



LAWRENCE
CIVIC CHOIR



Mark Your Calendars!

2005 Spring Concert

Saturday, April 30, 2005, 8:00 p.m.
Free State High School
4700 Overland Drive

Program includes Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, selections from *Showboat*, and the premiere of *Phoenix of the Plains*, composed for Lawrence's sesquicentennial by LCC accompanist **Geoffrey Wilcken**

Concert Reprisal

Monday, May 2, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
Grace Episcopal Cathedral
701 SW 8th Avenue
Topeka, KS

Consider Joining the Choir!

Spring Registration: Jan 10th and 17th, 2005
Registration at 7:00 p.m.

Rehearsals:
Monday evenings, 7:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church
14th & Kasold

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!
No audition required

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LAWRENCE
CIVIC CHOIR



2004

Holiday Concert

Highlights from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* &
Handel's *Messiah*,
& Carols from Around the World

Conducted by Steve Eubank, Artistic Director

Saturday, December 11, 2004, 7:30 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
10th and Vermont, Lawrence, Kansas

LAWRENCE CIVIC CHOIR

Program

J. S. Bach, *Christmas Oratorio*

- * *Christians, be joyful*
- * *Ab! dearest Jesus*
- * *Tis Thee I would* (Tracy Ressiguie, soloist)
- * *Break forth, O beauteous, heavenly light*
- * *Hear, King of angels*

G. F. Handel, *Messiah*

- * *Comfort ye my people/Every valley* (Bob Franz, soloist)
- * *And the glory*
- * *O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion* (Karen Abraham, soloist)
- * *Rejoice greatly, o daughter of Zion* (Elizabeth Schellman, soloist)
- * *For unto us a Child is born*
- * *He shall feed His flock* (Sandy Walton, soloist)
- * *Come unto Him* (Eleanor Duguid, soloist)
- * *Hallelujah*

15 Minute Intermission
Glass Coffee Table performing in vestibule

Carols from Around the World

- * *African Noel*, arranged by Andre J. Thomas
- * *Estampe Natalis*, by Vaclav Nelhybel
- * *Hossanna*, by Rene Clausen
- * Carol Sing—Audience Participation Requested (See pgs 8 & 9)
 - ◇ *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*
 - ◇ *The First Noel*
 - ◇ *Away in a Manger*
 - ◇ *Joy to the World*
- * *Silent Night*, arranged by David Schwoebel



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Christmas Oratorio



Program Notes

Unlike Handel's *Messiah*, which was actually intended for concert performances in theaters during Lent, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* was composed specifically for church use during the Christmas season. Bach composed this work while serving as Kantor of St. Thomas in Leipzig, Germany. Bach had taken this position in 1720, and remained in it until his death in 1750. While there, he was required to teach both Latin and music at the St. Thomasschule, play the organ, train the choir, and compose the music for the two main Lutheran churches in the city—Thomaskirche and Nikolaikirche. In the midst of all those duties, the *Christmas Oratorio* was composed for the 1734 Festival of Christmas. Six specific services occur during the Festival, which is still celebrated in Germany today, on December 25th, 26th, and 27th, New Year's Day, the Sunday after, and the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. Thus, the work is in six parts, one for each of the services of the Festival. Tonight's performance features "Christians be joyful" and "Ah! dearest Jesus", the two pieces that frame Part I of the work, followed by "Tis Thee," a tenor aria from Part IV, then "Break forth, o beauteous, heavenly Light" from Part II, and finally "Hear, King of angels" from Part III. Although designed to be performed on six separate occasions, the work is a unified whole musically. The text is based on the account of the Nativity given in the Gospels according to St. Luke and St. Matthew. These Lutheran hymn-tunes, richly harmonized by Bach, would have been very familiar to eighteenth century congregations. We are honored to share them with you tonight.

