

## PERFORMERS

Nature, nurture and some old fashioned good luck combined to create this musically talented family, so appropriate for the season when family means so much (even in a pandemic). You are quite familiar with Alex and Mary, as they have been soloists with Master Chorale since we first began. New to you, though, are their daughter Emily and her husband, Lloyd. They met as students at the University of Kentucky, married this summer and are now living in Atlanta, Georgia where they are starting out on careers in the music and entertainment worlds.



## THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

### PLATINUM

Russell Scott, Jr.

### SILVER (\$1,000 & ABOVE)

James Barnes

George Spragens, Jr.

IN MEMORIAM: Gene &  
Nadine Spragens

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Stephanie & Jonathan Smith

Shiela Steinman Wallace

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Barbara & Steven Ellis

Beverly Glascock & Frank Mellen

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Gwen & Greg Rogers

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Claude Wise

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### CONTRIBUTORS (\$25 & ABOVE)

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LOUISVILLE  
masterchorale

# REDDEN FAMILY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

**BREAK FORTH O BEAUTEOUS HEAVENLY LIGHT**

*BACH*

**SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS**

*TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL, ARR. PRENTICE*

**WEXFORD CAROL**

*TRADITIONAL IRISH CAROL, ARR. HAGENBERG*

**A BABE IS BORN**

*MATHIAS*

**THERE IS NO ROSE**

*JOUBERT*

**RESONET IN LAUDIBUS**

*PRAETORIUS, ARR. SIEVING*

**THE CHRISTMAS SONG**

*TORME', ARR. RUTHERFORD*

Performers:

Emily Redden White, *Soprano*

Lloyd White, *Tenor*

Mary Wilson Redden, *Alto*

Alexander Redden, *Bass*

Mark Walker, *Piano*



The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, provides operating support to Louisville Master Chorale with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



All venues are wheelchair accessible. Large print programs available at door.

Unauthorized photographs, video, or other recordings of this concert are strictly forbidden.

Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

View the Performance at:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7599549>

Password: !Amadeus!

## TEXT

### BREAK FORTH O BEAUTEOUS HEAV'NLY LIGHT

Break forth o beauteous heav'nly light  
And usher in the morning  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
But hear the angel's warning.  
This child, now weak in infancy,  
Our confidence and joy shall be,  
The pow'r of Satan breaking,  
Our peace eternal making.

### SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS

Sing we now of Christmas, Sing we all noel.  
Sing our thankful praises, Let our voices swell.

**Chorus:** Sing we noel. The Babe is born, noel.  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all noel.

Shepherds in the fields watched over their flocks by night.  
Angels in the heavens made a glorious sight.

#### Chorus

Wise men from the east did travel from afar,  
To the lowly manger guided by a star.

#### Chorus

Sing we now of Christmas, noel sing we here.  
Raise our joyful voices. Come sing loud and clear.

#### Chorus

Sing we noel!

### WEXFORD CAROL

Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well and bear in mind,  
What our good God for us has done,  
In sending his beloved Son.  
With Mary holy, we should pray  
To God with love this Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn,  
There was a blessed Messiah born

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep  
To whom God's angels did appear,  
Which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said,  
"To Bethlehem. Be not afraid."  
For there you'll find this happy morn  
A princely babe sweet Jesus born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,  
The shepherds went the Babe to find,  
And as God's angels had foretold,  
They did our Savior Christ behold.  
Within a manger He was laid,  
And by His side the virgin maid  
Attending on the Lord of Life  
Who came to earth to end all strife.

With Mary holy, we should pray  
To God with love this Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn,  
There was a blessed Messiah born

### A BABE IS BORN

A babe is born all of a may,  
To bring salvation unto us.  
To him we sing both night and day.  
Veni Creator Spiritus (Come Creator spirit)

At Bethlehem, that blessed place,  
The child of bliss now born he was;  
And him to serve God give us grace,  
O lux beata Trinitas (O light of the blessed Trinity)

There came three kings out of the East,  
To worship the King that is so free,  
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,  
A solis ortus cardine (From the rising of the sun)

The angels came down with one cry  
A fair song that night sung they in worship of that child:  
Gloria tibi Domine (Glory to you O Lord)

A babe is born all of a may  
To bring salvation unto us  
To him we sing both night and day.  
Noel!

