



# **BOULDER RENAISSANCE CONSORT**



**BE MERRY, BE MERRY!**

John Bullock

Shirley Carnahan

Melody English

Josh McGirk

Anne Fjestad Peterson

Guest Artist Annabella Cox

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Grace Lutheran Church

Boulder, Colorado



**Be merry, be merry**

Anonymous (England, 15<sup>th</sup> C.)

## **Medieval Carols**

**Danielis propheta**

Anonymous (Bohemia, 15<sup>th</sup> C.)

*The prophecy of Daniel foretold joy to us.*

*Refrain: Now you are rejoicing; new salvation springs forth. You are comforted; man will be set free. As was prophesied, God is born man. A child is given to us, beautiful and roselike.*

*The mother and daughter bears a child from the womb of Mary.*

*Death and sorrow are fled; life and grace are given.*

*To the shepherds great things are announced with joyous dance.*

*Therefore, gratefully we praise the infant Lord.*

*Let the Holy Trinity be lauded; to God let us speak thanks.*

**Maria virgo**

Anonymous (Spain, 13<sup>th</sup> C.)

*Mary, virgin of virgins, pray for us to God. Hail, Mary.*

*Foundation of the Church, the font of wisdom itself. Hail, Mary.*

*O Virgin, full of grace, mother and daughter of God. Hail, Mary.*

*Palace of the Trinity, gate and refuge of the world. Hail, Mary.*

*Virgin not knowing sin, known of the Holy Spirit. Hail, Mary.*

*Host of the greatest king, light and life of the faithful. Hail, Mary.*

*Salvation and protection of the world, nourish us with your joy. Hail, Mary.*

*To us that sing to you, succor us with your prayers. Hail, Mary.*

*You who are all to us, may your grace nourish us. Hail, Mary.*

*May your grace bring it about that God hears us. Hail, Mary. Amen.*

## **Verbum Patris umanatur**

From a 13<sup>th</sup> C. Cambridge MS and the Moosburg Gradual (1360)

*The word of the Father is made human since a maiden is visited; the visited one, ignorant of man, is made fruitful. Eya, joyous news!*

*A new manner of begetting but exceeding the power of nature since the Creator of all is united with the creation. Eya, joyous news!*

*Hear of a birth contrary to custom: a virgin bears a Savior, a creation the Creator, a daughter the Father. Eya, joyous news!*

*In the parent of the Savior there is no parent of our kind: a virgin gives birth, and the lilies of modesty do not wither. Eya, joyous news!*

*The man-God is given to us; the gift is shown clearly to us since peace on earth is announced with the glory of heaven. Eya, joyous news!*

## **Verbum caro factum est: In hoc anni circulo**      Jistebnice Cantional (1420)

*Refrain: The Word is made flesh through the Virgin Mary.*

*In this circle of a year, life is given to an age: a little boy born to us of the Virgin Mary.*

*O blessed woman, the glory of whose womb washes away the faults of the world through the Virgin Mary.*

*A star has revealed the sun, the sun has brought salvation, [the son] has taken true flesh from the Virgin Mary.*

*A fountain from his own stream is born for the people, whom he has brought from bondage through the Virgin Mary.*

*Glory, honor, strength to Lord God the Father and to the Son together with the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary.*

## **A solis ortus cardine**

### **Chant**

*From the point of the rising of the sun all the way to the limit of the earth, we may sing of Christ the Lord, born of the Virgin Mary.*

### **Song**

Gilles Binchois (c. 1400-1460)

*The blessed creator of the age assumed the body of a servant so that, by liberating [our] flesh with [his] flesh, he would not destroy what he had made.*

### **Chant**

*The grace of Heaven enters the protected womb of the mother; the womb of the girl carries secrets which she does not know.*

### **Instrumental Trio**

Adam Reneri (c. 1485-1520)

### **Chant**

*The dwelling of a chaste breast suddenly is made a temple of God; untouched, ignorant of man, by a word she conceived the Son.*

### **Song**

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

*He is born by childbirth, he whom Gabriel had prophesied, he whom, carried enclosed in the womb of his mother, John perceived.*

### **Chant**

*He endured to lie in the hay; he did not shrink from the manger; and on little milk he was fed through whom no bird goes hungry.*

### **Instrumental Quintet**

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

### **Chant**

*The chorus of Heaven rejoices, and the angels sing to God; and openly is created for the shepherds the Shepherd, Creator of all.*

### **Instrumental Trio**

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

### **Chant**

*Jesu, who was born of the Virgin, glory be to you, with the Father and the nourishing Spirit, for time everlasting. Amen.*

## **Fantasia a 5**

William Byrd (1543-1623)

