

and bring it to the page. "In Dulci Jubilo" mixes Latin and English text with the tune "Good Christian Men Rejoice." In dulci júbilo = In sweet joy; in praesepio = in a manger; matris in gremio = in your mother's lap; Alpha es et Omega = Beginning and Ending

"Carol of the Bells".....arr. Peter Wilhousky

Perhaps one of the most recognizable Christmas songs, "Carol of the Bells" was originally written as a song about a sparrow. Peter Wilhousky's arrangement has practically become a standard choral Christmas arrangement. The motif (melody of "Hark how the bells") is sung in every section as the piece progresses. Can you keep track of where it is during the piece?

"Ding Dong! Merrily on High"..... arr. Glenn Poore

What a great piece to follow "Carol of the Bells." It is in the same key and has the same bell themes. There are four "quartets" during this piece. Students played rock, paper, scissors to determine who would sing where. It is unclear whether the winner *got* to sing or the loser *had* to sing.

Audience Sing-a-long "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

(All Unison) 1. I heard the bells on Christmas day Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.

(All Parts) 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along th'unbroken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.

(Men Only Melody Unison) 3. And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."

(Women Only Melody Unison) 4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men."

(All Parts) 5. Till, ringing, singing, on its way, The world revolved from night to day, A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Part III

"There is Faint Music".....Dan Forrest

The students say that I have composer crushes. They say that I used to have a man-crush on Darmon Meader. I do love his music. Last year we sang "The First Noel" by Dan Forrest — it was a beautiful piece of music. Then we found "Entreat Me Not to Leave You" (do you remember that one?), also by Dan

Forrest. When I searched his name in my music database (www.jwpepper.com) I ran across this unbelievable piece. I went back and forth whether this fit into our program and could not get it out of my mind. Now it is in my heart as well.

"O Come All Ye Faithful".....arr. Dan Forrest

String Quartet: Kaelie Gillespie, Taylor Monnett, Kyte Gass, Tashiya Runsthrough and Piano: McKay Coombs

...to continue the Dan Forrest fascination story, when we were at All-State this year, I attended a music reading session where we read this piece of music. I was captivated and am pleased that it fit into our song set this year. I debated having the audience join us for one of the verses, but with the key changes and the intensity of the piece, it didn't make sense. So sit back, relax and enjoy this remarkable piece of music.

"How Great Our Joy"..... Craig Courtney

This is another song that I had chosen to learn last year, but it did not fit into our program. That is interesting because the college concert choir and Lieto Voices! are both singing this song as a part of their programs this year. From the arranger:

"Everyone is familiar with the cheerful, exuberant side of joy. My goal in writing this anthem was to explore the other side of joy — the reflective, lyric, rhapsodic. This kind of joy is a more complex emotion which can stand the test of time and is borne of wisdom and experience. In this other expressive arena, the well-know words of the carol take on quite a different meaning.

From the opening measures, the anthem should slowly gather excitement as it continues to the glorious words "praise we the Lord on high". This phrase begs for a mighty peak in dynamic energy and tessitura. The use of contrapuntal vocal writing in measures 69—74 is intended to create the effect of many voices rising up in laud and adoration. The final measures lead us back to the opening material of the anthem and we arrive at the destination of this joyful journey — peace."

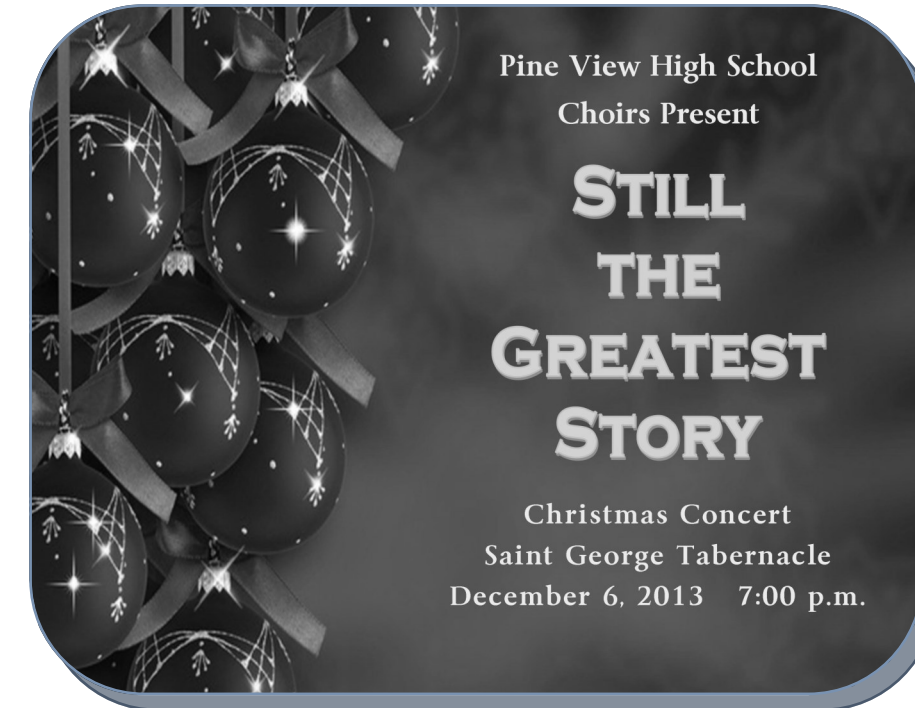
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A woman and an angel, a promise and a song;
A Word too grand for any mind to hold.
A tax law and a journey, a stable and some straw;
These tell the greatest story every told.



