

# LUX AETERNA

*"In harmony  
with th' stars  
in heaven's  
span."*

- Scott Christopher Mehner



artwork by: JM Knudsen

## vox musica

w/ Derek Sup, composer & organist

**MUSIC  
WORTH  
SHARING**

12.9.17	7:00 pm	St. John's Lutheran Church
12.10.17	5:00 pm	Jesuit High School, Phelan Chapel
12.11.17	7:00 pm	Beatnik Studios

## welcome

Humankind has celebrated the winter solstice for thousands of years, marking the passage through the darkness of winter and yearning for the return of the sun. We illuminate this wonder through a carefully crafted concert that features media, music, and poetry that is ancient and modern, familiar and unfamiliar, secular and sacred, as well as expected and unexpected.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of choral literature written for organ accompaniment; not so surprising, as these two mediums have the potential of expressing, in several dimensions, endless power and beauty. In tonight's performance we share several amazing concert works for choir and organ. Throughout the evening the two become more integrated, showing off a variety of brilliant and deeper, rich colours. Another interesting contrast is that each performance is in a different venue, each with different acoustical properties. The varied acoustical spaces will respond differently to the textures of the voices and organ, producing palpable vibrations designed to transport the listener beyond everyday indifference into the realms of time and place. Music is vibration and, perhaps, the music itself speaks better than words, hopefully resonating with the shadows and the light of our own world and time.

We hope this concert will give you a chance to commune with our sound and text, and that it provides you with a transcending experience of joy, love, faith, hope, and wonder; a rare opportunity to be one "in the harmony with th' stars in heaven's span," Lux Aeterna (eternal light).

Happy Holidays,



## organization

### VOX MUSICA, INC.

1017 L Street, # 333 • Sacramento, CA 95814  
[www.VoxMusica.net](http://www.VoxMusica.net) • 916.844.2586 • [Info@VoxMusica.net](mailto:Info@VoxMusica.net)

Board President: **Mary Frank**  
Vice President: **Ann Huntsman**  
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Treasurer: **Stephanie Kvasager**  
Intern: **Jojo Minnick**  
Music Director: **Daniel Paulson**



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**Vox Musica** was founded in 2006 in a niche of untapped potential in Sacramento's budding classical music scene. Vox Musica is committed to excellence in performance of diverse and challenging choral literature for women's voices and is dedicated to promoting new works, including many premiers and commissioned works. Through collaborations with composers, conductors, choirs, and musicians from around the world, Vox Musica's featured concert projects have included collected works from the 18th century Venetian Ospedali, eastern music from India, Persia, and Georgia, a concert project for Taiko Drums and Women's Choir, a concert project for DJ and Women's Choir, and more recently a concert project for looping violin and Women's Choir. Vox Musica has released one compact disc, has been a featured artist on the prestigious Old First Concert Series in San Francisco and the American Choral Directors Association's 2011 National Convention in Chicago, IL. More recently, Vox Musica was selected as the recipient of the 2015-16 American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) National Award for Adventurous Programming.

*"This new vocal ensemble is a welcome addition to the Sacramento music scene and they proved it by delivering the goods on a smartly selected program."*

- Sacramento Bee, 2006.

*"The recent arrival of the choir Vox Musica to the Sacramento music scene is also indicative of the talent moving into the area that highly values new music."*

- American Music Center, 2007

*"The singers and conductor Daniel Paulson threw down a breathtaking performance of my Three Nightsongs."*

- Joshua Shank, 2008.

*"The ensemble breathed refreshing life into three contemporary arrangements of a 15th-century hymn 'Es Ist Ein Ros Entsprungen'."*

- Sacramento Bee, 2010.

**Anne-Marie Endres, soprano I**  
**Stephanie Tomicich, soprano I**  
**Becky Parker, soprano I**  
**Beth Nitzan, soprano I**  
**Susanna Peeples, soprano II**  
**Erin Brothers, soprano II**  
**Heather Razo, soprano II**  
**Laura Mclellan, soprano II**

**Veronica Tonus, alto I**  
**Emma Gluckmann, alto I**  
**Paige Kelly, alto I**  
**Holly Goritz, alto I**  
**Dana Daggett, alto I**  
**Sarah Henshaw, alto II**  
**Jennifer Crawford, alto II**  
**Cat Fithian, alto II**  
**Amy Lynne Spier, alto II**

