

# isthmus

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vocal ensemble

Scott MacPherson, conductor  
Kathrine Handford, organ



*Friday, August 6, 2010, 7:30 pm*  
*Luther Memorial Church*  
*Madison, Wisconsin*

*Sunday, August 8, 2010, 4:30 pm*  
*Zion Lutheran Church*  
*Wausau, Wisconsin*

# *Concert Program*

Shiloh William Billings (1746 - 1800)



Two Advent Motets John McIntyre (b. 1955)

Rorate coeli desuper

Vigilate



Ave Maria Jean Mouton (c. 1459 - 1522)

Bogoróditse Dévo (from *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 37) Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873 - 1943)



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Scott MacPherson (b. 1956)

Organ Interlude: Benedictus Alec Rowley (1892 - 1958)

Fanfare for Christmas Lloyd Pfautsch (1921 - 2003)



Corde natus ex parentis Justin Merritt (b. 1975)

Soloists: Mary Duff, soprano; Robyn Chase, alto

Joseph Testa, tenor; John Bohman, baritone

Pilgrim Jesus Stephen Paulus (b. 1949)

## *Intermission*

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People David Ashley White (b. 1944)

O Magnum mysterium Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)



Joseph, lieber Joseph mein Hieronymus Praetorius (1560 - 1629)

Resonet in laudibus Chester Alwes (b. 1947)



Spaséniye sodélal (from *Ten Communion Hymns*, Op. 25) Pavel Chesnokov (1877 - 1944)



Alleluya, A New Work Is Come On Hand Peter Wishart (1921 - 1984)

*Our concert is being recorded for a live commercial release.  
Please be sure to turn off all electronic devices so that there are no extraneous noises  
during the performance. Thank you!*

## Welcome & Good Cheer!

Our ninth season breaks the tradition of the choir giving a single performance. We are delighted that, in addition to our Friday evening performance at Luther Memorial Church, we will take our concert on the road with a Sunday afternoon appearance at Zion Lutheran Church in Wausau. These beautiful sanctuaries are an inspiration for the voices of the Isthmus Vocal Ensemble, and we are honored and grateful to fill them with song.

Our “Isthmus Christmus” will surely fill your dog days of summer with spirit—at least momentarily! The program explores Advent and Christmas choral works spanning from the early Renaissance to the 21st century. We open with early American composer William Billings’ spirited *Shiloh*, each of the six verses sung with a different set of voices. In direct contrast is John McIntyre’s chanted and sonorous *Rorate coeli* and rhythmically vivacious *Vigilate*. There follow two settings of the Annunciation text, first in Jean Mouton’s early Renaissance *Ave Maria* variant, juxtaposed with Rachmaninoff’s deeply moving tribute to the Virgin Mary, *Bogoróditse Dévo* from his *All-Night Vigil*, sung here in the original Church Slavonic. The familiar carol *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* features the men singing the original chant followed by the women set in close imitation; the final verse is a choral fantasia where the melody is sung slowly by the bass voices over which the others intertwine. We are happy to once again feature organist Kathrine Handford in Alec Rowley’s *Benedictus* as the choir moves to the organ loft to perform Lloyd Pfautsch’s brief and rousing *Fanfare for Christmas*, and Stephen Paulus’ epic *Pilgrim Jesus*, premiered by the King’s College Choir in 1996 during their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. Prior to the Paulus, Justin Merritt’s mellifluous and introspective *Corde natus ex parentis* (Of the Father’s

Love Begotten) envelops the listener within its trance-like tones.

David Ashley White’s setting of Louis Bourgeois’ 1551 Genevan Psalm melody, *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* opens the second half with a dancelike energy. Paired with that piece is Morten Lauridsen’s *O Magnum mysterium*. The composer describes his most famous choral work as a “quiet song of profound inner joy”. The anonymous 14th-century German carol *Resonet in laudibus* is featured in our next two selections; first in the eight-part lullaby *Joseph, lieber Joseph mein* by Hieronymus Praetorius, then contrasted with Chester Alwes’ rhythmically charged *Resonet in laudibus* in which excitement is created through the addition of voices and simultaneous use of duple and triple meters. With Pavel Chesnokov’s *Spaséniye sodélal* (Salvation is Created) we return to the Russian Orthodox Church tradition. Each of the two verses begins with the rich sonority of the four-part men’s chorus, continues with the addition of the treble voices, and rises to a moving climax before receding to a quiet close. Our program concludes with a joyous Christmas anthem by English composer Peter Wishart. *Alleluya, A New Work Is Come On Hand* features an “alleluia” refrain that playfully pits the lower voices against the imitative treble voices.

We sincerely appreciate your support of choral music with your presence at our concert today. And, since we are the “temporary” chorale that meets only once each summer, please allow me to close by saying, “Happy Holidays!”

