Our 36th Season 2021–2022

Made Merry
Christmas with Ars Nova Singers

Program

Variations on “Low How a Rose E’er Blooming,” op. 10
Chorale after an old French Carol
In the Bleak Mid-Winter (from A Boy Was Born, op. 3)
I Wonder as I Wander
Magnificat (1982)
The Three Kings (2000)
Ave Maria

Carols Old and New
El Rorro (The Babe)
What is this Lovely Fragrance?
Peace on Earth
What Child is This?
The Angel Gabriel
What Sweeter Music

Hugo Distler
Benjamin Britten
Benjamin Britten
John Jacob Niles, arr. Kim Robertson
Giles Swayne
Jonathan Dove
Franz Biebl

Mexican carol, arr. Jeffrey Van
arr. Healey Willan
Steven Sametz
Traditional, arr. Thomas Edward Morgan
David Carney
Michael Fink

Kathryn Harms, harp
Thomas Edward Morgan, Artistic Director and Conductor
Brian Dukeshier, Assistant Conductor
Dan Wessler, Conductor (Biebl, Ave Maria)

Tonight’s program will be presented without an intermission.

Soprano
Mo Bailey
Lauren Black
Evanne Browne
Elizabeth Foreman
Rose Fuller
Jessica Harbeson
Jan Osburn
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Chris Wolfrom

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John Adams
James Boyd
John Butterfield
Brian du Fresne
Ryan Hardman
Max McKee
Paul Munsch
Eric Pahlke
Dan Wessler
Don Wilson
Steve Winograd
Joshua Young

Kimberly Brody, Executive Director
www.arsnovasingers.org
American harpist Kathryn Harms is a versatile performer and innovative teacher based in Boulder. From state fair performances to international solo recitals, she is passionate about increasing the exposure, appreciation, and demand for harp in today’s music scenes. In recent seasons, Kathryn performed as acting principal harpist with the New Mexico Philharmonic, and she regularly appears as principal harpist with various ensembles including the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Opera Southwest, and the San Juan Symphony. She is a substitute for the New World Symphony, principal harpist of the Colorado MahlerFest Orchestra, and a frequent guest artist with ensembles such as the Ars Nova Singers.

An avid promoter of new music, Kathryn regularly collaborates with composers to encourage quality and inventive composition for the harp. She was selected to perform at the 2019 American Harp Society National Institute in Winston-Salem, NC, at a new music concert titled, “Collaboration, The Heart of Innovation,” and she was also an invited soloist at the Society of Composers, Inc. 2018 National Convention in Tacoma, WA. In 2015, she was a recipient of an American Harp Society, Inc. grant to commission a chamber piece for harp and string quartet that integrates the harpist as a true chamber musician: *I ran out of black paint and sunshine* by Kurt M. Mehlenbacher, premiered on the CU Pendulum New Music Concert Series.

Kathryn received her Master of Music degree from the University of Colorado Boulder as a student of Janet Harriman, and she received her Bachelor of Music degree from Ball State University as a student of Elizabeth Richter. For more information about Kathryn Harms, visit www.KathrynHarms.com.

Program Texts

**Hugo Distler, Variations on “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” op. 10**

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came a Floweret bright amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah ’twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
Through God’s holy and eternal will, she bore to men a Savior, at midnight calm and still.

This Flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God! From sin and death He saves us, and lightens every load.

*And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*
At once the shepherds answered and hastened on their way.
They found the lovely Christ-child, with Mary, meek and mild.
On high the angels sang their praise to God the Father, upon His heav’nly throne.

All thanks to God the Father, to God the Holy Ghost,
Who by a human mother made His dear Son our host.
We pray by that sweet Progeny, deliver us from evil, from sinning set us free.

Now sing we all, “so be it! Amen, so shall it be.”
Our hopes, bound in one Spirit, all find their end in Thee.
O Jesus, grant our prayer, to praise Thee in thy glory, and in Thy glory share.

Thank you for being with us for this performance. We appreciate your support of the arts in our community. To support Ars Nova with a direct contribution, please click here or scan this code to go to our donation page.
Though written by Thy children with
A smudged and crooked line,
The Word is ever legible,
Thy Meaning unequivocal,
And for Thy Goodness even sin
Is valid as a sign.

