



The Boston Choral Ensemble

Miguel Felipe, Music Director, presents

Weihnachtslieder

a choral celebration of German songs for the holidays

Friday, December 9th, 2005, 8:00 PM

at Harvard-Epworth Church
Harvard Square, Cambridge

Sunday, December 11th, 2005, 2:00 PM

at The Church of St. John the Evangelist
Beacon Hill, Boston

BCE

the Boston
Choral
Ensemble

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5 Seasons



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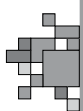
The Boston Choral Ensemble Thanks...

Bingham McCutchen, LLP, for their legal help on the way to 501(c)(3)
Nils Erikson, for his recording expertise
Katherine FitzGibbon, as our German language dynamo
Matt Pearson, for his talents with a camera
Ryan Tucker, for his digital editing talents

We thank the leadership and congregation at Arlington Street Church,
the Church of St. John the Evangelist, and Harvard-Epworth Church.

And the rest of the song is their singing

Mike and Elizabeth Benefiel celebrate Rebecca and Jon Bijur,
members of the Boston Choral Ensemble since 2002.



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From BCE's Board President

Dear Patron,

Willkommen! Welcome to Boston Choral Ensemble's 5th season! We've experienced considerable growth from the early days when a few singers responded to a newspaper ad. Talk to Celeste Beck or Perrin Tellock if you'd like to hear more; they were both involved from the very beginning.

We are happy to have about a dozen new members in the BCE family. It has been a pleasure getting to know everyone and is always reinvigorating to the choir to have fresh voices and perspectives. We had a great time caroling together inside Boston's Opera House before Boston Ballet's *Nutcracker* last weekend.

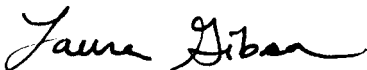
In Summer 2005, we received our official non-profit status from the IRS retroactive to August 12th, 2004. We are very appreciative for the legal aid of Bingham McCutchen, LLP that helped make that possible. Also, we are currently enjoying our time as artists-in-residence at Arlington Street Church right next to Boston's Public Garden. It is a lovely space.

Finally, we joined the Greater Boston Choral Consortium (GBCC) this year. The GBCC was formed in 1989 as a cooperative effort to promote greater awareness of the many and varied choral groups in the Greater Boston area—and now, we're a part of it! Please be sure to pick up a GBCC VIP discount card at the usher's table on your way out as our gift to you celebrating our 5th season.

We are happy to return to the Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church in Harvard Square and the Church of St. John the Evangelist on Beacon Hill for our 5th concert season. I hope you enjoy the musical experience in these spaces and the shops and restaurants surrounding them.

We are so glad you took the time to come out and hear us. Thank you!

Best wishes,



Laura Gibson
Board President, Boston Choral Ensemble

P. S. Please join us again in Spring, 2006, for Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*, March 17th and 19th!

From BCE's Music Director

Hello and Welcome,

Today's program is a celebration of the German Baroque through a selection of gorgeous, *a cappella* choral works. The singers of BCE and I have enjoyed preparing every note of this program: the music just wants to be sung! From the brilliantly crafted measures of Schütz to the Bach-inspired warmth of Distler, every note in today's concert is part of a beloved, centuries-old tradition of choral music in Germany.

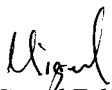
As you listen to the music and the various introductions the singer share with you, try to imagine yourself in, say, Leipzig's Tomaskirche where Walter, Bach, and many others played the organ and led the choirs. Imagine the smell of the freshly-cut greens and the warm, yellow light of the candles. This is the season and this is the music!

In the first half, I hope you especially enjoy Distler's choral work from his *Weihnachtsgeschichte*. This seven movement set of choral variations demonstrates Distler keen knowledge of Bach's part-writing as well as a personal sense of vocal writing and tonality that mark this as a unique piece in the repertoire.