Scott MacPherson  
Artistic Director

## *About the Conductor*

Conductor Scott MacPherson is the founding Artistic Director of the Isthmus Vocal Ensemble. MacPherson has consistently earned praise for the high standards of performance of choirs under his direction. His programming blends a variety of musical styles ranging from early music through new works commissioned especially for him and his ensembles.

MacPherson is in demand as a guest conductor, choral clinician, and adjudicator, and has extensive orchestral conducting experience. His research of contemporary choral music and choral teaching techniques in Germany have resulted in guest conducting appearances with the award-winning *Modus Novus Chor* based in Cologne, the *Vokalensemble Kölner Dom* of the Cologne Cathedral, as well as the male vocal ensemble *Arcanum Musicae* in Dresden. His international reputation has also drawn acclaim in Taiwan, where he conducted collegiate choirs and led workshops in conducting, choral eurhythmics, and choral pedagogy at conferences in Pingtung City and Taipei.

Since 2008 MacPherson has served as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, where he conducts choirs and leads the graduate choral conducting program. For 15 years prior to that he was the Director of Choral Activities at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Before moving to San Antonio in 1993, he served on the choral faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music where he was a colleague of the late Robert Fountain.

He holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Southern California. MacPherson is also the conductor of the San Antonio Chamber Choir, a professional choral ensemble based in San Antonio, Texas.

## *About the Organist*

Kathrine Handford is University Organist and Lecturer in Music at Lawrence University's Conservatory of Music, a position she has held since 2004. She is also Director of Music and the Arts and Organist at the historic Central Presbyterian Church in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota.

She holds a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Literature and the highly coveted Performer's Certificate in Organ from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where she has done post-graduate studies in harpsichord and organ performance. Her principal teachers include the late Russell Saunders, David Craighead, David Higgs, Jerry Evenrud, Paul Manz, and Grethe Krogh from the Royal Danish Conservatory in Copenhagen, Denmark.

A musician of wide-ranging interests and accomplishments, Handford has appeared in recitals in the United States, Canada, England, and Scandinavia. She has been a featured artist at international festivals Norway, Finland, and Italy. In 1993, Handford was the winner of the 35th International J.S. Bach Competition held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In the same year, she received first prize in the John R. Rodland Scholarship Competition.

Handford has appeared as a soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra. She has also performed numerous recitals with the Swedish natural trumpet virtuoso Niklas Eklund and has toured with the Australian Baroque Brass. Her interest in new music has led to premieres of several new works for organ.

## *Texts & Translations*

### **Shiloh** (from *Suffolk Harmony*, 1786)

Me thinks I see an Heav'nly Host  
of angels on the wing;  
me thinks I hear their cheerful notes,  
so merrily they sing.

Let all your fears be banished hence,  
glad tidings I proclaim;  
for there's a Saviour born today  
and Jesus is his name.

Lay down your crooks and quit your flocks,  
to Bethlehem repair;  
and let your wandering steps be squared  
by yonder shining star.

Seek not in courts or palaces;  
nor royal curtains draw;  
but search the stable,  
see your God extended on the straw.

Then learn from hence, ye rural swains,  
the meekness of your God,  
who left the boundless realms of joy,  
to ransom you with blood.

To God the Father, Christ the Son,  
and Holy Ghost accord;  
the first and last, the last and first,  
eternal praise afford.

### **Rorate coeli desuper**

(Introit for the first Sunday in Advent, Psalm 85:1)

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the clouds rain the just.  
Let the earth be opened and send forth a Saviour.  
Lord, Thou hast blessed thy land:  
Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.  
Glory to the Father, the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, for now and forever  
more. Amen.

### **Vigilate** (Mark 13:35-37)

Watch therefore—for you do not know  
when the master of the house will come;  
in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or  
in the morning—  
lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.  
And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.

### **Ave Maria** (Annunciation, Luke 1:28)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
with thee in thy heart, with thee in thy womb, with  
thee in thine uterus.  
O Mary, Bearer of God, pray for us.

### **Bogoróditse Dévo**

(Church Slavonic version of *Ave Maria*)

Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of God,  
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

### **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

(*Veni Emanuel*, anonymous, 12th century;  
English text by John Neale, 1851)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy strife and quarrels cease,  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring come and cheer,  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.

### **Fanfare for Christmas**

(Antiphon for Christmas Day, *Hodie Christus  
natus est*)

Unto us Christ is born today!  
Unto us our Saviour hath appeared;  
On the earth the choirs of angels sing today,  
In heaven sing archangels;  
To the Lord we will sing the blessed song of  
the angels;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the  
Highest)

### **Corde natus ex parentis**

(Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413)

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
ere the world from chaos rose,  
he is Alpha, from that Fountain  
all that is and hath been flows;  
he is Omega, of all things  
yet to come the mystic close,  
evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
when the Maid the curse retrieved,  
brought to birth mankind's salvation;  
by the Holy Ghost conceived;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer  
in her loving arms received,  
evermore and evermore.

