

PENINSULA



**MASTER
CHORALE**

CARL SITTON, CONDUCTOR

HEINRICH SCHÜTZ

(1585 - 1672)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY
MAGNIFICAT
FOUR MOTETS

VALLEY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PORTOLA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1984
8 P.M.

PROGRAM

THE CHRISTMAS STORY (Historia von der Geburt Jesu Christi)..... BWV 411
(Sung in German and English)

Written in 1664, Schütz's "Bible History of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ" was a revolutionary work. Nothing of its kind had previously been printed in Germany. The new element was the style of the evangelist's recitatives. This was obviously based on the Italian continuo style, but it was combined with traditional Gregorian turns of phrase, elaborate treatment of cadences and closed song-forms. The object was to intensify the effect of the bible narrative as much as possible. The rest of the work is masterful simplicity from the hand of a great genius of the Baroque era.

Introduction - Chorus:
Hear the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, as told to us by the holy evangelists.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Soprano Solo - The Angel to the Shepherds:
Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Chorus of Angels:
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Chorus of Altos - Shepherds:
Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this wondrous thing that the Lord has made known to us.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Trio for Tenors - The Wise Men:
Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Quartet for Basses - High Priests and Scribes:
In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus is it written by the prophet:
And thou Bethlehem, land of Judah, are in no wise least among the princes of Judah. For from thee shall come forth a governor, which shall be shepherd of my people Israel.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Bass Solo - Herod:
Now go and search for the young child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I also may come and worship him.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Soprano Solo - The Angel:

Arise and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be there until I tell thee, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Soprano Solo - The Angel:

Arise, Joseph, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel, for they are dead that sought the young child's life.

Recitative - Evangelist.

Conclusion - Chorus:

We all give thanks to God, our Lord Christ, who by his birth has shone upon us and by his blood has redeemed us from the power of evil. Let us all give praise to him with a loud voice, singing: Praised be God in the highest.

EVANGELIST - RHEBEN MOULTON

ANGEL - WEIDY HARTMAN-CARR

HEROD - DOUGLAS STOBIE

INTERMISSION

CANTATE DOMINO SWV 81

Sing to the Lord a new song; let his praise be in the church of the saints.
Let Israel rejoice in him that made him, and let the children of Zion be
joyful in their king. Let them praise his name with drums and choir, let
them sing to him with the psaltery. --Ps. 149: 1-3

SICUT MOSES SERPENTEM IN DESERTO EXALTAVIT SWV 68

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted
up, that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have life everlasting.
--John 3: 14015

DER ENGEL SPRACH ZU DEN HIRTEN SWV 195

And the angel said to the shepherds, "Be not afraid;
For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which
Will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the
City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
He shall be called "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Prince of Peace." Alleluia. --Luke 2: 10-11. Is. 9:6

TRÖSTET, TRÖSTET MEIN VOLK SWV 382

Comfort ye my people. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
And cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her
Iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the
Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries:
Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain be
plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. desert a highway for our God.
made low, and the rough places
and all flesh shall see it
--Is. 40: 1-5

(Song in Latin)

This setting of the Magnificat ranks as one of the greatest works ever conceived in the Venetian Polychoral tradition. The date of its composition is unknown, but its style and scoring place it around 1620. There are five groups of performers: vocal soloists, two four-part mixed choirs, and two groups of instruments (violins and trombones) plus basso continuo. The eleven parts are performed without break, but each section receives its musical characterization with an expressive sense of word painting.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever. --Luke I: 46-55

1. Magnificat anima mea - Tutti
2. Symphonia - Trombones
3. Et exultavit - Soprano, Tenor
4. Quia respexit - Bass
5. Quia fecit mihi magna - "Favorit" choir
6. Fecit potentiam - Tutti
7. Deposuit potentes de sede - "Favorit" choir
8. Esurientes implevit bonis - Tutti
9. Suscepit Israel - Soprano
10. Sicut locutus est - Tenor
11. Doxologie "Gloria Patri" - Tutti

Irene Sohm & Wendy Hartman-Carr, Sopranos
Susan Squires, Mezzo-Soprano
Reuben Moulton & David Ecsery, Tenors
Douglas Stobie, Bass

PENINSULA MASTER CHORALE

Margaret Barshell, Accompanist

Sopranos

Mary Ann Capestany, Helen Caplan, Barbara Caulfield, Ann Corley,
Valerie Flatt, Shirley Fitzgerald, Janine Gianico, Ruth Jeppeon,
Margaret McAfee, Mary Belle Nolan, Irene Sohm, Martha Stearns,
Kathleen Wade, Caryn White

Altos

Deborah Bennett, Terri Cook, Lois Drieslein, Ruth Eskinazi,
Constance Feight, Marjorie Grimm, Angela Ladd, Brenda Siddall,
Susan Squires, Lorna Thompson

Tenors

Tim Ballard, Stanley Boghosian*, Adrian Boyer, Max Capestany,
David Kcsery*, Reuben Moulton*, David Robinson, George Sell

Basses

Joseph Boyes, Robert Brauns, Israel Eskinazi, Ronald Hodges,
Mark Loy, Tom Miner, John Moylan, Dick Poage*, Douglas Stobie*,
Norman Wade, James White*

*Ensemble soloists in "The Christmas Story"

ORCHESTRA

Violins

William Whitson
Michael Moon

Cello

Janeke Hoogland

String Bass

Chris Crews

Flutes

Vivian Boudreaux
Carla Jasberg

Trombones

Suzanne Madge
Craig McAmis
Stan Watkins

Trumpets

Glenn Smith
Ron McWilliams

Baritone

John Givens

Organ

Robert Newton

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