## founder/director

**Daniel Paulson**, founder & music director, holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice Performance from Sacramento State University, and a Masters of Music Degree in Choral Conducting from California State University, Los Angeles. He has been a featured conductor on the *International Festival of New American Music* in Sacramento, CA, the *Old First Concert Series* in San Francisco, CA, and the *American Choral Directors Association's 2011 National Convention* in Chicago, IL. He is a student of Dr. William Belan, Professor Emeritus of Choral Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, and Donald Brinegar, Professor Emeritus of Choral Studies at Pasadena City College and former Adjunct Professor of Graduate Choral Conducting at the University of Southern California. His extended education includes studying early music with the Western Wind Ensemble, the King's Singers, and at the 2013 American Bach Soloist's Summer Academy. He has been a two-time guest presenter for the Los Rios Community College District "INNOVATE" Technology Summit, working with educators on the use of the iPad in the classroom, was a featured presenter at the Sacramento TEDx Conference, and he spent the summer of 2014 teaching Choral/Vocal music at the University of Costa Rica. He is Professor of Voice and Choral Music at Sacramento City College, is a resident artist with the Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and serves as Founder & Music Director for Vox Musica.



*"Paulson has proved himself to be an astute programmer. He's not afraid of taking chances."*

- Sacramento Bee, 2007.

*"Stunning performance of my Desertscares; Paulson made it come to life."*

- Maggi Payne, composer, 2008.

*"Paulson coaxed a multi-layered sound from the singers. This gave a transcendent feel to the music, whose mysterious dimensions were delicately revealed."*

- Sacramento Bee, 2010.

# IS OUR MUSIC WORTH SHARING?

This season we are asking you to take an active role in the growth of our organization. There are plenty of opportunities for your talents and skills to be utilized:

**BOARDSHIP, FUNDRAISING,  
MARKETING, & SOCIAL MEDIA**

are some areas in which you can be of service.

Contact us today if you can help!

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## Featured Composer & Organist:

**Derek Sup**, *organist & featured composer*, is a Sacramento native currently living in Oakland. He received a Bachelor's of Music degree in music composition from Willamette University in 2014, and is the current organist and director of music at St. Paul Lutheran of Oakland, where he also conducts the choir. He recently released a full-length album called *Covenant of Grace* in September 2017, a collection of his songs that he performed and orchestrated with string quartet, choir, handbells, organ, and drums. In March 2017, he composed and performed his first public orchestra work, a piano concerto named *Debra's Recital*, with the Rancho Cordova Civic Light Orchestra, which received an encore performance in October. His works can be viewed and listened to on his website: [www.dereksup.com](http://www.dereksup.com).



## Lyricist:

**Scott Christopher Mehner**, *lyricist*, is a creative writer and lyricist. With his roots snugly planted in the rich soil of romantic poetry, Scott got his start working as a ghostwriter in the music business, where he learned to take his ever-precious time when crafting a meaningful lyric. Over the years, Scott has come to learn that collaboration is the key to creating something bigger than the individual, and it is this experience and knowledge that have empowered Scott to rise to the challenge of his latest project: commissioning twenty artists and calligraphers from all around the world to illustrate a collection of his own poems, entitled *Illustrated Poems*. He is known around the world for writing lyrics for a few of the biggest bands in the world including One Direction and Hey Violet. His works and projects can be viewed on his website: [www.scottcmehner.com](http://www.scottcmehner.com)

*Illustrated Poems* is available for purchase at tonight's performance.

## Cover Artist:

**JM Knudsen**, *artist*: "I am always seeking infinite possibilities through art with self awareness and observation of the world in which I live. When I have ideas, and believe they are possible, they are manifested into reality. I strive to be active in the arts as I progress along my creative journey, utilizing a wide array of mediums and subject matter to get my ideas across. I feel as an artist in society it is our responsibility to deliver evoking artwork the best way we can. If we aren't bringing about an emotion from our audience, we need to find a way." –JM Knudsen

## Guest Choral Artists:

Justin Vaughn, *Tenor I*

Joshua Cabardo, *Tenor II*

Jeremiah Brothers, *Tenor II*

Tim Hartigan, *Tenor II*

Charlie Baad, *Bass I*

Lawrence Torres, *Bass I*

Ryan Vang, *Bass I*

George Kastanis, *Bass II*

Nathan Halbur, *Bass II*

**Projection Artist:** Chris Wood



**Anne-Marie Endres**, *soprano*, is so pleased to be joining Vox for her fourth season! She has performed professionally as a soloist in operas, musical theatre, and many concerts. She has been a soloist here in Sacramento with the Sac Choral Society. Anne-Marie has a Master of Music degree in vocal performance and graduated from Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York City studying acting and musical theatre. She has doctoral studies in choral conducting under her belt from the Univ. of North Texas. She was the music director of Vivoce Womens Ensemble in Portland for five years. Currently she is also music director for Light Opera Theatre of Sacramento. Anne-Marie maintains an active voice teaching studio here.