Christians be joyful

Christians, be joyful and praise your salvation; Sing for today your Redeemer is born;
 Cease to be fearful, forget lamentation; Haste with thanksgiving to greet this glad morn;
 Come let us worship and fall down before Him; Let us with voices united adore Him

Ah! dearest Jesus

Ah! Dearest Jesus, Holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled within my heart,
 and there recline and keep that chamber ever Thine

Tis Thee

Tis Thee I would be praising ever, My Saviour give me pow'r and skill
 And all my heart with ardour fill Strengthen me, that Thy mercy worthily to praise
 I may endeavor

Break forth, o beauteous, heavenly Light

Break forth, o beauteous, heav'nly light And usher in the morning
 Ye shepherds, shrink not with afright But hear the angel's warning
 This Child, now weak in infancy Our confidence and joy shall be
 The pow'r of Satan breaking Our peace eternal making

Hear King of angels

Hear King of Angels, though falter our voices Let our endeavors be pleasing to Thee!
 Hear King of Angels, though falter our voices O! when Thy Zion before Thee rejoices
 Let her endeavors be pleasing to Thee Hear us, O Lord, when we offer our praises
 Hear when Thy Zion glad thanksgiving raises Joying Thy mighty salvation to see



Messiah



Program Notes

Georg Friedrich Handel's *Messiah* was composed in the year 1741 in twenty-four days, from August 22nd to September 14th. It was first performed at a concert given for charitable purposes in Dublin, Ireland, on April 13th, 1742, with Handel himself conducting. The historical records suggest that the work was composed with the musicians of Dublin in mind and was made somewhat more accessible than Handel's other works, which were more typically performed by musicians in London. Handel limited himself to 4 choral parts rather than 8 and kept the orchestral parts within reason. Following the Dublin performance, and beginning with March 23rd, 1743, Handel brought out *Messiah* every year in London to great applause. Although he made minor adjustments each year to fit the available soloists, the work has remained largely as originally composed.

Soloists

We are pleased to feature the following choir members as soloists in tonight's performance of *Messiah*.

Bob Franz has graced our tenor section for 16 years and is an active member of the choir's leadership. He also is a member of the Easthill Singers, a men's choral group which participates in the Arts in Prison program at the Lansing Correctional Facility in Lansing, KS. By day, Bob is a social worker with the Lawrence Public Schools.

Karen Abraham has been a member of the Lawrence Civic Choir for 18 years, and is a frequent soloist with the choir. She is a member of Glass Coffee Table, a five-member vocal jazz group (catch them in the lobby at intermission). Karen is also a board certified music therapist, and has worked with children and adults.

Elizabeth Schellman is a relatively new member of the choir, but is well known in the Lawrence and Topeka area. Dr. Schellman is on the faculty of Washburn University in the Department of Music and maintains a private voice studio here in Lawrence. She recently sang the U.S. premiere of Benjamin Gutierrez's *Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra* with the Washburn Orchestra, and performed Poulenc's one-woman opera *La Voix Humaine* (The Human Voice) with the Topeka Opera Society and Concert Association (TOSCA).

Sandra Walton, or Pastor Sandy as she's known to many, is an associate pastor at First Baptist Church here in Lawrence. She has been with the choir for 10 years. When she's not singing with the choir, she keeps busy conducting the eight vocal and handbell choirs at the church.

Eleanor Duguid has been with the choir for 4 years and has a bachelor's degree in music education. She is an administrator at Washburn University and continues to pursue her musical roots by performing in Topeka and giving recitals.



Audience Sing-a-Long



Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky look 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.

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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 wonders and wonders of his love.



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.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord
 Late in time behold him come, Off-spring of a virgin's womb
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail th'incarnate Deity
 Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel
 Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

The First Noel

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 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.

And by the light of that same star,
 Three wise men came from country far
 To seek for a king was their intent,
 And to follow the star wherever it went
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
 Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
 That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
 And with his blood mankind hath bought
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Comfort ye my people/Every valley

Comfort ye, my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
 and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
 Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted,
 and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight and the rough places plain.
 [Isaiah 40:1-4]

And the glory

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
 for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. [Isaiah 40:5]

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain;
 O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
 lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah: Behold your God! Arise, shine,
 for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. [Isaiah 40:9; 60:1]

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem, behold,
 thy King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace
 unto the heathen. [Zechariah 9:9-10]

