

Notes on the Program

By Rebecca Scott

Ne Timeas Maria Tomas de la Victoria (1548-1611)

The text was taken from Luke 1:30-32: the Archangel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary to announce her conception by the Holy Spirit, beginning with *Ne timeas, Maria* (Do not fear, Mary. For you have found favor with the Lord. See: you will conceive and give birth to a son; and he shall be called the Son of the Most High.). In the Catholic liturgy, this is an Antiphon for second Vespers on the feast of the Annunciation (March 25). Victoria included this motet, related to the Gregorian chant of the same title, in his first publication, 1572 *Motecta*. Full of joyous vocal leaps and tight imitation, the voices continuously cadence to one stable pitch, suggesting a resolution of the world's troubles.

Totus Tuus Henryk Mikołaj Górecki (b.1933)

Totus Tuus (Totally Yours) is a hymn to the Virgin Mary, the patron saint of Poland and was composed by Henryk Gorecki in honor of Pope John Paul II's third visit to his homeland of Poland. The poem written by Maria Boguslawska: *Totus Tuus sum Maria. Mater nostri Redemptoris. Virgo Dei, Virgo Pia, Mater mundi Salvatoris.* (I dedicate myself to you, O Mary, Mother of our Redeemer. Virgin of God, Virgin Holy Mother of the Saviour of the world.) The initial phrase was used by Pope Jean-Paul to describe his absolute devotion to the Virgin Mary. The music is based on chants of the Polish Catholic Church, building tension through chant-like repetition, in chordal texture creating a type of choral meditation on devotion and faith.

Pengyou,ting, Traditional Chinese Melody arr. Carolyn Jennings

Ms. Jennings is Professor of Music and Associate Dean for the Fine Art at St. Olaf College and Director of the Senior Choir at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, MN. The text is anonymous Chinese ca. 1935 set to an ancient pentatonic (5 note) melody.

Listen Friend! Good news: Jesus came to earth for you, came from heav'n where he was
Lord, came to save, to save us all; Listen, friend, Good news, hear this great good news,
Jesus Christ came to earth for you, for me for you.

Suliram Indonesian Lullaby arr. Robert DeCormier English text by Louise Dobbs This well known lullaby has been recorded by many. *May all your dreaming be peaceful and bright and may you sleep 'till the sky fills with light. The morning sunshine will chase away the night. 'till then, my darling, oh close your eyes, sleep tight.*

S'yivon Traditional Jewish Folksong arr. Valerie Shields

Since 1985, Valerie Shields has been Assistant Conductor/arranger for the Northwest Girl choir in Seattle, WA. She also serves as organist at Seattle's Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church. She writes:

"The word "Chanukah" means "to dedicate" and refers to the joyous eight-day celebration through which the Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem. Unlike most Jewish holidays, Chanukah is not found in the Torah, Prophets, or Writings. The historical events upon which the celebration is based are recorded in I and II Maccabees, two books contained within a later collection of writings known as the Apocrypha. "Dreidel" is a derivative of an old German word meaning "top," and the game played by spinning this little top is an adaptation of an old gambling game. Chanukah was one of the few times of the year when the rabbis of old permitted games of chance, and the dreidel, therefore, was a natural candidate for Chanukah entertainment. The four sides of the top bear four Hebrew letters: Nun, Gimel, Hei, and Shin. To begin playing the game, players "ante" a certain number of coins, nuts, or other objects. Each one in turn would then spin the dreidel and proceed as follows: Nun ("nichts") – take nothing; Gimel ("Ganz") – take everything; Hei ("Halb") – take half; Shin ("shtell") – put in. The winner would often receive money ("Chanukah gelt"). Over time, the gambling terms

were reinterpreted to stand for the Hebrew Phrase “New Gadol Haya Sham” which means “a great miracle happened there.” Thus, even an ordinary game of chance was invested with Jewish values and served to remind them of the important message of the Chanukah season.”

Walrus at the Mistletoe Dance words and music by Elliot Borishansky (1930-2001) Borshansky was a native New Yorker who graduated from Columbia University and the University of Michigan and served as Professor of Music at Denison University for 32 years. He was also a story teller, creative writing instructor, songwriter and lyricist for the Columbus Junior Theatre. His creative output includes music for all media. His works have been published and recorded internationally. He received many prizes and awards including two Fulbrights and a MacDowell Colony residency.

What you will learn about the Brobinyak Music by Eric Sessler (b.1969) Text by John Ciardi (1916-1986)

Commissioned by Cantabile Chamber Chorale, in celebration of their 20th anniversary season, 2007-08 and to thank commissioned composers for 20 years of creative works.

