



Dr. Ralph Hughes
Artistic Director & Conductor

Heidi Van Regenmorter
Accompanist

Harris Center for the Arts, Folsom Lake College
Sunday, December 13, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 26th and K Streets
Thursday, December 17, 2015 @ 7:00 PM | Saturday, December 19, 2015 @ 8:00 PM
Sunday, December 20, 2015 @ 3:00 PM | Monday, December 21, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Puer Natus Est (A Child Is Born)

TEXT FROM ISAIAH 9:6

ARRANGED BY RALPH R. PRIME

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

PLAINSONG

ARRANGED BY RALPH HUGHES

Soloists: Ron Richardson and Thomas Voigt

And Lo, the Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them

LUKE 2:9-14

SIR JAMES MACMILLAN

Soloist: Stephen Hill

Deep in A Winter's Night

RALPH R. PRIME

ARRANGED BY ALLAN ROBERT PETKER

Away In A Manger

WORDS ANONYMOUS (19 C. AMERICAN)

MUSIC BY W. J. KIRKPATRICK

ARRANGED BY LINDA DAWSON

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu

CANÇIONERO DE UPPSALA, 41

MATEO FLECHA EL VIEJO

ARRANGED BY DONALD BAILEY

Soloists: Justin Vaughn and Kurtis Kroon

Regina Caeli

MARIAN AND EASTERTIDE HYMN

CECILIA MCDOWALL

Gifts for the Child of Winter

POEM BY CHARLES BENNETT

MUSIC BY BOB CHILCOTT

Soloists: Matt Metcalf and Michelle Miller

Betelehemu

OLANTUNJI

Soloists: Gabe Catabran and Byron Jackson

INTERMISSION

Joy to the World

LYRICS BY ISAAC WATTS

MUSIC BY JACKSON BERKEY

Mary, Did You Know?

MARK LOWRY AND BUDDY GREEN

ARRANGED BY FRED BOCK

little tree

POEM BY e.e. cummings

MUSIC BY ERIC WHITACRE

Sing We Now of Christmas

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

ARRANGED BY CARY RATCLIFF

Now Let Me Fly

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

ARRANGED BY STACEY V. GIBBS

We Three Kings

BY JOHN HENRY HOPKINS, JR.

ARRANGED BY PATRICK ROSE

The First Noel

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL

ARRANGED BY PATRICK ROSE

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer

JOHNNY MARKS

ARRANGED BY A. HAWLEY BARRY

Silent Night

FRANZ XAVER GRÜBER

ARRANGED BY PAUL JOHNSON

Ogo Ni Fun Oluwa! (Glory to God in the Highest!)

YORUBAN TEXT

MUSIC BY ROSEPHANYE POWELL

CHORALOGRAPHY BY YVONNE FARROW

Peace, Peace

RICK & SYLVIA POWELL

ARRANGED BY FRED BOCK

The Sacramento Master Singers

Bruce Patt Photography (brucepatt.com)



soprano

Angela Boardman
 Emily Carbrey †
 Eva Cranstoun
 Olga Demchik
 Ann Gilbert
 Jennifer Helm
 Debbie Hill
 Suzanna Hoyo
 Julie Jenness
 Elli Johnston
 Carol McCormick*
 Michelle Miller
 Nancy Slocum †
 Mia Watts

tenor

Justin Hampel
 Stephen Hill
 Byron Jackson
 Kurtis Kroon
 Matt Metcalf
 Paul Miller
 Jared Richardson
 Ron Richardson
 Dave Segura
 David Temme*
 Justin Vaughn
 Chris Webster

