



O Holy Night

Christmas music for choir

Vocal Arts Ensemble

Rodney Wynkoop, conductor

Friday, December 10, 2021 ♦ 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church

305 East Main Street, Durham



The Vocal Arts Ensemble of Durham

Rodney Wynkoop, *conductor*

SOPRANO

Mary Anderson
Rachel Beck
Lesley Curtis
Kelly Payne
Patty Philipps
Kateri Salk-Gundersen
Karen Scherr
Melissa Smigelsky
Maria ter Weele

Leigh Joyner
Hilary Morris
Jenn Myers
Karen Richardson
Kimberly Slentz-Kesler
Jennie Vaughn
Mimi Zhang

TENOR

Cameron Aiken
Bob Bearden
John Benton
David Heist
Wade Henderson

Chad Kearsley
Jaymeson Morris
Dave Stuntz

BASS

Mark Brown
David Cole
Matt Fry
Gavin MacInnes
Lewis Moore
Walker Robinson
Tim Turkington
Bob Wiley

ALTO

Elaine Brown
Megan Gray

The Vocal Arts Ensemble of Durham is thrilled to be able to present today's annual holiday concert after such a long hiatus! VAE was founded in 1996 by Rodney Wynkoop in order to provide superior choral performance opportunities for outstanding singers in North Carolina's Triangle region. Its members are selected mainly from among musicians who have sung in other choral groups under Dr. Wynkoop's direction. In their professional lives, these singers are engaged in a variety of occupations, including music teacher, church musician, choir director, physician, attorney, accountant, engineer, scientist, and graduate student.

VAE performed by invitation at the at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) in 2005, at the ACDA Southern Division Conventions in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016, at the NC-ACDA Fall Conference. In addition to presenting its own concerts, they have

performed several times at Hinshaw Music's annual Celebration and with Durham's Mallarmé Chamber Players. The group has released two CD recordings: *My Spirit Sang All Day* (on the Arsis label) and *O Holy Night*, a collection of Christmas music from past Vocal Arts Ensemble concerts.

The choir's mostly a cappella repertoire ranges from the Renaissance to the present and has included such diverse and challenging works as Tallis's *Spem in Alium*, Poulenc's *Mass in G*, Martin's *Messe*, Penderecki's *Agnus Dei*, MacMillan's *Cantos Sagrados*, and Whitacre's *Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine*. In 2006, VAE presented the world premiere of Imant Raminsh's *Love Song*, commissioned to celebrate the group's tenth anniversary. In June 2022, VAE will at long last be able to sing the world premiere of Daniel Elder's *I Love You*, commissioned to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2019.





The Vocal Arts Ensemble of Durham

Rodney Wynkoop, *director*

David Cole, *accompanist*

First Presbyterian Church, Durham

Friday, December 10, 2021, 7:30 pm

Please turn off cell phones, pagers, and electronic chimes.

Sing we now of Christmas

Traditional French
arr. Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Adam lay y-bounden

Traditional English
arr. Howard Skempton (b. 1947)

The holly and the ivy

Traditional English
arr. Matthew Culloton (b. 1976)

A hymn to the virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Alte Katholische Kirchengesang, 1599
arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

There is no rose

Connor Koppin (b. 1991)

Annunciation

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

INTERMISSION

My Lord has come

Will Todd (b. 1970)

Love came down at Christmas

René Clausen (b. 1953)

Rachel Beck, soprano

Dormi, Jesu

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Still, still night

Franz Grüber (1787-1863)
arr. Jackson Berkey (b. 1942)

Jennifer Myers, alto

Pat-a-pan

Traditional French
Bernard de la Monnoye (1641-1728)
arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Traditional English
arr. John Gardner (1917-2011)

Jennie Vaughn, drum
Tim Turkington, tambourine

Wasn't that a mighty day!

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Ken Burton (b. 1970)





Rodney Wynkoop, *conductor*

Rodney Wynkoop is Professor of the Practice of Music at Duke University, where he teaches conducting and conducts the 50-voice Duke University Chorale. He came to Duke in 1984 and was the conductor of the Duke Chapel Choir from 1989 until 2018. In 2009, he was awarded Duke University's Meritorious Service Award for Executive Leadership. Dr. Wynkoop has also served as the conductor and artistic director of the Choral Society of Durham since 1986. He founded the Vocal Arts Ensemble in 1996.

