



ESME e.v.
English-Speaking Music Ensembles

2016
WINTER CONCERT



*Join the Triumph
of the Skies*

Sunday, 4 December - 4pm
Münchner Künstlerhaus, Lenbachplatz

BBC Radio 4 UK Theme

Traditional

.....
arranged by Fritz Spiegl & Manfred Arian

Magnificat

Antonio Vivaldi

.....
I: Magnificat IV: Fecit potentiam VII: Suscepit Israel
II: Et exultavit V: Deposuit potentes VIII: Sicut locutus est
III: Et misericordia VI: Esurientes IX: Gloria

The Banks of Green Willow

George Butterworth

The Magnificent Seven

Elmer Bernstein

.....
arranged by Scott Richards

Allegretto from Symphony No.7

Ludwig van Beethoven

Jul, Jul, Strålande Jul

Gustaf Nordquist / Edvard Evers

.....
piano and string parts arranged by Dan Davison

-INTERVAL-

In dulci jubilo

Traditional

.....
arranged by R.L.De Pearsall / edited by W.J.Westbrook

Love came down at Christmas

David C. Dickau

.....
based on a poem by Christiana Rossetti

Schlaf, mein Kindelein

Traditional

.....
arranged by Max Reger

Schlaf, mein Kindelein

Traditional

.....
arranged by Max Reger

How Like a Winter

Ruth Morris Gray

.....
based on Shakespeare's Sonnet 97

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn / Charles Wesley

.....
arranged by Brant Adams

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Traditional Trinidadian Carol

.....
arranged by Drew Collins & Brenda Ellis

If I Ain't Got You

Alicia Keys

The Rainbow Connection

Paul Williams / Kenneth L. Ascher

.....
arranged by Mark Taylor

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Haven Gillespie / J. Fred Coots

.....
arranged by Dave Wolpe

Let It Snow

Sammy Cahn & Jule Styne

.....
arranged by W. Scott Ragsdale

Feliz Navidad

José Feliciano

.....
arranged by Paul Murtha

Conductor Credits

American baritone Robert Gardner held his first conducting position at the age of 21, and later studied orchestral conducting at Yale School of Music while completing his graduate studies in Voice and Opera. After establishing himself in a vocal career at New York City Opera, he moved to Denver, where he became Principal Conductor of the Colorado Choral Arts Society and mentored young conductors during his four year stay. Robert has now moved his base of operations to Germany, due to many precipitating factors, including his love of all things European. Here in Munich he leads several area choirs in addition to his singing and teaching activities, and has founded the Vocal Arts Society e.V.

Benedikt Holnaicher, showed considerable interest in music at a young age. He began by studying the violin, later switching to the viola. His enthusiasm for music history eventually led him to study musicology, philosophy and theatre at university. During this time, he developed a passion for early music and historically informed performance (HIP) Benedikt currently specializes in playing the Baroque viola and is studying singing, conducting and music pedagogy. In addition to conducting the ESME orchestra, he performs in various ensembles in and around Munich.

Notes

The orchestral arrangement of traditional British airs known as the **BBC UK Radio Theme** was used as a signature theme to introduce the beginning of the day's broadcasting on BBC Radio 4 every morning from 1978 through April 2006. The piece comprises excerpts from *Early One Morning* (English), *Rule Britannia* (British), *A Londonderry Air* (Northern Irish), *Annie Laurie* (Scottish), *What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor?* (sea shanty), *Greensleeves* (English), *Men of Harlech* (Welsh) and *Scotland the Brave* (Scottish). The decision to drop the theme caused controversy in the UK, including extensive discussion in the British media and even in Parliament.

The text of **The Magnificat** ("My soul doth magnify the Lord...") comes from the Gospel of Luke and is spoken by Mary, pregnant with Jesus, on the occasion of her visit to her cousin Elizabeth, herself pregnant with John the Baptist. The work is divided into nine movements, with Movements II and VI featuring soloists, and the highly contrapuntal choral Movement III, *Et misericordia* ("And His mercy is on them that fear Him"), being considered the musical heart of the composition.

Probably one of Beethovens' most popular, the Allegretto was well received from its very debut, with the audience spontaneously demanding a repeat of the movement at the premoiere of the composer's Symphony No 7. Since then, the piece has often been featured in movie scores and is frequently found on concert programmes, whether within the Symphony, or - as performed in tonight's concert - on its own.

The words of the popular Swedish carol *Jul, Jul, Strålande Jul*, published in 1921, describe a Christmas radiant with sparkling lights shining over snow-capped forests and the eternal longing for light and peace at Yuletide. "Come, blessed Christmas, lower your white wings over the battlefield's blood and clangour... over the loved ones who've gone to their rest... over the dawn of newborn life."

Thought to have been written by the German mystic Heinrich Seuse circa 1328, *In dulci jubilo* ("In sweet rejoicing") is a mainstay of the repertoire of the Nine Lessons and Carols, a liturgical service of the Anglican Church traditionally held on Christmas Eve. The original text alternates Medieval German and Latin. According to the folklore, Seuse heard the words being sung by angels, who explained to him that God had sent them down "to bring him heavenly joys amid his sufferings... he must cast off all his sorrows... and dance with them in heavenly fashion."

The Christmas lullaby *Schlaf, mein Kindelein* is one of many choral works by Bavarian musician Max Reger, one of the key figures in the dawn of modernism. Reger died 100 years ago, at the age of 43, after a prolific career as composer, pianist, organist, conductor, and teacher.

The *Rainbow Connection* is a song from the 1979 film, *The Muppet Movie*. It received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song. Its most famous interpreter is Kermit the Frog (voiced by Jim Henson)

When Santa Claus is Coming to Town was first heard on the radio in 1934, it became an instant hit, with more than 30,000 records sold within 24 hours. The piece has retained its popularity over the past eight decades, appearing on many Christmas albums and more recently being associated with Bruce Springsteen and his E Street Band, who often feature it in their live appearances during the months of November and December.

Special Thanks

The ESME Board - Genevieve Cory, Sarah Mulloy, Elaine Cole, Anne Janssen and Michael von Glasow

The ESME Helpers Team - Christian Brandel, Kate Denis-Smith, Elizabeth Elliott, David Freer, Mark Hammond, Sonsoles Hernandez, Frances Hughes, Emily Petrou, Daniel Plappert, Siegfried Wagner

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