**Erin Brothers**, *soprano*, is singing in her fifth season with Vox Musica and is an inaugural member of the group. Erin has been involved in music for longer than she can remember, playing and singing in various bands and choirs. She received degrees in both Music and Psychology from McMurry University in Abilene, TX. Currently she is the Director of Music Ministry at Dixon United Methodist Church. Her husband, Jeremiah is also a great musician and together they are raising a rock band, The Brothers Brothers: Eamon, Kellan, and Garrett.



**Laura Mclellan**, *soprano*, is delighted to be singing amidst such talented peers in her first season with Vox. A Boston-bred Canadian American, Laura was lucky to be raised under exceptional batons, singing in choirs and playing the violin in orchestras from an early age. After receiving a degree in Environmental Studies from Brown University, she heeded the call of the West and found herself, happily, working for the State Water Resources Control Board. When she is not working or singing, Laura can be found on the water, rowing with the River City Rowing Club.

**Becky Parker**, *soprano*, started her singing career with the San Francisco Girls Chorus and has performed with the San Francisco based women's vocal ensemble, Musae. Becky graduated from the University Of the Pacific in Stockton, CA with a degree in Music Therapy and Piano Performance and a minor in French. In 2014 she completed a music therapy internship at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland. She currently works for the McConnell Music Therapy Services where she works with children with special needs and adult cancer patients. Becky enjoys hiking, fishing, and spending time with family. She currently lives in Placerville with her husband and their two Sierra newts, Romeo and Julietta.





**Susanna Peoples**, *soprano*, has been a musician since birth. After playing the trumpet and French horn throughout her schooling, she started to sing in college at UC Davis, pursuing a major in Vocal Performance. As a glutton for punishment, Susanna continued her studies by attending University of the Pacific in Stockton, receiving her Master of Music in Music Education. She currently saves the world by teaching high school choir in Stockton. Susanna is thrilled to be in her fifth season singing with the talented, dedicated musicians of Vox Musica!

**Stephanie Tomicich**, *soprano*, began her interest in music at the age of 7 playing piano, and proceeded to fall in love with choir and singing in high school with the Bella Vista Madrigals. As a graduate of Sacramento State University, majoring in voice and music education, Ms. Tomicich has been able to participate in both her love of singing and teaching. This is Ms. Tomicich's fifth season with Vox Musica, and she is thrilled to be here! When she is not singing with Vox, she teaches elementary general music in the Roseville City School District, and organizes workshops for elementary music teachers through the California Music Educators Association and American River Orff Schulwerk. When she is not doing music she enjoys hiking, running, or eating with friends.



**Beth Nitzan**, *soprano*, holds a BA in music from Pomona College with emphases in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting and has just begun her first season with Vox. She has studied music education at Cal State Fullerton, where she obtained her teaching credential, and completed summer conducting programs at Westminster Choir College and San Jose State University. She has acted as assistant conductor for the UC Davis Early Music Ensemble and conducting intern for the Los Angeles Children's Choir. She currently teaches middle and high school music classes in the Sacramento area. When she isn't singing, she enjoys rowing, backpacking, cooking, and eating.

**Heather Razo**, *soprano*, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities from Sacramento State University and is currently pursuing dual Master of Fine Arts degrees in Collaborative Piano and Vocal Performance at Notre Dame de Namur University. She is a staff accompanist and vocal coach at Sacramento City College and teaches private piano and voice lessons. Heather is thrilled to be embarking on her sixth season with Vox Musica.





**Cat Fithian**, *alto*, has been singing her whole life - in the car on family trips, throughout her schooling, in church choirs, and in storytimes at the public library. Cat has a Master's Degree in Library Science from Kent State University and is currently working for the Sacramento Public Library. She is Vice Chair of the Board of Uplift People of Elk Grove, a non-profit working to help people break out of poverty. She is also active in the Elk Grove United Methodist Church and is the biggest fan of her son, Simon, an up-and-coming film-maker. This is Cat's second season with Vox.

**Ema Gluckmann**, *alto*, is very happy to be starting her third season singing with Vox! Ema sang with the University Chorus at UC Davis (quite a few years ago!), as well as participating in the UCD alumni choir. She has performed in various local choirs and has even performed in some local musical theater. Her primary choral experience has been with the Congregation B'nai Israel Choir for the past 30+ years! When not singing, Ms. Gluckmann's day job as a high school chemistry and biology teacher keeps her quite busy.



**Sarah Henshaw**, *alto*, is very happy to start her second season with the great musicians and people at VOX. Sarah's life in the arts began at age 7 with her first musical, "On Top of the Clouds" (book/lyrics/music/choreography/costumes/makeup/sets/props by Sarah, and performed by her dolls.) She went on to study ballet, and later, other dance styles for her BA in Dance from CSUS. While at Sac State, she sang in all 3 of Don Kendrick's choirs and continued to perform in plays and musicals along the way. Now she is a regular performer with ComedySportz Sacramento, translates Japanese anime and games, and choreographs musicals at Sac Waldorf and Musical Mayhem Productions (sadly, without dolls). Her loves include food, her fur babies, and her woodland elf.