### **Puer natus in Bethlehem**

Michael Praetorius

*A child is born in Bethlehem: therefore rejoice, Jerusalem. Alleluia.*

*By Gabriel's announcement a virgin has conceived a son. Alleluia.*

*He was born from the womb of a virgin without the seed of man. Alleluia.*

*In flesh similar to us but in sin dissimilar. Alleluia.*

*Here he lies in the manger who reigns without end. Alleluia.*

*And the angel reveals to the shepherds he who is the Lord. Alleluia.*

*The magi come from afar; gold, incense, and myrrh they offer. Alleluia.*

### **O magnum mysterium**

Tomas Luis de Victoria (1549-1611)

*O great mystery and astonishing sacrament, that animals saw the Lord born, lying in a manger. O blessed Virgin, whose womb deserved to bear Christ the Lord: Alleluia.*

## **Veni, veni, Emmanuel**

**Chant** from *Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum* (France, 15<sup>th</sup> C.)

*Come, come, Emmanuel, release captive Israel that groans in exile, deprived of the Son of God. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel will be born for you, Israel.*

**Duet** Anonymous (France, 15<sup>th</sup> C.)

**Quartet** Arranger Unknown

**Chant**

*Come, come, King of the people, come, Redeemer of all so that you might save your servants who are conscious of their sins. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel will be born for you, Israel.*

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** Arr. Lloyd Larson (2004)

**Blessed are the Shepherds** Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

**Danse de Berger (Shepherd's Dance)** Tielman Susato (1500-1570)

## **Traditional English Carols**

**Once in Royal David's City** H.J. Gauntlett

**It Came upon the Midnight Clear** Traditional

**Away in a Manger** W.J. Kirkpatrick

**Cornish Wassail** Traditional (England)

**Christmas Time Is Here** Guaraldi & Mendelson (1966)

Latin and Middle English translations: Shirley Carnahan

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS . . .

**John Bullock** has worked as an electrical engineer, a silicon chemist, and programmer. He has performed with the BRC since 2003. He has sung with the Colorado Symphony Chorus and Denver's One World singers. He lives in Denver and enjoys parenting and backyard agriculture. His work with the BRC is only possible with the gracious support of wife Karla and children George and Elizabeth.

**Shirley Carnahan** is retired from her beloved long-time profession as associate chair of and professor and advisor in the Humanities Department at CU. To fill the time she now thinks she has, she has joined the advisory boards of the Artist Series and Stories on Stage. She has rediscovered her love of word puzzles, especially if puns or Shakespearean references are involved. She has also found more time for reading and travel (Switzerland and Italy are next) and Zumba.

**Annabella Cox** has recently relocated to Boulder to pursue a master's degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy. Having come from Richmond, VA, she has performed with the Virginia Repertory Theater and VCU Opera and more recently enjoys singing in CU's Eklund opera program and their OTS outreach group. She currently works teaching toddler music classes and voice lessons in Boulder and Denver, and for fun, she enjoys hiking, climbing, and watching reruns of Glee. Bella is so excited to be able to join the BRC for this concert cycle!

**Melody English** is enjoying semi-retirement with the occasional job as a tax preparer and computer consultant for friends. This new laid-back lifestyle has allowed her time to recover from her UK trip, plan her next trip (Africa), research her genealogy, play with her camera toys, and watch her herb garden grow. She is the BRC's double reed expert and the only member who dares tackle the shawm. Melody lives in Boulder and likes to walk, hike, and take pictures.

**Josh McGirk** is enjoying his 16<sup>th</sup> year as a tenor and recorder player with the BRC and has amassed quite a collection of instruments over the years. He lives in southeast Denver with his patient husband Russell, three cats, and a husky. Outside of his love for Medieval and Renaissance music, he works as a massage and yoga therapist and anatomist.

**Anne Fjestad Peterson** lives in Boulder with her husband Stan and Lacey the long-haired Lab. Anne teaches recorder and works with Stan to manage their rental properties. At Grace Lutheran she is on the council, sings in the choir, and subs as organist and choir director. She likes to cook and bake and works off the effects by walking, swimming, and biking. She and Stan have ridden their tandem bicycle in 13 foreign countries and 3,169 miles from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border.

The **Boulder Renaissance Consort**, formed in 1980 and Colorado's longest-established early music ensemble, specializes in performing music from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. We have performed on stage with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, for Renaissance fairs in Colorado and Wyoming, at the YMCA of the Rockies and the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, at the Colorado Governor's Mansion and the Denver Art Museum, at the medieval drama festival in Toronto, for the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, for the American Orff-Schulwerk national conference in Seattle, on the Montgomery College (Texas) Chamber Music Series, on the King of Glory Lutheran Church concert series in Cheyenne, with the Metropolitan State College Theater Department, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Singers in Denver, with Ridgeview Classical School's madrigal choir in Fort Collins, and for the Bolder Boulder 10K race. We have produced two CDs: *From Cathedral to Castle* and *A Rose in Winter*.

The group is available to play for banquets, weddings, receptions, or any festive occasion. For more information, call 303-442-4144 or 303-521-6875, or go to our website: [boulderrenaissanceconsort.org](http://boulderrenaissanceconsort.org).