



Thomas E. Lerew
Conductor

Gregg Reynolds
Accompanist

Songs of Sweet Starlight

December 2015

Betelehemu *Via Olatunji (c. 1920-2003) &
Wendell Whalum (1931-1987)
arr. Barrington Brooks*

Caleb Winsor, solo

**Robert Hanshaw, Angela Merley, David Neve,
John Neve, Emilie Pechuzal, Carlos Solis, percussion**

*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.*

*That is where the Father was born for sure.
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.
We thank Thee for this day, Gracious Father.
Praise, praise, praise be to Thee, Merciful Father.*

Sing We Now of Christmas *Noël Nouvelet (Traditional French)
arr. James E. Clemens*

*Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises, To the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, Sing we now Noel!*

*Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
Journey forth to Beth'lem, Find the lambkin blest."
In Bethlehem they found him, Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger, near the holy child.*

*From the eastern country, Came the kings a far,
Bearing gifts to Bethl'em, Guided by a star.
Gold and myrrh they took there, Gifts of greatest price;
Frankincense to greet the Child of paradise.*

Ave Maria (Angelus Domini) *Franz Biebl (1906-2001)*

Nadeen Jahn, Emily Lyons, Caleb Winsor, solos

*The angel of the Lord made his annunciation 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 the handmaiden of the Lord.
Let it be unto me according to Thy word.*

*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, pray for us, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.*

In dulci jubilo *Matthew Culloton (b. 1976)*

*In sweet joy, let us our homage show,
Our heart's joy reclineth
In a manger, and like a bright star shineth
In your mother's lap, beginning and ending.*

*Oh infant Jesus, I yearn for thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech thee, Oh best of boy!
My pray'r let it reach thee,
Oh Prince of Glory, draw me after you.*

*Oh love of the Father! Mercy of the Son!
Yet through our sins, thou hast gained the joys of heaven!
Oh that we were there, where are our joys?
There angels sing new songs,
There the bells are ringing in the King's courts.
Oh that we were there!*

Denn Er hat Seinen Engeln Befohlen *Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)*
(from Elijah, Op. 70)

*For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:11-12)*

Weinachten, Op. 79, no. 1 *Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy*

*Rejoice, ye people of the earth, and praise God!
The redeemer is come, whom the Lord has promised.
He has revealed his justice to the world. Hallelujah! (Psalm 98)*

What Sweeter Music *John Rutter (b. 1945)*
Words by Robert Herrick

Janet Tolman, organ

*What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!*

*Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May.*

*Why does the chilling Winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell, like to a meadow newly shorn,
Thus, on the sudden?*

*Come and see the cause,
Why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.*

*We see Him come, and know Him ours,
Who, with His sunshine, and His showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.*

*The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room to welcome Him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,*

*Which we will give Him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do Him honor; who's our King,
And Lord of all this reveling.*

Gloria

John Leavitt (b. 1956)

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.*

Ed Strain and Mary Thode, solos

*Sweet was the song that Mary sang,
when she to Bethlehem came,
and was delivered of a Son,
Christ Jesus was his name.
Sing lullaby.*

*Sweet little baby, Jesus child,
how still and peacefully you lie,
how could you know your Father's will,
Christ Jesus born to die.
Sing lullaby.*

Carolyn Adler, solo

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth.*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born.
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

Intermission

(15 minutes)

Gregg Brandon, Kirsten Cook, solos

Nadeen Jahn, Dan Manship, solos

Joshua Hall, oboe

Carlos Solis, percussion

Rejoice, rejoice, Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice.

Nature marvels at the sight, angels sing the glory:

God becomes a little child, shepherds tell the story.

Hail Mary, ever blest, Mother of the promise.

By your word the Word made flesh came to dwell among us.

With the wise men from the east, with the stars of heaven,

With the shepherd and the sheep, come, let us adore him.

Now is born Emmanuel; now is come salvation.

Sing we all noel, noel! Sing in exultation!

Gregg Reynolds, harp

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices

Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?

Have you seen the star shining out so brightly

As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?

Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven

To the humble shepherds who have waited long?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

*He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.*

*He is come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing, "Peace on earth!"*

*He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love.*

*Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing, "Christ is born."*

Sweeter Still: A Holiday Carol Music and words by Eric William Barnum (b. 1979)

*The lights shine brightly all over the town
As Christmas bells toll for miles around;
The wind blowing gently, snow falling softly,
The stars brightly shining for you and for me.*

*Silently children dream, hearts full of love
Until they hear footsteps from up above.
They rush down the stairs hoping to see
The bright smile of Santa before he disappears.*

*And sweet is the sound of a carol sung by a choir;
And sweet is the warmth and the soft glow from a fire.
But sweeter still is the joy, when I see the family
Round the Christmas tree. Oh what joy it brings to me.*

Stephanie Schneider, solo

*Alone in the night on a dark hill
With pines around me, spicy and still,*

*And a heaven full of stars over my head
White and topaz and misty red;*

*Myriads with beating hearts of fire
The aeons cannot vex or tire;*

*Up the dome of heaven like a great hill
I watch them marching stately and still.*

*And I know that I Am honored to be witness
Of so much majesty.*

Follow the Star!

*Follow the star to Bethlehem!
Listen to the angels' song: follow the star!*

*Leave your land and make good speed,
Follow where the star doth lead.*

*Singing as we race a long, singing as we hurry:
Follow the star to Bethlehem.*

*Leave your sheep, leave your lambs,
Leave your ewes and leave your rams,*

*Leave your flocks and leave your herds
Listen to the angels' words:
Follow the star to Bethlehem!*

Carolyn Adler, Kerry Lerew, Nancy Wheeler, solos
Gregg Reynolds, harp

*In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.*

*Christ a homeless stranger, so the gospels say,
Cradled in a manger and a bed of hay;
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed,
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels, May have thronged the air,
Shepherds, beasts and wise men, May have gathered there,
But only his mother in her tender bliss
Blessed this new redeemer with a kiss.*

*What can I give you, poor as I am
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give you: Give my heart.
I give my heart ...*

Carolyn Adler, Kerry Lerew, Nancy Wheeler, *solos*
Gregg Reynolds, *harp*

*Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry;
Brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;
Lengthening shadows, dark closing in;
Then through the stillness, carols begin.*

*Oh fallen world, to you is the song!
Death holds you fast, and night tarries long,
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy;
Sweet to your ears, a carol of joy!*

*Pale moon ascending, cold, barren snow.
Deep empty valley, veiled by the night;
Hear angel music,
Hear angels hopeful and bright.*

*Oh fearful world, to you is the song!
Peace with your God, and pardon for wrong
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound,
Carol of joy, a Savior is found!*

*Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes
to the chorus filling the skies.
Look up, sad hearted! Witness God's love;
Join in the carol swelling above!*

*O friendless world, to you is the song!
All heaven's joy to you may be long!
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn:
O fallen, O fearful, O friendless word,
Now unto you, carol of joy,
Now unto you, a Savior is born!*

Joshua Hall, oboe
Carlos Solis, percussion
Gregg Reynolds and Janet Tolman, piano

*Of the Father's love begotten, E'er the worlds began to be.
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he.
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.*

*Oh, that birth, forever blessed,
When the virgin full of grace by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Saviour of our race.
And the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.*

*O ye heights of heav'n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.*

*Nation, do not cry. Jehovah will protect us.
We will attain freedom. Jehovah will protect us.*

