

James River Singers
presents...

*Season
of*

Hope



2018-2019 Season

David Pedersen, Artistic Director & Conductor

Friday, December 14

7:00 p.m. at Church of the Holy Comforter

Saturday, December 15

7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church



Chamber Choir

About James River Singers

Founded in 1995 and reorganized in 2001, James River Singers is a classical chamber choir dedicated to presenting high-quality choral concerts within and beyond the Richmond, Virginia, community. The members are volunteers selected by audition. The choir's repertoire includes a cappella and accompanied repertoire from a wide variety of style periods and musical traditions. James River Singers is widely admired for its creative programming and musical excellence and has performed in a number of distinguished concert series in the Richmond and Washington, D.C., areas.

The Conductor

David Pedersen became the artistic director and conductor of the James River Singers in 2011 after having joined the ensemble as a singer in 2007. Mr. Pedersen serves as director of music at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Richmond, Virginia, where he conducts adult and youth choirs. He is also the director of the University of Richmond Women's Chorale and served as interim director of Schola Cantorum in 2011. Mr. Pedersen has conducted premiere performances of commissioned works by Benjamin Broening and Chen Yi. Choirs under his direction have performed in concert tours of the United States as well as Austria, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. He frequently serves as a clinician and adjudicator at choral festivals.

Mr. Pedersen has previously directed the music programs at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Newport News, Virginia, and Risen Christ Catholic Community in Boise, Idaho. He founded and directed the Honor Choir, Women's Chorale and Classical Guitar Ensemble at Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, Idaho, from 2003 to 2006. In 2006 his high school choirs were invited to perform in Austria and Czech Republic for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. Mr. Pedersen holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the Church Music Association of America.

James River Singers is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your generous tax-deductible contributions will allow us to continue providing high quality choral music in exciting venues throughout the greater Richmond metropolitan region. Donations can be mailed to James River Singers, 11148 Oakcrest Drive, North Chesterfield, VA 23235.

Season of Hope

Once in Royal David's City

Jeffery Van

Christmas Day

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Liesel Reussner, alto
Laura Pritchard, soprano
Edward Chandler, bass

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

Tim Drummond, Wes Dunnavant, Thomas Moore, tenors

Three Nativity Carols

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Anastasia Jellison, harp
Sam Kunde, oboe

The Holly and the Ivy
This Endris Night
Wonder Tidings

Intermission

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Jan Sandström (b.1954)

Selections from Anniversary Carols

Jackson Berkey (b.1942)

Anastasia Jellison, harp
Tim Drummond, percussion

O Come All Ye Faithful
Jesu, Son Most Sweet and Dear - Laurelyn Morrison, alto
The Silent Word (What Child is This) - Becky Harper, alto
Il Est Né le Divin Enfant
Joy to the World

O Oriens

Thomas Juneau

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Silent Night

Malcolm Sargent (1895-1967)

Carol to the King

Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Christopher Reynolds and Wes Dunnavant, piano

Notes, Texts & Translations

Once In Royal David's City

Jeffery Van

Based on IRBY by **Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)**

Jeffery Van is a prolific American composer and classical guitarist. He collaborated many times with the Dale Warland Singers, for whom this setting was composed. The text was written by Irish poet Cecil Frances Alexander and published in 1848. Since 1919, Kings College has used this carol for its processional in its annual Christmas Eve service, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone. Amen.

Christmas Day

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Gustav Holst composed this piece for his students at Morley College in 1910. It features variations on the carol *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* interwoven with sections of the traditional English carols *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, *The First Nowell*, and *Come Ye Lofty, Come Ye Lowly*.

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from woe and sin,
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Jewry,
This blessed Babe was born,
And laid within a manger,
Upon that holy morn;
The blessed Mother Mary,
Did nothing take in scorn.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath op'ed the heav'nly door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Come, ye lofty, come, ye lowly,
Let your songs of gladness ring;
In a stable lies the Holy,
In a manger rests the King:
See, in Mary's arms reposing,
Christ by highest heav'n adored:
Come, your circle round Him closing,
Pious hearts that love the Lord.