**Holly Goritz**, *alto*, is excited to be joining Vox Musica for her second season with the group, this time with her sister, Amy, by her side! Holly has been involved in music for most of her life, from singing in church and school choirs, to piano lessons and playing the french horn in school bands. She attended UC Davis, where she studied Human Development and Psychology, which led her to working in the field of early education. When Holly is not singing with Vox, she can be found spending time with her husband and their adorable chocolate lab puppy.



**Jennifer Crawford**, *alto*, is honored to be in her eleventh season with Vox Musica. Her musical upbringing includes singing in church, school and community choirs, as well as playing flute, oboe, and piano in concert bands, jazz ensembles, and woodwind quartets throughout her school career. When not singing, Jennifer can be found writing computer code, herding cats, or knitting.



**Veronica Tonus**, *alto*, received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. She has performed in vocal ensembles since high school, including the University Chorus at the University of the Pacific and as a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, an international music fraternity. When she is not performing with Vox Musica, she teaches elementary and junior high band in Davis, CA. This is Veronica's fifth season with Vox Musica.

**Amy Lynne Spier**, *alto*, is excited to be in her second season with Vox Musica after having recently moved back to Sacramento, and is even more thrilled to be singing alongside her sister Holly this year. When not singing with Vox, Amy works as the Clinical Director for a local residential substance abuse treatment facility, which leaves very little spare time for dull moments. However, she also makes time to spoil her four legged fur child, Addie. Amy loves making music and life memories with her Vox sisters and is grateful for the enrichment this ensemble brings to her life!



**Paige Kelly**, *alto*, is currently a Vocal Performance major at Sacramento State studying under the tutelage of Dr. Robin Fisher. She was first introduced to the world of classical music at the ripe young age of thirteen, fell head-over-heels in love with it, and never looked back. She has been in many musicals, operas, and choirs throughout her life and continues to study singing with gusto. She is very excited to be in her second season.

**Dana Daggett**, *alto*, is excited to be singing her second season with Vox Musica. She started singing at age 5 in the church choir. While at college at UC Davis, Dana sang in the University Chorus, University Chamber Ensemble, and several student directed choral groups while completing her degree in Genetics. She has sung in numerous church choirs and community choral groups since. When not singing, Dana enjoys cooking, wine, weaving, and, most of all, her family.



-- please hold applause until the end of each section --

**I.**

**CHANT:** A solis ortus cardine 5th Century  
**CAROL:** Verbum Caro factum Est: In hoc anni circulo Medieval Carol  
**MOTET:** Virgo Prudentissima Francisco Guerrero (c1528-1599)

**II.**

**CHANT:** A solis ortus cardine 5th Century  
**HYMN:** Christum wir Sollen loben schon Martin Luther (1483-1546)  
**CAROL:** Three Kings of Orient John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1792-1868)  
**CAROL:** Drei Kön'ge wandern aus Morgenland Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

**III.**

**CHANT:** A solis ortus cardine 5th Century  
Hymn to the Virgin Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

**IV.**

**CHANT:** A solis ortus cardine 5th Century  
Ode to the Sun † Derek Sup (b1992)  
Scott Mehner, *lyricist*

**V.**

**CHANT:** A solis ortus cardine 5th Century  
Bright Mass with Canons Nico Muhly (b1981)

**INTERMISSION**

Ave Maris Stella Ceclilia McDowall (b1951)  
Silent Night Daniel Paulson (b1977)

+ **Premiere**

**CHANT:** A solis ortus cardine

5th Century

**A solis ortus cardine** is a Gregorian chant from the 5th century that is a setting of the first seven verses, beginning A-G, of Sedulius's (d. circa 450) alphabetical poem *Paean alphabetical de Christo*, which celebrates the dual nature of Christ while tracing his life on earth. Only two parts are given, with the indication that the others are to be improvised in *fauxbourdon* style (a technique of musical harmonization used in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance periods that is characterized by homophonic fourths and sixths in the other voices and one that moves in parallel motion.)

