



## IN DULCI JUBILO

### A German Christmas

## DARKNESS AND LIGHT

O welt, welt pesser Anonymous (ca. 1475)  
*O world, your time will soon come, and then you must face the Judgement. Ye dancers and merry-makers, hark; you liars and cheaters, the hour is near. Trum, trum, trum!*

Homo luge--Homo miserabilis--Brumans ist Tod Anonymous (ca. 1350)  
*O miserable man, how unhappy is your lot! Run, oh man, away from mortal things. All is but a dream and passes: harmony is nowhere, and death awaits you. Brumans is dead, Brumans is dead, oh pain!*

De profundis Gregorian  
*Out of the depths I have cried to thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice. Let thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir Text and Melody: Martin Luther (1483 - 1546)  
Benedict Ducis (d.1544)  
*From deep affliction I cry out to you, Lord God, hear my call; incline your merciful ear here to me and be open to my prayer! For if you contemplate what sin and injustice is done, then who, Lord, can remain before you?*

Von Himmel hoch Martin Luther (1483-1546)  
*From Heaven above to earth I come, To bear good news to every home; Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing. To you, this night, is born a Child, Of Mary, chosen mother mild; This tender Child of lowly birth, Shall be the joy of all your earth.*

Von Himmel hoch Adam Gumpelzhaimer (1559-1625)  
*'Tis Christ our God, who far on high, Had heard your sad and bitter cry; Himself will your Salvation be, Himself from sin will make you free.*

**The Audience is invited to sing with us the last strophe:**

**All Glory be to God in heaven,  
Who unto us His Son has given!  
While angels sing with joy and mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.**

## **THE WORD BECAME FLESH**

Syt willekomen Anonymous (c.1380)  
*Be welcome, Lord Christ: then you are our lord! Be welcome, Lord Christ, Kyrie Eleison!*

Sei willkommen Herre Christ Anonymous (ca. 1394)  
*Christe Kyrieleison, let us sing a new song to celebrate our liberation; Jesus is born in the night, from a pure maid, Kyrieleinson!*

Et verbum caro factum est Ludwig Daser (1525-1589)  
*And the word was made flesh, Alleluia, and dwelt among us, Alleluia*

Syt willekomen (reprise)

## **THE CHRISTMAS STORY (Part One)**

Dies est laetitiae Anonymous, 15<sup>th</sup> c.  
*This is the joyful day, the royal dawn, For today comes forth, Out of the womb of a maiden A wonderful boy, wholly delightful in his humanity, who is priceless and ineffable in his divinity.*

Dies est laetitiae (instrumental) Adam von Fulda (1445-1505)

Maria unser frowe Anonymous (ca. 1350)  
*Mary, our Lady, Lord have Mercy, was blessed by God, alleluia! Praise be to you, Mary! An angel was sent to her, he was called Gabriel. He said: 'you are full of grace, God is with you, you are in his favor. You, above all women, have been blessed by God.*

Maria zart Arnold Schlick (1455-1525)  
*Mary mild, of noble being, A rose among the thorns. You have mightily returned that which was long lost. Because of Adam's fall you were empowered, promised by Saint Gabriel. Help that I be not revenged for my sins and guilt, give me protection, for there is no consolation where you are not. Be merciful and at the end, I bid you: turn not away from me at my death.*

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland Balthazar Resinarius (c.1483-1544)  
*Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, here make thy home! From the Father forth he came And returned to the same. Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King, Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.*

Joseph, lieber neve mîn Text: Anonymous (ca. 1360)  
Music: Resonet in Laudibus (early 14<sup>th</sup> c.)  
*Joseph, my dear Joseph, help me rock my little child. Yes, my little darling, I will help you gladly. Be joyful, all of you: the everlasting word of God has been fulfilled, here, there and everywhere, through the one who gave us Mary.*

Joseph lieber Joseph mein

Johannes Walter (1496-1570)

*Joseph, my dear Joseph, help me rock my little child. God will recompense you in heaven, the Virgin Mary's child. Hey, hey! The Virgin has given birth to God. Now let all sing together, sing to the newborn king. Today the one whom Gabriel predicted has appeared in Israel, has been born king.*

Ave Maria

Lambert de Sayve (1548-1614)

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and in the hour of our death. Amen.*

Resonet in laudibus

Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)

*Let your praises resound, for today is fulfilled that which was foretold by the angel Gabriel. Today appears in Israel the King, born of the Virgin Mary. Great is his name, hey, hey!*

## INTERMISSION

### AN ANGEL CONCERT

Das neugeborne Kindelein

Melchior Vulpius (ca. 1560-1615)

*The newborn child, darling Jesus, brings us a joyful new year. The angels sing because God has born a Son.*

Courante (instrumental)  
1630)

Johann Hermann Schein (1586-

La Bourrée (instrumental)

Michael Praetorius (1580-1620)

### THE CHRISTMAS STORY (Part Two)

In dulci jubilo (three settings)

Michael Praetorius

*In sweet joy, now sing with hearts aglow! Our delight and pleasure lies in a manger, like sunshine is our treasure, in the mother's lap; Thou art Alpha and Omega. O tiny Jesus, for thee I long away; Comfort my heart's blindness, O best of boys, With all Thy loving kindness, O Prince of glory, draw me unto thee. Where are joys, in any place but there? There are angels singing new songs, and there the bells are ringing in the king's court, O that we were there!*