In the second half, enjoy the motets of Heinrich Schütz. Easily the greatest German composer before Bach, Schütz was able to infuse his music with so much meaning. Not only does the text present clearly, but his music somehow goes even further to strengthen the meaning. Take special note of his inventive use of six voices; throughout all of today's motets, Schütz finds ways to create new, fresh sounds by using various permutations of voicing.

Finally, I love the joy and exuberance of the many carol settings from across the centuries. The beloved tunes—some new to you and some old—have the Christmas spirit of centuries between each note!

I hope you enjoy today's concert—we have certainly loved every minute of learning these masterworks. May you have a safe and happy holiday.



Miguel Felipe

Music Director, Boston Choral Ensemble

The Boston Choral Ensemble presents

Weihnachtslieder

Friday, December 9th, 2005, 8:00 PM
Harvard Epworth Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Sunday, December 11th, 2005, 2:00 PM
Church of St. John the Evangelist, Boston, Massachusetts

The Boston Choral Ensemble

Matthew Baggetta*	Chip Lockwood
Celeste Beck	Andrew McDiarmid*
Rebecca Bijur*	Sarah McDougal
Jonathan Bijur*	Robert McGilvray
Lisa Cacciabaudo	Belina Mizrahi
Alexis Caloza	Lindsey Nicholson
Kerry Chapman	Lisa Plumley
Joshua Clapper	Daniel Pollack-Pelzner
Caitlin Cunningham	Andrea Meacham Rosal*
John Davis	Katherine Rose
Charles Evans	Cyndi Sacco*
Laura Gibson*	Josh Stoddard
John Graham	Perrin Tellock
Adam Green	Ryan Tucker
Kirk Hornberger	Barbara Urbanczyk
Ezra Keshet*	Sara Willis

*indicates BCE Board members

Miguel Felipe, Music Director
Ezra Keshet, Assistant Music Director

PROGRAM

- Michael PRÆTORIUS Ein Kind geborn zu Bethlehem
ca. 1571 – 1621
- Heinrich SCHÜTZ Ein Kind ist uns geboren
1585 – 1672
- Michael PRÆTORIUS Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
Melchior VULPIUS
ca. 1570 – 1615
Carl ORFF
1895 – 1982
Michael PRÆTORIUS
- Hugo DISTLER Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
1908 – 1942 from *Weihnachtsgeschichte*
Lindsey Nicholson, soprano
- Carl ORFF Altes Weyhnachtslied
- Franz GRÜBER Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
1913 – 1976 Lisa Cacciabauda, soprano
Lisa Plumley, mezzo-soprano
Matthew Baggetta, tenor
- INTERMISSION
- Heinrich SCHÜTZ Das Wort ward Fleisch
und wohnt unter uns

Weihnachtslieder

Erhard BODENSCHATZ Josef lieber Josef mein
1576 – 1636

Leonhard SCHRÖTER Josef lieber Josef mein
1532 – 1601

Johann WALTER Josef lieber Josef mein
1496 – 1570

Ezra Keshet, conductor

Heinrich SCHÜTZ Tröstet, tröstet mein Volk

13th Century Tune In dulci jubilo
Johann WALTER
Michael PRÆTORIUS
Johann Sebastian BACH
1685 – 1750

Leonhard PAMINGER Omnis mundus iocundetur/
1495 – 1567 Resonet in laudibus/
In dulci jubilo

Michael PRÆTORIUS In dulci jubilo

Miguel Felipe, conductor

Program Texts

Ein Kind geboren zu Bethlehem

Source Unknown

A child is born in Bethlehem,
Jerusalem rejoices in it. Alleluia.

Here he lies in the cradle.
Without end will be his reign. Alleluia.

The kings came from Sheba,
Bringing gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
Alleluia.

For such a time, so full of grace,
May God be praised forever. Alleluia.

Translation © Katherine FitzGibbon

Ein Kind ist uns geboren

Isaiah 9: 6 – 7

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government
and peace there shall be no end,
upon the throne of David,
and upon his kingdom,
to order it, and to establish it
with judgment and with justice
from henceforth even for ever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts
will perform this.

