

SOUNDS

Of

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January 3, 2010

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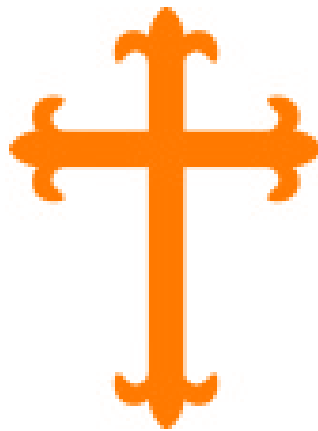
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O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LISTEN UP!

Thirty years ago this past December, I was a most privileged college undergraduate to find myself sitting in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, attending the world renowned Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. It is a moment I will cherish as long as I live and for which I shall never lose gratitude. A very wise mentor and most treasured friend saw to it that I made that trip, which ushered me into that paradise of sound, the King's College Choir of Men and Boys singing in their own iconic chapel. The impact of that visit in no small way helped guide my own destiny as a musician. Every year as I listen to the BBC broadcast, I recall my great fortune and the debt I owe to those who made it possible.

My friend and I flew to London where we stayed a few days. We then made our way to Cambridge where in the wee morning hours on the Eve of the Nativity 1979 we arose, dressed warmly and walked to King's Parade to "queue up" for entry that afternoon. A considerable line had already formed but we were assured we were early enough to acquire good seats, which happily we did. As we each took turns fetching hot coffee and sandwiches in an attempt to ward off the cold a light snow began to fall on perfect cue just around midday. The bucolic setting of that splendid limestone building amid the winter snow was simply overwhelming. The stage and the hook were set! I've never been the same since.

The service in the chapel begins with an extended organ prelude prior to the broadcast. As many of you know, the opening carol that follows is *Once in royal David's city*, which commences with a single boy singing the first stanza unaccompanied. Nobody knows who that boy will be except the Music Director. At the moment the BBC engineer gives the signal that they are "on air," the Music Director identifies that chorister who then steps forward to sing, right then, right there, no net! It makes

me queasy just to think about it. But, O! what an exquisite moment for the rest of us.

In this case, the room is as important as the choir itself. King Henry VI (1421-1471) laid the foundation stone in 1446 and chartered the choir. The chapel was to be the north side of his '*College roial of Oure Lady and Seynt Nicholas.*' It took over a century to finish and was the only thing completed of the king's grand design of his Cambridge court. But what a legacy and, thanks be to God, it remains an active house of worship. The late Gothic (Perpendicular) style of the building with its soaring height, the use of limestone as the primary building material, and the fan vault ceiling (the largest in the world) produce what may well be the most favorable acoustic of any building on earth for choral music. The effort to sing is much easier in an environment such as this where sound is not absorbed quickly. Thus sound quite literally floats and gives us the fairest glimpse of God's beauty revealed to us in music. All else pales in comparison, most especially our feeble attempts to replicate that gorgeous sound with modern electronic amplification in the living room aesthetic of many modern churches.

I recently read a recollection of a fellow musician who reminded me of something I had almost forgotten from that journey. Those men and boys are not finished with their term duties with that service. They remain to sing on Christmas Day. There is no queue in which to wait. There is no television or radio production. The shops along the way are closed. The streets are void of traffic. And yet in that same place that buzzed the day before with the enthusiastic throng from around the world, a small gathering of the faithful come to worship Christ the newborn King led in music by those talented and dedicated young people. With the same shining

LISTEN UP! continued

adornments of singing heard the previous afternoon, the true purpose of their existence becomes crystal clear to those with ears to hear. *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Stay tuned.... Gary Davison, O-C

ADDENDUM

Many people over the years have asked me what my favorite Christmas music is. There are so many wonderful pieces from which to choose that it is difficult to say. However, here is a brief list of some that come to mind. There are multiple recordings of each available and you will not go wrong with any from the choral establishments in Cambridge or Oxford. In addition, I've listed a handful of my favorite recordings.

CAROLS

A babe is born (William Mathias)
A Child my Choice (Richard Wayne Dirksen)
A Spotless Rose (Herbert Howells)
All my heart this night rejoices (Johann Ebeling)
Angelus ad virginem (Irish traditional)
Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen (Michael Praetorius)
I sing of a maiden (Patrick Hadley)
In the bleak midwinter (Harold Darke)
Myn lyking (Sir Richard R. Terry)
Of the Father's love begotten (anonymous)
Once in royal David's city (Gauntlett / Mann)
See amid the winter snow (Sir John Goss)
Sussex Carol (English, arr. Sir Philip Ledger)
The Infant King (Basque, arr. Edgar Pettman)

EXTENDED WORKS

A Ceremony of Carols (Benjamin Britten)
Hodie (Ralph Vaughan Williams)
L'enfance du Christ (Hector Berlioz)
Magnificat (Antonio Vivaldi)
Messe de Minuit pour Noël (Marc Charpentier)
Oratorio de Noël (Camille Saint-Saëns)
Weihnachts-Oratorium (Johann Sebastian Bach)

RECORDINGS

A Charlie Brown Christmas
(Vince Guaraldi)
A Child my Choice
(Julie Keim, soprano & Eric Sabatino, harp)
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
(King's College, Cambridge, Stephen Cleobury)
A Renaissance Christmas
(The Boston Camerata, Joel Cohen)
Carols from Clare
(Clare College, Cambridge, John Rutter)
The Carol Album
(Taverner Consort, Andrew Parrott)

Happy listening and merry Christmas! -GD

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR YOUTH PARENTS

There will be a parents meeting on Sunday, January 10th at 7pm for all parents with students in the Youth Group (Grades 7 - 12). Information about the trips and calendars will be available and discussed as will some new plans for the group.