Dr. Wynkoop has led his choirs in appearances in Europe, Latin America, and Africa, including at the International Haydn Festival in Vienna. Three of his choirs have performed at American Choral Directors Association Southern Division conventions, and the Vocal Arts Ensemble appeared at the 2005 ACDA National Convention.

Dr. Wynkoop has conducted singers from all of his choirs in two performances at Carnegie Hall.

In 2002, Dr. Wynkoop received the Lara Hoggard Award for Distinguished Service in Choral Music in North Carolina, presented by the NCACDA. He has conducted the world premieres of a number of works, including newly discovered works by Mendelssohn and Ives, a composition by Dan Locklair, and pieces commissioned for his choirs from James MacMillan, Imant Raminsh, René Clausen, Steven Sametz, and Daniel Gawthrop. His choirs have released numerous recordings.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in music from Yale University, Dr. Wynkoop studied with Robert Fountain at Yale and at the University of Wisconsin. He has master's degrees in choral conducting from Yale and Wisconsin and a doctorate from the Yale School of Music. Before coming to Duke in 1984, he held conducting positions at the University of Chicago, the Yale School of Music/Institute of Sacred Music, and Mount Holyoke College.

*Take some of this beautiful
holiday music home with you!*

The Vocal Arts Ensemble's Christmas CD, recorded live at our Christmas concerts in Duke Chapel, features 25 original compositions and inventive arrangements of traditional carols. Copies of the CD can be purchased before and following today's concert, or during intermission, for \$15 each (cash, check, or credit card).





TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Sing we now of Christmas

Traditional French

arr. Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Sing we now of Christmas,
Sing we all noel,
Of our Lord and Savior,
We the tidings tell.

Sing we noel,
For Christ the King is born.

Come let us surround him
On this holy night.
Gather here around him,
Wondrous Babe of light.

Adam lay y-bounden

Traditional English

arr. Howard Skempton (b. 1947)

Adam lay y-bounden [bound] in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too
long.
And all was for an apple that he took,
As clerkés finden written in theiré book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
Ne haddé never our lady a-been heaven's
queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was!
Therefore we may singen Deo gracias!
[Thanks be to God]

The holly and the ivy

Traditional English

arr. Matthew Culloton (b. 1976)

The holly and the ivy,
when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood,
the holly bears the crown.

The holly bears a blossom
as white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to be our sweet Savior.

Refrain:

O the rising of the sun and
the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a berry
as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
to do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle
as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
on Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark
as bitter as any gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
for to redeem us all.



A Hymn to the virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Of one that is so fair and bright,
Velut maris stella, (like a star of the sea)
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella. (mother and maiden)
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia, (so holy)
That I may come to thee.
Maria! (Mary)

All this world was forlorn
Eva peccatrice, (through Eve, the sinner)
Till our Lord was y-born
De te genetrix. (of thee, the mother)
With ave it went away
Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis; (of salvation)
The well springeth out of thee
Virtutis. (of virtue)

Lady, flow'r of everything,
Rosa sine spina, (rose without a thorn)
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King,
Gratia divina: (by divine grace)
Of all that bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa: (chosen one)
Maid mild, mother es effecta.
(you are made)

— *Anonymous, ca. 1300*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Alte Catholische Kirchengesang, 1599
arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

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

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love a-right,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel in glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere;
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us,
And share our every load.

— v. 1-2 *Anonymous*
trans. Theodore Baker
v. 3 *Friedrich Layritz*
trans. Harriet Spaeth





There is no rose

Connor Koppin (b. 1991)

There is no rose of such virtue,
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heav'n and earth in little space;
Res miranda. [wonderful thing]
Alleluia. Amen.

— Traditional English

Annunciation

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

Salvation to all that will is nigh;
That All, which always is All everywhere,
Which cannot sin,
 and yet all sins must bear,
Which cannot die,
 yet cannot choose but die,
Lo, faithful Virgin, yields himself to lie
In prison, in thy womb;
 and though he there
Can take no sin, nor thou give,
 yet he will wear,
Taken from thence, flesh,
 which death's force may try.
Ere by the spheres time was created, thou
Wast in his mind, who is thy Son,
 and Brother;
Whom thou conceiv'st, conceived;
 yea thou art now
Thy Maker's maker, and
 thy Father's mother;
Thou hast light in dark,
 and shutst in little room,
Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb.

