The Harvard University Choir presents

The 105th Annual Christmas Carol Service Welcome to the Memorial Church and to America's oldest carol service. In 1910, the newly appointed University Organist and Choirmaster, Archibald T. Davison, and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, Edward C. Moore, devised the first annual Christmas Carol Service for Harvard University. The liturgy they prepared has remained virtually unchanged since: three lessons from scripture, interspersed with choral and congregational carols, beginning with "Adeste, Fideles" sung in Latin. Over a century later, this service continues to be a cherished part of the festive season for the Harvard and Cambridge communities. As a courtesy, we ask that you silence all electronic devices. Photography and the use of recording equipment are not permitted during the service. One of the great treasures of the Christian world is the abundant heritage of Christmas songs; for, in the words of Robert Herrick,

What sweeter music can we bring Than a carol, for to sing The birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Indeed this most familiar of narratives — with its cast of angels and shepherds, kings and camels — continues to be a source of inspiration for poets and composers alike: through its constant retelling, this miraculous story retains its freshness. Tonight, we contemplate the Christmas message from a variety of countries and eras, with festive offerings from England, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Scotland, Switzerland, the United States of America, and Wales.

Our service opens in the Memorial Room, which documents the names of Harvard's men who perished in World War One: on the centenary of that conflict's sad beginning, this very building adds its note of poignancy to the proceedings. Towards the end of the service, the congregation is invited to participate in the singing of "Silent Night" in English or in German: this practice memorializes that most moving episode of one hundred years ago when, on Christmas Day 1914, soldiers from both sides of the trenches laid down their arms and climbed into no-man's land to sing this beloved carol.

In the same spirit of remembrance and commemoration we note the untimely death of composer Stephen Paulus earlier this fall, with his majestic carol *Pilgrim Jesus*; Sir John Tavener's death one year ago is marked through his haunting setting of the traditional Polish carol, *Hajej, Nynjej*.

The centerpiece of this year's service is the world premiere of Harvard University Choir alumnus Ronald Perera's *A Soldier's Carol*. A composer of operas, song cycles, chamber, choral, and orchestral works, Mr. Perera studied with Leon Kirchner, Randall Thompson, and Mario Davidovsky, and has taught at Syracuse University, Dartmouth College, and Smith College. His cantata, "The Light Here Kindled" — a setting of select verses from William Bradford's collection *Of Plimoth Plantation* — was commissioned for Harvard's 350th anniversary celebrations in 1986. *A Soldier's Carol* is a setting of lines by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, through which we note the ongoing commemorations surrounding the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Longfellow's poem — originally titled *Christmas Bells* — was penned in December 1863, while the poet nursed his eldest son Charley back to health following a gunshot wound during the Battle of New Hope Church. Our service also features the premiere of Composer-in-Residence Carson Cooman's *Wise Men Came Journeying*, alongside works by Leo Sowerby, Daniel Pinkham, Eric Whitacre, and Jay Althouse, which demonstrate the continuing vitality of the American carol tradition.

Both of the organs housed in the Memorial Church — the Charles B. Fisk and Peter J. Gomes Memorial Organ in the rear gallery, and the Jane Slaughter Hardenbergh Memorial Organ in Appleton Chapel — are featured during the service, and in festive voluntaries performed by Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster, Thomas Sheehan.

The congregation is asked to remain silent upon entering the Memorial Church.

PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella	Traditional French Carol Arranged by Keith Chapman (1945–1989)
Fantasy on "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" Op. 52/2	Max Reger (1873–1916)
Symphonie-Passion, Op. 23 I. Le monde dans l'attente du Sauveur II. Nativité	Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)
"Star" from <i>Hymnos</i>	Ronald Perera '63, GSA '67 (b. 1941)
Symphonie Gothique, Op. 70	Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

INTROIT

O Radiant Dawn

IV. Moderato

O Radiant Dawn, Splendor of eternal Light, Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.

Isaiah had prophesied: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the gloom a light has shone."