For unto us a Child is born

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His
 shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God,
 the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. [Isaiah 9:6]

He shall feed His flock

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and He shall gather the lambs with his arm,
 and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. [Isaiah 40:11]

Come unto Him

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.
 Take His yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for he is meek and lowly of heart,
 and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [Matthew 11:28-29]

Hallelujah

for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the
 kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.
 King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. [Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16]



Carols from Around the World



Program Notes

The second half of our program is a selection of carols celebrating the season. We begin with African Noel, a piece with complex rhythmic accompaniment arranged by Andre J. Thomas. Next is Estampe Natalis, which was first performed in December 1975 by the Lorain County Community Civic Musicum in Elyria, Ohio. The accompaniment by piccolo, violin, cello, and percussion adds further depth to this wonderful piece by Vaclav Nelhybel. Following is a piece by Rene Clausen called Hosanna. Dr. Clausen is the conductor of The Concordia Choir of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, a position he has held since 1986. Formerly, he was assistant professor of choral music at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas. Hosanna was co-commissioned by the Minnesota Music Educators Association and the Minnesota Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, and is dedicated to the 1988 Minnesota All-State Choir.

To ensure you leave the concert in a holiday mood, we have included several carols which we would like you to help us sing. Words can be found on pages 8 and 9 of this program, and we encourage you to join the chorus.

Lastly, we will perform the very moving and melodic version of Silent Night arranged by David Schwoebel. Rev Schwoebel is minister of music at Derbyshire Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, and is known nationally for his arrangements and compositions.

African Noel

Sing Noel. Sing we all Noel. Come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer. The King of kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem. Sing Noel, Noel.

Estampe Natalis

The boy born in Bethlehem, Halleluia, rejoice Jerusalem; In joy of heart let us adore the newborn Christ with a new song. The son has assumed flesh; the virgin has conceived a Son; here He lies in the manger; He who rules without end. With joy let us adore Christ with a new song. In joy of this birth, let us bless the Lord. Let the Holy Trinity be praised. Give thanks unto God.

Hosanna

Hosanna in excelsis. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna. We bless you from the name of the Lord, hosanna. For God is the Lord, He has shined upon us, hosanna. You are my God and I will thank you. You are my God and I will praise you. I will give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever, hosanna. Hosanna, hosanna in excelsis. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna.



Noteworthy People



Our Director

Artistic Director **Steve Eubank** has been with the choir for three years. He is Director of Choral Activities at Topeka High School and Minister of Music at First United Methodist Church in Topeka. Steve is also an active member of the Kansas branch of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). His high school choirs have been winning awards and entertaining Topeka and Kansas audiences for over 30 years. Steve received the KCDA Harry Robert Wilsen Award for outstanding contribution to choral music in Kansas.

Tonight's Guest Soloist

Tracy Resseguie is the Director of Choirs at Shawnee Mission East (SME) High School. Under his direction, the choral program has grown to five choirs and more than 370 singers. Resseguie has directed numerous All-District choral festivals at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. He is the choral coordinator and a clinician for the KU Midwestern Music Camp and Minister of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Lawrence.

Guest Organist

The organ part in Messiah is played by **Dan Abrahamson**. Dan was a founding member of the Lawrence Civic Choir. He is the organist at First United Methodist Church, where he has played for the past 42 years. Before his retirement, Dan worked at the Reuter Organ Company for 40 years. Although the church's organ was originally built in 1938, before Dan's time, he has personally added to it over the years and it is now the largest pipe organ in the state of Kansas.

Our Accompanist

Accompanist and local composer, **Geoffrey Wilcken**, has been with the choir for more than five years. Currently he serves as an adjunct assistant professor at Johnson County Community College where he teaches music appreciation and assists with choral ensembles. He is also Music Director at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrence, where he serves as organist and directs vocal and handbell choirs. You can hear Geoff perform with the Glass Coffee Table at intermission in the lobby.

Instrumentalists

Sara Holmberg, violin
Noemi Miloradovic, violin
Shane Borth, viola
Sibora Miloradovic, cello
Holly Opdycke Balch, piccolo