

THE SEMINARY CHORUS



OUR LIGHT HAS COME!

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Auditorium

December 11, 2011

Welcome to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary



A sentence often included in publicity materials about the Seminary Chorus may seem both obvious and insignificant: "Membership in the chorus is open to all students."

Obvious? Not really. Our students understand from their own high school and college experience that participation in a school's primary choir is by audition. Positions in the choir are available, and students who desire those positions must try out for them. Some people are not selected. There are no auditions for the Seminary Chorus. The director announces the first rehearsal of the year, and the men who appear at the first rehearsal become the chorus.

Insignificant? Not at all. Many of the men who sing in the chorus each year have been involved with choirs since they were boys. They were leaders in their high school choirs and sang in the College Choir at Martin Luther College. They've sung solos, chaired voice sections, participated in choral competitions, prepared for hundreds of concerts, and traveled all over the country. They read music and know vocal techniques; some have had voice lessons.

But joining that core group of singers each year are men who haven't sung in choirs in high school and college. Some were involved in sports or theater and couldn't fit choral activities into their schedules. Some held down jobs and some supported a family. Some were simply not interested in choirs. Their singing experience comes from church and chapel services where they sang with a congregation, and where no one ever asked them to sing softly or in pitch or rhythm. A few arrive at the first rehearsal of the year not quite sure if they should sit with the basses or the tenors.

"Membership in the chorus is open to all students." That policy is very significant. It impacts the music the chorus can sing successfully. It dictates a standing arrangement that places experienced singers near inexperienced singers. Often it requires rehearsal time to learn simply how to sing. And sometimes it results in sounds that aren't so harmonious!

No one expects the policy to change anytime soon. For 80 years men with a wide range of musical talent and choral experience have presented the Christmas gospel as members of the Seminary Chorus. The best singers take the lead and the weak singers gladly follow. Some singers teach and some singers learn. Some singers soar and some singers struggle. But in the end these singers form a single ensemble and join their voices in praise of the incarnate Christ.

James P. Tiefel

Director of the Seminary Chorus since 1985, Prof. Tiefel teaches classes in preaching and worship and administers worship life on the seminary campus. He is a member of the WELS Commission on Worship and serves as pulpit assistant and director of music at Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee.

OUR LIGHT HAS COME!

*Crying children may be quieted in the auditorium lobby.
Please silence cell phones and electronic devices.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Stand and sing.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
2 For Christ is born of Mar - - y, And,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -

still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And

dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
No ear may hear his com - ing, But
We hear the Christ - mas an - - gels The

ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -
great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -

all the years Are met in thee to - night.
God the King And peace to all the earth.
ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Be seated.

*Words by Phillips Brooks
FOREST GREEN, English melody*

PART I

ARISE, SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

Refrain

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land;
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,
and his glory will appear upon you.

Refrain

Nations will stream to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
by day or night they will never be shut.

Refrain

They will call you the City of the Lord,
the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

Violence will no more be heard in your land,
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation,
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day;
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

Refrain

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

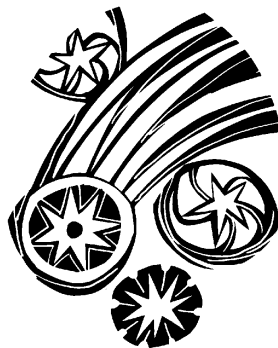
How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and homes
To whom this King comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heavens employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sovereign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come, and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

*Words by Georg Wessel
MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, Johann Freytingshausen
Setting by Jonathan Kohrs, 2009*



HOW LOVELY SHINES THE MORNING STAR

The Chorus sings stanzas 2 and 4. Stand for the final stanza.

1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see and
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, True Son of God and
 3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son You loved me ere you
 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend, Are Lord, be - gin - ning
 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of

hail a - far The light in Ju - dah shin - ing,
 Mar - y's Son, The high - born King of a - ges!
 had be - gun This an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
 with - out end, The first and last, e - ter - nal!
 mu - sic ring In God's high prais - es blend - ed.

O Da - vid's Son of Ja - cob's race, My Bride - groom
 In your blest bod - y let me be, E'en as the
 Your Son has made a friend of me, And when in
 And you at length — O glo - rious grace — Will take me
 Christ will be with me all the way, To - day, to -

and my King of grace, For you my heart is pin - ing.
 branch is in the tree, Your life my life sup - ply - ing.
 spir - it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
 to that ho - ly place, The home of joys su - per - nal.
 mor - row, ev - 'ry day Till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.

Low - ly, Ho - ly, Great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
 Sigh - ing, Cry - ing For the sa - vor Of your fa - vor
 What bliss Is this! He is liv - ing, To me giv - ing
 A - men, A - men! Come and meet me, Quick - ly greet me!
 Sing out, Ring out Tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious

Prince of gra - ces, Fill - ing all the heav'n - ly pla - ces.
 Rest - ing nev - er Till I rest in you for - ev - er.
 Life for - ev - er; Noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
 With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
 Chos - en na - tion; Praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Be seated.