Translations from the King James Bible

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

From the Rhineland,
ca. 1582 – 1588

Lo, how an ever-blooming rose
has sprung from a tender root,
as the ancestors, those from
Jesse's lineage, predicted,
and has brought forth a blossom
in the middle of the cold winter,
likely in the middle of the night.

The little rose that I am referring to
was foretold by Isaiah.

It is Mary, the Virgin,
who brought the blossom to us.
With God's eternal blessing
she has born a child
and remained a pure maiden.

We entreat you from our hearts,
O noble Queen,
through your Son's sufferings,
as we move along
out of this vale of tears,
may you accompany us
all the way to the Angel's realm.

That blossom so small,
so fragrant, and so sweet;
with its bright light
banishes the darkness.
True man and true God,
lead us out of our sorrows,
rescues us from sin and death.

The shepherds, at that hour,
started out on their journey;
they soon found the little child
with His frail young Mother.
The angels sang sweetly,
they praised God, the Lord,
on His highest throne.

Praise, honor to God, the Father,
to the Son and Holy Ghost.
Mary, God's Mother,
manifest your willingness to help us,
and entreat your beloved child

that He watch over us,
and forgive us of our sins.

So sing we all Amen,
which means that what we all long for
has now come true.
O Jesus, help us enter into
Your Father's Kingdom,
where we want to praise You.
O God, grant us our wish!

Translation © Ursula Egli

Magnificat excerpt

A Marian text
as used by Hugo Distler

I lift up my soul to God, the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices
in God my Saviour,
For He saw the commonness
in the face of His maiden.
Henceforth all generations
shall give me praise,
for He who is mighty lavished
great things on me, and His name is holy.
His mercy will last eternally,
for ever and ever, for those who fear Him.

Translation © Ursula Egli

Das Wort ward Fleisch

John 1: 14

And the Word was made flesh,
and dwelt among us,
and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten
Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Translations from the King James Bible

Altes Weihnachtslied

Source Unknown

On Christmas eve, in the stillness,
A deep sleep fell over me,
with joy completely overcome.
My soul received much sweetness
of honey and roses.

In the great darkness of winter,
A star arose in great clearness,
showing the passing night,
and which, with grace and goodness,
showed in the new day.

Translation © Katherine FitzGibbon

BCE's Mission

The Boston Choral Ensemble creates a fun, friendly, and open atmosphere for the musical development of musicians and audiences in the Greater Boston area. Members of the Boston Choral Ensemble grow musically, both as individuals and as an ensemble, through the rehearsal and performance of challenging, high-quality music. We strengthen Greater Boston's choral community by: making choral music accessible and interesting to all listeners, regardless of musical background; developing musical interest and ability in young adult musicians; and collaborating with other local musicians.



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Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!

Joseph Mohr

Silent night, holy night!
All is sleeping; only the lonely couple,
the beloved, most holy pair, is awake.
O lovely boy with curly hair,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, oh how love radiates
from your divine mouth,
as our salvation's hour strikes,
O Jesus, with your birth.

Silent night, holy night,
first made known to the shepherds
through the angels' "Hallelujah,"
it sounds loudly from far and near:
"Christ, the savior, is here!"

Translation © 2000 by earthsongs

Josef lieber, Josef mein

Anon. 15th Century

Joseph, my dear Joseph,
help me rock my little child,
God, who will be my rewarder
in heaven, the Virgin mary's son.

[added by Bodenschatz]
God has been born of a virgin
as ordained by heaven's grace.

[added by Schröter and Walter]
God has been born of a virgin
as ordained by heaven's grace.

Everyone join together now,
sing praises to the new-born king and
proclaim with a pious voice:
"Glory be to the new-born Christ!"
Today has appeared in Israel the one
foretold by Gabriel; the king is born!