It will be appreciated if every possible parent would attend as some important things need to be discussed and your input will be very essential.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS PARTY

Gary and Trina Bachman, assisted by their daughter Amy, were gracious hosts for 45 St. Francis parishioners.

Besides extending good tidings of the season, the holiday party also initiated the collecting of family recipes for a supplement to the St. Francis Cookbook.

Thanks to Laurel Bahar, Suzie Burbage, and Carol Jarvis for refreshments.

If you have family holiday recipes for the cookbook, please place them in the Women of St. Francis mail box by January 10th.

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS WERE GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**

by Chuck & Helen Wilson ✕ Jim & Fran Baker ✕ and in celebration of the birth of our Saviour by Sue & Bill Tull, Kathy & Norm Barker, and David, Sarah & Katherine Kuckelman

IN MEMORY OF:

Maj. Gen. & Mrs. Sanderford Jarman, Mrs. Dorothy Jablonsky, Mr. Bernard Uhre, Mrs Alice Jablonsky, & Maj. Gen. H.J. Jablonsky by Mrs. Lea Uhre ✕ **William & Sarah Jane Costello and Bertha & Frank Maisch** by Russ & Jane Maisch ✕ **Frank H. Simpson, Robert Buehler, Edwin, Agnes, and Russell Buehler, James Palmer, Emma Lou, Lisa, and Martin Arensberg, Andrew Keithline, Jr., Hermine and Ruth A. Keithline, and Andrew Keithline Sr., Doris Underwood; Sally Ehart; and R.B. Nixon** by Pat Simpson ✕ **Lewis L. Delafield, Sr.** by Patricia Delafield ✕ **Mildred Tomellini and Norman Mitchell** by Carol & Caroline Mitchell ✕ **Robert D. Lincoln** by Jane Lincoln ✕ **their parents** by Mr. & Mrs. Bastian Hello ✕ **their parents, Esther & William Gilbert and Dorothy & John Hauser** by Jerry & Julie Gilbert ✕ **Dr. Perry G. M. Austin**, father of Chris Austin by the Austin family ✕ **Neal Tardy**, father and grandfather, from Diane & Jennifer Sickles ✕ **her parents, brothers & sisters, Ella, David, Paul, David C., Ruth Leonard, Mary Naiman and Esther Patterson** by Aradine Tardy ✕ **Allan & Albert Lock, May Lee Lock, Bill & Clara Yamamoto** by Kathy Lock ✕ **their parents, Robert & Louise Rood and John & Grace Bishop** by Bob & Grace Rood ✕ **William MacDonald** by Rosemary MacDonald ✕ **Joseph E. Swan, Jr., Betsy P. Swan, William A. Beresford, II & Agnes M. Beresford** by Susan S. Beresford & William A. Beresford, III ✕ **their wife & mother, Penne Wells** by Jerry & Abby Wells ✕ **Sam Pickard** by Peggy Pickard ✕ **her husband, Chuck Hunter** by Sally Lee Hunter ✕ **Mary & Stanley Zygmunt** by Adrienne Rosen ✕ **her parents and grandparents** by Laurence C. Nolan ✕ **Brownie Stupar** by the Stupar family ✕ **Harry L. Smith and Ann & Rignal Baldwin** by Cherry Smith & family ✕ **Mary Alice Latimer** by Richard Latimer ✕ **her father, Col. Bill Sharp**, and sister, **Mary Pat Sinclair**, by Trina Bachman ✕ **the Steven-Pista Polyak and Hoffman-Polyak families** by Elena Polyak ✕ **Dr. Elmer E. Van Egmond and Babbie & Robin Harvey** by Alan & Julie Van Egmond ✕ **family and friends** by Jim & Barbara Moore ✕ **John & Helen Byrd, Ila Williams, and Tom Bush** by Renita Ford & Kevin Lyskowski ✕ **Bill Marsh** by Patricia Marsh ✕ **her parents & aunt, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Strateman and Catherine Strateman Sims Boman** by Cathy & Brian Kelleher ✕ **her parents, Jean & Thomas Anderson** by Christie Martin ✕ **Barbara Bonner** by Faye & Albert Bonner ✕ **Pam Ramsey & Heather Wilson** by Renee & Walter Wilson

IN HONOR OF:

