

O magnum mysterium

An Ancient Spanish Christmas

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sacramento, December 17, 2015

In memoriam Noele Krenkel Salgado

Program

Four Anonymous 16th-Century *Villancicos*:

"Verbum caro factum est"

"Dadme albricias, hijos d'Eva" *

"Un niño nos es nacido" *

"Riu, riu, chiu"

Motet: "O magnum mysterium"

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)

Misa O magnum mysterium (presented with instrumental interludes)

Victoria

I. Kyrie eleison

"Imperayritz de la ciutat ioyosa", Anonymous Spanish, 15th Century

Joan Hall, harp

II. Gloria in excelsis Deo

Organ music—

Bruce Crain, organ

III. Credo in unum Deum

"Duo Pleni Sunt", Enriquez de Valderrábano (fl. 1547)

Philip Horne, vihuela

IV. Sanctus et Benedictus

Magnificat *versillo*, Antonio de Cabezón (1510-1566)

Lee Lovallo, organ

V. Agnus Dei

"Veni, veni Emanuel"

Anonymous French, 15th-Century

Renaissance Choir Sacramento

Lee T. Lovallo, director

Soprano: Elizabeth Crain, Joan Hall, Rebecca Lee, Carol Smyth

Alto: Heide Ruegsegger, Susan Scott, Anne Slakey

Tenor: Lee Lovallo, Loren McIntyre, Matthew Royal

Bass: Bruce Crain, Mark Swabey, Todd Troutman

*with Joan Hall, harp, and Philip Horne, vihuela

Notes on the Music

Strictly speaking the music we are performing is only partly Spanish. The four *villancicos* are settings of texts in Catalan. They were preserved in a single manuscript discovered in a library in Uppsala, Sweden. Not all *villancicos* treat Christmas themes, but happily these do. Similar to carols, they are meant to be sung at informal occasions, not necessarily in church.

Tomás Luis de Victoria was a major composer of the late Renaissance. Born in Spain he spent much of his life in Italy, where he was in close contact with Palestrina. Later he returned to Spain, but the well-known motet and the Mass upon which it is based were written while he was in Rome.

The Mass makes use of melodic fragments from the earlier motet, ingeniously embedding them in all four voice parts. The Agnus Dei exhibits particular skill in this regard: not only are such motives imitated by the various voices, but an additional soprano part—making a total of five voice parts—is written as a strict canon at the unison (like a round).

This evening's performance of the Mass is provided with interludes from early Spanish and Catalan composers, played on the harp, vihuela and organ.

The Advent hymn *Veni Emanuel* is of course well-known. In all there are seven verses, one for each day of the week preceding Christmas. In our performance of three of these the melody is fitted to a 15th-century two-part conductus. We invite you to join us by singing the melody on the last verse, which repeats the words of verse one.

May the expectations of Advent and the joy of Christmas be with you this Season!

Renaissance Choir Sacramento

Now in its fourth year, Renaissance Choir Sacramento has established itself as a serious and entertaining part of the Capitol region's music scene. Led by Dr. Lee T. Lovallo, associate professor of music at National University, the Choir has performed works by Palestrina, Ockeghem, Dufay, Gibbons, Byrd, Hassler, Josquin, Tallis, and even Wm. Billings. Past performance venues include the California State Capitol, the Crocker Art Museum, Christ the

King Retreat Center, Sisters of Mercy Convent, New Clairvaux Monastery, Harris Center for the Arts, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Rehearsals take place at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Antelope, Thursdays, 7-9 pm., where the Choir is in residence, singing Evensong several times during the year. Singers interested in joining the Choir are encouraged to speak with the director to arrange an audition, which usually involves sitting in on a rehearsal. Contact: www.RenaissanceChoirSacramento.com, ltlovallo@gmail.com, 916-320-8423. Church membership is not required.

We gratefully acknowledge support from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Antelope; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sacramento; Umpqua Bank; National University; and Andrew Clementi, who designed the poster for tonight's concert: www.arctypedesign.com, aclementi@gmail.com. Donations received support the Choir's ongoing community music performances.

Texts and Translations

Verbum caro factum est

Refrain: Verbum caro factum est
Porque todos hos salveis.

1. Y la Virgen le dezia:
"Vida de la vida mia,
Hijo mio, ¿que os haria,
Que no tengo en que os echeis?"

Refrain

2. O riquezas terrenales,
¿No dareis unos pasñales
A Jesu que entre animales
Es nascido segun veis?

Refrain

The Word is made flesh
for the salvation of you all.

And the Virgin said unto Him:
"Life of my life,
what would I (not) do for you, my Son?
Yet I have nothing on which to lay you down."

Oh, worldly riches!
will you not give some swaddling clothes
to Jesus, who is born among the animals,
as you can see?

Dadme albricias, hijos d'Eva

Dadme albricias, hijos d'Eva
dí, ¿de qué dártelas han?
Que es nascido el nuevo Adán.
¡Oh y de Dios y qué nueva,
oh y de Dios y qué nueva!