**Text: Translation:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1.</b> <i>A solis ortus cardine<br/>ad usque terrae limitem<br/>christum canamus principem,<br/>natum maria virgine.</i></p>          | <p><b>1.</b> From lands that see the sun arise,<br/>To earth's remotest boundaries,<br/>The virgin born today we sing,<br/>The Son of Mary, Christ the King.</p>                             |
| <p><b>2.</b> <i>Beatus auctor saeculi<br/>servile corpus induit,<br/>ut carne carnem liberans<br/>non perderet quod condidit.</i></p>       | <p><b>2.</b> Blest Author of this earthly frame,<br/>To take a servant's form He came,<br/>That liberating flesh by flesh,<br/>Whom He had made might live afresh.</p>                       |
| <p><b>3.</b> <i>Clausae parentis viscera<br/>caelestis intrat gratia;<br/>venter puellae baiulat<br/>secreta quae non noverat.</i></p>      | <p><b>3.</b> In that chaste parent's holy womb,<br/>Celestial grace hath found its home:<br/>And she, as earthly bride unknown,<br/>Yet call that Offspring blest her own.</p>               |
| <p><b>5.</b> <i>Enixa est puerpera<br/>quem gabriel praedixerat,<br/>quem matris alvo gestiens<br/>clausus ioannes senserat.</i></p>        | <p><b>5.</b> That Son, that royal Son she bore,<br/>Whom Gabriel's voice had told afore:<br/>Whom, in his Mother yet concealed,<br/>The Infant Baptist had revealed.</p>                     |
| <p><b>7.</b> <i>Gaudet chorus caelestium<br/>et angeli canunt deum,<br/>palamque fit pastoribus<br/>pastor, creator omnium.</i></p>         | <p><b>7.</b> The heavenly chorus filled the sky,<br/>The angels sang to God on high,<br/>What time to shepherds watching lone<br/>They made creation's Shepherd known.</p>                   |
| <p><b>8.</b> <i>Ibant magi, qua venerant<br/>stellam sequentes praeviam,<br/>lumen requirunt lumine,<br/>deum fatentur munere.</i></p>      | <p><b>8.</b> To greet His birth the Wise Men went,<br/>led by the star before them sent;<br/>called on by light, towards Light they pressed,<br/>and by their gifts their God confessed.</p> |
| <p><b>4.</b> <i>Domus pudici pectoris<br/>templum repente fit dei;<br/>intacta nesciens virum<br/>verbo concepit filium.</i></p>            | <p><b>4.</b> The mansion of the modest breast<br/>Becomes a shrine where God shall rest:<br/>The pure and undefiled one<br/>Conceived in her womb the Son.</p>                               |
| <p><b>9.</b> <i>Iesu, tibi sit gloria,<br/>qui natus es de Virgine,<br/>cum Patre et almo Spiritu,<br/>in sempiterna saecula. Amen.</i></p> | <p><b>9.</b> All honor, laud, and glory be,<br/>O Jesu, Virgin-born, to Thee;<br/>all glory, as is ever meet,<br/>to the Father and to Paraclete.</p>  |

**CAROL:** Verbum Caro factum Est: In hoc anni circulo Medieval Carol  
**Verbum Caro Factum Est** is one of the most popular of all medieval carols, known as early as the twelfth century. The text is partly in Latin, partly in Provençal (dialects of Occitan). Several versions of this carol survive. This edition comes from the 1420 *Czech Jistebnice Cantional* manuscripts and it is in a binatim style, literally meaning ‘doubled’ plainchant. This was a very common type of simple polyphony. In origin it was a technique of improvising a second voice to an existing melody, often with a characteristic ‘mirroring’ of the line.

**Text: Translation:**

<i>Verbum caro factum est de Virgine Maria.</i>	The Word was made flesh by the Virgin Mary.
<i>in hoc anni circulo</i>	In this rounding of the year
<i>vita datur seculo,</i>	life is given to the world;
<i>nato nobis Parvulo de Virgine Maria.</i>	a little Boy is born to us by the Virgin Mary.
<i>O beata femina,</i>	O blessed woman,
<i>cuius ventris Gloria mundi lavat</i>	the Glory of whose womb cleanses the sins
<i>crimina de Virgine Maria.</i>	of the world by the Virgin Mary.
<i>Stella Solem protulit,</i>	A Star brings forth the Sun,
<i>Sol salutem contulit,</i>	the Sun brings salvation,
<i>carne veram abstulit</i>	and takes unto itself very flesh
<i>de Virgine Maria.</i>	by the Virgin Mary

**MOTET:** Virgo Prudentissima Francisco Guerrero (c1528-1599)  
 Francisco Guerrero (c1528-1599) was a Spanish composer of the Renaissance who was born in Seville and served in its cathedral for 50 years. He received his early training as a member of the cathedral choir from his brother Pedro and from Fernández de Castilleja. He also studied with Cristóbal de Morales. At the age of 17 he was named chapel master at Jaén cathedral. By the age of 30 he had already made a considerable name for himself, and his scores were published abroad. Unlike Victoria and Morales, he composed a greater proportion of secular works. He also differs from them in the abundance of his instrumental production, which anticipated functional harmony. Guerrero’s music is considered eminently vocal, strongly Spanish in character, and evocative of a vivid and serene spirituality. The instruments will double the Altus and Bassus vocal lines in the first and last movements of these motets.

