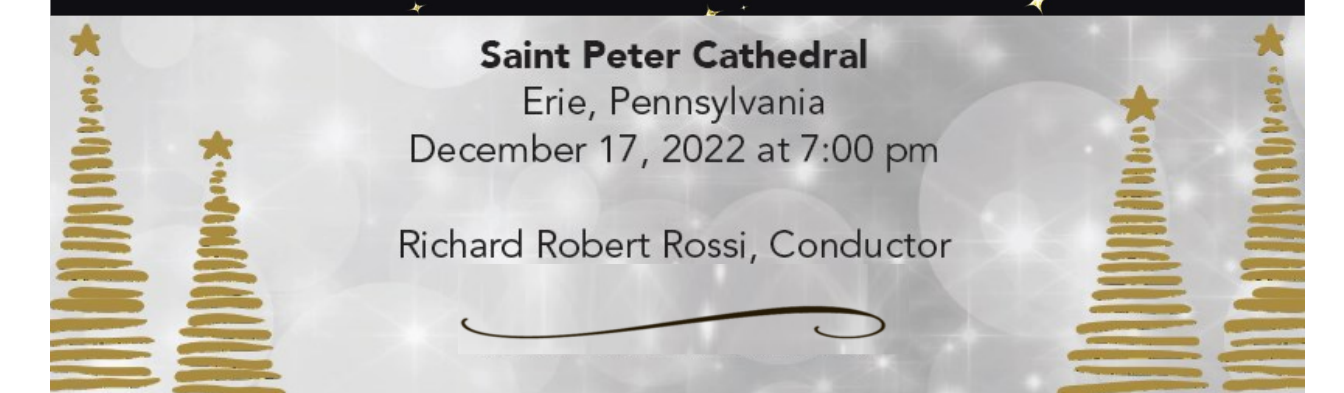




TRANSCENDENCE

Erie's First All Professional Chorus
Presents their Premiere Performance

The Essence of Christmas




Saint Peter Cathedral

Erie, Pennsylvania

December 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Richard Robert Rossi, Conductor



Under the auspices of Saint Peter Cathedral, Erie PA

Sponsored in part by a generous gift from Herbert Lasky and in loving memory of his wife, Jane.



Thank you!

Since the performance is being *recorded live* and because noise can be very distracting to performers, we ask your assistance in maintaining as quiet an atmosphere as possible, especially during musical numbers.

Please remember to *turn off cell phones* and the use of all electronic devices is strictly prohibited during the performance.

We appreciate your cooperation in making this an enjoyable performance for everyone.

Thank you and enjoy the performance.

Prelude Music

Julia Jamieson, harp



Veni Emmanuel

Gregorian Plainchant

Arranged by Richard Robert Rossi

Handbells: Dennis Magerle, Pam Magerle, Cathy Kerner & Chris Kerner

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

R: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,
to thee shall come Emmanuel!

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
from ev'ry foe deliver them
that trust Thy mighty power to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *R.*

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *R.*

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home,
make safe the way that leads on high,
that we no more have cause to sigh. *R.*

**The Seven Joys of Christmas*

By Kirke Mechem

Performed in loving memory of Jane Lasky

The Joy of Love

***This is the Truth (Traditional English)**

Kirke Mechem (b. 1925)

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell:
Woman was made with man to dwell.

And we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That He would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear:
He here did live, and here did preach.
And many thousands He did teach.

Thus He in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be peased to hear what He did say.



Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

Traditional German/Praetorius

Arranged by Oscar R. Overby

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 flow'et 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 aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The Joy of Bells

*Din Don! Merrily on High (Traditional French)

Kirke Mechem

Ding Dong! merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding, dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angels singing
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

E'en so here below, below
Let steeple bells be swungen
And i-o, i-o, i-o
By priest and people daysungen
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

Pray ye dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers
May ye beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

Text by George R. Woodward

Rorate Coeli

Richard Robert Rossi (b. 1962)

Drop down dew from the heavens above
And let the skies rain down righteousness.
let the earth open up
And bring forth a Savior.

The heavens proclaim the glory of God:
And the firmament shows forth
God's handiwork.

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

Liber Usualis translation by Richard Robert Rossi



The Joy of Mary

*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine (Traditional German)

Kirke Mechem

Mary Bowen, Matt Makay, & Valerie Vollmer

Joseph, Dearest Joseph mine,
Help me cradle the Child divine.
God reward thee and all that's thine,
In paradise, so prays the mother Mary.

Chorus

He came among us on Christmas day
On Christmas day in Bethlehem
Today Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Mary Dearest, Mary mild,
I shall gladly help rock thy Child;
God will surely reward us then
In paradise, so prays the mother Mary. (*chorus*)

Now is born Emmanuel,
Prophesied by Ezekiel,
Promised Mary by Gabriel,
Rejoice and sing, Alleluia. Maria. (*chorus*)

Original text: Josef Lieber, Josef Mein (anon.)

