



1685-1750

A devout Lutheran, Bach composed a great many sacred works as his duties required when in the employ of the church: well over two hundred *cantatas* (a new one was required of him every week), several *motets*, five masses, three oratorios, and settings of the Passion story. This **Christmas Oratorio** (German: *Weihnachts-Oratorium*) BWV 248, is an oratorio consisting of six cantatas intended to support masses on six separate feast days during the Christmas season of 1734 while he was Cantor and Music Director of St.Thomaskirche in Leipzig. Because one of Martin Luther's points of reform was to hold masses in the language of the people, Bach wrote all of them, including this one, in German. At the end of all of his sacred works, instead of his

name, he wrote *Soli deo gloria*, i.e., "to the Gloria of God." Following his example, the Estes Park Oratorio Society gives God the glory in today's performance. The beginning of the Christmas story as it is told here is the best way to usher in the season for the entire community.

A Christmas Oratorio: Parts I, II, and III by Johann Sebastian Bach:

Part I. The Birth

Part II. The Annunciation to the Shepherds

Part III. The Adoration of the Shepherds

The members of the Oratorio Society Chorus and Estes Park Chamber Orchestra dedicate this concert to the loving memory of Ted Snyder, Chairman of the OSEP Board of Directors from 2000 to 2005. He was a lead singer in the bass section from 2000 to 2010. He also sang with the Mountain Men, the Presbyterian Church of the Rockies Choir, and the Estes Valley Chamber Singers.

Ted went to Evanston High School where he became the Illinois state diving champion in 1956. He did his undergrad studies at Cornell University and graduated in 1961 with a BS in engineering. While at Cornell, he sang in the prestigious capella group, The Waiters. Ted was in the Marine Corps for seven years and then became a commercial pilot for Continental Airlines from 1969 -1984. He later worked as a technical engineer for eighteen years for Kodak, retiring in March 2008.



1939 - 2011

He is survived by three daughters, three grandchildren and at least one hundred fellow musicians in Estes Park who miss his rich voice, his ready smile, his willingness to help out wherever possible, and his many deep friendships.

Invitation

Anyone who loves to sing and can commit to attending rehearsals regularly on Sunday nights at 7:00 p.m. here at Mountain View Bible Fellowship (MVBF) beginning on January 8 is invited to join the Oratorio Chorus as it prepares for its spring program to be presented here at MVBF on April 20th and 21st. More string players are also needed. For further information, please call Lynette Johnson, OSEP Chair, at 970-586-2192.

A CHRISTMAS ORATORIO, Parts I, II, & III

by J.S. Bach

(1734)

Cantata I

For Christmas Day

1. Chorus (S, A, T, B)

Triumph, rejoicing, rise, praising these days now,
Tell ye what this day the Highest hath done!
Fear now abandon and banish complaining,
Join, filled with triumph and gladness, our song!
Serve ye the Highest in glorious chorus,
Let us the name of our ruler now honor!

2. Recit. (T) Evangelist: sung by Scott Anderson

It occurred, however, at the time that a decree from the Emperor Augustus went out that all the world should be enrolled. And everyone then went forth to be enrolled, each person unto his own city. And then as well went up Joseph from Galilee from the city of Nazareth into the land of Judea to David's city which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and of the lineage of David to be enrolled there with Mary, who was betrothed to be his wife, and she was pregnant. And while they were in that place, there came the time for her to be delivered.

3. Recit. (A): sung by Carol Blanchard

Now is my dearest bridegroom rare,
Now is the prince of David's stem
As earth's redeeming comfort
Here born in time amongst us.
Now will shine bright the star of Jacob,
Its beam e'en now breaks forth.
Rise, Zion, and abandon now thy weeping,
Thy fortune soars aloft.

4. Aria (A) sung by Carol Blanchard

Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection,
The fairest, the dearest soon midst thee to see!
Thy cheeks' beauty
Must today shine much more brightly,
Hasten, the bridegroom to love with deep passion.

5. Chorale (S, A, T, B)

How shall I then receive thee
And how thy presence find?
Desire of ev'ry nation,
O glory of my soul!
O Jesus, Jesus,
Set out for me thy torch,
That all that brings thee pleasure
By me be clearly known.