### THERE IS NO ROSE OF SUCH VIRTUE

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu.  
Alleluia.  
For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space.  
Resmiranda.  
By that rose we may well see there be one God in Persons Three.  
Pares forma.  
Then leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this  
joyous birth.  
Transeamus.

### RESONET IN LAUDIBUS

Resonet in Laudibus  
Cum jucundis plausibus  
Sion cum fidelibus  
Apparuit quem genuit Maria.  
Christus natus hodie  
Ex Maria Virgine  
Sine virile semine  
Apparuit quem genuit Maria.  
Eia! Eia!

Today is born Emmanuel  
He comes to dwell in Israel  
Gabriel to Mary came that Name to tell.  
Eia! Eia!

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In the manger sleeps the infant Savior.  
Today is born Emmanuel, Emmanuel in Israel:  
Mary's Babe, the Savior, our Emmanuel.  
Eia! Eia!

(Translation)

*Let praises resound,  
With joyous acclaim,  
Sion and their faithful.  
He appeared, He appeared,  
Who was born of Mary.*

*It has been fulfilled what Gabriel foretold.  
Eia, Eia, a Virgin bore God,  
Which the divine mercy willed.  
Today He has appeared in Israel:  
From the Virgin Mary is born a King.*

### THE CHRISTMAS SONG

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire.

Jack Frost nipping at your nose.

Yuletide carols being sung by a choir and folks dressed  
up like Eskimos

Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe help to  
make the season bright.

Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow will find it hard to sleep  
tonight.

They know that Santa's on his way.

He's loaded lots of toys and goodies on his sleigh.

And every mother's child is gonna spy to see if reindeer  
really know how to fly!

So now I'm offering this simple phrase to kids from one  
to ninety-two.

Although it's been said many times many ways,

Merry Christmas to you!

## PROGRAM NOTES

When we think of "carols" we think of "Christmas carols" though the word began as the name of not just singing but dancing to celebrate an important moment in the year. The Redden family will sing four carols which come to us from as least as early as the 15th century. They will also sing a polyphonic work from the early German renaissance, a Bach chorale from his Christmas Oratorio, and what has come to be one of the most familiar and beloved of Christmas songs.

In the second part of Bach's great Christmas Oratorio, the evangelist sings the familiar words from the gospel of Luke: "And there were in the same country shepherds . . . / And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them . . ." Then, before the angel speaks, the choir sings a chorale: "Break forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light," and we get to experience the glory of the Lord in Bach's music.

The tune that Fred Prentice (1923 – 1994) has arranged, "Sing We Now of Christmas," is a medieval French carol tune, *Noël Nouvelet*. According to Hymnary.org it appears in at least 85 different hymnals, but not always as a Christmas carol. For example, in the 1982 revision of the Episcopal hymnal it is an Easter carol (204: "Now the green blade riseth.").

The Wexford Carol was largely unknown until it was sent to the editors of *The Oxford Book of Carols* by Dr. Gratian Flood. It was published in the first printing of that book (1928). Dr. Flood had taken down the tune and the words from "a traditional singer in County Wexford" and preserved for us a true example of a beautiful folk carol.

The words of "A Babe is born all of a ma[jd]," a 15th century carol, are set by the 20th century Welsh composer William Mathias (1934 – 1992). And it is a rich setting that echoes sonorities and surprising rhythms that we associate with the early renaissance.

The text of "There is no rose of such virtue" comes from the 15th century, preserved in a parchment scroll at Trinity College, Cambridge. John Joubert (1927 – 2019) gave the text a modern setting in 1954. It has become a very popular carol in the 20th and 21st centuries.

"Resonet in Laudibus" is a Latin text (perhaps a carol) that calls us to praise and rejoicing, set by Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621), an important early Renaissance German composer. Praetorius not only performed and wrote music but he also wrote two books that tell us a lot about music theory in the late 16th and early 17th centuries and about the families of instruments that musicians played during that time.

Mel Tormé tells that in a very hot July, 1945, he visited the home of his friend and lyricist Bob Wells and found, on Wells's piano, a pad with four lines of verse on it. Wells explained that he was just trying to cool off. Tormé decided to cool off too, and so was born the American Standard that we all know and love.

*Program Notes by Millard Dunn*