Ave Maria

Gregorian Plainchant

Men's Chorus

Ave Maria

Tomás Lui di Victoria (1548-1611)

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

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

*Text: part I is from the Gospel of St. Luke and part II is thought to have emerged orally in the 15th C., later to be solidified in the 1568 **Roman Breviary**.*

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Interlude from *A Ceremony of Carols*

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Julia Jamieson, harp



Sing-A-Long

(please stand and sing when the organ begins to play)

The Christmas Carols can be found in the Red Worship Hymnal located in the pews

O Come All Ye Faithful: W392; verses 1, 2 & 3

Adestes Fideles

Silent Night: W379

Stille Nacht



A Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Lisa DeAngelis, Ainsley Ryan Showalter, George Milosh, & Ian Young

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 (such a virtuous one)

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 genetrice (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 thorn)

Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King

Gratia divina (by divine grace)

Of all thou bear'st the prize

Lady, queen of paradise

Electa (chosen)

Maid mild, mother

Es Effecta. (you are made)

Text: 1300 (anon.)



The Joy of Children

*Patapan (Traditional Burgundian)

Kirke Mechem

Willie, take your little drum;
With your whistle, Robin, come.
When we hear the fife and drum,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan,
When we hear the fife and drum,
Christmas should be frolicsome.

God and man are now become
More at one than fife and drum,
When they hear the fife and drum,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan,
When you hear the fife and drum,
Dance and make the village hum!

Thus the men of olden days;
Loved the King of kings to praise.
When they hear the fife and drum,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan,
When they hear the fife and drum,
Sure our children won't be dumb!

(repeat verse one)

Text and Tune by Bernard de La Monnoye

Coventry Carol (English Carol)

Arranged by Richard Robert Rossi

Esther DeMary, soprano, +

Lullay, thou little tiny child
By, by lully lullay
Lullay, thou little tiny child,
By, by lully lullay.

Herod the king in his raging
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight,
All children young to slay

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day,
This poor youngling for whom we sing
By, by lully lullay.

Then woe is me, poor child, for thee!
And ever mourn and say,
For thy parting, nor say nor sing
By, by lully lullay.

Text by Robert Croo

+ Regina Rossi, solo understudy



The Joy of Dance

*Fum, Fum, Fum! (Traditional Spanish)

Kirke Mechem

On December twenty-fifth, sing,
Fum, fum, fum!
He is born of God's pure love,
The Son of God, the Son of God;
He is born of Virgin Mary
In this night so cold and dreary,
Fum, fum, fum!

All the (brilliant) little stars in heaven,
Fum, fum, fum!
Looking down see Jesus crying,
See Him crying, see Him cry;
Send away the darkness lightly,
Shine your light upon us brightly,
Fum, fum, fum.

Birds who live in ev'ry forest,
Fum, fum, fum!
You must leave your fledglings on the bough,
Must leave your fledglings now;
For to make a downy nest,
So the newborn Babe may rest.
Fum, fum, fum!

Text: 16th or 17th C., (anon.)

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day (Traditional English Carol)

Arranged by John Rutter

Women's Section

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

Sing "oh, my love"

"Oh my love, my love, my love"

This have I done for my true love.

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 (*chorus*)

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 (*chorus*)

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 (*chorus*)

Text origin: Medieval drama/piety, (anon.)



The Joy of the New Year

***New Year Song (Traditional Japanese)**

Kirke Mechem

When night's shadows fly	Leaves so dainty fine
New Year's dawn floods all the sky;	Freshly gathered, dewy shine,
And joyful voices sound, joyful voices sound.	And glitter in the light, glitter in the light.
Branches of the fragrant pine	From Kadusa's lofty pinetree
Hang ev'rywhere around, ev'rywhere around.	Waving, on the height.

O Magnum Mysterium

Richard Robert Rossi

WORLD PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

(final version)

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
That the animals see the new-born Lord,
Lying in a manger! *(Alleluia!)*

Blessed is the virgin, whose womb was worthy
To bear forth Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

O Lord, I heard your voice and was afraid;
I considered your works and I became
frightened in the midst of the two animals. *(back to verse one)*

Liber Usualis translation by Richard Robert Rossi

The Joy of Song

***God Bless the Master of This House (Traditional English)**

Kirke Mechem

God bless the master of this house,	forlorn-a.
And all that are therein-a,	Then let us all most merry be,
And to begin this Christmastide	And sing with cheerful voice-a,
With mirth now let us sing-a!	For we have good occasion to sing:
The Saviour of all people	Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Upon this time was born-a,	
Who did from death deliver us,	
When we were left	

Text origin: around 1850, (anon.)