— John Donne (1572-1631)

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae,
et concepit de Spiritu sancto.
“Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus
tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus et
benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.”*

*Maria dixit, “Ecce ancilla Domini,
fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.”*

*Et verbum caro factum est
et habitavit in nobis.*

*Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis
peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis
nostrae. Amen.*

The angel of the Lord announced to Mary,
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is
with thee; blessed art thou among
women, and blessed is the fruit of
thy womb, Jesus.”

Mary said, “Behold I am the handmaid
of the Lord; let it be according to
your word.”

— Luke 1.38

And the Word became flesh and dwelt
among us.

— John 1.14

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us
sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.





My Lord has come

Will Todd (b. 1970)

Shepherds, called by angels,
called by love and angels;
no place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars,
searching for love in heaven;
no place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,
his love will cherish me,
love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,
sages and shepherds and angels;
no place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

— *Will Todd*

Love came down at Christmas

René Clausen (b. 1953)

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the God-head,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

— *Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

Dormi, Jesu

John Rutter (b. 1945)

*Dormi, Jesu! Mater ridet
Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi, Jesu blandule!*

Sleep, Jesus! Your mother smiles;
It is such a sweet sleep she watches,
Sleep, Jesus, gently.

*Si non dormis, Mater plorat
Inter fila cantans orat,
Blande, veni, somnule.*

If you are not sleeping, your mother cries,
In the midst of spinning, she prays,
Gently go on to sleep.

Sleep, sweet baby! my cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee, smiling;
Sleep, my darling, tenderly.

— *Latin: Anonymous*

— *English: paraphrase by*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)





Still, still night

Franz Grüber (1787-1863)

arr. Jackson Berkey (b. 1942)

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Christ the Savior is born!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!
Alleluia.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heav'nly choirs sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!
Alleluia.

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Son of God. Alleluia.
Still, still night, Alleluia.

— *Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)*

Pat-a-pan

Traditional French

Bernard de la Monnoye (1641-1728)

arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

Turelurelu, patapatapan.

Willie, get your little drum,
Robin, bring your flute and come!
Aren't they fun to play upon?
Turelurelu, patapatapan,
When you play your fife and drum,
How can anyone be glum?

When the folk of olden days
Gave the King of kings their praise,
They had pipes to play upon.
Turelurelu, patapatapan,
And also the drums they'd play,
Full of joy, on Christmas day.

On this day the Savior's grace
Makes the Devil hid his face;
Let the merry tune play on!
Turelurelu, patapatapan,
For the tune that you now play
Drives the darkness far away!

Heav'n and earth today become
Finely tuned as flute and drum.
Let the joyous song play on!
Turelurelu, patapatapan,
O be merry as you play,
Sing and dance this Christmas day!

— *de la Monnoye*



Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Traditional English

arr. John Gardner (1917-2011)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:

Refrain:

Sing O my love, O my love,
my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance:

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance:

Wasn't that a mighty day!

Traditional Spiritual

arr. Ken Burton (b. 1970)

Wasn't that a mighty day,
When Jesus Christ was born.

The star shone in the east, Lord,
When Jesus Christ was born.

The angels came from above, Lord,
When Jesus Christ was born.



*First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here.
We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that
God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age,
race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation and economic
circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.*





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Mark your calendars
for our next concert!
Sunday, June 12, 2022 • 4pm • Duke Chapel





The Vocal Arts Ensemble relies on the generous support of our donors to provide the funds needed to continue and maintain the exceptionally high quality of music-making that has been the hallmark of this group for more than 20 years. VAE has tax-exempt status, and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thank you for your support!

Ways to give:

- Mail a check to Vocal Arts Ensemble, c/o Dr. Rodney Wynkoop, 2223 Meadowcreek Drive, Durham, NC 27705.
- Make a cash, check, or credit-card donation today. Someone will be available near the exit to assist you. Please note that we can accept credit-card donations only at concerts.

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