6. Recit. (T) Evangelist: sung by Scott Anderson

And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him within a manger, for they had no other room in the inn for them.

7. Chorale (S) and Recitative (B): sung by Jim Docter

He is to earth now come so poor,

Who will the love then rightly praise
Which this our Savior for us keeps?
That he us his mercy show
Yea, is there one who understandeth
How he by mankind's woe is moved?
And in heaven make us rich
The Most High's Son comes in the world
Whose health to him so dear is held,
And to his own dear angels like.
So will he as a man himself be born now.
Kyrieleis!

8. Aria (B): sung by Jim Docter
Mighty Lord, O strongest sovereign,
Dearest Savior, O how little
Heedest thou all earthly pomp!
He who all the world doth keep,
All its pomp and grace hath fashioned,
Must within the hard crib slumber.

9. Chorale (S, A, T, B)
Ah my beloved Jesus-child,
Make here thy bed, clean, soft and mild
For rest within my heart's own shrine,
That I no more fail to be thine!

Cantata II

For the Second Day of Christmas (St. Stephen)

1 (10). Sinfonia

2 (11). Recitative (T) Evangelist : sung by Scott Anderson

And there were shepherds in that very region in the field nearby their sheepfolds, who kept their watch by night over their flocks. And see now, the angel of the Lord came before them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

3 (12). Chorale (S, A, T, B)

Break forth, O beauteous morning light,
And bring day to the heavens!
Thou shepherd folk, be not afraid,
For thee the angel telleth
That this the helpless little boy
Shall be our comfort and our joy,
Here for to conquer Satan
And peace at last to bring us!

4 (13). Recit. (T, S) Evangelist, Angel

And the angel spake unto them:

(Angel)

Be not afraid, see now, I proclaim to you news of great gladness, which all the nations of the world will learn. For to you today is the Savior born, who is Christ, the Lord, in the city of David.

5 (14). Recit. (B): sung by Jim Docter

What God to Abraham did promise,

This hath he to the shepherd choir
Revealed and proven.

A shepherd all this once before
Of God to learn was destined;
And now as well a shepherd must
The deed of yore he promised us
Be first to see completed.

6 (15). Aria (T): sung by Scott Anderson
Joyful shepherds, haste, ah hasten,
Ere ye here too long should tarry,
Haste, the gracious child to visit!
Go, your gladness is too fair,
Seek his grace's inspiration,
Go and comfort heart and spirit.

7 (16). Recit. (T) Evangelist: sung by Scott Anderson
And let this be your sign: ye will discover the babe in swaddling clothes there
wrapped and in a manger lying.

8 (17). Chorale (S, A, T, B)
Look there, he lies in manger drear
Whose power reacheth ev'rywhere!
Where fodder once the ox did seek,
There resteth now the Virgin's child.

9 (18). Recit. (B)
So go then there, ye shepherds, go,
That ye this wonder see:
And when ye find the Highest's Son
Within an austere manger lying,
Then sing to him beside his cradle
In tones that sweetly ring
And with assembled choir
This song of slumber bring!

10 (19). Aria (A): sung by Carol Blanchard
Sleep now, my dearest, enjoy now thy rest,
Wake on the morrow to flourish in splendor!
Lighten thy breast,
With joy be thou blest,
Where we hold our heart's great pleasure!

11 (20). Recit. (T) Evangelist: sung by Scott Anderson
And suddenly there was with the angel the multitude of the host of heaven, there
praising God and saying:

12 (21). Chorus (S, A, T, B) Choir of Angels
Glory to God in the highest and peace on the earth now and to mankind a sign of
favor.

13 (22). Recit. (B): sung by Bob Gunn
'Tis meet, ye angels, sing and triumph,
That we today have gained such fortune!
Up then! We'll join our voice to yours,
We can as well as ye rejoice.

14 (23). Chorale (S, A, T, B)

We sing to thee amidst thy host
With all our strength, laud, fame and praise,
That thou, O long desired guest,
Art come into this world at last.

Interlude

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba from *Salome*

G.F. Handel

Loren Johnson, Peter Schiller, and June Gamet

Cantata III

Third Day of Christmas

1 (24). Chorus (S, A, T, B)

Ruler of heaven, give ear to our stammer,
Let these our weary refrains bring thee pleasure,
As thee thy Zion with psalms doth exalt!
Hear thou our hearts, though, exultant with praises,
As we to thee here our homage now render,
For our salvation stands strong and secure!