* Section Leader
 † dance captain

alto

Celia Buckley
 Lucy Bunch
 Diane Carpenter
 Barbara Celli
 Caroline Firman
 Katharine Hall
 Laurie Hanschu
 Carol Horner*
 Debra Kahan
 Laura Lofgren
 Gretchen Morgan
 Mary Patt
 Kassie Rivera
 Haruko Sakakibara

bass

Gabe Catabran
 Joe Dunca
 Chris Goff
 Mark Hall
 John Masters
 Kirk Rosander
 Eric C. Smith
 Jon Sorensen
 Ian Tillman
 Thomas Voigt
 William Zinn* †

instrumentalists

HAND CHIMES

Celia Buckley
 Lucy Bunch
 Gabe Catabran
 Joe Dunca
 Jennifer Helm
 Debbie Hill
 Carol Horner
 Elli Johnston
 Debra Kahan
 Kurtis Kroon
 Laura Lofgren
 Carol McCormick
 Gretchen Morgan
 Ron Richardson
 Haruko Sakikibara
 Nancy Slocum
 Jon Sorensen
 David Temme
 Chris Webster
 William Zinn

PERCUSSION

Angela Boardman
 Justin Hampel
 Laurie Hanschu
 Carol Horner
 Byron Jackson
 Elli Johnston
 Debra Kahan
 Kurtis Kroon
 Laura Lofgren
 Gretchen Morgan
 Thomas Voigt*

Dr. Ralph Hughes



artistic director
Dr. Ralph Hughes

accompanist
Heidi Van Regenmorter

board of directors

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**sms artistic
advisory board**
Lynn Stevens
James Wheatley
Barbara Zettel

The Sacramento Master Singers

The Sacramento Master Singers (SMS) is a group of more than singers from the greater Sacramento area who are dedicated to the advancement of choral music. Established in 1982, the group is known for its commitment to delight, challenge, and inspire audiences with seasons programmed to include premieres, classics, and a wide variety of musical periods and styles.

SMS offers profound thanks to the numerous guest directors who have conducted the choir. These include Joseph Jennings, Perla Warren, Moses Hogan, Maria Guinand, Oscar Escalada, Brian Stratton, Alice Parker, and Vance George. We are also grateful to the numerous individuals and ensembles with whom we have had the opportunity to collaborate. These include the Boston Pops,

Sacramento Philharmonic, Sacramento Youth Symphony, Lynn Stevens and the Sacramento Children's Chorus, James Wheatley and Celebration Arts, Linda Goodrich and the Sacramento Black Art of Dance, Sacramento Opera, Gershwin expert and pianist Richard Glazier, the Folsom Symphony, and Celtic music duo Men of Worth.

SMS has performed many area premieres such as the Robert D. Levin completion of the Mozart *Requiem* and the Alfred Schnittke *Requiem*. We have commissioned and performed new works such as *Elements* by David O, *If Music Be the Food of Love* by Clifford Shockney, and *How Can I Keep From Singing?* by Larry Shackley. We often contract with instrumentalists to provide additional accompaniment, including such

outstanding performers as Grammy award winning Native American flutist Mary Youngblood.

SMS plays a leadership role in bringing high-quality choral music to area youth through outreach programs, collaboration with college choirs, scholarships for young singers, and children's holiday concerts. The Sacramento Master Singers was one of three North American choirs selected to perform at the international choral festival America Cantat in Venezuela. We have toured the Carolinas and participated as the headliner choir in the Maui Choral Festival. SMS was the only community choir invited to perform at the American Choral Directors Association 2012 convention in Reno, Nevada. We remain committed to advancing the art and lifting the soul.

Dr. Ralph Edward Hughes

has served as Conductor of the Sacramento Master Singers since 1986. His leadership generated increased recognition for the group's high performance standards, innovative programming, and interest in serving

the community. This is evidenced by the global invitations extended to these singers to perform and by the tremendous increase in audience attendance. Dr. Hughes' direction helped fulfill the community's need for a professional-caliber chamber choir.