[The first Nowell the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.]

Come, ye poor, no pomp of station
Robes the Child your hearts adore:
He, the Lord of all salvation,
Shares your want, is weak and poor:
Oxen, round about behold them;
Rafters naked, cold and bare,
See the shepherds, God has told them
That the Prince of Life lies there.

Come, ye children, blithe and merry,
This one Child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry,
All be prized for His dear sake;
Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender,
Come, ye spirits, keen and bold;
All in all your homage render,
Weak and mighty, young and old.

[Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.]

High above a star is shining,
And the Wisemen haste from far:
Come, glad hearts, and spirits pining:
For you all has risen the star.
Let us bring our poor oblations,
Thanks and love and faith and praise:
Come, ye people, come, ye nations,
All in all draw nigh to gaze.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one, and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Notes, Texts & Translations (cont.)

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Cantique de Jean Racine is one of Gabriel Faure's most beloved works. During his final year as a student at the École Niedermeyer in Paris he composed this piece, which earned him the First Prize in Composition for that year (1865). The work was published in 1876 and dedicated to César Franck. Jean Racine was a renowned 17th-century French dramatist and poet.

Verbe, égal au Très-Haut, notre unique espérance,
Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux,
De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence.
Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux.

Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante
Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix.
Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante
Qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes lois.

O Christ, sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle
Pour te bénir maintenant rassemblé.
Reçois les chants qu'il offre à ta gloire immortelle
Et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé.

Translation

Word, equal to the Almighty, our sole hope,
Eternal day of the earth and the heavens,
We break the silence of the peaceful night.
Divine savior, cast your eyes upon us.

Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace
So that all hell flees at the sound of your voice.
Dispel the sleep of a languishing soul
Who lives forgetful of your laws.

O Christ, look kindly on your faithful people
Assembled now to glorify you.
Receive the songs that we offer to your immortal glory
And let us depart, crowned with your gifts.

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

Franz Biebl was a church choir director for many years near Munich. In 1959, he composed his famous *Ave Maria* at the request of one of his church choir members who was a fireman. The local fire department was sponsoring an employee choir for a community choral festival, and they needed a new composition. The result was a motet for seven male voices singing a combination of texts from the Ave Maria and Angelus prayers. The piece became very popular in Germany, and the Cornell Glee Club introduced the work to America 1970. In 1985, Biebl arranged the 7-part mixed version presented here.

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.
Sancta Maria, ora pronobis
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Translation

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
And she conceived of the Holy Ghost.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

And the Word was made flesh.
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

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

Notes, Texts & Translations (cont.)

Three Nativity Carols

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Stephen Paulus composed over 450 works including operas as well as many pieces for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensembles and solo instruments. He served as Composer in Residence with the Minnesota Orchestra and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. The Dale Warland Singers commissioned these three arrangements of traditional English carols in 1998. *The Holly and the Ivy*, *This Endris Night* and *Wonder Tidings* feature unexpected rhythms, lush chord progressions, colorful harmonies and outstanding parts for harp and oboe.

The Holly and the Ivy

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 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 blossom,
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Saviour.

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:

This Endris Night

This endris night I saw a sight,
A star as bright as day;
And ever among, a maiden sung,
"Lullay, by by, lullay."

This lovely lady sat and sung,
And to her child did say:
"My son, my brother, father, dear
Why liest thou thus in hay?"

The child then spake in his talking
And to his mother said:
"Yea, I am known as heaven-king,
In crib though I be laid."

"Now sweet son, since thou art a king,
Why art thou laid in stall?
Why dost not order thy bedding
In some great kinges hall?"

"Mary mother, I am thy child,
Though I be laid in stall;
For lords and dukes shall worship me,
And so shall kinges all."

"And in thy arm thou hold me warm,
And keep me night and day,
And if I weep and may not sleep,
Thou sing, by by, lullay."

Wonder Tidings

What tidings bringest though, messenger,
Of Christes birth this jolly day?