Translation © 2000 by earthsongs

Tröstet, tröstet mein Volk

Isaiah 40: 1 – 5

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
and cry unto her, that her warfare is
accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned:
for she hath received of the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

The voice of him
that crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted,
and every mountain and hill
shall be made low:
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough places plain:
And the glory of the LORD shall be
revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Translations from the King James Bible

In dulci jubilo

Anon. 14th Century (vv 1, 2, & 4)
Valentin Triller (v 3)

With sweet rejoicing
now sing and be joyful!
Our hearts' delight
lies in a manger
and shines like the sun
on the mother's lap.
You are Alpha and O[mega].

O infant Jesus,
my heart aches for you.
Comfort my soul with all your goodness,
O finest of boys;
by your great goodness,
O Prince of Glory,
take me to heaven.

Oh love of the Father!
Oh mercy of the Son!
We would all be lost
because of our sins,
but he has obtained for us
the joys of heaven.
Oh, that we were there!

Where are the joys?
Nowhere more than there,
where the angels sing
new songs
and the bells ring
in the courts of the King.
Oh, that we were there!

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Back Bay Chorale, Scott Allen Jarrett, Dir., 617-648-3885, www.bbcboston.org
Basically Broadway, Barbara Brilliant, Dir., 617-965-SHOW, www.basicallybroadway.com; 3/12, June '06
Boston Boy Choir, John Dunn, Dir., 617-868-8658, www.bostonboychoir.org, 12/11, 12/16, 12/18, 5/12
Boston Cecilia, Donald Teeters, Mus Dir. 617-232-4540 www.bostoncecilia.org, 11/5, 12/9, 12/11, 4/29
Boston Children's Chorus, Darren Dailey, Dir., 617-778-2242, www.bostonchildrenschorus.org, 1/16
Boston Choral Ensemble, Miguel Felipe, Dir., www.bostonchoral.org, 12/9-11, 3/17-19, 5/19-21
Boston Gay Men's Chorus, Reuben Reynolds, Dir; 617-542-SING; www.bgmc.org
Braintree Choral Society, Justin Smith, Dir, www.braintreesongs.com, 12/10,11,18, and 5/6,7
Brookline Chorus, Lisa Graham, Dir, 617-277-1027, rehearsals Tues evenings, www.brooklinechorus.org
The Boston Secession, J. Ring Frank, 617-499-4860, www.bostonsecession.org, 11/18-19; 3/10-11, more
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Cappella Clausura, Amelia LeClair, Dir., 11/12 & 13; 3/11& 12, 8 PM; 5/20 & 21, 8 PM www.clausura.org
Chorus North Shore, Sonja Pryor Dir., 978-927-3679, www.chorusnorthshore.org, 12/10-11, Spring
Chorus pro Musica, Jeffrey Rink, Music Dir., 617-267-7442, www.choruspromusica.org
Concord Chorus, Ryan Turner, Dir., 60th Season, www.concordchorus.org, 12/2, 12/3, 3/5, 5/20
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In Choro Novo, Thérèse Provenzano, Music Dir. 617-469-3705, www.inchoronovo.com, Concerts 12/10, 5/6
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Newton Singers, Ben Youngman, Dir. 617-965-4568 <http://home.comcast.net/~dakemsley/NewtonSingers>
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Wellesley Choral Society, E. Whalen, Dir, 781-237-6593, www.wellesleychoralsoc.org, 11/20, 12/4, 2/11
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Youth pro Musica, Peter Krasinski, Dir., 617-666-6087, www.youthpromusica.org, 11/4, 12/11, 5/14
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The Boston Choral Ensemble
Miguel Felipe, Music Director, presents

Всенощное бдение

Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 37

Friday, March 17th, 2006
Harvard-Epworth Church, Cambridge

Sunday, March 19th, 2006
Church of St. John the Evangelist, Boston

Visit BostonChoral.org for details.



the Boston
Choral
Ensemble



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