Capt. James & Ashlyn King, USMC, and all who serve our country in the U.S. military by Sandy & Fred Meloan ✕ **Reverend and Mrs. Shand** by W.C. & Hilda Ross ✕ **Abbot Aidan Shae, OSB** by Kate Niewenhaus & Mark Lofgren ✕ **the St. Francis Church community** by the Jannotta family

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

their 9 grandchildren by Cindy & Merrill Yavinsky ✕ **their family** by Kathy & Norm Barker ✕ **their family and their St. Francis family** by John & Nancy Mion ✕ **Sally Evans Austin**, mother & grandmother of the Austin Family ✕ **Anna & Max** by Heather & Charlie Williams ✕ **their children & grandchildren & all of God's blessings** by Fan & Merv Oleson ✕ **family, friends & St. Frances clergy and families** by Roy & Mary Day ✕ **the life of Maddie (Madeleine) Beverly Bahar** by Laurel, Hadi, Martin, and Claudia Bahar ✕ **her grandchildren** by Lynne Astrich

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Family and friends by Wayne & Carol Jarvis ✕ **the life of Jack Heise** by the Heise family ✕ **family and friends** by Carol Thedford



CHRISTMAS 2008 FOOD BASKET DONORS

THANK YOU!

Warm and heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this year's Christmas Food Box collection. Through your generosity, approximately 75 local families will gather around a full holiday table. Over \$1700 in Giant and Safeway gift cards and 40 boxes arrived and departed to grateful neighbors despite the inclement weather. The list below may inadvertently omit a few names lost in the snowy shuffle but known to our Lord:

Several Secret Santas • Norman & Kathy Barker • Leslie & Brian Bauer • Elizabeth & Randall Boe • Faye & Albert Bonner • Doug & Mary Bowers • Barbara D. Brown • Devar & Suzie Burbage • Charles & Nancy Byrd • Bill & Anne Charrier • Roy & Mary Day • Renita Ford & Kevin Lyskowski • Fred Johnsen & Karen Brinkmann • Carol Hansen & Andrew Gilmour • Jerry & Julie Gilbert • John & Michaela Hancock • Don & Liz Harrison • Jackie Heise • David & Barbara Heywood • Carol & Wayne Jarvis • Mark Lofgren & Kate Niewenhous • John Knable • David, Sarah & Katherine Kuckelman • Kathy Lavinder & Michael Doran • Kate Lohman • Dan Lukash & Monique Anderson • Rosemary MacDonald • Jean & Michael Marlow • George & Marybeth Maroulis • Peter & Joan Maroulis • Erica & Pat McNeilly • Sallie Brown Midgeley • John & Nancy Mion • Jim & Barbara Moore • Mardy & Hugh O'Neil • Fan & Merv Oleson • Helena Patterson • Richard & Eleanor Reed • Andy Robart & Elizabeth Romayko • Bob & Grace Rood • Joyce Schmitz • Karen & Adam Schneider • Jennifer & Billy Shand • Diane Sickles • Helen Stupar • Aradine Tardy • Sue & Skip Tendall • Christine Tetrault • Carol Thedford • Wayne & Wanda Tomlinson • Alan & Juliane Van Egmond • Sandy & Joscelyn Wainwright • Bill & Sallie Wallace • Richard & Anne Wallace • Abby Wells • Jerry Wells • Heather & Charlie Williams • Chuck & Helen Wilson • Pat & Bill Wyatt

SENIOR LUNCHEON JANUARY 21ST

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Many of us are facing the dilemma of staying in our own homes, moving to a retirement facility or living with our children or other family members elsewhere. It goes without saying that finances have a great influence on the decisions we make. This dilemma was a topic of interest in the questionnaires sent out to you last spring.

On Thursday, January 21st, our monthly luncheon and program will be held in St Francis Hall at 12 noon. We will follow our usual format of a brief social hour, lunch and the program. Lunch will be \$10.00. Wine will be available for an additional charge. Reservations should be made by calling Christine in the Church office.-301-365-2055 or ctetrault@stfrancispotomac.org.

Continued in next column

Mary Anne Buckley, a Care Manager from ESM CARES, the geriatric care management service of Episcopal Senior Ministries, will be one presenter. ESM CARES is a fee-based program which provides counsel and professional guidance to older adults and their families and develops a personalized care plan tailored to match an individual's needs with available resources. Mary Ann has dealt with many situations in the home where a variety of needs have been met.

The second presenter will be our own Fran Baker who is a realtor with Washington Fine Properties. Fran, in her professional contacts with clients, is sometimes asked about retirement facilities. She therefore has knowledge of them including details as to financial structures and services offered.

Both presenters will give options for you to consider and there will be ample time for questions at the end of their presentations.

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

For more information, please visit our website at www.stfrancispotomac.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School & Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 1/17/10
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:30 pm St. Francis Choir

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School & Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Morning Prayer
7 pm Meeting for Parents of Youth Group members



The Scripture appointed for the Second Sunday after Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14, Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a, Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 or Luke 2:41-52 or
Matthew 2:1-12, Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

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