A babe is born of high nature,
The Prince of peace that ever shall be;
Of heav'n and earth he hath the cure:
His lordship is eternity;
Such wonder tidings ye may hear,
That man is made now Goddes peer
Whom sin had made but fiendes prey.

A wonder thing is now befall;
That King that formed star and sun,
Heaven and earth and angels all,
Now in mankind is new begun:
Such wonder tidings ye may hear,
An infant now of but one year,
That hath been ever and shall be ay.

That loveliest gan greet her child,
"Hail, son! Hail, brother! Hail, father dear!
Hail, daughter! Hail, sister! Hail, mother mild!"
This hailing was on quaint mannere:
Such wonder tidings ye may here,
That hailing was of such good cheer
That mannes pain is turned to play.

Intermission

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Jan Sandström (b. 1954)

Jan Sandström is a Swedish composer who arranged this famous carol by Michael Praetorius in 1990. Originally conceived as an unaccompanied, slow motion unfolding of the carol's first verse, this arrangement explores a broad tonal spectrum which creates an atmospheric, ethereal effect.

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,
aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Translation

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 floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Notes, Texts & Translations (cont.)

Anniversary Carols

Jackson Berkey (b.1942)

Jackson Berkey's arrangements of these well-known carols are filled with surprises. Unexpected rhythms, meters, key changes and harmonies add new expressive delights at every turn in these familiar gems. *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Il Est Né le Divin Enfant* and *Joy to the World* are arranged with new rhythmic vitality and fresh harmonizations. *The Silent Word* is based on *Greensleeves*, with the tune sung in the 5/8 meter and arranged in the tintinabulistic style of Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. *Jesu, Son Most Sweet and Dear* is a haunting setting of a centuries-old English poem accompanied by harp. The collection from which these pieces were chosen is called "Anniversary Carols" because the composer wrote them over the years as anniversary presents for his wife. Jackson Berkey earned a Master of Music degree in piano performance from Julliard, and he co-founded the internationally known "18th century rock group" Mannheim Steamroller in 1974.

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
born the King of angels,

Come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him.
O, come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

Sing glory to God in the highest!
Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above.
Glory to God!
All glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this joyous morning,
O Jesus to Thee be all glory given!
O word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing.

Jesu, Son Most Sweet and Dear
Jesu, son most sweet and dear,
Mean the bed you lie on here,
And that afflicts me sore.
For your cradle's like a bier,
Ox and ass are with you here,
And I must weep therefore.

Jesu, sweet one show no wrath,
I have not the poorest cloth
to wrap you in its fold.
Not a rag in which to wrap,
Hold you safe upon my lap,
And shield you from the cold.

The Silent Word (What Child is This)

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are sleeping?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
The Cross be borne, for me, and you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh.
Come, peasant, King, to own Him.
The King of Kings, salvation brings:
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy! Joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Il Est Né, le Divin Enfant

He is born the Divine Child.
Play the mussetta, play the joyous oboe,
He is born the Divine Child.
Sing we all and rejoice this day!

O, how lovely, and O, how mild.
See this perfectly charming child,
O, how lovely and O, how pure,
Il est né, rejoice this day!

Through the ages and ever more,
Prophets and wise men foretold His coming
Twice two thousand years, or more,
Now the Age of Gold restore!

Jesus, Lord of all the world
Coming as a child among us
Is this perfect Child of heav'n
Gracious Gift of God to Man!
O, how lovely, and O, so pure
See this charmingly perfect Holy Child.
Through the ages and evermore,
Let all sing and rejoice this day, this day!

Il est né! Born this day!
Now is born the Divine Child.
Play the mussetta play the joyous oboe,
Now is born the Divine Child
Sing we all and rejoice this Day!
All rejoice on a Christmas Day!

Joy to the World

No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings grow
Far as the curse is found.

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the word! The Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
while fields, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the national prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love.

Notes, Texts & Translations (cont.)

