

The Swarthmore College Department of Music Presents

Critical Mass Vocal Ensemble
Prof. James Blasina, Director

Saturday, December 7th, 2024 | 3:00 PM | Lang Concert Hall

As a courtesy to the performers and other listeners, please silence
all electronic devices.

The program will proceed without intermission

Sing Joyfully	William Byrd (1540-1623)
Drop, Drop, Slow Tears	Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625), music Finneas Fletcher (1582-1650), text
Hodie Christus Natus Est	Antiphon for Christmas Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 - 1594)
O Magnum Mysterium	Matins responsory for Christmas Tomàs Luis de Victoria (1548 - 1611)
The Silver Swan	Orlando Gibbons (ca 1583-1625)
El Grillo È Buon Cantore	Josquin Desprez (ca 1450 - 1521)
Barekhu (ברכו)	Salamone Rossi (1570-1630)
Mizmor letoda (Psalm 100; מִזְמוֹר לְתוֹדָה)	Salamone Rossi



Scan the QR Code for full program notes

Members of Critical Mass

Menah Alkhabaz '28
Greg Boatman '24
Maria Fan '25
Sibelan Forrester
Nicole Gonglewski '28
Samuel Moreland '26
Ashley Rehrig '26
Nora Rodes '25
Elijah Santos '26
Colette Speakman

We wish to extend our gratitude to all those who have supported Critical Mass and this performance, especially

Jenny Honig
Brian Bruce-Willis
Barbara Milewski
Andrew Hauze
Nathan Reiff
Gwynn Kessler
Colette Speakman
David Ornelas
Greg Boatman
Lang Concert Hall Staff

Texts and Translations

Sing Joyfully

William Byrd

Sing joyfully to God our strength; sing loud unto the God of Jacob!
Take the song, bring forth the timbrel, the pleasant harp, and the viol.
Blow the trumpet in the new moon, even in the time appointed, and at our feast day.
For this is a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.

Drop, Drop, Slow Tears

Text by Finneas Fletcher

Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beauteous feet
Which brought from heaven
The news and prince of peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercy to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye
See sin, but through my tears.

Hodie Christus Natus Est

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
lætantur Archangeli
Hodie exsultant justī, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia.

Today Christ is born:
Today the Savior appeared:
Today on Earth the Angels sing,
Archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia.

O Magnum Mysterium

Tomàs Luis de Victoria

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
jacentem in praeseptio.
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum.
Alleluia!

O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!
O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.
Alleluia!

The Silver Swan

Orlando Gibbons

The silver swan who, living, had no note,
When death approached, unlocked her silent throat.
Leaning her breast against the reedy shore,
Thus sung her first and last, And sung no more:
“Farewell all joys, O death come close mine eyes.
More geese than swans now live, more fools than wise.”

El Grillo È Bon Cantore

Josquin Desprez

El grillo è bon cantore
Che tiene longo verso.
Dale beve grillo canta.
Ma non fa como gli altri ocelli
Come li han cantato un poco,
Van de fatto in altro loco
Sempre el grillo sta pur saldo,
Quando la maggior el caldo
Alhor canta sol per amore.

The cricket is a good singer
Who can hold long notes
After drinking, the cricket sings
But he doesn't act like other birds:
Once they've sung a little bit
They go elsewhere
The cricket instead stays where he is.
When it's very hot,
He sings only for the love of it.

Barekhu (ברכו)***Salamone Rossi**

Bless the Lord who is to be praised

*Barekhu et Adonai
hame'vorach*

בָּרְכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְבָרֵךְ

Praised be the Lord who is blessed for
all eternity

*Barukh Adonai hame'vorach
l'olam va'ed*

בָּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד

Mizmor letoda (מִזְמוֹר לְתוֹדָה)***Salamone Rossi**

A psalm of thanksgiving

Mizmòr letodà

מִזְמוֹר לְתוֹדָה

Shout unto the Lord, all the earth.

Hari'u l'Adonai, kol ha'arets,

הֲרִיעוּ לַיהוָה כָּל־הָאָרֶץ

Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before his presence with singing.

'Ivdu 'et 'Adonai Besimhà.
Bòu lefanav birnanà

עֲבֹדוּ אֶת־יְהוָה בְּשִׂמְחָה
בָּאוּ לִפְנֵי בְרִנָּה

Know ye that the Lord he is God
It is he that hath made us, and we are
his, his people, and the flock of his
pasture

De'ù ki 'Adonai hu 'Elohim,
Hu'asànu, velo 'anahnu,
'Ammò vetsòn mar'ito.

דָּעוּ כִּי־יְהוָה הוּא אֱלֹהִים
הוּא־עָשָׂנוּ וְלֹא [וְלוֹ] אֲנַחְנוּ
עָמּוֹ וְצֹאן מִרְעִיתוֹ

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving
and into his courts with praise; give
thanks unto him, and bless his name.

Bò'u she'aràv betodà,
Hatserotàv bithillà
Hodu lo barekhu shemò

בָּאוּ שְׁעָרָיו בְּתוֹדָה
חֲצֵרָתָיו בְּתִהִלָּה
הוֹדוּ־לוֹ בְּרִכּוֹ שְׁמוֹ

For the Lord is good; his mercy
endureth forever; and his faithfulness
unto all generations

Ki tov 'Adonai,
Le' olàm hasdò
Ve'ad dor va dor
emunato

כִּי־טוֹב יְהוָה
לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד
וְעַד־דּוֹר וָדּוֹר אֱמוּנָתוֹ

*Transliterations and translations from Salamon Rossi, *Hashirim Asher Lish'Lomo (The Songs of Solomon): Thirty-Three Psalms, Songs and Hymns Set to Music for Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven and Eight Voices*, ed., Fritz Rikko (New York: Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1967-1973).

