



Christmas Concert

“A French Christmas”

Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 4 pm

Christ Church Chorale and Orchestra

Christ Church Grosse Pointe

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PROGRAM

Messe de Minuit pour Noël

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)

Kyrie

Gloria

Credo

Sanctus & Benedictus

Agnus Dei

Sara Surzyn, *soprano*

Meredith Hanoian, *soprano*

Amy Mizikow, *alto*

Rachel Edwin, *alto*

Teddy Sweeney, *tenor*

Nick Edwin, *tenor*

Alex Walker, *bass*

Jake Surzyn, *bass*

INTERMISSION

O come, all ye faithful

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Three Carol Arrangements

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle

Noël nouvelet

Quelle est cette odeur agréable

Unto us is born a son

arr. D. Willcocks

The First Nowell

arr. D. Willcocks

Hark! the herald angels sing

arr. D. Willcocks

The Shepherd's Farewell, from *L'Enfance du Christ*

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Hallelujah, from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

The Christ Church Chorale and Orchestra

Scott Hanoian, *conductor*

TEXT

KYRIE

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.*

Glory to God in the highest.
And on earth peace to men of good will.
We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee
because of thy great glory.
Lord God, King of heaven,
God the Father Almighty.
Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

*Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe
deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram
Patris, miserere nobis.*

Who takes away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us. Who takes away the sins of the
world, receive our supplication. Who sits at the
right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus.
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.*

For thou alone are holy;
thou alone are the Lord.
Thou alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.

CREDO

*Credo in unum Deum,
Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem cæli et terræ,
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.
Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,
Filium Dei unigenitum.
Et ex Patre natum ante omnia sæcula.
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero.
Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem Patri:*

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
visible of all things and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
only begotten Son of God.
Begotten of his Father before all ages.
God of God, light of light,
true God from true God.
Begotten, not made, of one substance with the

*per quem omnia facta sunt.
Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram
salutem descendit de cælis.*

*Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria
Virgine: Et homo factus est.
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato:
passus, et sepultus est.*

*Et resurrexit tertia die, secundum scripturas.
Et ascendit in cælum: sedet ad dexteram Patris.
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria
judicare vivos et mortuos:
Cujus regni non erit finis.
Et in Spiritum sanctum Dominum,
et vivificantem: Qui cum Patre, Filioque
procedit. Qui cum Patre, et Filio simul adoratur,
et conglorificatur: Qui locutus est per Prophetas
Et unam, sanctam, catholicam
et apostolicam Ecclesiam.
Confiteor unum baptisma
in remissionem peccatorum.
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum.*

Et vitam venturi sæculi. Amen.

SANCTUS

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.*

*Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.*

BENEDICTUS

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.*

AGNUS DEI

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

Father: by whom all things were made.
Who for us men and for our salvation descended
from heaven.

And was made flesh of the Holy Spirit of the
Virgin Mary: And was made man.
And was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate: suffered, and was buried.

And the third day he rose according to the
scriptures. And he ascended into heaven; he sits
at the right hand of the Father. And he shall
come again with glory to judge the living and
the dead: of whose kingdom there will not be an
end. And (I believe in) the Holy Spirit, Lord
and giver of life: Who proceeds from the
Father and Son. Who with the Father and Son
together is worshipped and glorified: Who spoke
through Prophets. And in one holy catholic and
Apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism
for the remission of sins.
And I expect the resurrection of the dead.

And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, grant us peace.

UN FLAMBEAU, JEANNETTE, ISABELLE

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;
Christ is born and Mary's calling;
Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother!
Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son!

It is wrong when the Child is sleeping
It is wrong to talk so loud.
Silence, all, as you gather around,
Lest your noise should waken Jesus:
Hush! hush! see how fast he slumbers;
Hush! hush! see how fast he sleeps!

Softly to the little stable,
Softly for a moment come!
Look and see how charming is Jesus,
How he is white, His cheeks are rosy!
Hush! hush! see how the Child is sleeping;
Hush! hush! see how he smiles in dreams!

NOËL NOUVELET

*Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
Dévotes gens, crions à Dieu merci!
Chantons Noël pour le roi nouvelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.*

*L'ange disait: 'Pasteurs, partez d'ici,
L'âme en repos et le cœur réjoui;
En Bethléem trouverez l'agnelet.'
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.*

*En Bethléem, étant tous réunis,
Trouvent l'enfant, Joseph, Marie aussi.
La crèche était au lieu d'un bercelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.*

*Bientôt les rois, par l'étoile éclaircis,
De l'orient dont ils étaient sortis,
A Bethléem vinrent un matin.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.*

*Voici mon Dieu, mon sauveur Jésus Christ,
Par qui sera le prodige accompli
De nous sauver par son sang vermeil!
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.*

'Noel Nouvelet,' we sing a newborn King.
With our earthly song the firmament shall ring.
See how the love of God such joy doth bring.
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the newborn King.

