

THE A. W. MELLON CONCERTS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
Washington, D. C.
622nd Concert
Sunday, December 18, 1955
8:00 P. M.
In The East Garden Court

CHOIR OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WASHINGTON
WHITFORD L. HALL, DIRECTOR

Helen Irene Troutman, Accompanist

Program of Christmas Music

J. S. Bach CHRISTMAS ORATORIO: Part One
"On the First Day of the Festival of Christmas"

Miles Brandon, Tenor Edith Williams, Alto Howard Wilbur, Bass

1. Chorus "Christians, be joyful"
2. Recit. "Now it came to pass in those days"
3. Recit. "See now the bridegroom, full of grace"
4. Air "Prepare thyself, Zion"
5. Choral "How shall I fitly meet Thee?"
6. Recit. "And she brought forth her first-born Son"
7. Choral and Recit. "For us to earth He cometh poor"
8. Air "Mighty Lord, and King all-glorious"
9. Choral "Ah! dearest Jesus"

I N T E R M I S S I O N

Healey Willan HODIE, CHRISTUS NATUS EST (Today, Christ is Born)

Healey Willan was born in Ballam, England, October 12, 1880, and has distinguished himself both as a composer and organist. In 1913 he came to Toronto where he has been active as vice-principal of the Toronto Conservatory since 1920. His setting of the above text, taken from a Christmas antiphon is a sample of his stirring church music.

arr. Ralph E. Marryott . . . NAUGHT IS SO SWEET (Old French Carol)

Using this old French Carol, Mr. Marryott has arranged a beautiful setting for one of the loveliest of our "manger carols".

arr. Margrethe Hokanson . . . CHIMING BELLS (Juleklang)
Jane Robinson, soloist

In addition to being a composer in her own right, Margrethe Hokanson has gained considerable reputation for her arrangements of Norwegian folk melodies. In CHIMING BELLS she uses a Norwegian Christmas melody as a setting for the poem of Evelyn Mlodzik. Miss Hokanson at present resides in sunny Florida.

arr. Peter J. Wilhousky . . . CAROL OF THE BELLS (Ukrainian Carol)

Mr. Wilhousky is one of America's most distinguished music educators. Director of Music for the New York City schools, he has, among other things, organized and trained the All-City High School Chorus, prepared professional choruses for Arturo Toscanini, and served as conductor for many notable choral and instrumental festivals. IN CAROL OF THE BELLS he uses his own text with this Ukrainian Carol originally written by M. Leontovich.

Noble Cain PETER, GO RING DEM BELLS (Spiritual)

Noble Cain, founder and director of the world-famed Chicago A Cappella Choir, is one of our most prolific composers, having over 600 published works to his credit. Here he gives us a stirring concert arrangement of this traditional Christmas spiritual.

arr. Joseph S. Daltry 'T WAS IN THE MOON OF WINTER TIME (Jesus Ahahtonya)

In 1642 Pere Jean de Brebeuf, a French missionary to the Huron Indians, composed some verses telling the Christmas story in the Huron language, and set them to the old French tune here used. The result was the first recorded North American Christmas carol. The author was later killed by the Iroquois because he befriended their enemies, the Hurons, and is buried at St. Ignace in northern Michigan on the shore of Lake Huron. Joseph S. Daltry, head of the Music Department, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., found this old music and arranged it for male voices.

William B. Olds THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CANDLE (Choir and Narrator)
Henry B. Norton, Jr., Narrator

William B. Olds, for many years director of the School of Music of Redlands University, Redlands, California, has given us a most unusual Christmas composition in which he uses a humming background for the story of the first Christmas which is told by a narrator. But he also provides variety in his composition for in an exciting middle section he lets the full choir burst forth with four different carols simultaneously. You will hear the sopranos sing JOY TO THE WORLD, the altos sing ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY, the tenors sing HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING while the basses sing CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE.

Noble Cain CARILLON (I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day)

CARILLON is taken from Noble Cain's "Series of Choruses With Modern Effects". Using the familiar H. W. Longfellow poem, Mr. Cain has built a most interesting and effective number in which he achieves the sound of a deep toned carillon throughout by means of open fourths, fifths, and sevenths in the chordal structure.

Carl Aug. Fischer THE SONG OF MARY
Mary Frances Keadle, soloist

THE SONG OF MARY (from the Spanish of Vega) was originally written for soprano solo with organ accompaniment. In tonight's presentation, the choir takes on the role of the organ as it gives a humming background for the solo. One of the most tender of our "lullaby carols", and yet one most infrequently heard, this number was always included in the sacred concerts of the world-famous Westminster Choir.

Clarence Dickinson THE SHEPHERD'S STORY
Miles Brandon, Howard Wilbur, Mary Frances Keadle, soloists

Clarence Dickinson, the son of a Presbyterian minister, is easily one of America's leading figures in the world of sacred music. He is not only known for his many years as Organist and Choirmaster of the great Brick Presbyterian Church of New York City and as Choirmaster and Director of the School of Sacred Music of Union Theological Seminary, New York City, but as a composer and arranger of much of our finest choral literature. His THE SHEPHERD'S STORY, heard as the final number of our concert tonight, is, according to his publishers, "undoubtedly his outstanding original work".

(Program notes by Whitford L. Hall)

This concert is broadcast by Station WGMS-FM (103.5),
WGMS-AM (570), and The Good Music Network.