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Melchior Vulpius

*A rose has sprung up, from a tender root. As the old ones sang to us, its lineage was from Jesse.*

Padovana

Johann Hermann Schein

Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern

Michael Praetorius

*How brightly shines the morning star, full of God's truth, the stem of Jesse. O my pearl, my flower, heavenly manna for us to eat. Tune the lute strings, sing and dance, great is the King of glory.*

Vox in rama  
1555)

Jacob Clemens non Papa (1510-

*A voice is heard in Rama of weeping and [great] lamentation. Rachel is weeping for her children, and will not be comforted because they are no more.*

Den die Hirten lobeten sehre

Anonymous (ca. 1410)  
Setting by: Michael Praetorius

**Solo:** *Then, the shepherds praised God, and the angels did so even more;* **Camerata:** *Today the angels have appeared in the bright light, in the moonlight.*

**All: Refrain – The Audience is invited to sing the refrain with us:**

**Gottes Sohn is Mensch geboren, ist Mensch geboren,  
hat versöhnt des Vater's Zorn, des Vater's Zorn.  
(God's Son is born as man, and has redeemed the anger of the Father)**

**Solo:** *Let us all rejoice with Mary;* **Camerata:** *Then all the little angels sang: peace on earth.*  
**All: Refrain**

**Solo:** *Let all men alike praise God's Son;* **Camerata:** *The shepherds now spoke up: 'Then let us go and see this thing'; there, they will find the babe lying in a manger.*  
**All: refrain.**

Es ist ein ros entsprungen

Michael Praetorius

**The audience is invited to sing along with us on the repeat:**

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright,  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half-gone was the night.**

Omnis mundis jocundetur

Anonymous (15<sup>th</sup> c.)

*All the world rejoices that a Saviour has been born*

Omnis mundis jocundetur

Michael Praetorius

*All the world rejoices that a Saviour has been born of a chaste mother who conceived as Gabriel said.  
With sounding voices, and with sincere hearts, let us rejoice and be glad today.*

In dulci jubilo

Johann Eccard (1553-1611)

**The Audience is invited to sing with us:**

**1 (All) In dulci jubilo, Now sing with hearts aglow! Our delight and pleasure lies  
in praesepio; Like sunshine is our treasure, matris in gremio. Alpha es et O.**

**2 (Camerata)**

**3 (All) *Ubi sunt gaudia, In any place but there? There are angels singing, Nova cantica, And there the bells are ringing, In regis curia. O that we were there!***

**THE BOSTON CAMERATA  
Anne Azéma, Artistic Director**

**Camila Parias, soprano  
Anne Azéma, mezzo-soprano, hurdy gurdy  
Deborah Rentz-Moore, alto  
Ryan Lustgarten, tenor  
Joel Frederiksen, bass, lute**

**Carol Lewis, violas da gamba  
Christa Patton, harps, wind  
Libor Dudas, organ  
Michael Collver, cornet  
Steven Lundahl, sackbut  
Bryan Kay, sackbut  
Mack Ramsey, sackbut**

**Assisted by Longy Students**

Alexa Connelly  
Sarah Curtis  
Daniel Haakenson  
Harry Otero-Rivera  
Katja Pennypacker  
David L. Smith  
Libor Dudas, Director

## **In Dulci Jubilo: Early German Christmas Music**

The forests of the European North were inhabited by trolls and goblins, long before Christian missionaries brought the Gospel word to the pagan Teutonic tribes.

To the new religion, the Germanic converts brought their own unique intensity and the kinds of art, poetry, and music they created within the framework of Christian belief reflect a special brand of both anguish and joy. If the German faithful kept up an intense relationship with emanations of all that is to be feared in their beings (and ours), they also had powerful intuitions of angelic grace. The forest peoples of the North, then as now, had the profoundest yearnings imaginable for the realms of light and sun.

And so in December, when the world is at its darkest and the triumph of night seems total, the images of salvation born by the Christmas story were transformed by German musicians into sound: music whose crystalline purity can move us even beyond words.

Echoes of the past are important at Christmastime. Throughout our program which, even as it recounts the principal concerns of the Christmas season, traces a roughly chronological path across music history, you will hear some of the carol melodies which the Germans, a tradition-loving people, preserved from one generation to the next independent of evolving styles and compositional techniques. "In dulci jubilo", for instance, is a fourteenth century carol: the versions we perform for and with you date from the early seventeenth century, but, still later. Bach himself harmonized the tune in the eighteenth, as it is still familiar to millions today.

In fact, no people of Europe has been more attached to a large body of popular religious song than the Germans, and in this loving nurture of familiar tunes we sense again a great force of collective character. Our performances tonight combine voices and instruments in ways evocative of early German practice. Consorts of trombones appear very early on in the German Renaissance, and the use of brass instruments remain very important down to the present day. Tonight, we mix the subtle timbres of cornet and sackbuts, so close to the colors of the human voice, with some equally beautiful string sounds (viola da gamba, harp, lute), all in the service, along with the singers, of this enduringly eloquent repertoire.

Intensely aware of so much that is lurking in the dark forest these men and women, poets, singers and players nonetheless remained faithful, even as we must today, to their beautiful songs of renewal and hope.

(1979 -1986-2016-2024)