



THE A. W. MELLON CONCERTS

661ST CONCERT

National Gallery of Art

WASHINGTON, D. C.

*A Program
of Christmas Music*

THE LANDON SCHOOL CHORUS

Under the Direction of

WILFRED BRIGGS

SUNDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 23, 1956

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK

IN THE EAST GARDEN COURT

The Boys' Chorus and the Glee Club
of
The Landon School

Present

A Program of Christmas Music

December 23, 1956

MARTIN SHAW *Fanfare For Christmas Day*
Gloria in excelsis Deo

MARTIN SHAW *The Angel Gabriel*
The Angel Gabriel from God
Was sent to Galilee,
Unto a Virgin fair and free,
Whose name was called Mary.
And when the Angel thither came,
He fell down on his knee,
And looking in the Virgin's face,
He said, All hail, Mary:

Then sing we all, both great and small:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
We may rejoice to hear the voice
Of the Angel Gabriel.
'Mary,' he said, 'be not afraid,
But de believe in me:
The power of the Holy Ghost
Shall overshadow thee;
Thou shalt conceive without the grief,
As the Lord told to me:
God's own dear Son from Heaven shall come,
And shall be born of thee.'

SERGE RACHMANINOV

Ave Maria

Hail, O Virgin Mother, Bearer of God,
Holy Mary, full of grace;
The Lord is with Thee:
Hail, O Virgin Mother of God,
Holy Mary, full of grace,
For thou shalt bring forth the Saviour
Who will redeem our souls.

EVERETT TITCOMB

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
All generations shall call me blessed.

EVERETT TITCOMB

*Say to them that
are of a fearful heart*

Say to them that are of a fearful heart:
Be strong, fear not:
Behold, your God will come and save you.

HAROLD FRIEDELL *When Christ was born of
Mary free*

When Christ was born of Mary free,
In Bethlehem that fair citie,
Angels sang there with mirth and glee:
"In excelsis gloria!"

Herdsmen beheld these angels bright,
To them appeared with great delight,
And said: "God's Son is born this night,
In excelsis gloria!"

The King is come to save mankind,
As in the scripture truth we find,
Therefore this song we have in mind:
"In excelsis gloria!"

And then, dear Lord, for Thy great grace,
Grant us in bliss to see Thy face,
That we may sing to Thy solace:
"In excelsis gloria!"

HAROLD FRIEDELL

The Song of Mary

Bring not a crown to wear upon His head so fair,
He needs no gold upon His shining hair.
Place not a sceptre in His hands,
For this my Babe no glory understands,
Nor shall He reign o'er earthly lands.

Bring not your incense sweet, to lay before his feet,
For thrones shall pass and kingly joys are fleet:
Greet not my Babe in homage deep,
Let no praise break upon his sleep,
Like guarding angels, silence keep.

Bring Him your hearts alone,
To God such gifts are known:
The poor and meek, the Father calls His own,
Only your love and service bring!
At gifts so sweet the Heavens sing:
O enter now and greet your King!

EVERETT TITCOMB

We Have Seen His Star

We have seen His Star in the East,
And are come with our offerings
To worship the Lord.

HECTOR BERLIOZ

*The Shepherd's Farewell
to the Holy Family*

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare;
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share,
Loving father, loving mother
Shelter thee with tender care.

Blessed Savior, we implore thee,
With humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before thee
Forget not us who linger here.
May the shepherd's lowly calling
Ever to thy heart be dear.

Blest are ye, beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heavenly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!

SIX CAROL ANTHEMS

ARRANGED BY GUSTAV HOLST

Fifteenth Century French *Christmas Eve is Here*

Christmas Eve is here, See, the moon is waking,
Christmas Eve is here, Clear and cold the night.
Trudging through the snow go the quiet people.
Christmas Eve is here, Clear and cold the night.

Hear the ringing bells sounding far their music,
Hear the ringing bells playing merry tunes!
Christmas Day is here, Day of joy and gladness,
Bringing peace on earth and good will to men.

Sixteenth Century French *Masters in This Hall*

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today,
Brought from over sea, and ever I you pray.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Sing we clear!

Holpen are all folk on earth, Born is God's Son so dear!
Nowel, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Sing we loud!
God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud!

Going o'er the hills, Through the milk-white snow,
Heard we ewes bleat, While the wind did blow.

Quoth the shepherd then, "To Beth'lem Town we go,
To see a mighty Lord lie in manger low."

This is Christ the Lord, Masters, be ye glad!
Christmas is come in, And no folk should be sad!

Sixteenth Century English

Sing We Now of Christmas

Sing we now of Christmas, Nowell sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the Lord so dear.

Sing we Nowell! The King is born, Nowell, Nowell!
Sing we now of Christmas, Sing we here Noell!

Angels called to shepherds: "Leave your flocks at rest.
Journey forth to Beth'lem, find the Lambkin blest."

From the eastern country came the Kings afar,
Bearing gifts to Beth'lem, guided by a star.

Tune "Crenham" *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

In the bleak mid-winter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him, Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall welcome him When he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter A stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can give him—Give my heart.

—Christina Rossetti

Latin Melody "Pie Cantiones" *Personent Hodie*

Personent hodie voces puerulae, Laudantes,
Incunde qui nobis est natus,
Summo Deo datus.
Et de virgineo ventre procreatus.

On this day earth shall ring
With the song people sing to the Lord,
Christ our King, born on earth to save us,
Him the Father gave us.
Ideo, ideo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

On this day angels sing:
With their song earth shall ring
Praising Christ, heaven's King,
Born on earth to save us,
Peace and love he gave us.

Old French Melody

*Let All Mortal Flesh
Keep Silence*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of Lords in human vesture,
In the body and the Blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day:
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high! Amen.

TWO TRADITIONAL CAROLS

J. F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi"

Adeste Fideles (Latin)

Franz Gruber

Stille Nacht (German)

WILFRED BRIGGS, Music Master of Landon School,
Conducting

THOMAS MCINTOSH, *Accompanist*

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