**Text: Translation:**

<i>Virgo prudentissima, quo progredieris,</i>	Virgin most wise where are you going,
<i>Quasi aurora valde rutilans ?</i>	shining out as brightly as the dawn?
<i>Filia Sion, tota formosa et suavis es,</i>	Daughter of Sion! Wholly fair and sweet
<i>Pulchra ut luna, electa ut sol.</i>	beautiful as the moon, excellent as the sun.

**HYMN:** Christum wir Sollen loben schon Martin Luther (1483-1546)  
**Christum wir sollen loben schon** is a Lutheran Christmas hymn by Martin Luther (1483-1546), first published in 1524 in the Erfurt Enchiridion. He wrote it based on the Latin *A solis ortus cardine* and kept its melody. The hymn was used in several musical settings, including this setting by 17th century German composer Lucas Osiander (1534-1604).

**CAROL: Three Kings of Orient**

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1792-1868)

**We Three Kings of Orient** is a Christmas carol that was written by John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1792-1868) in 1857. At the time of composing the carol, Hopkins served as the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and he wrote the carol for a Christmas pageant in New York City. Many versions of this song have been composed and it remains a popular Christmas carol.

**Text:**

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

**Chorus:**

O star of wonder, star of night,  
 Star with royal beauty bright,  
 Westward leading, still proceeding,  
 Guide us to thy perfect Light.

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

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

**CAROL: Drei Kön'ge wandern aus Morgenland** Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

Born into a family of actors, Peter Cornelius (1824-1874) was trained both as a musician and as an actor. As a young man, he gave up acting and pursued a career as a composer, poet, and music critic. **Die Könige** is one of his most well-known pieces, originally written for voice and piano – here performed in an arrangement for chorus and soloist. The accompaniment is the chorale tune *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* (How lovely shines the morning star).

**Text: Translation:**

*Drei Könige wandern aus Morgenland,  
 ein Sternlein führt sie zum Jordanstrand,  
 in Juda fragen und forschen die drei,  
 wo der neugeborene König sei.  
 Sie wollen Weihrauch, Myrrhen und Gold  
 zum Opfer weihen dem Kindlein hold.*

Three kings are traveling from the East;  
 a small star leads them to Jordan.  
 In Judea they ask and search, these three,  
 where the new-born king is.  
 They wish to bring incense, myrrh and gold  
 as an offering to the child.

*Und hell erglänzt des Sternes Schein,  
zum Stalle gehen die Könige ein,  
das Knäblein schauen sie wonniglich,  
anbetend neigen die Könige sich,  
sie bringen Weihrauch, Myrrhen und Gold  
zum Opfer dar dem Knäblein hold.*

And the light of the star shines brightly:  
the kings go into the stall;  
gazing with wonder at the child,  
the kings bow low in worship.  
They bring incense, myrrh and gold  
as an offering to the sweet baby boy.

*O Menschenkind! halte treulich Schritt!  
Die Kön'ge wandern, o wand're mit!  
Der Stern des Friedens, der Gnade Stern  
erhelle dein Ziel, wenn du suchest den Herrn:  
und fehlen Weihrauch, Myrrhen und Gold,  
schenke dein Herz dem Knäblein hold!*

O Sons of Man! keep faith!  
The kings are journeying - travel with them!  
The star of love, the star of grace  
shine on your goal as you seek the Lord,  
and if you lack incense, myrrh and gold,  
give instead your heart to that sweet baby boy!

## Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

**A Hymn to the Virgin** is the earliest surviving piece of church music written by one of the leading British composers of the mid-20th century, Benjamin Britten (1913-1976). Composed for unaccompanied chorus it dates from 1930, predating Britten's first published work, the *Sinfonietta*, by two years. It is an astonishing work of subtlety and maturity written when Britten was only 16 years old. The choir is split into two groups who respond antiphonally, each taking off from where the other finished. The simple, homophonic, diatonic harmony is clear and bright, moving effortlessly.

### Text:

Of one who is so fair and bright  
Velut maris stella, [Like a star of the sea]  
Brighter than the day is light,  
Parens et puella: [Both mother and maiden]  
I cry to thee, thou see to me,  
Lady, pray thy Son for me,  
Tam pia, [so pure]  
That I may come to thee.  
Maria! [Mary]  
All this world was forlorn,  
Eva peccatrice, [because of Eve, a sinner]  
Till our Lord was yborn,  
De te genetrix. [through you, his mother]  
With ave it went away,  
Darkest night, and comes the day  
Salutis; [of salvation]  
The well springeth out of thee.  
Virtutis. [of virtue]  
Lady, flower of everything,  
Rosa sine spina, [Rose without thorn]  
Thou bare Jesu, heaven's king,  
Gratia divina: [by divine grace]