'Shepherds from the fields, let gladness fill your
mind. Go to Bethlehem, the Lamb of God to
find!' Lo, from the sky the angel voices sing
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the newborn King.

Thus they left their sheep, and to the stable bare
Came with haste and found Joseph and Mary
there. With them they marveled at this holy thing:
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the newborn King.

Soon the three wise men, who by a star were led,
Journeyed from the East, and at the lowly bed
Each bowed the knee and made an offering:
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the newborn King.

Take my heart, Lord Jesus, who for me wast slain,
Thou who on the Cross hast borne my grief and
pain, Bringing me healing through Thy suffering.
'Noel Nouvelet' for Christ the newborn King.

QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGRÉABLE

*Quelle est cette odeur agréable,
Bergers, qui ravit tous nos sens?
S'exhale-t'il rien de semblable
Au milieu des fleurs du printemps?
Quelle est cette odeur agréable
Bergers, qui ravit tous nos sens?*

*Mais quelle éclatante lumière
Dans la nuit vient frapper nos yeux
L'astre de jour, dans sa carrière,
Fût-il jamais si radieux?
Mais quelle éclatante lumière
Dans la nuit vient frapper nos yeux!*

*A Bethléem, dans une crèche
Il vient de vous naître-un Sauveur.
Allons, que rien ne vous empêche
D'adorer votre rédempteur.
A Bethléem, dans une crèche,
Il vient de vous naître-un Sauveur.*

THE SHEPHERD'S FAREWELL

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling,
the humble crib, the stable bare.
Babe, all mortal babes excelling
content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, loving mother,
shelter thee with tender care.

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee
with humble love and holy fear,
in the land that lies before thee
forget not us who linger here.
May the shepherd's lowly calling
ever to thy heart be dear.

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
thou happy father, mother mild.
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,
the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child.
God go with you, God protect you,
guide you safely through the wild.

What is this lovely fragrance wafting
Like to the scents of flowers in spring?
Shepherd, O tell us, whence such beauty
Hear you not heavenly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting
Like to the scents of flowers in spring?

What is the light so far, so tender
breaking upon our wondering eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant
followed his course over eastern skies
What is the light so far, so tender
breaking upon our wondering eyes?

Bethlehem, there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away,
Run with eager footsteps hastening
Worship the Saviour born today
Bethlehem there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away.

PROGRAM NOTES

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704) may not be the first composer who comes to mind in the French musical world of the late 1600's, but rather Jean-Baptiste Lully, King Louis XIV's lauded Superintendent of Music, and these two incredible musicians who overlapped in many ways are often historically seen as competitors. Lully was actually born in Italy as Giovanni Battista Lulli, but made his career in the French court, and eventually "frenchified" his name. He was renowned throughout France and Italy for his compositions, especially ballet and opera. By comparison Charpentier was born in France, but was educated in Rome, where he trained under the highly esteemed Italian cantata and oratorio composer, Giacomo Carissimi. Once Charpentier returned to France, he worked for smaller wealthy and pious families, building up his oeuvre of sacred works (motets, oratorios, cantatas, anthems, and mass settings) and for the theatre of the great playwright, Moliere, composing religious dramas, small operas, and incidental music. Though Charpentier did not have the fame or fancy court position of Lully, he was certainly his musical peer, and his compositions showcase a masterful blend of the French and Italian styles, lyrical vocal lines, and dramatic instrumental contrasts all of which he utilized in his compositions, from the grandeur of the court and theatre pieces to the intimate expression of biblical texts in sacred spaces.

Charpentier composed eleven sacred masses for choir, all accompanied by instruments, most often organ, strings, and wind instruments. By the time he composed the *Messe de Minuit* in the late 1690's, he moved from a large Jesuit church in Paris to the prestigious Sainte-

Chapelle, appointed by the King as director of music – a position second only to the King's chapel at Versailles. This mass is easily his most popular, as it incorporates ten French Christmas carols into the piece, which are elongated and embellished upon with stunning changes in modality or keys, and beautifully set with an elaborate accompaniment.

