

The Boston Choral Ensemble
Miguel Felipe, Music Director
presents

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

Friday, December 10th, 2004
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Sunday, December 12th, 2004
Church of St. John the Evangelist, Episcopal
Boston, Massachusetts

BCE

the B O S T O N
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From BCE's Board President

Welcome to the 4th season of the Boston Choral Ensemble (BCE)! We're thrilled that you've chosen to join us today and excited to share our music with you.

We've been through a lot of changes this year. As many of you know, our founder and director for the past three years, Mr. Thomas Cunningham, regretfully left his post at the BCE at the end of last year. The BCE is very sad to see him go – but we know his new son is happy that his father no longer commutes between Boston and New York.

The search committee spent last spring interviewing candidates for director of the choir and we are very pleased with our selection of Mr. Miguel Felipe. Since starting his post in July, Miguel has jumped in with both feet. He's revitalized all aspects of the choir from the music itself to the organizational development to the Avery™ dividers we all cherish. Be sure to stop by our beautiful new website: www.BostonChoral.org.

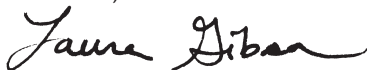
Our rehearsal location has moved to the Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church in Harvard Square where we performed last March. Many thanks to those who have made that space available to us. Our performance locations all season will be at St. Peter's in Central Square and St. John the Evangelist on Beacon Hill. I hope you enjoy the musical experience in these new spaces and the shops and restaurants surrounding them.

Finally, we have some new choir members and a fresh set of board members. Arusha Hollister and I are grateful to have Jon Markowitz and Rebecca Benefiel join us on the board. And I'd like to personally welcome all of our new singers – you are terrific.

There are many ways to become a part of the BCE family. First and foremost, by enjoying our concerts as you are right now. You could also: audition to sing with us, donate valuable skills (legal, marketing, recording, design), make a financial contribution, or join our board. If you would like more information about any of these activities visit our website or come chat with one of us after the concert.

We're so glad you stopped by. If you like what you hear, tell your friends. And we look forward to seeing you again in March.

Best wishes,



Laura Gibson
Board President, Boston Choral Ensemble

From BCE's Music Director

Welcome to the first concert of the Boston Choral Ensemble's 4th season. I'm proud to lead the chorus today and want to thank the members of BCE for their warm welcome during the past few months – my first with the group. I look forward, during the coming concerts, to meeting more of you: BCE's audience.

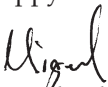
Throughout this season, BCE will explore the intimate relationship of text and music. Today, we examine several Latin and two English texts; all hundreds of years old. The core of our program is the often-set *O magnum mysterium* text. They are words that depicts the humble beginnings of Christ's birth in a stable surrounded by animals and the awe and wonder of this story. The text is represented today by motets of Victoria, Harbison, and (our own) Ezra Keshet. It is interesting to compare the ways in which each composer works with the same text and goes on to add or subtract bits on their own.

In addition to the *O magnum* settings, we'll also sing a *Magnificat* and *Salve Regina*, two Marian texts with centuries of tradition. Both texts have been set dozens, if not hundreds of times. And to open and close the program, two English texts set during the 20th century; one by the British composer Benjamin Britten and one by Mark Kilstoft, an American.

Running as a thread throughout the concert is Victoria's *Missa 'O magnum mysterium'*; a setting of the Catholic mass ordinary that pulls some of its musical motives from Victoria's own motet of the same name. Listen, for example, in the second half of our program as we perform Victoria's *O magnum mysterium* and, immediately thereafter, his 'Sanctus.'

We're so glad you've joined us today and hope to see you during the rest of our season (check out the back cover of this program for dates!).

Happy Holidays,



Miguel Felipe
Music Director, Boston Choral Ensemble

P. S. BCE will be auditioning new singers in January, check out the ad on page 9 or visit us online for more information: www.BostonChoral.org.

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Sunday, December 12th, 2004, 2:00 PM
Church of St. John the Evangelist, Episcopal, Boston, Massachusetts

The Boston Choral Ensemble

Matthew Baggetta
Celeste Beck
Rebecca Benefiel
Alexis Caloza
Caitlin Cunningham
Nils Erickson
Arusha Hollister
Andrew Hudson
Laura Gibson
John Graham
Ezra Keshet
Angharad Laing
Jonathan Markowitz
Andrea Meacham
Cyndi McDonald
Sarah McDougal
Belina Mizrahi
Judith Müller
Dan Phillips
Dan Rogalski
Daniel Salomon
Mary Tsien
Katja Zelljadt
David Zych

Miguel Felipe, Music Director
Ezra Keshet, Assistant Music Director

The Boston Choral Ensemble presents

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

December 2004

Benjamin Britten A Boy Was Born, Op. 3 (1933)
1913 – 1976 Theme

Tomas Luis de Victoria Missa 'O magnum mysterium'
ca. 1549 – 1611 Kyrie

John Harbison O magnum mysterium (1992)
b. 1938

Victoria Missa 'O magnum mysterium'
 Gloria

Arvo Pärt Magnificat (1989)
b. 1935 Angharad Laing, soprano

Victoria Missa 'O magnum mysterium'
 Credo

Ezra Keshet O magnum mysterium (2004)
b. 1977 John Graham, baritone
Ezra Keshet, conducting