James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Advent Antiphon

HYMN IN PROCESSION

Adeste, Fideles

First verse sung by the choir alone The congregation standing Adeste, Fideles Attributed to John Francis Wade (1711–1786) Descant by David Willcocks (b. 1919) Organ interludes by John Ferris (1926–2008)





SENTENCES FROM SCRIPTURE AND WELCOME

FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

CAROL

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525–1594)

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris, succure cadenti surgere qui curat populo: tu quae genuisti natura mirante, tuum sanctum genitorem; virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, who remains the gateway to heaven and star of the sea, help your fallen people who strive to rise: you who gave birth, while nature marveled, to your holy creator: a virgin before and after receiving that "Ave" from the mouth of Gabriel, have mercy on our sins.

Hermann Contractus (1013–1054)

CAROL

Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, love divine; Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine, Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign. Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)

Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming *The congregation standing*

Es ist ein Ros Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599 Harmonized by Michael Praetorius, 1609



Lovely Vine

Behold a lovely vine Here in this desert ground; The blossoms shoot and promise fruit And tender grapes are found.

Its circling branches rise And shade the neighboring lands; With lovely charms she spreads her arms With clusters in her hands.

This city can't be hid, It's built upon a hill; The dazzling light it shines so bright It doth the valleys fill.

Jeremiah Ingalls (1764–1828)

Ye trees which lofty stand, And stars with sparkling light; Ye Christians hear both far and near, 'Tis joy to see the sight.

Shall feeble nature sing, And man not join the lays? With lofty voice proclaim the joys And join in songs of praise!

Glory to God on high, For his redeeming grace; The blessed dove came from above To save our ruined race.

From Divine Hymns (1800), edited by Joshua Smith

CAROL

What Sweeter Music

What sweeter music can we bring Than a carol, for to sing The birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away, And give the honor to this day That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn Smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn Thus on the sudden? Come and see The cause, why things thus fragrant be:

'Tis he is born. whose quickening birth Gives life and lustre, public mirth, To heaven and the under-earth. John Rutter (b. 1945)

We see him come, and know him ours, Who, with his sunshine and his showers, Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come, And fit it is, we find a room To welcome him, to welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart. Which we will give him: and bequeath This holly, and this ivy wreath. To do him honor, who's our King, And Lord of all this reveling.

Robert Herrick (1591-1674), alt.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1–14

CAROL

"Gloria in excelsis Deo" from Christmas Cantata

Daniel Pinkham '44 (1923-2006)

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Jubilate Deo omnis terra, servite Dominum in laetitia. Introite in conspectus ejus, in exultatione. Scitote quoniam Dominus ipse est Deus: Ipse fecit nos et non ipsi nos.

Alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will to men.

O be joyful in the Lord, ye nations, with gladness serve the Lord. Come before his presence; come unto him with singing, joy, and in exultation. Now know ye: know that the Lord he is God, strong and mighty. He created us and not we ourselves.

Alleluia!

Traditional Latin and Psalm 100:2-3

CAROL

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. *Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, And "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers. Traditional English Carol Arranged by Charles Wood (1866–1926)

George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848–1934)

Angels We Have Heard on HighGloriaThe congregation standingFrench Melody, harmonized by Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958)



I Wonder As I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus the Savior did come for to die. For poor on'ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall, With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from the heavens a star's light did fall, And promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing, Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing, He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King. Carl Rütti (b. 1949)

John Jacob Niles (1892–1980)

CAROL

A Soldier's Carol

Ronald Perera '63, GSA '67

Commissioned for the 105th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2014

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along The unbroken song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way, The world revolved from night to day, A voice, a chime, A chant sublime Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth The cannon thundered in the South, And with the sound The carols drowned Of peace on earth, good-will to men! It was as if an earthquake rent The hearth-stones of a continent, And made forlorn The households born Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said: "For hate is strong, And mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead; nor doth he sleep! The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)

THIRD LESSON

Matthew 2:1–11

Wise Men Came Journeying

Carson P. Cooman '04 (b. 1982)

Composed for the 105th Annual Christmas Carol Service, December 2014

Wise men came journeying, once, long ago, camel hooves swirling the sand dune and snow, gold in the saddlebag, myrrh in the jar, incense to honor the Child of the star.

Wise are the travelers led to move on following signs where the Christ light has shone, facing the deserts and crossing the lines, heeding no limits that culture defines.

Wise are each one of us looking for change, stargazer people, respecting the strange, inner and outer worlds open to light, centered on seeing the real and the right.

Wise ones keep journeying all through their days bringing their gifts to the source of their praise, risking the Promise with all they hold dear, seeking God's peace at the door of the year.

Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931)

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

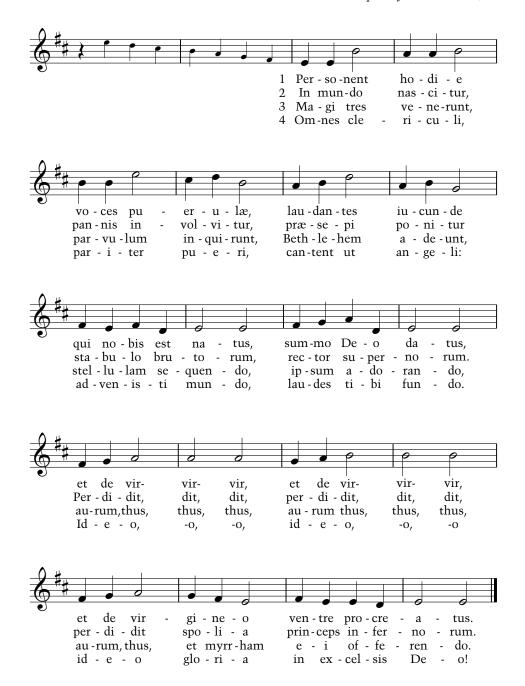
CAROL

Lux aurumque

Lux, calida gravisque pura velut aurum et canunt angeli molliter modo natum. Light, warm and heavy as pure gold and the angels sing softly to the new-born baby.

English original by Edward Esch [Eric Whitacre] Translated into sung Latin by Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

Personent hodie The congregation standing Personent hodie Piae Cantiones, 1582 Adapted by Gustav Holst (1874–1934)



Rocking

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir; We will lend a coat of fur, We will rock you, rock you, rock you, We will rock you, rock you, rock you, See the fur to keep you warm, Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep, Sleep in comfort, slumber deep; We will rock you, rock you, rock you, We will rock you, rock you, rock you, We will serve you all we can, Darling, darling little man. John Tavener (1944–2013)

Traditional Czech ("Hajej, Nynjej") Translated by Percy Dearmer (1867–1936)

CAROL

Pilgrim Jesus

Iesus! Christus! Iesus! Natus!

In the manger of my body Leaps the tiny child, and his breath Is the word—the dance of God.

Corpus! Beatus! Peregrinus! Natus!

In the ocean of my head The steadfast ship rides tide and storm On its pilgrim crossing.

Oceanus! Peregrinus! Christus! Natus!

In the orchard of my heart Springs the singing tree. Its root Is faith and its sweet fruit charity.

Cor! Arbor! Amor! Christus!

Riding ship, springing tree, And in the manger leaps the child Who is the word—the dance of God.

Iesus! Peregrinus! Iesus! Natus!

Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

(Jesus! Christ! Jesus! Born!)

(Body! Beautiful! Pilgrim! Born!)

(Ocean! Pilgrim! Christ! Born!)

(Heart! Tree! Love! Christ!)

(Jesus! Pilgrim! Jesus! Born!)

Kevin Crossley-Holland (b. 1941)

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Stille Nacht / Silent Night The congregation seated The hymn may be sung in German or in English English version on next page Stille Nacht Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863) Descants by Murray Forbes Somerville (b. 1948)

Stille Nacht



Silent Night



Suo-gân

Huna, blentyn, ar fy mynwes, Clyd a chynnes ydyw hon; Breichiau mam sy'n dynn amdanat, Cariad mam sy dan fy mron. Ni chaiff dim amharu'th gyntun, Ni wna undyn â thi gam; Huna'n dawel, annwyl blentyn, Huna'n fwyn ar fron dy fam.

Huna'n dawel heno, huna, Huna'n fwyn, y tlws ei lun; Pam yr wyt yn awr yn gwenu, Gwenu'n dirion yn dy hun? Ai angylion fry sy'n gwenu Arnat ti yn gwenu'n llon? Tithau'n gwenu'n ôl dan huno, Huno'n dawel ar fy mron.

Paid ag ofni, dim ond deilen Gura, gura ar y ddôr; Paid ag ofni, ton fach unig Sua, sua ar lan y môr; Huna blentyn, nid oes yma Ddim i roddi iti fraw; Gwena'n dawel yn fy mynwes Ar yr engyl gwynion draw.

CAROL

Look-A That Star

Look-a that star shine in the night. Showin' the way to Bethlehem.

