

MJC SPRING CHORAL CONCERT
FRIDAY 20 APRIL 2018

Love & All that Jazz



For a full listing of events for the spring 2018 semester please visit mjc.edu/arts

Modesto Junior College Music Department presents

ILLUMINATA

MUSIC OF THE SEASON



MJC CONCERT CHOIR & CHAMBER SINGERS

Cathryn Tortell ~ Music Director

Wesley Richmond ~ Piano

Performing and Media Arts Center, Main Auditorium

Friday 8 December 2017

7:00PM

Tonight, the MJC Concert Choir & Chamber Singers present a varied pallet of Holiday fare, with a particular emphasis on contemporary composers and their works. Featured will be music of the “Big Three” living choral composers: The Americans, Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre and the Briton, John Rutter.

Our program begins with Benjamin Britten’s *Wolcum yole!* (from *Ceremony of Carols*) a 20th Century work set to Middle English text, followed by the traditional English carol, *The Snow Lay on the Ground* (*Venite adoremus dominum*)

After turns by Messrs. Whitacre, Rutter, and Lauridsen, we shift focus onto international selections, beginning with *Hine ma tov*, a traditional Hebrew folk song traditionally sung at the beginning of Shabbat services. The text of this melody is from the first verse of Psalm 133: “*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell in unity.*” *Betelehema*, a Nigerian carol, blends both African and imported musical elements.

Here we come-a-Caroling medley puts us back onto traditional Holiday ground. The word ‘carol’ derives from the Greek word *choros* which denotes a band of singers and dancers. Dating from pagan times, carols were simply songs performed in group settings during the cold and dark mid-winter festival season, with little or no religious content. Although caroling was initially considered inconsistent with true pioussness, and therefore suppressed, public insistence eventually carried the day.

The Lark Ascending, by Ralph Vaughn Williams provides us with a soulful instrumental interlude. This work is an on-the-nose example of ‘*musique descriptive*’, where the composer imitates sounds found in nature. (fauna, thunder storms, etc.). In this case, the Lark plaintively croons its pre-dawn melody ... in search of a mate (of course).

We will conclude tonight’s performance with an audience sing-a-long of *Let There be Peace on Earth* most recently restyled by Harry Connick Jr. (evidently, he didn’t make it into the Big Three). Please join in.

We look forward to welcoming you next April for Love & All that Jazz with the MJC Concert Choir and Chamber Singers.

~ L. Andrew Stone

III

CONCERT CHOIR

Hine ma tov

(Traditional Hebrew)

Arr: Neil Ginsberg

Psalm 133

“How good it is and how pleasant for brethren to dwell together”

Betelehemu

(Nigerian Carol)

Arr: Barrington Brooks

We are glad that we have a Father to trust
We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon

Where was Jesus born?

Where was He Born?

Bethlehem the city of wonder.

Praise, praise, praise be to Him

We thank Thee, we thank Thee, we thank Thee for this day!

Silent Night

Arr: Rhonda Polay

Caleb Dowdell, soloist

Here-we come a Caroling

(Celebration of British Carol)

Arr: Douglas Wagner

The Lark Ascending

(excerpt)

Ralph Vaughn Williams

Nicolette van den Bogerd, Violin

IV

The Very Best Time of Year

John Rutter

White Christmas

Jeffry Jackson, soloist

Irving Berlin

Have yourself a very Merry Christmas

Arr: Mark Hayes

Steve Trapp, soloist

Brightest and Best

(Southern Harmony 1835)

Arr: Shawn Kirchner

Kay Thompson Jingle Bells

Arr: Mark Hayes

Anna Blazzard & Charles Jaimes, soloists

V

Let there be Peace on Earth

Arr: Mark Hayes

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with you.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we
Let us walk with each
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!

INSTRUMENTALISTS

John Lopez ~ Flute
Nicolette van den Bogerd ~ Violin
John Agy ~ Contrabass
Matthew Fredericksen ~ Percussion
Wesley Richmond ~ Piano

Thank you to the students of the MJC Music Guild for sharing their time and talent this evening in tickets sales, ushering and program distribution and to student choir assistants, Amber Suniga & Merrissa Hensarling. My gratitude for the talents of Wesley Richmond for sharing his gifts of accompanying this semester. *Grazie!*

Thank you – Michael Sundquist - Dean, Arts, Humanities & Communications, Lori Sammis – Administrative Secretary, Department of Arts, Humanities & Communications, Jacquelin Wingett - Arts Division Administrative Technician & Program Designer, Kevin Saunders & Ty Helton - Performing Arts Production Specialists, David Todd – Photography & Graphics Production Specialist, Linda Hoile – Marketing & Publicity, Sheldon Cohen, L. Andrew Stone and Nicolette van den Bogerd – *dank!*

A heartfelt thank you to the Department of Music Faculty, Drs. David Chapman, Alejandro Sabre, Professors David Dow, Eric Maki and Anne Martin. Finally, my deep appreciation to the MJC Concert Choir and Chamber Singers for their dedication throughout this semester. It has been both a privilege and honor to work with you!

PEACE

I

CONCERT CHOIR

MJC CONCERT CHOIR & CHAMBER SINGERS

Samantha Alipio
Diana
Americano-Sanchez*
Jonathan Andrews*
Kathrine Andrews
Anna Blazzard*
Brooke Cannedy*
Briana Carlson
Martin Casillas*
Brooke Clark*
Caleb Dowdell
Charles Farwell*
Richard Garcia*
Matthew Hanham*
Merrissa Hensarling*
Noemi Hernandez Avila
Raymond Holtzclaw*
Jeffry Jackson*
Charles Jaimes*
Diane Kjelstrom*
Benny Lopez
Masitsa Lubembe*

Andrew Melo
Cynthia Molina-Ramos*
Samantha Rivera-Cruz
Jeremy Robinson*
Dirk Roodzant*
Daniel Ruiz
Carl Seawright
Deanna Seawright
Shania Spears
Amber Suniga*
Alexandra Tisdell
Steve Trapp*
Nikkole Truhett
Jasmine Turcotte*
Natalie Vierra*
Mohamed Zokari*

* Chamber Singers

Wolcum yole!

(from *Ceremony of Carols*)

Benjamin Britten

The Snow Lay on the Ground

(*Traditional English*)

Julian Wachner

Glow

Eric Whitacre

Rejoice and Be Merry

John Rutter

II

CHAMBER SINGERS

O magnum mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

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!

In dulci jubilo

Arr: Matthew Culloton

In sweet rejoicing, now sing and be glad!
Our hearts' joy lies in the manger,
And it shines like the sun in the mother's lap.
You are the Alpha and Omega!

Carol of the Bells

Arr: Peter Wilhousky