It was a tradition in France during this time to sing carols and folk songs at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. These simpler songs, called "*noëls*," had a festive and light feeling to them, and the biblical lyrics were codified into the *Grande Bible des Noëls* in 1554, with more robust melodies and variations eventually added in the 1680's. Charpentier combined these folk tunes into his sacred music – creating a "parody mass." The piece has the full title of *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* – the "Midnight Mass for Christmas," and includes the following tunes:

*Joseph est bien marié
Or nous dites Marie
Une jeune pucelle
Tous les bourgeois de Châtre
Où s'en vont ces guays bergers,
Vous qui désierz sans fin
Voicy le jour solemnel de Noël
A la venue de Noël
O Dieu que n'étois je en vie
A minuit fut fait un réveil*

In this piece, Charpentier would sometimes incorporate an additional *Noël* tune, *Laissez paître vos bêtes*, as an orchestral interlude, which was composed earlier in his career.

This piece contains the full Mass Ordinary with

the movements of *Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus* and *Agnus Dei*. The mass text, from its dramatic, solemn, or triumphant moments, is directly connected to Charpentier's musical expressionism. The interplay between the instrumentalists, chorus and solos adds variety and interest to the very well-known text. Charpentier had soloists and instrumentalists available to him in his church positions, and thus, similarly to J. S. Bach's role and remarkable output in Germany, was required to compose music for the almost relentless service schedule of his prominent church.

Apart from a few pieces of instrumental music and his opera, *Médée*, virtually no music by Charpentier was published during his lifetime. Never marrying and with no children, Charpentier's nephew, Jacques Édouard, a Parisian bookseller and printer, inherited Charpentier's music when he died in 1704. In 1709 Édouard published a collection of twelve motets by his late uncle, but this was apparently not a monetary success, and he never published anything more by Charpentier. Finally in 1727, he sold all the manuscripts to the royal library – over twenty-eight bulky volumes of music. These were eventually bound and numbered erratically into volumes, and without any basis of chronology, type, orchestration, or even correct pagination. Scholar and Charpentier expert, H. Wiley Hitchcock, worked tirelessly with French musicologists to create a more thorough catalogue in the 1980's, giving more accessibility and a performance guide to modern musicians and scholars.

The fascinating part about listening to a Charpentier mass, like this *Messe de Minuit pour Noël*, is the ability for a conductor or ensemble to personalize their performance.

Early Baroque French music allowed a certain amount of creativity in the choices of ornamentation, repeated orchestral ritornellos and introductions, and even additional organ or string incidental music between the movements. Before a performance takes place, many options must be decided about what to augment, remove, prolong, or shorten. Add to this ambiguity the uncertainty of Charpentier's tempos, and soon one realizes that no two performances of the mass will sound the same. Though perhaps disconcerting to not have a definitive version, this does allow a listener to fully immerse themselves in the performance, enjoying the moments of stillness, the impressive dance and ornamentation of the performances, and the simple story of the text. In this piece we can imagine that first performance on a cold Christmas night in Paris, a church candlelit with smokey incense, surrounded by stained glass windows, and Charpentier's beautiful music echoing up into the soaring ceiling.

Meredith Hanoian

CHRIST CHURCH CHORALE

SOPRANO

Mary Brown
Joy Crawford
Joanne Fisher
Heather Hakim
Laila Hakim
Cleo Hamilton
Meredith Hanoian
Allison Merrill
Linda Mosley
Vickie Rice-Parker
Giles Simmer
Sara Surzyn

ALTO

Lynn Anslow
Jennifer Appleberry
Christine Brown
Judith Burkhardt
Kelsey Devaney
Ann Eatherly
Rachel Edwin
Paula Labadie
Ruth Louwsma
Britani Martinez
Ann McReynolds
Amy Mizikow
Marissa Richardson
Cathy Selvius DeRoo
Marilyn Sicklesteele
Kathy Williams

TENOR

Nick Edwin
Cameron Johnson
David Martin
Teddy Sweeney
Brian White

BASS

Kurt Battjes
Ian Davis
Nate Gorman
Aaron Levine
Michael Marsh
B'Nathaniel Orlu
Dennis Parker
Jake Surzyn
Alex Walker

ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Marla Smith*
Connie Markwick
Bonnie Sweda

VIOLIN II

Sander Kostallari
Alan MacNair
Anne Ristich

VIOLA

Leah Celebi
Sam Koeppe

CELLO

Judith Vander Weg
Debra Lonergan

BASS

Gregg Powell

FLUTE

Scott Graddy
Shelly Rouse-Freitag

OBOE

Ann Lemke
Faith Scholfield

BASSOON

Jonathan Boyd

TRUMPET

Mike McGowan

TIMPANI

Kristen Tait

ORGAN

Jackson Merrill

**concertmaster*



Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21 | 4:30 pm

A service of lessons and music celebrating
the Nativity of Our Lord.

Doors open at 3:45 pm.
Pre-service organ recital at 4 pm.
Free and open to the public.



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