Inflict Thy promises with each
Occasion of distress,
That from our incoherence we
May learn to put our trust in Thee,
And brutal fact persuade us to
Adventure, Art, and Peace.
– W. H. Auden

Benjamin Britten, Chorale after an Old French Carol

Our Father, whose creative Will
Asked Being for us all,
Confirm it that Thy Primal Love
May weave in us the freedom of
The actually deficient on
The justly actual.

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like as stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

He bare him up, he bare him down, he bare him into an orchard brown.
Lully, lullay, lully, lullay! The falcon hath borne my make* away.

In that orchard there was an hall that was hangëd with purple and pall;
And in that hall there was a bed: it was hanged with gold so red.
Lully, lullay, lully, lullay! The falcon has borne my make away.

And in that bed there lies a knight, his woundës bleeding, day and night;
By that bedside kneeleth a may*, and she weepeth both night and day.

And by that bedside standeth a stone, Corpus Christi written thereon.

Benjamin Britten, In the Bleak Mid-Winter (from A Boy Was Born, op. 3)

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Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like as stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
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Long ago.

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And by that bedside standeth a stone, Corpus Christi written thereon.

Giles Swayne, Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum;
Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magnam eandem potens est, et sanctum nomen ejus,
Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;
Dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.
Deposuit potentes de sede,
Et exaltavit humiles.
Esurientes implevit bonis,
Et divites dimisit inanes.
Suscepit Israel, puerum suum,
recordat misericordiae suae,
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper:
Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden:
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
And hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
For he hath remembered his mercy,
As he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and always:
Forever and ever. Amen.

Jonathan Dove, The Three Kings

O balow, balow la lay, O balow, balow la lay,
The first king was very young, with doleful ballads on his tongue.
He came bearing a branch of myrrh than which no gall is bitterer, gifts for a baby King, O.

O balow, balow la lay,
The second king was a man in prime, the solemn priest of a solemn time,
With eyes downcast and rev’rent feet he brought his incense sad and sweet, gifts for a baby King, O.

O balow, balow la lay,
The third king was very old, both his hands were full of gold.
Many a gaud and a glittering toy, baubles brave for a baby boy.

O balow, balow la lay, O balow, balow la lay, gifts for a baby King, O.
– Dorothy L. Sayers
Franz Biebl, Ave Maria

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.
Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus.
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Mary said: Behold the handmaiden of the Lord.
Do to me according to your word.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us
Now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our selection of carols will be sung in English; the texts are traditional with the exception of the following:

Steven Sametz, Peace on Earth

Two deer cross a field in stillness of winter,
Oh, do they run towards the embrace of the wood, away from the hunter, or simply free?
At this endtime we rush to tomorrow, away from yesterday,
And pause, on this day, to listen for the timeless. – E. Granger-Happ

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Pledged to Date: $198,552 (99%)
As of December 1, 2021

Two deer cross a field in stillness of winter,
Oh, do they run towards the embrace of the wood, away from the hunter, or simply free?
At this endtime we rush to tomorrow, away from yesterday,
And pause, on this day, to listen for the timeless. – E. Granger-Happ
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ARS NOVA SINGERS RETURNS TO THE CONCERT HALL TO LAUNCH 2022 with a program that honors the uncertainty of our shared experiences and the trust we place in one another. We open with sinuous works by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail, riffing on the seemingly unordered yet hauntingly beautiful sounds of traditional Hindustani raga. 

Raga (or Raag), melodic frameworks in traditional Indian classical music which offer endless improvisation, rely on trust—between musician, listener, and space. They are a framework, not a mandate, much like the quivering faith of Fauré’s beloved Requiem. Special Guests: Matthew Dane, viola and Christina Jennings, flute.

SAT • JAN 29 • 7:30pm – First United Methodist Church, Boulder
SUN • JAN 30 • 4pm – St. Paul Community of Faith, Denver
This performance will be livestreamed.

Made Perfect  Music of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
October 15-16, 2021

Made Merry  Ars Nova Singers Holiday Concerts
December 10-17, 2021

Made Fragile  Fauré’s Requiem and Music of Reena Esmail
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Made Light
March 24 – April 2, 2022

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June 3-4, 2022

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Made Fragile  Fauré’s Requiem and Music of Reena Esmail

Made Perfect  Music of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

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