



VESPERS

2018



Northfield Mount Hermon

Emmanuel Church
15 Newbury Street, Boston

Today's performance is being digitally recorded by Legrandice Audio.
MP3 tracks of the performance can be purchased at www.legrandice.com.

Program

Prelude

Concerto Grosso, Op. 3, No. 12, Christmas Concerto

Francesco Manfredini
(1684–1762)

Pastorale

Allegro

This concerto was written in 1718. It is one of the many Opus 3 concertos dedicated to Prince Antoine I of Monaco, under whom Manfredini served as maestro di cappella (conductor of the choir). Like Corelli's famous Christmas concerto, this composition contains a slow movement in 12/8 time, marked "pastorale." Unlike Corelli's concerto, Manfredini's composition ends with a rousing allegro designed to show off the virtuosity of the violinists.

RINTARO FUKASAWA '19, NASHELY ALVAREZ '19, VIOLINS;
HUNG-WEI GARCIA LU '19, VIOLA
THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Introit: Veni Emmanuel

*Ancient Plainsong
Arranged by Sheila L. Heffernon
(b. 1954)*

ELI CARROLL '19, NMH AFTERNOON
SHIH-AN ETHAN HO '19, NMH EVENING
BRIAN RICKER '20, BOSTON

BENJAMIN PRICKETT '19, CHIMES
THE CONCERT CHOIR

Processional: Sing We Noel

*Text translated by
Julia Crouse Houser
(1866–1940)*

*19th-century French Carol
Arranged by Harvey B. Gaul
(1881–1945)*

(The congregation is invited to stand and join in the singing.)

Dost thou remember the prophet of old,
Who that most wondrous story told,
How of a virgin pure and mild
Should be born a perfect child?
The seer spake true the virgin so fair
A son from heaven doth declare.
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Angels praise God in glorious strain,
Mortals take up the glad refrain.
Bright in the East, fair shining Star,
Thou lead'st the wise men from afar.
'Tis here He lies! Rejoice! Rejoice!
In praise lift up a sounding voice!
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Now let Hosannas ring o'er all the earth,
Proclaim the infant Jesus' birth!
Spread the glad tidings of a Saviour found,
With joy let ev'ry heart abound.
Our Lord is born! Green garlands bring.
We'll crown the newborn infant King!
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Gloria

Guillaume Dufay
(1397–1474)

Glory to God in the highest.
And on earth peace to all those of good will.
We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee according to thy great glory.
Lord God, Heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
Thou who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou who takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou alone art holy.
Thou alone art the Lord.
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Dufay was one of the most prolific and important composers of the Burgundian School. He worked primarily in the church (as did almost all composers in the Medieval and Renaissance periods). This Gloria, a setting on one of the ordinary prayers of the Mass, is interesting because it is a canon, or round. There are actually two different canons occurring simultaneously: one in which the full text is stated, and a second one, which creates an echo back-and-forth call. The second canon was most likely performed on sakbutts, a double reed instrument that was a predecessor to the trombone.

TENORS AND BASSES OF THE NMH SINGERS

Sicut Cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
(1525–1594)

As the hart yearns for the water springs:
so longs my soul for thee, O God!
My soul has thirsted for the living God.

Palestrina was a Renaissance composer, and considered to be the best representative of the Roman School of composition. He spent much of his life as the maestro di cappella (conductor of the choir) for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This is, perhaps, the best known of his motets. The individual vocal lines weave around and through each other, creating a tapestry of sound that brings the text to life.

THE NMH SINGERS

Reading from the Christian Tradition

John 1:1–5

PRINCESS LYDIA OBI '19, NMH AFTERNOON
CHARLOTTE BAUSHA '20, NMH EVENING
NATALIE MAK '19, BOSTON

The Salutation Carol, 15th Century

Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872–1958)

The tune for this carol, from the 15th century, was discovered circa 1850 in a manuscript that had been hidden behind a bookcase for many years. The manuscript resides in the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford, England. In addition to carols and poetry, the manuscript includes medical and cooking recipes, business entries, notes on the breaking of horses, and general household items. English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams took the tune and created the version we sing for you today. "Salutation" is an old name for the Annunciation, the visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, to tell her she would be bearing a child, the son of God.