Dr. Hughes received his Bachelor's Degree and teaching credential from California State University, Sacramento in 1983. He taught music and drama for seven years at Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks and, since 1990, he teaches choir, voice, and piano at American River College. He was awarded his Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from California State University, Sacramento in December 1992 and his Doctoral Degree in Conducting in 2002 from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Hughes is a member of the California Music Educators Association, the American Choral Director's Association, and the International Federation for Choral Music. In 1995, he was recognized as "Outstanding Music Educator of the Year" by the California Music Educators Association Capitol Section.

Dr. Hughes focuses on extending the Master Singers' impact on the community through an emphasis on multicultural music and programming designed to stimulate interest among the area's young people. Regular participation in the World Symposium on Choral Music introduces him to the world's leading choral directors and composers of choral music, and he responds by programming many exciting new works.



Toni Kerber first learned sign language at American River College in the 1980's so that she could more fully express her faith. Over the years, she has taught American Sign Language (ASL) to both children and adults — including children of parents with hearing impairments. SMS is very grateful for the experience and expression she adds to our concerts.

Program Notes

Selections marked with an asterisk (*) are available on one of our CDs, which you can find at the recordings table, or online at mastersingers.org.

Puer Natus Est (A Child Is Born)

TEXT FROM ISAIAH 9:6; ARRANGED BY RALPH R. PRIME

Ralph Prime's setting of this chant, one of the best known of the ancient Christmas monadic tradition, is timeless. The strains of Gregorian chant are interwoven with pinpoints of tone chimes. The Christmas story is encapsulated in the short text:

Puer natus est nobis,
Et filius datus est nobis,
Cujus imperium super humerum ejus,
Et vocabitur nomen ejus:
Magni consilii angelus.

*A Child is born unto us,
A Son is given unto us,
Upon His shoulder pow'r forever will rest,
And His name shall be called
Angel of great counsel,
Angel of great wisdom.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *

PLAINSONG; ARRANGED BY RALPH HUGHES

This traditional Advent hymn, based on a plainsong melody of the 15th century, is presented in a haunting setting for chorus, tubular bells and piano. This setting is included on our compact disc recording "Deep in a Winter's Night."

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

O, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

And Lo, the Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them

LUKE 2:9-14; SIR JAMES MACMILLAN

Ex Cathedra, a British choir based in Birmingham and directed by Jeffrey Skidmore to whom the piece is dedicated, commissioned MacMillan to create this selection in celebration of their 40th anniversary in 2009. With careful observation, the listener may discern seventeen parts divided among three choirs, with divisi that come and go, representing the Narrator, the Angel, and the Heavenly Host.

And lo, the angel of the Lord
came upon them,
And the glory of the Lord
shone round about them,
And they were sore afraid.
And the angel said unto them,

“Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy
Which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day
In the city of David a Savior,
Which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you;
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes,
Lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the Angel
A multitude of the Heavenly Host
Praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
goodwill toward all men!”

Deep in A Winter’s Night *

WORDS AND MUSIC BY RALPH R. PRIME; ARRANGED BY ALLAN ROBERT PETKER

Just as the birth of Christ brought love and peace to a troubled world, Deep in a Winter’s Night is a carol of hope that each of us finds peace and love as we celebrate Christmas. This particular carol is one in a set of three composed and written by Ralph R. Prime, and strives to integrate the traditional carol with the hope that we will be able to make our own Christmas celebrations more meaningful and relevant today. Ralph R. Prime is a retired professor from San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, CA.

Deep in a winter’s night,
Jesus was born, bringing God’s love to a
world that was torn.
May the light of his love still shine brightly
today.
Christus natus est hodie.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deep in a winter’s night,
God came to earth, bringing us peace
through a child’s lowly birth.
May the gift of his peace still rest of us
today.
Christus natus est hodie.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Away In A Manger

WORDS ANONYMOUS (19TH-CENTURY AMERICAN);
MUSIC BY W. J. KIRKPATRICK; ARRANGED BY LINDA DAWSON

Away In A Manger was first published in 1885 in a Lutheran Sunday School book. That it was subtitled Luther’s Cradle Hymn encouraged the myth that the lyrics were written by Martin Luther for his children. However, research shows only the author of the third verse is certain: John T. McFarland and music by William J. Kirkpatrick in 1895. Linda Dawson, the arranger of this piece, accompanied the Sacramento Master Singers and served as resident arranger for five seasons from 1994-1999. The choir premiered her arrangement in December 1996.

