

Members of the National Men's Chorus

<u>Tenors</u>	<u>Baritones</u>	<u>Basses</u>
Bruce Ambrose	Paul Appeldoorn	Guillermo Balvé
Bill Barr	Andrew Griffin	Sam Corl
Al Best	Joseph Kammerer	Jim Cullum
William Campbell	Roy Kirvan	Charles Ervin
Roy Clark	Mitch Lawrence	David Gill
Chip Filson	Wendel Miser	Donald Henderson
Hugh Hanson	James Oglethorpe	Edward Knight
Dennis Jones	Tom Sparks	Daniel
Michael Klein	Adolph Wilburn	Lautenslager
Charles Kovatch		Stuart Schmid
Justin Moul		Fred Tarpley
Robert Reeves		William Tell
Matt Roberts		William van Stone
Scott Tousley		

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are turned off.

For the convenience of concertgoers the Garden Café remains open until 6:30 p.m.

The Sixty-second Season of

THE WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL and
F. LAMMOT BELIN CONCERTS

National Gallery of Art



2477th Concert

NATIONAL MEN'S CHORUS
THOMAS BEVERIDGE, conductor
FRANCIS CONLON, pianist
with members of the WASHINGTON SYMPHONIC BRASS
PHIL SNEDECOR and SCOTT SABO, trumpets
AMY HORN, French horn CHARLES CASEY, trombone
DAVID BROWN, tuba

Sunday Evening, 21 December 2003
Seven O'clock
West Building, West Garden Court

Admission free

Program

I. Opera Choruses

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813–1901) “Chorus of Brigands” from *Ernani*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Two Choruses from *Die Zauberflöte*
(1756–1791)
“Chorus of Priests”
“Chorus of Slaves”

Charles Gounod “Soldiers’ Chorus” from *Faust*
(1818–1893)

II. Civil War Songs

Walter Kittredge Tenting Tonight
Arr. Thomas Beveridge

Patrick Gilmore When Johnny Comes Marching Home
Arr. Beveridge

III

Beveridge

Life and Liberty
A Cantata for Men’s Voices and Brass Quintet
Words taken from the writings of George Mason
(2002)

Prologue (Narrator): These are the words of Thomas Jefferson:
“This was George Mason, a man of the first order of
wisdom among those who acted upon the theater of the
revolution, of expansive mind, profound judgment,
cogent in argument.” Now listen to the words of George
Mason:

1. Declaration (Chorus): “All men are born equally free and
independant [sic], and have certain inherent natural
Rights, of which they cannot, by any Compact, deprive or
divest their Posterity; among which are the Enjoyment
of Life and Liberty, and pursueing [sic] and obtaining
Happiness and Safety” (from the draft of the *Virginia Bill
of Rights*, 1776).
2. Fanfare for the Free Man (Brass quintet)
3. March (Chorus): “I recommend it to my sons, from my own
Experience of Life, to prefer the happiness of indepen-
dance [sic] & a private Station to the troubles and
Vexations of Public Business; but if either their own
inclination or the Necessaty [sic] of the times shou’d
engage them in Public Affairs, I charge them, on a
Father’s Blessing, never to let the motives of private
Interest or ambition to induce them to betray, nor the
terrors of Poverty and disgrace, or the fear of danger or of
death deter them from Asserting the liberty of their
Country, and endeavoring to transmit to their posterity
those Sacred rights to which [they] themselves were born”
(from Mason’s *Last Will and Testament*, 1773).

4. Chorale (Chorus): “May God grant us a return to those halcyon Days; when every Man may sit down at his Ease under the Shade of his own vine, & his own fig-tree, & enjoy the Sweets of domestic Life!...May he be pleased to inspire us with spirit & resolution, to bear our present & future Sufferings, becoming Men determined to transmit to our Posterity...the Blessings we have inherited from our Ancestors—Life and Liberty!” (from a letter to George Washington, 1776).

*Commissioned by the Board of Regents
of Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason,
with a gift from Helen Kempton Dunn Grinnell*

Intermission

IV. Christmas Music Arranged by Thomas Beveridge

The Wassail Song (Yorkshire carol)
There Is No Rose of Such Virtue (15th-century English carol)
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (15th-century German carol)
While by My Sheep I Watched at Night (17th-century German carol)
Jesus bleibet meine Freude (from J. S. Bach: *Cantata #147*)

It Is Truly Fitting (late 17th-century Znamenny chant)
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Melody from Kievan chant)
Jim Cullum, *soloist*

A la nanita nana (Spanish carol)
Veinticinco de diciembre (Spanish carol)
Guillermo Balvé, *soloist*

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy (Jamaican carol)
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow (American spiritual)
Justin Moul, *soloist*

V. Carols for Choir, Audience, and Brass

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing: “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With th’angelic host proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! The herald angels sing: “Glory to the newborn king.”

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth,
Hark! The herald angels sing: “Glory to the new-born king.”

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heav’n’s all-gracious king:”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ, our Savior, was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heav'nly father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:
O tidings....

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace:
O tidings....

VI.

Arr. Beveridge

Masters in This Hall
(French carol, words by William Morris)

The Musicians

The **National Men's Chorus**, founded in 1999, performs the classics of the literature for male voices, arrangements of traditional melodies composed especially for the chorus, and the rich but rarely performed literature for male voices and orchestra. The National Men's Chorus gave its first performance in the Great Hall of the Library of Congress at a ceremony honoring visiting Russian politicians, members of the Duma, and the Federation Council. *Washington Post* music critic Joseph McLellan hailed the ensemble's first Christmas and Hanukkah concert as a "triumphant debut" in a performance that displayed "polish, expression, and control." The chorus was again complimented in the *Post* for its

"polished and effervescent performance" of Luigi Cherubini's rarely performed *Requiem* for male chorus and orchestra. The ensemble's recent appearances include a concert in Waterford, Virginia, and "Mozart and Jefferson," a program of music of Mozart and Randall Thompson, sung at the Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.

Thomas Beveridge, the founder and artistic director of the National Men's Chorus, has enjoyed a distinguished and versatile career in music. He attended Harvard College, where he studied with Walter Piston, Randall Thompson, and G. Wallace Woodworth, and sang in and composed for the Harvard Glee Club. He also studied conducting and composition with the legendary French teacher, conductor, and composer, Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979). Beveridge's career as a professional singer has included three recitals at the National Gallery as well as recitals at The Phillips Collection, the Corcoran Gallery, and the Library of Congress. He has composed more than five hundred original works and made numerous arrangements for men's voices, many of which have been recorded on the Gothic label. The Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields under Neville Marriner recorded his *Yizkor Requiem* for Naxos International. Beveridge has been director of choral activities at George Mason University and chorus master of the Washington Opera. He is currently the artistic director of the two-hundred-voice New Dominion Chorale as well as choir director of Western Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

Pianist **Francis Conlon** is one of the most sought-after ensemble musicians in the greater Washington area and is on stage virtually every week of the year. His numerous concert tours have included Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Japan. He has been a winner of the National Society of Arts and Letters Competition and the Jordan Awards Contest here in Washington, as well as the Brewster-Allison Competition in Austin, Texas. A member of the music faculty at George Washington University, Conlon is the director of music at the Church of the Annunciation in Washington and Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Virginia.

Programs notes by Elmer Booze