THE NMH SINGERS

Gabriel's Message, Basque Carol

Arranged by John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Text by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924)

Singing has always been a strong part of the Basque culture. Carols and tunes have been passed down, from generation to generation, from the 15th

century to today. This carol, like The Salutation Carol, tells the story of the Angel Gabriel visiting the young Mary. John Rutter, one of England's most famous living composer, set this carol for the annual Lessons and Carols service that is broadcast worldwide from Cambridge.

THE SELECT WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

Highland Holiday

A Celtic Christmas Medley

David Giardinieri

(b. 1955)

JIEYEON CELES MOON '21, PICCOLO

The Sussex Carol is the centerpiece for this Celtic holiday frolic. It is written in a traditional fiddle style, or trad style, with bodhrán and pennywhistle (piccolo today). Also present in the medley are: Good Christians All, Rejoice and A Merry Christmas, a well-known Irish fiddle tune.

The First Nowell

Traditional melody in William Sandys's (1792–1874) Christmas Carols, 1833

Old English Carol

The first Nowell the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay a keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
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.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star,
three Wise Men came from a country afar,
to seek for a king was their intent
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem then it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel!

THE CONCERT CHOIR

Reading from the Muslim Tradition

Holy Qu'ran 24:35

NGONE FALL '19, NMH AFTERNOON
AISSATOU THIAM '19, NMH EVENING
ELI CARROLL '19, BOSTON

O Lux Beatissima, O Beautiful Light

Joan Szymko

Translation by Jessica Mix Barrington

(b. 1957)

O most blessed light
Replenish the depths of heart
Of your faithful (people).

Kindle a light for (our) perception,
Infuse love in (our) hearts
Strengthening our frail body
With livelong goodness.

Szymko migrated from Chicago to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (where she studied conducting) to the Pacific Northwest, where she became the conductor of the 100-voice Women's Community Chorus Aurora. She then founded the Viriditas Vocal Ensemble, a select women's chorus. She has become a prolific American choral composer, taking her place among Morten Lauridsen and Eric Whitacre. In O Lux Beatissima, Szymko creates an unusual sense of light through her harmonies and chant-like melodies. She combines two Medieval hymn tunes about the Holy Spirit: Veni Sancte Spiritus from the 12th century and Veni Creator Spiritus from the 10th century, setting the flowing chants against sustained, lush chords. The result is a mystical and lilting sonority.

THE SELECT WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE AND
THE SOPRANOS AND ALTOS OF THE NMH SINGERS

Lux Arumque

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

English poem by Edward Esch (1880–1954)

Latin translation by Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

Light

warm and heavy as pure gold
and the angels sing softly
to the newborn babe.

Eric Whitacre, one of the most prolific living American choral composers, discovered the poem “Light” by Edward Esch and was struck by its elegant simplicity. He asked his friend, and celebrated American poet, Charles Anthony Silvestri, to translate it into Latin so that Whitacre could set it to music. Through the use of contrasting stark harmonies with tone clusters, as well as using the extreme ranges of the voice, Whitacre has composed music that creates a sense of shimmering light, evoking a feeling of mystical awe.

THE NMH SINGERS AND THE SELECT WOMEN’S ENSEMBLE

Reading from the Buddhist Tradition

from *The Sutra of Contemplation of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life*

HAOCHEN CHRIS ZHAO ’20, NMH AFTERNOON

YANG HWA RYAN LEE ’20, NMH EVENING

SHIH-AN ETHAN HO ’19, BOSTON

Faith is the bird that feels the light

Elizabeth Alexander

Text by Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)

(b. 1962)

Tagore was born in Calcutta in 1861, during the Bengal Presidency, when India was under the colonization of Britain. He was exposed from an early age to both Indian and Western culture and thought. A prolific writer of poems, stories, and novels, he is best known for Gitanjali, a book of poems about divine and human love. He was also a musician; two of his compositions are the national anthems of Bangladesh and India. This brief text is taken from Fireflies, a collection of epigrams from Southeast Asia. Elizabeth Alexander is a well-known composer who gained her love of language and music from her parents, a minister and a piano teacher. She has composed over 100 choral and vocal pieces, and received numerous national and international awards. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, with her family, and tends her garden during the three months in Minnesota that is not winter. (Taken from www.elizabethalexander.com.)