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
The Little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu *

CANÇIONERO DE UPPSALA, 41;
MATEO FLECHA EL VIEJO; ARRANGED BY DONALD BAILEY

To differentiate him from his nephew, also a 16th century composer, Mateo Flecha is considered El Viejo (the elder) and his nephew El Joven (the younger). The Cançionero de Uppsala is a songbook connected with the chapel of the Duke of Calabria in Spain, which features several of Flecha El Viejo's compositions. He is the composer of the "ensalada" (literally, "salad"), a choral piece for 4-5 voices written for the diversion of courtiers in the palace.

Ríu ríu chíu, la guarda ribera;
Dios guardó el lobo de nuestra cordera.

*Crying ríu, ríu, chíu, God the kingfisher
kept the wolf from our Lamb [Jesus]."*

El lobo Rabioso La quiso morder,
Mas Dios poderoso la supo defender;
Quisola hazer que no pudiese pecar,
Ni aun original esta Virgen no tuviera.

*The rabid wolf tried to bite her
But God Almighty knew how to defend her
He wished to create her impervious to sin
Nor was this maid to embody original sin.*

Este qu'es nacido es el gran monarca,
Christo patriarca, de carne vestido;
Hanos redimido con se hazer chiquito,
Aun qu'era infinito, finito se hiziera.

*He who's now begotten
is our mighty Monarch
Christ, our Holy Father,
in human flesh embodied
He has brought atonement
by being born so humble
Though He is infinite, he made himself finite.*

Muchas profecias lo han profetizado,
Y aun en nuestros dias lo hemos alcanzado
A Dios humanado vemos en el suelo,
Y al hombre nelcielo porqu'el le quisiera.

*Many prophecies told of his coming,
And now in our days
have we seen them fulfilled.
God became man, on earth we behold him,
And see man in heaven because he so willed.*

Yo vi mil garcones que andavan cantando,
Por aquí bolando, haziendo mil sones,
Diciendo a gascones: "Gloria sea en el cielo
Y paz en el suelo", pues Jesús nasciera.

*A thousand singing angels I saw passing,
Flying overhead,
sounding a thousand voices,
Exulting, "Glory be in the heavens,
And peace on Earth, for Jesus has been born."*

Regina Caeli

MARIAN AND EASTERTIDE HYMN; CECILIA MCDOWALL

This London-born composer is admired because she "...constantly tweaks the ear with her range of spicy rhythms and colours, then suddenly produces a highly atmospheric and grippingly expressive interlude which is just as compelling." [Grammophone Magazine] McDowall won the British Composer Award for choral music in 2014. Although appropriate for Eastertide, pieces about the Virgin Mary such as Regina Caeli are also performed during the Christmas season.

Alleluia.

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Alleluia.

*Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as He said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.*

Gifts for the Child of Winter

POEM BY CHARLES BENNETT; MUSIC BY BOB CHILCOTT

Based in Oxford, England, Chilcott is a British composer, choral conductor and singer who sang in Cambridge's Choir of King College. His choral music is widely performed across the world. Librettist Charles Bennett is a British poet who collaborates with musicians, poets and artists, but primarily with Bob Chilcott. The minor tonality of this piece of music is a reflection of the poem: we can bring gifts for the child of winter (Jesus Christ), but our summer will be "without end" only when he arrives.

I give to you a plough blade,
A plough blade made of snow
To run a furrow down the field
And make the winter grow.
Its flowers will be white as frost,
Bright as stars in heav'n:
O bring us winter softly,
And let our hearts be open.