“It was such a great pleasure of mine in 2008 to compose a song cycle for voice & guitar using poems for children by John Ciardi that I decided to use another of these poems for a new commission from Cantabile Chamber Chorale. For this setting, I thought that it would be fun to blend children’s voices with Cantabile’s adult choir and so was born the idea for *WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT THE BROBINYAK* which was composed June/July 2009. Special thanks go to Myra Ciardi for permission to use the poetry of John Ciardi. Ciardi was one of America’s foremost contemporary poets during the twentieth-century. He served as poetry editor of *The Saturday Review*, director of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, and a translator of the work of Dante. He was professor of English at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Harvard University, and at Rutgers University. In 1982 John Ciardi won the National Council of Teachers of English Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children. About these poems Karla Kuskin wrote: “Mix lots of rhyme, rhythm, and nonsense with, here and there, the bite of an uncommon image, a sprinkling of poetic insight. These are the ingredients to make a Ciardi party.” Ciardi was also well known for his etymological word rambles broadcast on NPR during the 1970’s & 80’s.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT THE BROBINYAK is dedicated to Cantabile Chamber Chorale and Rebecca Scott for her support and guidance.” *E. Sessler*

The Brobinyak has Dragon Eyes
And a tail the shape of a Fern
And teeth about Banana Size,
As one day you may learn

If ever you sail across the Sea
On the Shell of a Giant Clam
And come to the Forest of Foofenzee
In the Land of the Pshah of Psham.

There is no language he can’t speak
And you may, if you please,
Be swallowed whole in French or Greek,
Or nibbled in Chinese.

And once inside the Brobinyak
You’ll meet a lot of friends:

The Three-Toed Gleep and the Saginsack
And a covey of Two-Tailed Bends.
The Russian Bear is always there,

And Glocks from the Polar Sea.
And Radio Eels with static squeals,
And the Piebald Peccary.
The Splinterwave from his Ocean Cave
Will greet you at the door.
And the Green Kilkenny collect your penny
And pitch it along the floor.
The Banjo Tern and the Fiddling Hern
Will play you a Wedding March.

But keep your eye on the Lullaby
Or he'll nibble your collar for starch.
Oh keep your eye on the Lullaby
And never speak to the Mullet,
Or the Scrawny Shank will leave his Tank
And nibble you quick as a bullet.
And never look at the Seven-Nosed Hook
Or, with a frightful roar,
He'll sniff enough of his Pepper Snuff
To sneeze you out the door.

Oh the Brobinyak has Dragon Eyes
And a tail the shape of a Fern
And teeth about Banana Size,
As one day you may learn

If ever you sail across the Sea
On the Shell of a Giant Clam
And come to the Forest of Foofenzee
In the Land of the Pshah of Psham.

Natufurahi siku ya leo Traditional Taita Melody in Swahili

arr. Boniface Mganga Founder and director of the Muungano National Choir, Mr. Mganga is a native of Kenya where he directed the University of Nairobi choir and worked in national television programming.

Let us rejoice this day! Let us praise the name of the Lord!
In David's city he was born, Jesus Christ the Son of God.
Let us remember the love of Jesus that he hath brought unto us.
(*Hoyahe* is a word used to express extreme happiness)

Sigalagala (Let there be ululation) Luo Spiritual, arr. S.A. Otieno

The Shepherd, the High Priest is passing by.
Come and see my Lord.
Yes, Jesus is passing by. Come and see him. He is calling:
Come, we all go to heaven. Jesus has brought salvation.
Let there be ululation. He has brought forgiveness.
Let there be ululation. Only through him can there be salvation.
Let there be ululation.

El Cielo Canta Alegria words and music by Pablo Sosa (b.1933) Argentine Church musician and liturgist, Pablo Sosa, lives in Buenos Aires, where he teaches Liturgy and Hymnology at the Protestant Institute for Higher Theological Studies and Choral Conducting at the National Conservatory of Music. "This song, written in 1958, in the *carnavalito* style is a pioneer work in the use of indigenous music within the context of Christian workshop in Latin America," writes arranger Ed Henderson (b.1952). Henderson hails from Canada where he directs theatrical productions and produces world music recordings, including the CD "Endless" for Silk Road.

Heaven is singing for you, Alleluia!
Because in your life and mine, shines the glory of God, Alleluia
Because your life and mine are one in the love of God,
For your life and mine will always proclaim the Lord. Alleluia.

En El Portal a Belen Traditional Puerto Rican Carol arr. Ed Henderson

In a stable full of cobwebs, between a mule and an ox,

The Redeemer of our souls was born.

Singing "lerum, lerum," is the dear Mary, out in the stable,

Let's all join in and sing this song: "Lerum, lerum, lerum."

In that Bethlehem stall shines a star, the sun and the moon;

The Virgin and St. Joseph and the Child who sleeps in the hay.

A Spaniard enters the stable: "I come from Galicia to bring the Holy Child fine linen for a shirt. A

gypsy enters the stable: "I come from Granada to bring the Holy Child a proud rooster cock-a-doodle-doo!

If You Can Walk You Can Dance (If You Can Talk You Can Sing) Zimbabwean proverb Elizabeth Alexander hails from the Carolinas and the Appalachian region of Ohio. A graduate of Wooster College and Cornell University, she is highly sought after for commissions and has written for hundreds of choirs including the well known Vocal Essence and the Gregg Smith Singers. She has received many grants, awards and fellowships. *If You Can Walk You Can Dance* was commissioned by Farmington High School Friends of Music, in honor of Teacher of the Year, Scott Campbell. His favorite song, *How Can I Keep From Singing?* is one that Cantabile has sung often and also a favorite of ours. The composer has hidden a few quotes in it, in the piano's introduction and conclusion.