Words by Philipp Nicolai
 WIE SHÖNE LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
 Setting by Charles Ore, 1996

John Fenske, solo trumpet

INTERLUDE

Three Chorale Preludes on *In Dulci Jubilo*

Dietrich Buxtehude (BuxWV 197)

Marcel Dupré (Op. 28)

Johann Sebastian Bach (BWV 729)

Jacob Behnken, organist

PART II

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p><i>All</i></p> <p>1. Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.</p> <p><i>Women</i></p> <p>3. This is he whom heaven taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.</p> | <p><i>Chorus</i></p> <p>2. Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.</p> <p><i>Chorus</i></p> <p>4. Let the heights of heaven adore him,
Angel hosts his praises sing,
Powers, dominions bow before him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.</p> <p><i>All</i></p> <p>5. Christ, to you, with God the Father,
And the Spirit ceaselessly
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.</p> |
|---|--|

*Words by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, 13th century
Setting by Thomas Gieschen, 1986
Setting of stanza 2 by John Behnke, 1991*

JOYFUL CAROL

Hear the joyful carol on this Christmas Day!
Heaven and earth are singing,
This is what they say:
Alleluia, Alleluia, praises bring,
Christ has come to earth and He is King!
Noel, Noel, we celebrate His birth,
Noel, Noel, for He has come to earth!
Hear the wondrous story,
Hear the joyful song!
Christ has come to earth, awaited long!

All the earth is singing on this Christmas Day!
All their praises bringing,
Hear the joyful lay!
Alleluia, Alleluia, praises bring,
Christ has come to earth and He is King!
Noel, Noel, we celebrate His birth,
Noel, Noel, for He has come to earth!
Hear the wondrous story,
Hear the joyful song!
Christ has come to earth, awaited long!

Let us all adore Him on this Christmas Day!
Evermore rejoicing,
Evermore to say:
Alleluia, Alleluia, praises bring,
Christ has come to earth and He is King!
Noel, Noel, we celebrate His birth,
Noel, Noel, for He has come to earth!
Hear the wondrous story,
Hear the joyful song!
Christ has come to earth, His praise prolong!
Christ has come to earth, Alleluia!

Words and music by Frances Williams, 1970

NIGHT OF SILENCE

Cold are the people, winter of life,
We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping
Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth,
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night,
On wind you enfold us, you speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls,
Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star,
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely,
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

*Words and music by Daniel Kantor
Arranged by John Ferguson, 1984*

BREAK FORTH, O BEAUTEOUS, HEAVENLY LIGHT

Break forth, O beauteous, heavenly light,
And usher in the morning,
Ye shepherds shrink not with affright,
But hear the angels' warning.
This Child, now weak in infancy,
Our confidence and joy shall be,
The power of Satan breaking,
Our peace eternal making.

All blessing, thanks, and praise to thee,
Lord Jesus Christ, be given;
Thou hast our brother deigned to be,
And gained our place in heaven.
Oh, grant us through our day of grace
With constant joy to seek thy face;
Grant us, when in thy glory,
To laud thee and adore thee.

*Words by Johann Rist
Setting by Johann Sebastian Bach*

BRINGER OF LIGHT

People of God, wake from your sleep;
The eastern horizon grows bright.
Shake off your dreams, for he who redeems
Is coming, the Bringer of light.

Refrain

Bringer of light, shadows recoil;
Darkness before you takes flight.
Sun of justice, radiant dawn,
Jesus, the Bringer of light.

People of God, sin will be gone;
Death will no longer cause fright.
Faith will survive, hope is alive;
For Love is the Bringer of light.

Refrain

People of God, look to the skies:
Vanished are traces of night.
Come and sing praise, warmed by the rays,
Rays of the Bringer of light.

Refrain

People of God, gather as one,
Sharing your joy and delight.
Darkness is done, born is God's Son;
Welcome the Bringer of light!

Refrain

Words and music by Kathy Powell

JOY HAS DAWNED

The Chorus sings stanza 1. Join the Chorus on stanzas 2 and 3.

1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, Prom-ised from cre-
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky With the songs of
3 Son of A - dam, Son of heav'n, Giv - en as a

a - tion: God's sal - va - tion now un - furled,
an - gels, As the might - y Prince of Life
ran - som; Re - con - cil - ing God and man —

Hope for ev - 'ry na - tion. Not with fan - fares
Shel - ters in a sta - ble. Hands that set each
Christ our might - y Champ-ion! What a Sav - ior,

from a - bove, Not with scenes of glo - ry, But a
star in place, Shaped the earth in dark - ness, Cling now
what a Friend, What a glo - rious mys - t'ry: Once a

hum-ble gift of love: Je - sus, born of Mar - y.
to a moth - er's breast, Vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
babe in Beth - le - hem, Now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2006

OFFERING

The generous offerings at the annual Christmas concerts assist the Chorus in its travels to congregations across the United States and Canada. The 2012 Easter tour will take the Chorus to congregations in the WELS North Atlantic District. We thank you.

INTERLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo
Donald Busarow

Philip Moldenhauer, organist
Nathan Loersch, violin
Jacob Haag, oboe

PART III

ONCE HE CAME IN BLESSING

Once he came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.

Thus, if we have known him,
Not ashamed to own him,
Nor have spurned him coldly,
But will trust him boldly,
He will then receive us,
Heal us, and forgive us.

Still he comes within us;
Still his voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us;
Would to truth convert us
From our foolish errors
Ere he comes in terrors.

Those who then are loyal
Find a welcome royal.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us;
Let us here confess you.
Till in heaven we bless you.

*Words by Johann Horn
GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN, Bohemian hymn
Setting by Mark Sedio, 1993*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

*Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by John W. Work, 1946*

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

*Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Howard Helvey, 2004*

Stand.

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, you made Christmas to shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

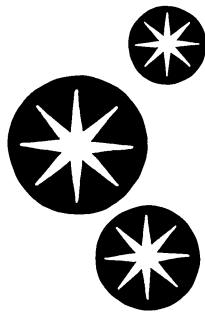
C: **Amen.** *(spoken)*

BLESSING

M: May he, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.** *(spoken)*

Remain standing for the hymn.



RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un -
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to

en - tered Our hu - man sto - ry; God in
 reel - ing; He brings us free - dom, light and
 furl - ing; Your songs and prayers a - gainst the
 save us. Tell of the Son, who life and

him is cen - tered. He comes to us, by death
 life and heal - ing. All men and wom - en, who
 dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the world go out
 free - dom gave us. Tell how the Spir - it calls

and sin sur - round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
 by guilt are driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
 and tell the sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 from ev - 'ry na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Be seated.

Words by Ronald A. Klug
 WOJTKIEWIECZ by Dale Wood
 Setting by Michael Burkhardt, 2006

ECHO

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude from *The Christmas Oratorio*
 Johann Sebastian Bach (BWV 248)

The Chorus is pleased to offer *Christmas at the Seminary*, a CD containing hymns and anthems presented at Christmas concerts from 1994 to 2009. This and other recordings recently produced by the Chorus are available for sale at \$12.00.

CONCERT PARTICIPANTS

Accompanists

Jacob Behnken, Aaron Jensen, Ryan Kolander,
Nathan Loersch, and Philip Moldenhauer

Instrumentalists

Nathan Loersch and Tyler Shinnick
Trumpet

Nathanael Brenner and Aaron Jensen
Trombone

Ryan Kolander
Baritone

Nathan Loersch
Violin

Jacob Haag
Oboe

Derek Bartelt, Zach Gebert, and Tyler Shinnick
Guitar

Timothy Rosenow and Titus Buelow
Percussion

The Chorus thanks John Fenske of Johnson Creek, Wisconsin, for playing the solo trumpet part on How Lovely Shines the Morning Star.

The Chorus thanks members of the seminary staff for all they do to make the annual Christmas concert an enjoyable and faith-building ministry.

Acknowledgements

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THE SEMINARY CHORUS

Tenor I

Derek Bartelt Jackson, WI
Jacob Behnken Brookings, SD
Tim Matthies Lake Mills, WI
Philip Moldenhauer New Ulm, MN
Dan Naumann Benton Harbor, MI
Timothy Rosenow Manitowoc, WI
Peter Zaferos Watertown, WI

Tenor II

Kevin Boushek Citrus Heights, CA
Titus Buelow Carthage, MO
Jason Enderle Clear Lake, SD
Zach Gebert Georgetown, TX
Ryan Kolander Brookfield, WI
Nathan Loersch Watertown, WI
Benjamin Reichel Mitchell, SD
Troy Schreiner Hemlock, MI
Jeff Sonntag Milwaukee, WI
Jeremy Wosje Champlin, MN

Bass I

John Fields Bradenton, FL
Patrick Freese Hubertus, WI
Jacob Haag Fond du Lac, WI
Ryan Halter Hastings, MN
Aaron Jensen Ixonia, WI
Billy King Saint Paul, MN
Dan Laitinen New Ulm, MN
Nathan Moldenhauer Manitowoc, WI
John Raasch Sioux Falls, SD
Jim Roecker Saginaw, MI
Matt Rothe New Berlin, WI
Karl Schauland Lewiston, MN
Joshua Schultz Antioch, IL
Benjamin Workentine Mequon, WI
Brian Wrobel Holmen, WI

Bass II

Nate Brenner Mequon, WI
Evan Chartrand Manassas, VA
Thadeus Flitter Groton, SD
Seth Georgson Watertown, WI
Paul Krueger Midland, MI
Tyler Shinnick Appleton, WI
David Starr Bay City, MI
Benjamin Steenbock Casa Grande, AZ
Nathaniel Walther Watertown, WI
Jason Williams Milwaukee, WI
Ben Zuberbier Fond du Lac, WI

Daniel Naumann

President of the Chorus

Zach Gebert

Vice President of the Chorus



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