I give to you a blackbird's song
A song of sweetest breath
To hang in ev'ry branch and tree
And purify the earth.
It floats in clouds of wonder,
It comes to do no harm:
O bring us winter gently,
And let our hearts be warm.

I give to you a raindrop
Frozen like a tear
To quench your thirst for ever
And taste the winter air,
It flows to bring the blossom,
To water the field;
O bring us winter quietly,
Let our hearts be healed.

The plough blade is for cutting,
Which comes before the seed.
The blackbird sings at eventide
And then she falls asleep.
The raindrop falls just once
And then is swallowed by the ground.
O come to be our summer,
Our summer without end.

The child of winter.

Betelehemu

OLANTUNJI

This Nigerian carol, sung in the Yoruba dialect, has been transmitted by oral tradition to America, where it was made famous by the Morehouse College Glee Club. The use of percussion is an essential element in relating the joy of Christ's birth. "Where was Jesus born? In Bethlehem, the city of wonder." The Sacramento Master Singers first performed the work in 1993.

Awa yi o ri Baba gbo jule
Awa yi o ri Baba fehinti

*We are glad that we have a Father to trust.
We are glad to have a Father to rely upon.*

Nibo labi Jesu,
Nibo lagbe bii
Betelehemu ilu ara,
Nibe labi Baba o daju.

*Where was Jesus born?
Where was he born?
Bethlehem the city of wonder.
That is where the Father was born for sure.*

Lyin, nifuno
Adupe funo, jooni,
Baba olo reo
Lyin, fun o Baba anu,
Baba toda wasi.

*Praise be to Him
We thank Thee for this day,
Gracious Father.
Praise be to Thee,
Merciful Father.*

Joy to the World

LYRICS BY ISAAC WATTS; MUSIC BY JACKSON BERKEY

Isaac Watts, universally acknowledged as The Father of English Hymnody, paraphrased the text of Psalm 98 to create this well-known Christmas carol. Jackson Berkey's arrangement is from a collection of eight carol and hymn arrangements originally presented as an anniversary gift to his lady, Almeda, a music director of the professional vocal ensemble Soli Deo Gloria Cantorum. Berkey's creative touch makes this piece sound new, yet still traditional.

Joy to the world! the Lord is come.
Joy to the world! the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room.
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven
and nature sing: Joy!

*While fields, rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come.
Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wondrous, wondrous
wonders of His love.*

Mary, Did You Know? *

MARK LOWRY AND BUDDY GREEN; ARRANGED BY FRED BOCK

First recorded in 1991 by Christian artist Michael English, this song has since gone on to become a modern Christmas classic, recorded by many artists over the years, across multiple genres. Perhaps imagining the piece sung to Mary as she rocks her baby, Bock opens and ends his arrangement with the gentleness of a hushed lullaby.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know, that your baby boy
would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered
will soon deliver you.
Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will give sight to the blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy
has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby,
you've kissed the face of God?
Mary, did you know?

Did you know the blind will see, the deaf
will hear, the dead will live again!
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
the praises of the Lamb!
Mary, did you know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will one day rule the nations?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
was heaven's perfect Lamb?
And the sleeping child you're holding,
He is the Great I AM, the great I AM!
Mary did you know?
His name is Jesus.

little tree

POEM BY e.e. cummings; MUSIC BY ERIC WHITACRE

The poem "little tree" is one of only two works published by e.e. cummings that holds a child's voice and perspective. Edward Estlin Cummings was an American poet, painter, essayist, author and playwright, and is remembered as a notable voice of 20th century English literature. Whitacre has created a dreamscape to accompany this picture poem, utilizing the rich harmonies, inventive chord progressions, and mixed and compound meters considered his distinctive style.