Of all thou bearest the prize,  
Lady, queen of paradise  
Electa: [chosen]  
Maid mild, mother  
es effecta. [you are made]

## Ode to the Sun †

Derek Sup (b1992)  
Scott Mehner, *lyricist*

This amazing work was inspired by the poem ***Ode to the Sun***, by Scott Mehner. *Ode to the Sun* is found in Mehner's recent publication, *Illustrated Poems*, which is a collection of his poetry that has been illustrated by twenty other artists and calligraphers from all around the globe. Vox Musica commissioned Derek Sup to compose a setting of this text especially for this performance. The result of the collaboration is a stunning work for choir, organ, and projection mapping. View Collaborating Artists for bios.

### NOTES FROM THE COMPOSER:

The sun was formed by a gravitational collapse of matter within a molecular cloud, a mixture of interstellar dust and hydrogen gas, 4.6 billion years ago. It is roughly 864,000 miles in diameter, and the core temperature of the sun is 27 million degrees F. The energy within the sun is equal to 400 billion one megaton nuclear bombs every second. Roughly three-fourths of the sun is hydrogen, and the remaining is comprised mostly of helium with traces of oxygen, carbon, neon, and iron. The gravity of the sun accounts for about 99.8% of the mass of the Solar System, and dictates the orbits of all of the planets within it. Through the sun are coursing many enormous rivers of plasma, each generating its own magnetic field. These magnetic fields explode through the surface of the sun, creating Solar Wind, a stream of charged particles firing in all directions away from the sun.

The sun is accountable for all changes in seasons, ocean currents, weather, aurorae, and all life on our planet. It is a yellow dwarf star, and will develop into a red giant in 5 billion years, swelling and engulfing Mercury and Venus and obliterating everything on Earth. The outer layers of the sun will be shed, leaving only the core, transforming into a white dwarf. Once it runs out of energy, which will take longer than the age of our universe, it will reach its final stage, forming the theoretical stellar remnant known as a black dwarf.

### Text:

Oh you to whom the world still turns  
For guidance through dare treacherous time,  
Sole beacon of the wayward soul of man:  
My heart by your example learns  
The lessons of true love, and burns  
In harmony with th' stars in heaven's span.  
In accents artfully sublime  
My kindred spirit kindly yearns  
To eternize you in immortal rhyme.

With dawn forever at your feet  
And sunset hard upon your heels,  
Like to a honeybee in Jove's sky-flower,  
You dwell in your own nectar sweet  
While Mother Nature, held in heat,  
Your children bears in her own homemade bower;  
For your lifeblood divinely steals  
Through every hear that ever beat.  
Before your grace each star, all barren, kneels.

You gild the ashen moon and dye  
The downy clouds fair rosy hues  
And dry the dewy tears which strew the morn.  
The hardest heart dare not deny  
The loving kindness you apply  
That breathes new life in the the dead reborn.  
Your luster you shall never lose;  
Your praise shall saturate the sky:  
Enshrined you'll shine, the green Earth's golden muse.

## Bright Mass with Canons

Nico Muhly (b1981)

Nico Muhly (b1981) is an American composer and sought-after collaborator whose influences range from American minimalism to the Anglican choral tradition. The recipient of commissions from The Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral, and others, he has written more than 80 works for the concert stage, including the forthcoming opera *Marnie*. Muhly studied composition at the Juilliard School before working as an editor and conductor for Philip Glass and lives in New York City.

***Bright Mass with Canons*** is, fundamentally, an ecstatic, shimmering piece, whose goal is not always textual clarity but texture – the friction of the same small pieces of text being repeated at slightly different speeds. There are canons – imitative repetitions – in almost every bar of the Mass. In the Kyrie and Gloria, canons reference the imitative writing of early English composers Byrd and Weelkes, whereas the canonic writing in the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei is more abstract and spatial. The most intense use comes towards the beginning the Sanctus, in which each singer repeats a given figure in his own time, creating a flurry of sound to fill the acoustical space of the performance venue.

### Text: Translation:

#### I. Kyrie

*Kyrie eleison.* Lord, have mercy.  
*Christe eleison.* Christ, have mercy.  
*Kyrie eleison.* Lord, have mercy.

