

Still, Still, Still

Still, Still, Still is a traditional Austrian Christmas Carol that is about the birth of baby Jesus. It is a lullaby about how peaceful and calm it is before the birth of Jesus, and how it will be a joyous day when it happens. J. Ashley Hall is composer from Illinois who does not even have a high school degree but is successfully putting her music on the internet for people to use for free.

Candle in the Night

This piece by David Eddleman celebrates Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday that lasts for 8 Days. It may also be called the Festival of Lights, and it honors the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. As the days of Hanukkah progress a new candle on the menorah is lit, and the "candle in the night" refers to lighting of the menorah. During Hanukkah, children play a popular game called Dreidel in households after the menorah has been lit. You should listen for "Candle in the night, makes a happy sight, warm is the light at play." A prayer said with the lighting of the candles translates in English to "We light these lights for the miracles and the wonders, for the redemption and the battles that you made for our forefathers, in those days at this season, through your holy priests."

Infant Holy

"*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*" is a very old Polish carol, and its origin is unknown. This song was originally titled, "*Spiewniczek Piesni Koscielne*" in Polish before it was translated to English by Edith M.G Reed. This beautiful, soothing carol paints a picture of baby Jesus lying in a manger bed with the animals close by.

Halleluya

This piece, by Bill Derksen, includes a Swahili text set to a Zulu melody, and proclaims the joy of the season: Hallelujah!

Halleluya!
Twaimba sifa,
Yesu Kristo nu mungu,
Halleluya!
Twafurahi,
Yesu Kristo yu hai.
Halehuya!
Twafurahi
Yesu Kristo
yubwana

Hallelujah!
we sing praises,
Jesus Christ is God,
Hallelujah!
We rejoice,
Jesus Christ is alive.
Hallelujah!
We rejoice,
Jesus Christ
is master

Bill Derksen's interest in trying to write something in an African style came from hearing "Ladysmith Black Mumbazo" and "O Sifuni Mungo" by a group called "First Call." For "Hallelujah" he used an existing melody for the refrain and for the composed parts he worked with the lyricist, Jane Ndunda, to develop the additional text. He used a variety of words that generally mean "praise" and "worship," in addition to creating syllables that had an "earthy" sound to provide rhythmic interest. For this, she encouraged him to do what African musicians do - make them up, and guided him so that they sounded authentic.

Hall

Eddleman

Polish Carol

Derksen



PSU Conducting Choir

presents

Winter Wishes

Date: 12/7/10

Time: 7:30 & 8:30

*This concert is performed as the end result of the Choral Conducting class at
Plymouth State University*

Winter Wishes

Conducted by
The PSU Conducting Class



7:30 Concert / 8:30 Concert

O Praise the Mighty Lord - G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Bobby Salerno / Jeffrey Sirois

Unto us a child is born - Ola Gjeilo

Stephen Colby / Brad Dumont

Et in Terra Pax - Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Matthew Wellman / Jon Thompson

Still, Still, Still - J. Ashley Hall

Featuring: Molly Finkel, Cello

Elizabeth Montmagny / Alyssa Costa

Candle in the Night - David Eddleman

Jordan Richardson / Rachel Carlson

Infant Holy - Arranged by: Craig S. Kingsbury

Megan Beaucage / *No 8:30 Performance

Halleluyah - Bill Derksen

Featuring: Mervin Marvey, Soloist
Stephen Colby, Bongos

Jarika Olberg / Krystal Morin

The Conductors of this concert have collaborated as part of a final presentation and have been preparing the choir throughout the semester to perform these pieces. We hope you enjoy the final product!

Special thanks to all performers involved in this concert. The singers have all volunteered their time to participate in rehearsals and performances and we appreciate their commitment and preparedness throughout the rehearsal process.

Thanks also to the pianists who are other members of the Choral Conducting Class for taking the time to prepare these pieces.

Thanks also to Dr. Perkins for helping throughout the progression of this concert.

Program Notes

O Praise the Mighty Lord

Handel

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) was an important and prolific composer of the Baroque period. Among his most popular works were the choruses from his large-scale oratorios. *O Praise the Mighty Lord* is the final chorus of Handel's oratorio *Joshua*, which he composed in London in 1747. The joyful message of the text is conveyed through the highly rhythmic and energized movement of the voices.

Unto us a child is born

Gjeilo

A Norwegian, Manhattan based composer, Ola Gjeilo is a prolific composer whose lyrical pieces contain influences that join the crossroads of jazz, classical, and popular music. A composer in residence for the Grammy Award winning *Phoenix Chorale*, Gjeilo is also an avid performer and has performed as a pianist on the stages of many prestigious venues internationally. *Unto us a child is born* is an a cappella arrangement of the *Puer Nobis Nascitur* text of the 15th century that highlights the composers ability to place suspensions over a seemingly simplistic harmonic language. This is the first piece in the setting entitled *Two Christmas Carols*.

Et in terra pax

Lightfoot

This stunning, original setting of the traditional Latin, "And on Earth, Peace," features gorgeous melodies and a stirring ending of quiet splendor.

Et in terra pax

Hominibus bonae voluntatis

Domine Deus, gratias agimus tibi.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te.

Adoramus te, glorificamus te.

Dona nobis pacem.

And on earth, peace

to all those of good will.

Lord God, we give thanks to thee.

We praise thee, we bless thee.

We worship thee, we glorify thee.

Grant us peace.

Mary Lynn Lightfoot is the Choral Editor for Heritage Music Press. In addition to her editorial responsibilities, Mary Lynn has effectively established herself with an active composing career and currently has over 230 published choral compositions, arrangements, and musicals. She has received an annual ASCAP Award for her compositions from the ASCAP Standard Awards Panel since 1988, and was selected an Outstanding Young Woman of America in 1984.

Please join us in between concerts for a reception with light snacks in the conference room!