

In Terra Pax

CHRISTMAS 2023

Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 PM

All Saints' Episcopal Church
6300 N Central Ave, Phoenix

Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 PM

Ascension Lutheran Church
7100 N Mockingbird Lane, Paradise Valley



**ARIZONA
MASTERWORKS
CHORALE**

Scott Youngs
Music Director

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S PROGRAM NOTES



SCOTT YOUNGS

Since our first concert falls on day three of Hanukkah, we open with “Light the Legend” which describes this celebration of light. From there, we dive into Christmas with the favorites: “The First Noel” and “Gesu Bambino”, followed by one of the best-known choral works of the 20th Century: Morton Lauridsen’s “O Magnum Mysterium”. Gift-wrapped with some audience carols comes the centerpiece of our concert, the lush choral

work by Gerald Finzi, “In Terra Pax” with its gorgeous bass and soprano solos and warm choral writing. We continue, without any intermission, with two rounds of audience carol sing-alongs and reading or a Christmas favorite poem, then two pieces by local composer, singer, and conductor, Darren Herring. His wonderful settings of “There is No Rose” and “Coventry Carol” will leave you spellbound. The concert wraps up with a sweet holiday gumdrop from Phoenix composer Michael McCabe and the rollicking “A Feast of Carols” by Randol Bass. Happy holidays to all!

The Text of “In Terra Pax”

From “Noël: Christmas Eve 913”

by Robert Bridges

Pax hominibus bonae voluntatis

A frosty Christmas Eve
when the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone
where westward falls the hill,
And from many a village
in the water’d valley
Distant music reach’d me
peals of bells a-ringing:
The constellated sounds
ran sprinkling on earth’s floor
As the dark vault above
with stars was spangled o’er.

Then sped my thoughts to keep
that first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching
by their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields
and marveling could not tell
Whether it were angels
or the bright stars singing.

But to me heard afar
it was starry music
Angels’ song, comforting
as the comfort of Christ
When he spake tenderly
to his sorrowful flock:
The old words came to me
by the riches of time
Mellow’d and transfigured
as I stood on the hill
Heark’ning in the aspect
of th’ eternal silence.

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

OLGA GORELIK



Olga Gorelik is a Belarus-born American pianist who obtained bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and Artist Diploma cum laude in music, from the Cleveland Institute of Music. An award-winning performer and teacher, she is a member of the Urban Nocturnes chamber ensemble in Phoenix and the Phoenix Music Teachers Association.

THE STORY OF IN TERRA PAX

The text of Gerald Finzi's moving meditation on peace comes from "Noël: Christmas Eve, 1913" by England's poet laureate Robert Bridges. In the poem, an unnamed narrator finds himself walking alone on a hillside under a bright canopy of stars and hearing the peal of church bells from the valley below. He wonders: Could those shepherds, who heard music in the fields on that first Christmas Eve, tell if the



singing was coming from the bright stars shining above them—or from angels? Then a solo angel's voice pierces the night.

In *Terra Pax* is a masterpiece in miniature, Finzi's pacifism at its heart, and his belief that men and women of goodwill should live harmoniously. The two soloists and

the chorus have clearly defined musical roles; the baritone soloist takes the voice of the poet, the soprano is cast as the angel, whilst the chorus narrates the familiar Biblical text. In the opening section the poet is standing on a hill contemplating the events of the very first Christmas, the sound of the distant church bells becoming for him the sound of an angel choir.

Weaving through the music are three ideas: the pealing of the bells with their joyous message; a phrase from the carol *The First Nowell*; and the alleluia refrain from the hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King*.

Finzi, perhaps more than most, must have been aware of the terrible irony of Bridges' reassuring *Pax hominibus* being swiftly followed by the outbreak of *The Great War* that engulfed the world, ending only in a "peace to end all peace" that laid the foundation for conflicts between peoples and nations that afflict us to this very day. Yet despite this, and despite his own terminal decline, *In Terra Pax* is a radiant, optimistic work of great beauty and sincerity; a creation that unites emotions, images and the familiar events of the Christmas story into a compelling musical narrative that is at once personal and yet universal.

Original Notes © John Bawden, MMusic, University of Surrey, UK

Edited by Bob Altizer



**The Arizona Masterworks Choral
has been making great music
since 1979.**



PROGRAM

Music Director, Scott Youngs

This Program will be performed without intermission

Light and Legend - A Song for Chanukah

.....Michael Isaacson & Susan Nurenberg

The First Noël arr. Dan Forrest

Gesu Bambino Pietro A. Yon, arr. Ruth Artman
Kathy Yoder, Flute

O Magnum Mysterium Morten Lauridsen

In Terra Pax: A Christmas Scene Gerald Finzi

Soloists Adrienne Goglia, soprano, and Patrick West, baritone.

Text based on Robert Bridges' poem "Noël, Christmas Eve, 1913" and Luke 2:8-17

AUDIENCE CAROLS

O Come, All Ye Faithful / Go, Tell it on the Mountain

The Night Before ChristmasClement Clarke Moore

Read by Robert Altizer

AUDIENCE CAROLS

Angels We Have Heard on High / Joy to the World

There is No Rose of Such VirtueDarren Herring

Coventry CarolDarren Herring

Christmas Eve Michael McCabe

A Feast of Carols arr. Randall Alan Bass

Program selections subject to change without notice

FEATURED ARTISTS

Finzi In Terra Pax soloists

Adrienne Goglia, soprano

Patrick West, baritone



CHORALE MEMBERS

SOPRANO

Eleanor Baker
Cheryl Burton
Sarah Costanza
Adrienne Goglia *
Sheryl Guernsey

ALTO

Karla Allingham
Nicole Barrett
Mary Chard
Anne Damos
Mackenzie Nelson *
Kim Schaller
Patricia Sieckman
Janus Torres
Kathryn Yoder

TENOR

David Fetz
Elijah Frank *
JR Momeyer *
Steven O'Donnell
Brian White

BASS

Robert Altizer
Aaron Budge
Edwin Hoag
Sague Molina *
Doug Thomas
Patrick West *

*section leaders

Our vision is to be known as a premier performing ensemble in Arizona.

Our mission is to serve our community by performing the finest classical and contemporary choral music.

Our strategy is to achieve our vision by continuously improving our musicianship and repertoire, producing innovative and enjoyable concerts, and managing the organization for long-term growth.



COME SING WITH US!

Now auditioning for the 2023 Season!

Auditions for the Arizona Masterworks Chorale are available by appointment.

The chorale welcomes singers of all voices and ages for volunteer membership. You'll work with the conductor to bring out the best in each musician and reach for greater and more challenging artistic heights.

For more information see our website at arizonamasterworks.com/sing-with-us/, email us at info@arizonamasterworks.com, or give us a call, 623-252-0790.



THE ARTS AT ASCENSION

The Arts at Ascension is an artistic collaboration between the Arizona Masterworks Chorale, The Women's Orchestra of Arizona, and Ascension Lutheran Church. The partnership advances all its members' missions of serving the community through performance of great music, providing a welcoming environment (with great acoustics!), and increased public awareness.

The Arizona Masterworks Chorale is Chorale-in-Residence at Ascension Lutheran Church

For more information, visit theartsatascension.org



Chorale-in-Residence



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The volunteers who serve by greeting and coordinating tickets.
Kathy Yoder for graphic design and concert program preparation.

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