little tree
little silent Christmas tree
you are so little
you are more like a flower

who found you in the green forest
and were you very sorry to come away?
see i will comfort you
because you smell so sweetly

i will kiss your cool bark
and hug you safe and tight
just as your mother would,
only don't be afraid

look the spangles
that sleep all the year in a dark box
dreaming of being taken out
and allowed to shine,
the balls the chains red and gold
the fluffy threads,

put up your little arms
and i'll give them all to you to hold
every finger shall have its ring
and there won't be a single place
dark or unhappy

then when you're quite dressed
you'll stand in the window
for everyone to see
and how they'll stare!
oh but you'll be very proud

and my little sister and i will take hands
and looking up at our beautiful tree
we'll dance and sing
"Noel Noel"

Sing We Now of Christmas

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL; ARRANGED BY CARY RATCLIFF

Sing we Now of Christmas (Noël nouvelet) is a traditional French carol arranged here by Dr. Cary Ratcliff, a composer based in Rochester, NY, who performed as a pianist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for 35 years and is currently the Artistic Director of Madrigalia, a Rochester-based choral chamber ensemble.

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
Dévotes gens, crions à dieu merci!
Chantons Noël, pour le roi nouvelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

*Noël, little child; Noël we sing here.
Devout people, we shout thanks to God.
We sing Noel for the new little king.
Noël, little child; Noël we sing here.*

Sing we now of Christmas,
noel sing we here.
Hear our grateful praises
to the babe so dear.
Sing we noel, the King is born noel!
Sing we now of Christmas,
sing we now noel.

Sing we noel, the King is born, noel.
Sing we now of Christmas,
sing we now noel.

Angels called to shepherds,
"Leave your flocks at rest.
Journey forth to Bethl'hem,
find the lamb so blest."

In Bethlehem they found them,
Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger,
watching the holy child.
Sing we noel, the King is born noel.
Sing we noel the king is born noel.

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Facebook Friends of the Sacramento Master Singers get access to behind-the-scenes videos and photos, as well as exclusive news and offers. Join our fan club today!



Now Let Me Fly

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL INCORPORATING I'LL FLY AWAY BY ALBERT E. BRUMLEY;
ARRANGED BY STACEY V. GIBBS

A graduate of Kentucky State University, Gibbs is well known for his arrangements of traditional spirituals. His works have been performed by numerous college, university, and high school groups, internationally and domestically, as well as at all-state festivals and conferences. This setting of I'll Fly Away is a celebration of overcoming the obstacles and challenges of life. The hymn I'll Fly Away was written in 1929 by Albert E. Brumley, an American gospel music composer and publisher. Often called the most recorded gospel song, Gibbs says that the hymn, "...serves as a catalyst from trial and longing, to victory and triumph."

Some glad morning when this life is over,
I'll fly away.

Let me fly away to a home on God's
celestial shore.

Now let me fly to Mt. Zion, yes, Lord,
now let me fly.

Way down yonder
in the middle of the field,
See the angels workin'
on the chariot wheel.
I'm not so partic'lar 'bout
the workin' of the wheel,
But I just wanted to see
how the chariot feel.

See that hypocrite on the street,

good Lord,

First thing he do is show his teeth,
my Lord,

And the next thing he do is to tell a lie,

And the best thing to do
is just pass him by.

I got a mother in the Promised Land,

And I ain't gonna stop

'til I shake-a her hand,

No, I'm not so partic'lar '
bout shaking her hand, Lord,

I just want to meet her
in the Promised Land.

We Three Kings *

BY JOHN HENRY HOPKINS, JR.; ARRANGED BY PATRICK ROSE

Patrick Rose writes for the men's group Eclipse, and our audiences tell us that they love his arrangements that we've come to feature in recent holiday concerts. Please enjoy!

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high.

CHORUS:

O, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guiding us with thy light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain;
Gold I bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

CHORUS

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in a borrowed tomb.

CHORUS

The First Noel

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL; ARRANGED BY PATRICK ROSE

This selection for the men of the choir is given a distinctive jazzy style by Rose, who currently lives in Los Angeles and composes scores for film and network television. The lyrics for this traditional Christmas song appear to be a mash-up of the story of The Magi (the star of Bethlehem) in the Gospel of Matthew and the Nativity of Jesus (specifically, the episodes regarding the shepherds) described in the Gospel of Luke.