LEARNING MATTERS MOST

“STILL THE GREATEST STORY”

DECEMBER 6, 2013

Director	Robert Reimer
Accompanist	Astrid Meek
Men’s Choir Accompanists	Ali Johanson, Shelby Short
Choir President	Cierra Pugmire
Student Directors	Zoey Baril & Taylor Monnett
Men’s Choir Student Director	Kelton Jacobsen

There are three sections in this program. I would invite you to hold your applause until the end of each section. If that doesn’t happen, or if you choose to give your appreciation to the choir, we will not be offended, but it would help the flow of the program

PART I

“*It’s Still the Greatest Story Ever Told*”

.....William & Gloria Gaither, arr. Camp Kirkland

Aubrey Collard & Bryndi Terry, Soloists
McKay Coombs, Saxophone Kaelie Gillespie, Violin
Tashiya Runsthrough, Cello Jade Bonner, Guitar

One of the best parts about being the director is choosing music that is meaningful. I have been a fan of the Gaithers for awhile. Thanks, Dad, for introducing me to them. If you have not taken the chance to listen to the Gaither Gospel Hour, it would fill your life; you should do it. When I first heard this song, I loved the message. I decided to allow some discretion for the musicians using a “gospel hour” setting. It is still the greatest story.

“*Away in a Manger*”.....arr. Paul Sjolund

Kaelie Gillespie, Violin Tashiya Runsthrough, Cello

As we contemplated all of the music in this program, there were students who would have voted this song off of the island. I mentioned in class yesterday that this song probably helps us the better than any of the others in our preparation for region and state choir. It is subtle and beautiful. Did you know that there are at least four “popular” versions of “Away in a Manger.” Can you hum them all?

“*Sleigh Bells*”arr. Earlene Rence

What can you say about this song. If we do our job, you will be able to understand every word. Most likely you will hear some mumbling with an occasional word that you recognize.

The last word is, “Hey.” We sing that with enthusiasm.

“*Go Where I Send Thee*”arr. Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

Children, go where I send thee. How shall I send thee?

Twelve for the disciples; Eleven of them singing in heaven; Ten for the commandments; Nine for the angel choirs; Eight for those that the flood didn’t take; Seven for the Day of Rest; Six for days in which the world was made; Five for the loaves and fishes; Four for the Gospel writers; Three for the Hebrew children (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego); Two for Paul and Silas; One for the Baby Boy, born in Bethlehem.

“*Stars I Shall Find*”Victor C. Johnson

This is another of those songs, like *Away in a Manger*, that I selected because of the preparation it will give us for region and state choir. In fact, I will probably use it as one of the songs in our set.

“*What Child*”..... Paul Lohman

Ditto to what I said with “*Stars I Shall Find.*”

Audience Sing-a-long..... “*Silver Bells*”

Please feel comfortable to sing in full voice and parts if you wish.

1. City sidewalks busy sidewalks Dressed in holiday style
In the air There’s a feeling of Christmas Children laughing
People passing Meeting smile after smile And on every street
corner you’ll hear

(Chorus) Silver bells silver bells It’s Christmas time in the city
Ring a ling, hear them ring Soon it will be Christmas day

2. Strings of street lights Even stop lights Blink a bright red
and green As the shoppers rush home with their treasures
Hear the snow crunch See the kids bunch This is Santa’s big
scene And above all this bustle You’ll hear

(Chorus) Silver bells, silver bells It’s Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring Soon it will be Christmas day.

PART II

“*Fum, Fum, Fum*”.....arr. Robert Parker & Alice Shaw

“Mr. Reimer, what does *fum* mean?” “Ummmmmm...” It is good to analyze the meaning of the lyrics in the songs that we perform, but I had no idea what a “fum” was. We found out that it is an onomatopoeia (do you know that word?) for a guitar strum or rocking cradle. This is a traditional Catalonian Christmas carol. I am fairly careful about establishing and maintaining traditions in choral music and have not performed this piece for a couple of years. Kelton Jacobsen asked if we could add it to our program. He said that his old-

er brother had sung it and wanted to have a chance to do it as well. He said that Nathan’s brother would have performed it (among others’ older siblings). I am glad that I agreed to include this as a part of our program.

“*Bethlehem*”.....arr Doug Andrews

When I was in high school, we did not have a “chamber” choir. I am originally from the Seattle area and our school’s audition choir was a jazz choir. Since then, I have always loved choral jazz. It takes some ear-training to be comfortable singing these jazz chords and understanding jazz progressions. Bethlehem, based on the text of “O Little Town of Bethlehem” showcases these techniques well. On a side note, there is a soprano solo (which mixes in with a tenor to form a duet) in the middle of this song. The soloist(s) won’t know who is going to be chosen to sing until we are performing (as I point to them while we are singing).

“*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*”

..... arr. Darmon Meader

Darmon Meader sets this text in a beautiful jazz arrangement.

I actually had this piece chosen to perform last year, but it didn’t fit into our program. I love the text in this music.

While shepherds watched Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.
"Fear not," said he,
For mighty dread Had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind..."
"To you in David's Town this day
Is born of David's line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign..."
"The heavenly Babe
You there shall find
To human view displayed
And meanly wrapped
In swathing bands
And in a manger laid."
Thus spake the seraph,
And forthwith Appeared
a shining throng
Of angels praising God,
who thus Addressed their song:
"All glory be to
God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease!"

“*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*” arr. Stephen Hatfield

This is another piece that is rich in PV Choral Tradition. I remember begin asked when I first came here if we could sing this song. I was familiar with the Mack Wilberg arrangement of this island tune and it has been a blessing to pull out this great arrangement to perform. I particularly like the vocal interaction of the parts which combine in a band style in the middle. You will notice that we move into parts for this song.

“*In Dulci Jubilo*” Matthew Culloton

I discovered BYU Grad and Music Author Matthew Culloton last year and I am impressed with his ability to capture sound