Intermission

Victoria O magnum mysterium

Victoria Missa 'O magnum mysterium'
Sanctus
Benedictus

Francis Poulenc Salve Regina (1941)
1899 – 1963

Victoria Missa 'O magnum mysterium'
Agnus Dei
Angharad Laing, soprano
Judith Müller, soprano
Laura Gibson, alto
Dan Phillips, tenor
Dan Rogalski, bass

Mark Kilstofte Christmas Rounds (1996)
Belina Mizrahi, soprano

Miguel Felipe, conductor

Texts in Translation

A Boy Was Born, Theme

16th Century German
Translated by Percy Dearmer

A Boy was born in Bethlehem;
Rejoice for that, Jerusalem!
Alleluya.
He let himself a servant be,
That all mankind he might set
free:
Alleluya.
Then praise the Word of God who
came
To dwell within a human frame:
Alleluya.

Kyrie

The Roman Mass

Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

Gloria

The Roman Mass

Glory to God in the highest, and
on earth peace to all those of good
will. We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee according
to thy great glory. Lord God,
Heavenly King, God the Father
almighty. Lord Jesus Christ, the
only begotten Son. Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
Thou who takest away the sins of
the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou who takest away the sins
of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou who sittest at the right hand
of the Father, have mercy upon
us. For Thou alone art holy. Thou

alone art the Lord. Thou alone art
the most high, Jesus Christ. With
the Holy Spirit in the glory of God
the Father. Amen.

O magnum mysterium

A Responary for Christmas Day

O great mystery, and wondrous
sacrament, that animals should
see the new-born Lord lying in
their manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the Lord
Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

[Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord
is with thee. Amen] ¹

[Today Christ is born: today the
Saviour has appeared; today
the Angels sing, the Archangels
rejoice; today the righteous
rejoice, saying; Glory to God in
the highest. Alleluia!] ²

[O Lord, I heard your oracle and
I was afraid; I considered your
works, and I trembled in the
midst of the two animals.] ³

Magnificat

A Marian text

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit has rejoiced in God
my saviour.

For he has regarded the low estate
of his handmaiden: for behold,
henceforth all generations shall
call me blessed.

For he who is mighty has done great things to me; and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud, even the arrogant of heart.

He has deposed the mighty from their seats, and exalted the humble.

The hungry he has filled with good tidings. And the rich he has sent empty away.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

As it was spoken to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.

[Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.]⁴

Credo

The Roman Mass

I believe in one God, The Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made. Who for us and for our salvation came down from

Announcing Auditions!

TO: Singers everywhere!
FROM: The Boston Choral Ensemble
DATE: January 11th, 2005
RE: Your Chance to Join BCE!

BCE is excited to announce **auditions** for a limited number of openings in each voice part (**basses encouraged!**). We welcome everyone to join us for an open rehearsal followed by auditions on **1/11/05, 7pm** at Harvard-Epworth Church in Harvard Sq.

For more information about being a part of this vibrant, challenging and social group, e-mail **Auditions@BostonChoral.org** or visit **www.BostonChoral.org!**



January 11th, 2005!

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heaven. And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary. And was made man. Crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, he suffered, and was buried. And on the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and he sits at the right hand of the Father. He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; and of his kingdom there will be no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who spoke to us through the Prophets. And I believe in one, holy, catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I await the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

¹ Text added by J. Harbison

² Text added by E. Keshet

³ Text of the *O magnum mysterium* not set by Harbison, Keshet or Victoria

⁴ Text of the *Magnificat* not set by Pärt

Sanctus and Benedictus

The Roman Mass

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Salve Regina

A Marian Antiphon

Hail, O Queen, Mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope: hail! To thee we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee we send up our sighs, groaning and weeping in this valley of tears. Hasten therefore, our Advocate, and turn your merciful eyes toward us. And show us Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb, after this exile. O merciful, O pious, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Agnus Dei

The Roman Mass

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takest away



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the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Christmas Rounds

Text by John Milton, 1629

This is the Month, and this the happy morn,
Wherein the Son of Heav'ns eternal King;
Of wedded Maid, and Virgin Mother born,
Our great redemption from above did bring;
For so the holy sages once did sing,
That he our deadly forfeit should release,
And with his Father work us a perpetual peace.

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The Boston Choral Ensemble's
4th Season, 2004 – 2005

Lamentations

March 4th and 6th, 2005

BCE continues to explore the meeting of words and sounds in this concert on the eve of Holy Week. '**Lamentations**' examines texts of sorrow and the program features Tallis' immortal settings of the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*.

...with immortal fire

May 13th and 15th, 2005

To finish the year, BCE explores English texts by some of the greatest writers of all time including, among others, Wm. Shakespeare. '**...with immortal fire**' features Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia* on a poem by W. H. Auden.

All Friday evening concerts are at 8 PM at
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Central Square, Cambridge

All Sunday afternoon concerts are at 2 PM at
Church of St. John the Evangelist, Beacon Hill, Boston

for more information, visit:
www.BostonChoral.org