

The University of West Florida
Omega College ~ Faculty of Music
PRESENT

UNIVERSITY SINGERS IN

# A concert of christmas music

CONDUCTED BY
G. Robert Chancellor



## MUSIC FOR BRASS AND VOICES

Canzona per sonare No. 1

Brass Ensemble

Giovanni Gabrieli

Veni Emmanuel (0 Come Emmanuel)

Chorus

Plainsong

Canzona per sonare No. 2

Fanfare for Christmas Day

Brass Ensemble

Giovanni Gabrieli

Martin Shaw

Chorus and Brass

A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28

Pearl Burke, Harp Sandra Davalos, Soprano Bobette Brooks, Alto

Benjamin Britten

- 1. Hodie Christus natus est (This Day Is Christ Born)
- 2. Wolcum Yole!
- There Is No Rose
   That Yongë Child
- 4b. Balulalow
- 5. As Dew in Aprille
- 6. This Little Babe
- 7. Interlude
- 8. In Freezing Winter Night
- 9. Spring Carol
- 10. Deo Gracias! (Glory Be to God)
- 11. Hodie Christus natus est (This Day is Christ Born)

INTERMISSION

## CHORAL SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

Two Settings of 'Wie ist ein' Ros' entsprungen' (Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)

First Setting Second Setting Michael Praetorius Hugo Distler

Ríu, Ríu, Chíu

Anonymous Spanish Villancico of the 16th Century

Chorus and Percussion

A Virgin Unspotted

William Billings

Jesus, the Christ is Born

Appalachian Carol, arr. John Jacob Niles

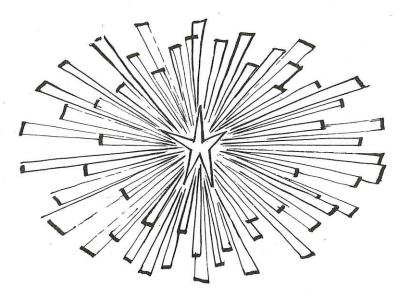
Lullay, My Liking

Gustav Holst

Margaret Holmes, Mezzo-soprano Judith Talbot, Mezzo-soprano Vaughan Johnson, soprano

Wassail Song

Gustav Holst



## MUSIC NOTES

Giovanni Gabrieli (c. 1554-1612) was organist and choirmaster at St. Marks Cathedral in Venice. The two canzoni are contained in a collection of six pieces for unspecified instruments published in 1608.

A Ceremony of Carols was written in April of 1942 by the British composer, Benjamin Britten (1913- ). The texts are drawn primarily from anonymous medieval English carols with additional poems by James, John and Robert Wedderburn, Robert Southwell, and William Cornish. This cycle of contrasting carol settings is unified by repeated note figures and the imitation of musical ideas among the different voices. Originally scored for treble voices and harp, this arrangement for mixed voices was made by Julius Harrison with the approval of the composer.

The Christmas chorale, 'Wie ist ein' Ros' entsprungen,' comes from the musical tradition of the Lutheran Church. The setting of 1609 by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) is typical of the four voice chorales of the early German Baroque. The setting of the same tune by Hugo Distler (1908-1942) is taken from his cantata, Die Weihnachtsgeschichte (Christmas Story), Op. 10 of 1933. "Riu, Riu, Chiu" relates a Spanish legend wherein the Virgin Mary is saved from a mad wolf by God's power. Published in a collection of 1556, this villancico is one of a genre of religious songs in a popular style. William Billings (1746-1800) was colonial America's leading composer. The concert concludes with two selections by the British composer Gustav Holst (1874-1934).

## THE PERFORMERS

## University Singers

Lawrence Alford Sarah Armstrong Michael Babinchak Howard Beers Elaine Britton Bobette Brooks Marjorie Brown Sherron Clement Sandra Davalos William Dunlap Mariam Evans Ava Gilmore Henry Grad Trudi Hefley Margaret Holmes Gerald Jensen Vaughan Johnson Barbara Lewis William Masker Carolyn Parsons William Patton Patricia Perry Joseph Pollard Sharon Stafford Marcia Sandlin Judith Talbot Frances Tobey

## Brass Ensemble

Barry Brosch, Trumpet Breck Cogdill, Trumpet

Henry Grad, Trombone Willard Bowers, Trombone

## Percussion

Richard Withers, Tambourine

Breck Cogdill, Drum

## Pearle Burke, Harpist

Pearle Burke is a professional concert harpist who for many years played with the New Orleans Philharmonic as well as the New Orleans Opera House Orchestra. She attended Baylor University and continued advanced study of the harp with Salvi in Chicago and Piastro in New York. Pearle Burke does special work for the University of Southern Mississippi and Louisiana State University and will appear as a soloist with the Gulf Coast Symphony next year.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to express our special thanks to Miss Phyllis Merritt and Escambia High School for the loan of their choral risers. Also, we are grateful to Mr. James Servies of The University of West Florida-Library for making possible the acquisition of the choral music.