## II. Gloria

<i>Gloria in excelsis Deo.</i>	Glory be to God in the highest.
<i>Et in terra pax</i>	And in earth peace
<i>hominibus bonæ voluntatis.</i>	to men of good will.
<i>Laudamus te; benedicimus te;</i>	We praise Thee; we bless Thee;
<i>adoramus te; glorificamus te.</i>	we worship Thee; we glorify Thee.
<i>Gratias agimus tibi</i>	We give thanks to Thee
<i>propter magnam gloriam tuam.</i>	for Thy great glory.
<i>Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,</i>	O Lord God, Heavenly King,
<i>Deus Pater omnipotens.</i>	God the Father Almighty.
<i>Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.</i>	O Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.
<i>Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,</i>	Lord God, Lamb of God,
<i>Filius Patris.</i>	Son of the Father.
<i>Qui tollis peccata mundi,</i>	Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
<i>miserere nobis.</i>	have mercy upon us.
<i>Qui tollis peccata mundi,</i>	Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
<i>suscipe deprecationem nostram.</i>	receive our prayer.
<i>Qui sedes ad dextram Patris,</i>	Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father,
<i>O miserere nobis.</i>	have mercy upon us.
<i>Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,</i>	For thou only art holy,
<i>tu solus Dominus,</i>	thou only art the Lord,
<i>tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.</i>	thou only art the most high, Jesus Christ.
<i>Cum Sancto Spiritu</i>	Together with the Holy Ghost
<i>in gloria Dei Patris.</i>	in the glory of God the Father.
<i>Amen.</i>	Amen.

## III. Sanctus

<i>Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,</i>	Holy, Holy, Holy,
<i>Dominus Deus Sabaoth.</i>	Lord God of Hosts.
<i>Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.</i>	Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
<i>Osanna in excelsis.</i>	Hosanna in the highest.
<i>Benedictus qui venit</i>	Blessed is He that cometh
<i>in nomine Domini.</i>	in the name of the Lord.
<i>Osanna in excelsis.</i>	Hosanna in the highest.

## IV. Agnus Dei

<i>Agnus Dei,</i>	Lamb of God,
<i>qui tollis peccata mundi,</i>	Who takest away the sins of the world,
<i>miserere nobis.</i>	have mercy upon us.
<i>Agnus Dei.</i>	Lamb of God.
<i>Dona nobis pacem.</i>	Grant us peace.

## Ave Maris Stella

Cecilia McDowall (b1951)

Born in London, 1951, Cecilia McDowall has won many awards and been eight times short-listed for the British Composer Awards. In 2014 she won the British Composer Award for Choral Music. Much of McDowall's choral music is performed worldwide. Oxford University Press has signed McDowall as an 'Oxford' composer and she is currently 'composer-in-residence' at Dulwich College, London. In 2013 she received an Honorary Doctorate in Music from the University of Portsmouth. McDowall, like so many of us, was horrified by the events of 11th September 2001, and was inspired to write *Ave Maris Stella*. She successfully composed a simple peace anthem which cannot fail to touch the hearts of all those who experience it. The initial inspiration for the work came from a quotation of Woodrow Wilson, whose words appear at the head of the score: "the freedom of the seas is the sine qua non of peace, equality and co-operation". McDowall's intelligent use of text helps shape the entire work; the first and final parts using the ancient Latin antiphon *Ave Maris Stella*, while the more turbulent central section uses words from Psalm 106. Acting as a sort of musical buffer before and after the central section, there are two hauntingly beautiful recitatives for solo soprano, using the words of Psalm 26, The Lord is my Light.

### Text: Translation:

<i>Ave, maris stella,</i>	Hail, star of the sea,
<i>Dei Mater alma,</i>	loving Mother of God,
<i>Atque semper Virgo,</i>	and also always a virgin,
<i>Felix caeli porta.</i>	Happy gate of heaven.

<i>Solve vincla reis,</i>	Break the chains of sinners,
<i>Profer lumen caecis,</i>	Bring light to the blind,
<i>Mala nostra pelle,</i>	Drive away our evils,
<i>Bona cuncta posce</i>	Ask for all good.

<i>Vitam praesta puram,</i>	Keep life pure,
<i>Iter para tutum,</i>	Make the journey safe,
<i>Ut videntes Jesum,</i>	So that, seeing Jesus,
<i>Semper collaetemur.</i>	We may always rejoice together.

## Silent Night

Daniel Paulson (b1977)

This carol was written by Franz Gruber (1787–1863) in 1818 for Soprano and Guitar accompaniment and is a carol known all over the world. It was written with a folk-like quality and has a "Schubertian charm" which has captivated listeners since its first performance. This setting, arranged by Paulson, opens with the chorus singing the German text with the melody in two parts, echoing that of Gruber's, and then quickly branches out with a more modern texture.

### Text: Translation:

<i>Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!</i>	Silent night! Holy night!
<i>Alles schläft; einsam wacht</i>	All are sleeping, alone and awake
<i>Nur das traute heilige Paar.</i>	Only the intimate holy pair,
<i>Holder Knab im lockigten Haar,</i>	Lovely boy with curly hair,
<i>Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!</i>	Sleep in heavenly peace!
<i>Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!</i>	Sleep in heavenly peace!

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