Dádmelas y haved placer,
pues esta noche es nascido
el Mexías prometido,
Dios y Hombre, de muger.

Give me reward for my tidings, sons of Eve!
Tell us, why should we reward you?
Because the new Adam is born.
Oh, Son of God, what news!
Oh, Son of God, what news!

Give me my reward and sing for joy,
For tonight is born
The promised Messiah,
God and man, born of a woman,

Y su nacer nos relleva
del peccado y de su afán,
pues nació el nuevo Adán.

And his birth redeemed us
From sin and from its torments.
The new Adam is born!

Un niño nos es nacido

Un niño nos es nacido,
hijo nos es otorgado,
Dios y hombre prometido,
sobre divino humanado.
Niño por que en las gentes
nunca primero fue visto,
en cuerpo y anima mixto,
mostrando sus acidentes.
un niño que a los bivientes
oy comunica su ser,
y comiença a padescer
sobre divino humanado.

A child for us is born,
a son for us is given,
God and man as promised,
divinely made man.
A child such as people
had never seen before,
body and spirit commingled,
showing his wounds.
a child to the living
has told of himself,
and begun to suffer,
divinely made man.

Riu, riu, chiu

[With a cry of] Ríu, ríu, chíu, the kingfisher, God kept the wolf from our Lamb [Mary, spared of the original sin at birth].

Refrain: Riu, riu, chiu,
La guarda ribera:
Dios guardo el lobo
De nuestra cordera.

Riu, riu, chiu,
the guard (shepherd) by the river:
God protected our Ewe
from the wolf.

1. 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.

2. Este qu'es nacido es el gran monarca,
Christo patriarca, de carne vestido;
hanos redimido con se hacer chiquito,

a un 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 immortal, as mortal was created.

3. Muchas profecias lo han profetizado,
Ya un nuestros dias lo hemos al consado
Adios humanado vemos en el suelo,
Yal hombre nelcielo porquel le quistera.

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.

4. Yo vi mil garzones que andaban cantando,
por aquí volando, haciendo mil sonos,
diciendo a gascones: "Gloria sea en el cielo
y paz en el suelo", pues de sus 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."

5. Este viene a dar a los muertos vida
y viene a reparar de todos la caída;
es la luz del día a questo mozuelo;
este es el cordero que San Juan dixera.

He comes to give life to the dead,
He comes to redeem the fall of man;
This child is the light of day,
He is the very lamb Saint John prophesied.

Motet: "O magnum mysterium"

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.
Alleluia.

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Mass: "O magnum mysterium"

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax
homínibus bonæ voluntátis.
Laudámus te, benedícimus te,
adorámus te, glorificámus te,
grátias ágimus tibi
propter magnam glóriam tuam,
Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,
Deus Pater omnípotens.
Dómine Fili unigénite, Iesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi,
miserére nobis;

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace
to men of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks
for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
God, the Father almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;

qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Credo

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem,

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty
factorem caeli et terrae, visibilibus omnium et invisibilibus.

Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible:

Et in unum Dominum, Jesum Christum,

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula.

the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages;

Deum de Deo, Lumen de Lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God;

genitum non factum, consubstantialem Patri;

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father,

per quem omnia facta sunt.

by Whom all things were made;

Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven.

Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est.

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost out of the Virgin Mary, and was made man:

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato passus, et sepultus est,

He was also crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried:

et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas,

And on the third day rose again according to the Scripture:

et ascendit in caelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris.

And ascended into Heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father:

Et iterum venturus est cum gloria, iudicare vivos et mortuos,

And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead:

cuius regni non erit finis;

Of His Kingdom there shall be no end;

Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum et vivificantem,

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life,

qui ex Patre Filioque procedit.

Who proceeds from the Father and the Son

Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur:

Who, with the Father and the Son, is together adored and glorified,
qui locutus est per prophetas.

Who has spoken through the Prophets.

Et unam, sanctam, catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam.

And I believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church,
Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum.

I confess one Baptism for the remission of sins.

Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum,

And I await the Resurrection of the Dead:

et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Sanctus et Benedictus est

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Lord, God of power and might,

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Veni Emanuel

In this performance five of the seven different verses are used. The audience is invited to sing the melody with us on verse 5, which uses the same words as verse 1.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear,

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

2. Veni, veni, Emanuel captivum solve Israel,
Qui gemit in exilio privatus Dei Filio.

Refrain: Gaude, gaude, Emanuel nascetur pro te, Israel.

[English as in verse 1]

3. Veni, veni, Rex gentium, Veni Redemptor omnium:

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;

Ut salvos tuos famulos peccati sibi conscius.

O come, Bid every strife and quarrel cease and fill the world with heaven's peace.

Refrain

4. Veni, veni O Oriens solare nos adveniens,

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;

Noctis depelle nebulas, dirasque mortis tenebras.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

5. identical with verse 1.

