaven glorious, in mercy strong, in truth most mighty, her light is bright, her star doth rise. Now come, thou precious crown, Lord Jesus, God's own Son! Hosanna pray! We follow all to joy's glad hall and join therein the evening meal.

5. Recitative

So come within to me, thou mine elected bride! I have myself to thee eternally betrothed. I will upon my heart, upon my arm like as a seal engrave thee and to thy troubled eye bring pleasure. Forget, O spirit, now the fear, the pain which thou hast had to suffer; Upon my left hand shall thou rest, and this my right had shall embrace thee.

6. Duet

My friend is mine, and I am thine. Let love bring no division. I will thee on heaven's roses pasture, where pleasure in fullness, where joy will abound.

7. Chorale

Gloria to thee be sung now with mortal and angelic voices, with harps and with the cymbals, too. Of twelve pearls are made the portals; amidst thy city we are consorts of angels high around thy throne. No eye hath yet perceived, no ear hath e'er yet heard such great gladness. Thus we find joy, ever in sweet jubilation!

Dixit Dominus, Psalm 110

1. Dixit Dominus - Chorus

The Lord said to my Lord: sit at my right hand, and I shall make of your enemies a footstool for you.

2. Virgam Virtutis – Aria

The Lord will extend your royal power from Zion: you will rule in the midst of your enemies.

3. Tecum Principium – Aria

Your people will be willing on your day of battle.

4. Juravit Dominus - Chorus

From the day you were born, on the holy mountains, majesty was yours.

5. Tu Es Sacerdos - Chorus

The Lord has made an oath which he will not retract: You are a priest for ever in the order of Melchizedek.

6. Dominus a Dextris Tuis - Chorus with Soloists

The Lord is at your right hand and he shall crush kings on the day of his wrath.

He shall judge nations and heap up the dead; he will crush the rulers of the whole earth.

7. De Torrente in Via Bibet – Soprano Duet with Chorus

He will drink form a brook by the way and, restored, he shall stand victorious.

8. Gloria Patri - Chorus

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

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Marti Sukoski - department secretary; Mike Irvine - music librarian; Jeff Paul - accompanist

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