2 (25). Recit. (T) Evangelist: sung by Scott Anderson

And when the angel went away from them up to heaven, said the shepherds one to another:

3 (26). Chorus (S, A, T, B) The Shepherds

"Let us now go quickly to Bethlehem and this event now witness which hath here taken place, that which the Lord made known to us."

4 (27). Recit. (B): sung by Bob Gunn

He brought his people hope,
He hath his Israel redeemed,
His help from Zion he hath sent us
And all our suff'ring ended.
See, shepherds, this thing hath he done;

Go, this thing go and see!

5 (28). Chorale (S, A, T, B)

This hath he all for us brought forth,
His great love to manifest;
Rejoice thus all Christianity
And thank him in eternity. Kyrieleis!

6 (29). Aria (S, B): sung by Bob Gunn and Lori Burnham

Lord, thy mercy, thy forgiveness,
Comforts us and sets us free.
Thy most gracious love and favor,
Thy most wonderful affection
Here make thy paternal faith new again.

7 (30). Recit. (T) Evangelist: sung by Scott Anderson

And they went forth quickly and found there both Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they, however, had ceased their looking, they spread forth the saying which had been told unto them concerning this child. And all to whom it came wondered at the story which had been reported to them by the shepherds. But Mary kept to herself then all these sayings, and she pondered them within her heart.

8 (31). Aria (A): sung by Carol Blanchard

Keep thou, my heart now, this most blessed wonder

Fast within thy faith alway!
And let this wonder, these godly achievements,
Ever as comfort of thy feeble faith abide!

9 (32). Recit. (A): sung by Carol Blanchard

Oh yes, my heart shall ever cherish
All it at this most gracious time
To its eternal bliss

With certain signs of proof hath witnessed.

10 (33). Chorale (S, A, T, B)

I will thee steadfastly cherish,

For thy sake

My life make,

In thee I will perish,

With thee will I one day hover

Full of joy for alway

There when life is over.

11 (34). Recit. (T) Evangelist

And the shepherds then turned back again, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had seen and had heard, just as it had been told to them.

12 (35). Chorale (S, A, T, B)

Be glad this while,

For now your health

Is here as God and as a man born to you,

The one who is the Lord and Christ

In David's city, out of many chosen.

Please join the OSEP Orchestra & Chorus in singing *Five Christmas Carols*, arranged by David Willcocks

You are invited to a reception in the Fireside Room after the Saturday concert.

The Oratorio Society is grateful for the following grants: The Town of Estes Park, The Estes Park Community Thrift Shop, and The Estes Park Rotary Foundation

OSEP is also grateful: to Mountain View Bible Fellowship for its generous hospitality, to Bob Rising for projections of the beautiful Christmas paintings, to Hobert Office Services for discounted printing, to The Estes Park News, EPTV, and The Estes Park Trail Gazette for publicizing these concerts, to The Estes Park News for its steeply discounted ads, and to the many generous donors who attend its concerts.



**OSEP is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization.
All donations are tax-deductible**



Estes Park Chamber Orchestra

Violin I

Concert master: Jeff Tyler

Dale Bonza

Louise Johnson

Merritt Martin

Karen Olson

Violin II

Nancy Biele

Hans Graetzer

Judy Koslov

Ginny Page*

Sam Walker

Viola

Kathy Bowers

Marti DeYoung

Cheryl Hite

Kathy Hornbein

Cello

Mary Jo Andrews

Drew Holmes

Lloyd Scott

Cate Swift

Double bass

Cam Bogener

Organ

June Gamet

Flute

Lynette Johnson*

Susan McNeil*

Oboe (& oboe d'amore parts)

Robert Keep

Christine Walke

Clarinet (English horn parts)

Randy Amen

Annette Dechant

Trumpet

Jim Detterline

Loren Johnson

Peter Schiller

Tympani

Gary Brown



Oratorio Society Chorus

Soprano

Lori Burnham

Sandi Engelhorn

Christy Florence

Cathy Jensen*

Marlene Krueger

Ruth Mutschler

Jan Strange

Jan Thompson

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