THE SELECT WOMEN’S ENSEMBLE

Troika, from *Lt. Kijé*
Arranged by Stephen Wieloszynski
(1939–1997)

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891–1953)

Prokofiev wrote this troika for the film Lieutenant Kijé in 1934. In Russia, a troika is a sleigh drawn by three horses that are harnessed side by side. These iconic sleighs are capable of great speeds and often produce feelings of exhilaration for their riders.

INES KNIRSCH '21, CELLO
THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Light One Candle
Arranged by Robert DeCormier
(1922–2017)

Words and music by Peter Yarrow
(b. 1938)

This song was written by Peter Yarrow, a member of Peter, Paul and Mary, for their 1982 Holiday Concert in Carnegie Hall. The lyrics commemorate the war of national liberation, fought by the Maccabees, and remembered each year at Chanukah. Yarrow, a life long pacifist, wrote the song in response to the 1982 war in Lebanon. These lyrics reference the event specifically: "Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice justice and freedom demand, Light one candle for the wisdom to know then the peacemaker's time is at hand." We sing this song in our Vespers service for the members of the L'Simcha Congregation (Tree of Life) Synagogue in Pittsburgh, to show our solidarity for their suffering and to honor the hope they are teaching us all as they begin their healing.

THE CONCERT CHOIR
CRAIG K. SANDFORD, PIANO

Reading from the Jewish Tradition

Maccabees 4:38, 47–59

ARWEN HANSELL '21, NMH AFTERNOON
JULIET HOMES '21, NMH EVENING
FLORIA AUERBACH '20, BOSTON

Rock of Ages (Ma'oz Tzur)

Traditional German Tune

13th-century Hebrew Song

Text by Marcus Jastrow (1829–1903) and Gustav Gottheil (1827–1903)

(The congregation is invited to stand and join in the singing.)

Rock of Ages, let our song, praise Thy saving power;
Thou, amidst the raging foes, wast our sheltering tower.
Furious they assailed us, but Thine arm availed us,
And Thy Word broke their sword, when our own strength failed us.
And Thy Word broke their sword, when our own strength failed us.

Kindling new the holy lamps, priests, approved in suffering,
Purified the nation's shrine, brought to God their offering.
And His courts surrounding, hear, in joy abounding,
Happy throngs, singing songs with a mighty sounding.
Happy throngs, singing songs with a mighty sounding.

Children of the martyr race, whether free or fettered,
Wake the echoes of the songs where ye may be scattered.
Yours the message cheering that the time is nearing
Which will see, all are free, tyrants disappearing.
Which will see, all are free, tyrants disappearing.

Judas Maccabaeus, HWV 63

George Frederic Handel
(1685–1759)

Hail Judah! Happy Land!
Sing Unto God
Rejoice O Judah!
Hallelujah, Amen

Handel wrote oratorios (sacred operas) for many different occasions. This one was composed to honor Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, when he returned, victorious, from the Battle of Culloden, in April of 1746. The oratorio tells the story of Judas Maccabaeus, who led his people through a war of national liberation against a Greek empire, from 170 to 160 BC. The Seleucid Empire sought to destroy the Jewish religion. Judas continually rallied the people to return to battle so that they could regain their temple and be free to practice their faith. The libretto for this oratorio is taken from the Books of the Maccabees. Handel was a master

at bringing drama to life through his music. The sections we perform here today are celebratory of the victory.

THE CONCERT CHOIR AND THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Closing Reflection

*The Rev. Lee-Ellen Strawn
Chaplain*

Adeste Fideles

Latin, 18th century

J.F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

*Arranged by Sir David Willcocks
(1919–2015)*

(The congregation is invited to stand and join in the singing.)