Soprano



Margaret Andraso
Erie, PA

Alto



Mikayla Beck
Mount Carmel, IL

Tenor



Michael Bilik
Greensburg, PA

Bass



Chris Butler
Erie, PA



Rebecca Carmack
Coal City, IL



Mary Bowen
Erie, PA



Joe Braeger
Falconer, NY



Graham Fandrei
Pittsburgh, PA



Lisa DeAngelis
New York City, NY



Lisa Layman
Erie, PA



George Milosh
Aliquippa, PA



Ben Filippone
Pittsburgh, PA



Esther DeMary
Erie, PA



Ainsley Ryan Showalter
Fairview, PA



Royce Strider
Perkasie, PA



Matthew Makay
Erie, PA



Regina Rossi
Virginia Beach, VA



Valerie Vollmer
Erie, PA



Brandon Vogt
Erie, PA



Collin McCormick
Bethel Park, PA



Melody Shaw
Greensburg, PA



Brent Weber
Erie, PA



Ian Young
Pittsburgh, PA



Julia Jamieson
harp



Maestro
Richard Robert Rossi



Sara Kahl
rehearsal accompanist

See our website for performer biographies at:
<https://stpetercathedral.com/transcendence/>



PNC is proud to support the premiere performance of Transcendence.

This Christmas, your friends at PNC wish peace, joy, and the opportunity to reflect upon the meaning of the season.

Thank you to all involved in tonight's performance for making this season brighter!



Wishing Transcendence the best of luck on their premiere performance and for allowing us to provide lodging for their musicians.



Transcendence would like to thank Dr. Herbert Lasky for his generous donation that has made this first season's dream possible!

Herbert Lasky grew up in Manhattan, New York, the child of hard working Orthodox Jewish parents. As a child he was drawn to classical music, but his family did not have the wherewithal to guide him in his interest. As he grew older, especially during his years studying at New York University, culminating in a PhD in History, and while teaching at NYU and Hunter and Queen's Colleges (CUNY), he attended concerts, often at Carnegie Hall and on his own learned about the wonderful music he heard. His early experiences in New York confirmed in him two personal aspirations to support talented musicians whenever the opportunity presented itself, and to assist young people to learn about music. After he moved out to Illinois to teach history at Eastern Illinois University he found an immense talent in Dr. Richard Rossi, who created and conducted the EIU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs groups. Over many years Dr. Lasky, together with his wife Jane, supported Dr. Rossi's endeavors at the university, notably purchasing instruments to be used by students learning and playing in the orchestra, including a magnificent harpsichord and many wind instruments. Most recently, Dr. Lasky has also supported the creation of a graduate assistantship at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana focused on training a Music student in broadcasting educational programming about classical music. And of course, Dr. Lasky has continued his long-standing support of Dr. Rossi, contributing generously to Dr. Rossi's latest project, Transcendence, Erie's first all-professional choir.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to Bishop Lawrence Persico, Fr. Michael Ferrick, rector, office staff, and the parishioners of St. Peter Cathedral for their ongoing support

Dr. Herbert Lasky for his generous donation

Jim Stevenson and PNC Bank for their support

Anita Shelton who wrote Herbert Lasky's biographical dedication

Maxwell Porter and Graham Rosen, recording technicians
from *Enharmonic Records*

Sheila Grove, video technician

Isaac Ripple, rehearsal audio and visual recording technician

Joe Preston & Chandler Villanueva, tech crew

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Vince Dragone, Editor, *Faith Magazine*

Baylee DeMuth, reporter, Erie Time-News at GoErie.com

Brian Hannah, WQLN Radio

Corey Spacht, Transcendence website designer

Rebekah Ficcardi, graphic artist from *Gohrs on Demand Printing*

St. Peter Cathedral Choir Handbell Players:
Cathy Kerner, Chris Kerner, Dennis Magerle, & Pam Magerle





TRANSCENDENCE

needs your support so we can continue
to make beautiful music!

Your generous support of Transcendence helps bring the highest quality of music to Erie, Pennsylvania. Your gift significantly benefits not only the musicians, but also our community and its youth, whose dreams and aspirations are nurtured by our performances. We hope you will join in supporting Transcendence.

Maestro Richard R. Rossi

TRANSCENDENCE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS OF GIVING 2022-2023 CONCERT SEASON

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We will be proud to include all donors names in our spring concert program, *The Essence of Spring*, on June 10, 2023 as well as a special Sponsorship listing on our website.

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CREDIT CARD: Please consider making a tax-deductible donation using your credit card, by going to our website at: <https://stpetercathedral.com/transcendence/support-us/>

BY USPS MAIL: You can use the form below and return it with your check

NAME _____ (as it should appear in the concert program and website)

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MAIL TO: St. Peter Cathedral/Transcendence 230 West 10th Street Erie, PA 16501

Save the Date!

The Essence of Spring

Saturday June 10, 2023 at 7:00pm

Spring is a time of rebirth from the heavens above,
here on earth and within one another.

Transcendence will embrace the emergence
of Spring with new compositions by
Richard Robert Rossi as well as sacred and secular
works by notorious composers including:
Monteverdi, Mendelssohn, Stanford, Holst,
V. Williams & Spirituals arranged by Moses Hogan.





Visit our website:

<https://stpetercathedral.com/transcendence/>