The first Noel, the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields as they lay.
In fields where they
Lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up
And saw a bright star
Shining in the East
Beyond them far

And to the earth
It gave great light
And so it continued
Both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

The star drew nigh
To the Northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest.
And there it did stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer

BY JOHNNY MARKS; ARRANGED BY A. HAWLEY BARRY

The story about the most famous reindeer of all - Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer, was published in 1939. Robert L. May, a copywriter at the Chicago-based Montgomery Ward store, wrote it as a promotional children's book to bring the holiday traffic into his store. Johnny Marks adapted the story of Rudolph into a song in 1949, and it was first recorded by Gene Autry. His recording hit No. 1 in the U.S. charts the week of Christmas in 1949.

You know Dasher and Dancer
and Prancer and Vixen,
Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen;
But, do you recall
the most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer,
had a very shiny nose;
And if you ever saw it,
you would even say it glows;
All of the other reindeer
used to laugh and call him names;
They never let poor Rudolph
play in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy
Christmas Eve,
Santa came to say,
"Rudolph, with your
nose so bright,
won't you guide my
sleigh tonight?"
Then how the reindeer
loved him as they
shouted out with glee,
Rudolph! The red-nosed
reindeer, you'll go down in history!
You'll go down in history!



Silent Night

FRANZ XAVER GRÜBER; ARRANGED BY PAUL JOHNSON

The original German lyrics, written by Mohr in 1816 were put to music by Grüber in 1818. In 1859, Episcopal priest John Freeman Young published the English translation that is most sung today. This carol has been translated into about 140 languages. Johnson, a native of the Pacific Northwest, spent 25 years in Southern California as a composer/arranger/producer/publisher and has written over 600 titles.

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherd quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!"

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiance beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, lord, at thy birth.
Christ the Saviour is born.

Ogo Ni Fun Oluwa! (Glory to God in the Highest!)

YORUBAN TEXT; MUSIC BY ROSEPHANYE POWELL;
CHORALOGRAPHY BY YVONNE FARROW

Dr. Rosephanye Dunn Powell has been hailed as one of America's premier women composers of choral music. Dr. Powell serves as Professor of Voice at Auburn University. In her setting of this Yoruban (Nigerian) text, she has combined strong, independent melodies with drums and energetic rhythms, both clapped and sung. The Master Singers are grateful to Yvonne Farrow for setting the work to movement creating what we hope will be an exhilarating piece for you. Please accept this as our gift for the happiest of holidays for you!

Eyo! Eyo!

Ogo ni fun oluwa!

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Glory to God in the highest!

Ejo! Ejo! Ogo ni fun oluwa!

Dance! Dance! Glory to God in the highest!

Abi Jesu Kristi! Alafia! Irepo! Epàtewö!

Jesus Christ is born! Peace! Unity! Clap!

Peace, Peace *

RICK & SYLVIA POWELL; ARRANGED BY FRED BOCK

*For over 25 years the Sacramento Master Singers have concluded our December concerts with the singing and signing of this holiday wish for peace on earth. Please join us in singing **Silent Night** at the end of our program.*

Peace, peace, peace on earth

And goodwill to all.

This is a time for joy.

This is a time for love.

Now let us all sing together

Of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

'Round yon virgin mother and Child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Sleep in heavenly peace.



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Alto Celia Buckley (R) with sister and volunteer Connie Buckley (L).



Alto Mary Patt (C) with friends and volunteer ushers Twila Morris (L), and her daughter, Jo Kasler (R).



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We would like to thank the staff and congregation of **St. Francis of Assisi Church** for their support and the use of their facilities for this concert.

The Sacramento Master Singers also thanks the staff and congregation of **Arcade Church** for the kindness and generosity of their people and the use of their facilities during SMS rehearsals.



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