Adeste fideles; laeti triumphantes
Venite, venite in Bethlehem,
Natum videte, Regem angelorum:
Venite adoremus, Dominum.
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, in the highest:
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee, be glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Stille Nacht

Text by Joseph Mohr (1792–1848)

*Franz Grüber
(1787–1863)*

LOIS BULL '19, NMH AFTERNOON
MEGAN HRINDA '19, NMH EVENING
ZITONG ANN XU '19, BOSTON

NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON CONCERT CHOIR

Sheila L. Heffernon, conductor

Craig K. Sandford, accompanist

Emma Chaffee '21, Emily Cloutier '21, and Chloe Key '21, managers

SOPRANO

Floria Auerbach *
Ella Bathory-Peeler
Emma Chaffee *
En Chia Teresa Chang
Emily Cloutier
Ruthie Davis
Julia Fedoruk
Megan Hrinda *
Rowan Kehrer
Aura Mattie Key +
Chloe Key +
Sydney May
Zara Peh *
Olivia Hadyn Phillips +
Hadley Talbot
Irena Tutunari
Zitong Ann Xu *
Maya Yamamoto
Rosalee Young *

ALTO

Zio Haven Ahn
Aidana Alieva
Lois Bull
Camille Chiller
Jillian Crane-Mauzy
Linh Dinh +
Sydney duKor-Jackson

Arwen Hansell *
Layla Hay
Marina Keator +
Hyo Ryn Leah Lee
Seo Hyun Clarine Lee +
Natalie Mak
Emily McAllister *
Brooke Schatz
Orla Schwarz +
Thuyen Angie Tran
Annika Voorheis
Ashley Wrisley *
Madeleine Yang
Yuxuan Betty Zhang
Irene Zhang

TENOR

Juliet Homes *
Drake Hunt +
Gray Meehan
Viet Tung Linh
Jason Nguyen +
Kiran Patel +
Yiling Stephen Peng +
Brian Ricker +
John Matthew Riley
Sebastian Roberts +
Si Hang Ronald Wang +
Haolin Tony Zhong +

BASS

Maxwell Alphonso
Wyatt Bandy-Page +
Yuxuan Billy Bao
Eli Carroll +
Yudai Higuchi +
Shih-An Ethan Ho +
Kohaku Kanamori +
Hyunho Kim +
Kevin Kim
Chun-Wen Ko
Alexander Minickiello
Jacob Smith
Christopher Spring
Chia-Chun Eric Tang
Benjamin Van Winkle +

+ NMH Singer * Select Women's Ensemble

NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Steven Bathory Peeler, Conductor

VIOLIN

Nashely Alvarez

Asher Choi

Principal 2nd

Rintaro Fukasawa

Concertmaster

Ryan Yang Hwa Lee

Jimmy Tam Tran

VIOLA

Hung-Wei Garcia Lu

Principal

Michael Hu

Gary Huang

CELLO

Ines Knirsch

BASS

Amelia Chalfant

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Celes JieYeon Moon

TRUMPET

Miles Kaming-Thanassi

Sally Juhye Pak

TIMPANI

Benjamin Prickett

HARPSICHORD

Craig Sandford

USHERS

AFTERNOON

Ayleen Cameron '20

Cyndee Fan '20

Shameek Hargrave '20

Erick Jara '20

EVENING

Eliza Atwood '20

Johan Cruz Hernandez '20

Taneyah Jolly '20

Ho Joon (Jaydon) Ryu '20

CANDLELIGHTERS

AFTERNOON

Samantha Heist '19

Cheaheon Lim '19

Melvin Mercado Bulacia '19

Princess Lydia Obi '19

EVENING

Isabella Ceseretti '19

Ngone Fall '19

Miles Kaming-Thanassi '19

Hongyi Yang '19

This year the world celebrates the bicentennial of the composition Stille Nacht. The words were composed by a priest, Joseph Mohr, for his congregation. He asked a teacher and musician, Franz Grüber, to compose a melody for his poem. On the afternoon of Christmas Eve, 1818, Grüber came up with the beautiful melody, and accompanied the song on the guitar at that evening's service because the church organ was broken.

Postlude

Craig K. Sandford, organ



*This program has been funded
through the generosity of John Pflug '56
and the Pflug Concert Fund.*

S P E C I A L T H A N K S

To Christin Fagan and Jay Ward '68, Head Ushers; to Gail Doolittle '89, Gretchen Licata and their crew for their tireless efforts; to Dining Services; to Tom Bloom and the crew from London for the luminaries; to Margaret Hodgkin and the residents of MacKinnon for letting us take over their living room as a robing area; to Heather Card and the Advancement Office for their help with the alumni programming; to Sue Rhenow, Pam Lierle, Harry van Baaren and Communications staff for their work on the program.