O Oriens (O Morning Star)

Thomas Juneau

The great "O-antiphons" are sung or recited with the Magnificat prayer at Vespers on the last seven days of Advent in the Divine Office. Each begins with the Latin vocative particle "O" and refers to a biblical, symbolic name for Christ. *O Oriens* is prayed on Dec. 21. Using unique chord progressions and antiphonal textures, this setting juxtaposes light and darkness and beautifully communicates the text of this ancient invocation.

O oriens, O oriens,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Splendor lucis aeternae,
et sol justitiae:
Splendor lucis aeternae,
et sol justitiae:

Veni, O veni,
Veni, o veni et illumina
sedentes in tenebris,
et umbra mortis.

Translation

O morning star, Alleluia!
brightness of light eternal, and sun of justice:
come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Audience please rise and join in singing with JRS!

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Silent Night

Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

Malcolm Sargent (1895-1967)

Malcolm Sargent was a renowned English composer and conductor who co-founded the London Philharmonic in 1932. His lush setting of Franz Gruber's traditional carol was published in 1948, with a newly composed text.

Silent night, holy night
Round thy head a radiant light.
Lovely boy with golden hair,
Parents guard thee with tender care,
Sleep, thou darling one, sleep,
Sleep, though darling one, sleep.

Silent night, holy night.
Wise men see the star so bright.
'Hallelujah' the angels sing,
Shepherds hear and glad tidings bring.
Christ the Saviour is here.
Jesus our Saviour is here.

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, O blessed sight.
On thy lips a sweet smile of love,
Sent to earth from heaven, above.
Christ the Saviour is here.
Jesus, our Saviour is here.

Notes, Texts & Translations (cont.)

Carol to the King

Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

This energetic setting of a traditional French carol features an original text by Jim Christian and a complex accompaniment for piano four-hands. Mack Wilberg has directed the Temple Square Chorale for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (formerly known as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) since 2008.

Can you hear the distant music
Sounding from the pipe and horn,
Bearing news of joy and gladness
"Christ, the King of heav'n is born."

Angels, too, resound the anthem
To the children of the earth,
Calling all to hear the tidings
Of the blessed Savior's birth,

Hear them sing, "Ta-ra-ra, ta-re-re,
Li-tam-pon, la-de-ri-tam-pon,"
the fife and angel voices ring.
"Ta-ra-ra, ta-ra-re,
Li-tam-pon, la-de-ri-tam-pon,"
they all rejoice with songs they sing
to bring the world a new-born King!

Feel the music stir your senses,
Like a mighty trumpet call,
Wakening the world from slumber
Calling out to one and all,
From the village, from the country
Let us join the holy throng,
As we hasten to the manger
That we, too, may join the song.

Enter now the holy stable
To behold the blessed sight,
This is Christ, the Lord, the Savior,
Pure and filled with holy light,
Tune your heart to hear His music
Feel the glory of His love,
Let us worship and adore Him,
Wondrous Child of God above.

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Concert Venues:

Trinity Lutheran Church and Church of the Holy Comforter

Rehearsal Venue:

University of Richmond Department of Music, Jeffrey Rlehl, chair

Program:

Claudia Kessel, David Pedersen, Danielle Ripperton

Come sing with James River Singers!

We are always looking for qualified singers to join us. Please contact the James River Singers to schedule an audition. Contact information is on the JRS website at www.thejamesriversingers.com.

Feed More

A significant portion of the proceeds from both concerts will be donated to Feed More. Feed More collects, prepares and distributes food to our neighbors through its programs and Network of Agencies. During this holiday season, JRS is proud to support Feed More and help to serve our neighbors who face hunger.

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Mark Your Calendars!

Spring concerts:

May 17 at 7 pm at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
May 18 at 7 pm at Perkinson Recital Hall, University of Richmond



David Pedersen, Artistic Director and Conductor
Christopher Reynolds, Organ and Piano

Soprano

Lizzie Barnett
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Tim Drummond
Aaron Frisbie
Brad Leer
Steve Linas
Thomas Moore
Jay Utz

Bass

Jim Bennett
Edward Chandler
Joel Coreas
Joe Cuilla
Martin Erb
Bryan Myers