Mary and Joseph saw that star. Went on a journey traveled afar. Showed the way to a stable bare. Mary gave birth to a baby there.

Mary had a little baby boy. Filled the world with hope and joy. Heavenly angels dressed in white Sang for joy that holy night.

Look-a that star in the Eastern sky. Look-a that star and wonder why. Baby came down from heaven on high, Showin' the way to glory.

Oh, look-a that star, showin' the way home. Shine on in the night.

Traditional Welsh Carol Arranged by Edward Elwyn Jones (b. 1977)

Sleep, my child, upon my bosom, It is snug and warm; Your mother's arms wrapped tightly around you, 'tis a mother's love lies in my breast. Nothing shall disturb your slumber, Nobody will do you harm; Sleep in peace, dear child, Gently sleep on your mother's breast.

Sleep in peace tonight, sleep, Gently sleep, my beautiful; Why do you now smile, Smile so gently in your sleep? Is it that angels on high Smile upon you as you happily smile? While you return the smile, still sleeping, Sleeping in peace upon my breast.

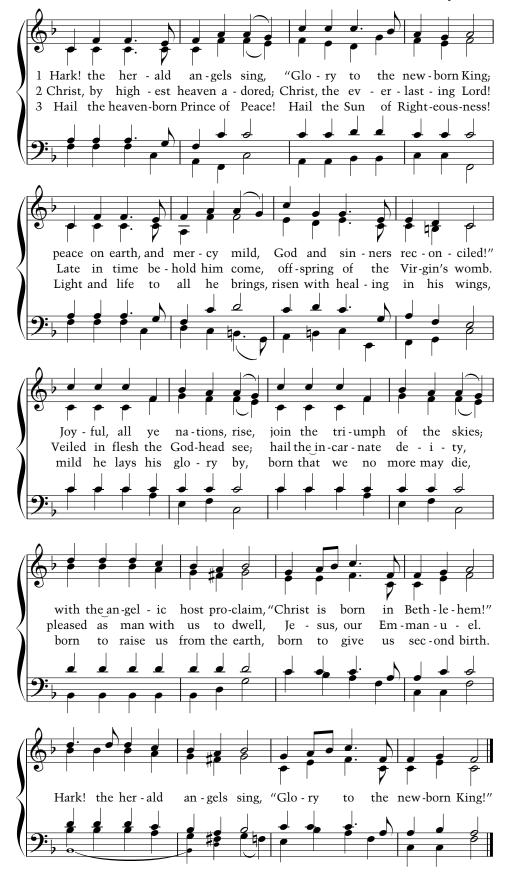
Fear you not, 'tis but a leaf Beating, beating at the door; Fear you not a lone wave's Murmur, murmuring on the seashore; Sleep, my child, for there is nothing Here to frighten you. Smile in peace here on my bosom At the white angels yonder.

Traditional Welsh Text

Jay Althouse (b. 1951)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing *The congregation standing*

Mendelssohn Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) Adapted by William H. Cummings (1831–1915) Descant by David Willcocks



POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Adeste, Fideles"

Francis Pott (b. 1957)

AUDIO OF LAST YEAR'S CAROL SERVICE

Audio of the 104th Annual Christmas Carol Service is now available to download for free. Please visit our website at **www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu** for details.

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Spring 2015 Music Events Free Admission

HOLY WEEK MUSICAL MEDITATION

Tuesday, March 31, 8:00 p.m. Featuring the Choral Fellows of the Harvard University Choir.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY CHOIR ARTS FIRST PERFORMANCE

Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m. George Frideric Handel's *Athalia* Featuring the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra and soprano Dominique Labelle in the title role.

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

All recitals are on Tuesday evenings and begin at 7:30 p.m.

January 27

Michael Kraft Executive Vice President and Senior Reed Voicer, C.B. Fisk, Inc.

February 10 Brink Bush Minister of Music, St. John's Episcopal Church, Beverly Farms, MA

February 24 Carson Cooman Composer in Residence, The Memorial Church

March 10 Caroline Robinson Curtis Institute of Music and Eastman School of Music

March 24 Jonathan Ortloff President, Ortloff Organ Company

April 7 Members of the Harvard Organ Society

> For more info about events and services at the Memorial Church, please visit us on the web at **memorialchurch.harvard.edu**.

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