### **Pilgrim Jesus**

(Kevin Crossley-Holland, 1996)

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!

### **Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

(Isaiah 40:1-5; English: Catherine Winkworth, 1863)

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace,  
saith our God;

comfort those who sit in darkness mourning  
'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for  
them;

tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now  
is over.

Hark, the voice that crieth in the desert far and  
near,  
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom  
now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God  
a way;

let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow  
down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make  
the rougher places plain;

let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his  
holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed  
abroad;

and all flesh shall see the token that the word is  
never broken.

### **O Magnum mysterium**

(Responsory, Christmas Day Matins)

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in their manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

### **Joseph, lieber Joseph mein**

(Anonymous, 16th century; Leipzig, Germany)

Joseph, my dear Joseph,  
help me rock my little child;  
God, who will recompense you in heaven,  
is the Virgin Mary's child.

Eia, eia!

The Virgin has given birth to God  
whom the divine mercy willed.

Now let all sing together,  
sing to the newborn king,  
saying with devout voice,  
"Glory be to Christ our babe!"

Today the one whom Gabriel predicted  
has appeared in Israel, has been born king.

### **Resonet in laudibus**

(Anonymous, 14th century German carol)

Resound in praises!

Let Zion resound in praises

with the joyful acclaim of the faithful:

He whom Mary bore has appeared.

The prophecies of Gabriel are fulfilled.

Eia! Eia!

The Virgin has given birth to God  
that which divine mercy willed.  
Today a king has appeared in Israel,  
born of the Virgin Mary.  
Resound in praises!

**Spaséniye sodélal** (Communion Hymn for Fridays,  
Psalm 74:12)

Salvation is created in the midst of the earth, O  
God. Alleluia.

**Alleluia, A New Work Is Come On Hand**  
(Anonymous, 15th century)

Alleluia. A new work is come on hand  
Through might and grace of God's son  
To save the lost of every land. Alleluia.  
For now is free that erst was bound we may well  
sing. Alleluia.

Now is fulfilled the prophecy  
Of David and of Jeremy  
And also of Isaiah. Alleluia.  
Sing we therefore both loud and high. Alleluia.

Alleluia this sweeté song  
Out of a green branch it sprung  
God send us the life that lasteth long. Alleluia.  
Now joy and bliss be him among that thus can  
sing. Alleluia.

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## *Thanks & Gifts*

### *Our Thanks*

Our sincere thanks to Bruce Bengtson and the staff of Luther Memorial Church for providing such a glorious space for our Madison performance. Equal thanks to Virginia Giese and the staff of Zion Lutheran Church, our gracious hosts for our Wausau debut. Thanks also to Lake Edge Lutheran Church for allowing us to use their choir rehearsal rooms.

Many thanks to Jane Peckham for her service as rehearsal accompanist; to our recording engineer Bill Lund for his essential part in making us sound good; to Mary Schmidt for her assistance in the audition process and sectionals and for handling the rehearsal facilities; to Ena Foshay and WORT for their extensive and thoughtful coverage of our work; to Douglas Swiggum for his keymastering; to our intrepid ushers; to the classical music team at Wisconsin Public Radio for broadcasting so much of what we do; and of course to *you* for being with us.

### *Consider a gift to IVE*

If you enjoy the performance this evening, and appreciate the unique voice and vision our organization brings to Madison, please consider a gift in addition to the cost of your ticket by leaving it with an usher as you leave. *Isthmus Vocal Ensemble, Inc.*, is a nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

### *Summer Music Consortium*

Isthmus Vocal Ensemble is part of the Summer Music Consortium, a collective of organizations presenting great music in Madison from June through September. We encourage you to explore their events this summer or next:

- Madison Early Music Festival
- Madison Savoyards Ltd.
- Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society
- Token Creek Chamber Music Festival

*Join us next year on Friday, August 5, 2011  
for our Tenth Anniversary Concert!*

## *About the Ensemble*

The nonprofit Isthmus Vocal Ensemble comprises a temporary community of dedicated choral singers, drawn together for two weeks of intensive rehearsals and a single Madison performance. Now in its ninth year, the ensemble's performances have

been featured on Wisconsin Public Radio, WORT, and on our acclaimed commercial recording, *Andrew Rindfleisch Choral Works*, released on Clarion Records. Listen and learn more about us on-line at: [www.isthmusvocalensemble.org](http://www.isthmusvocalensemble.org)

### *Soprano*

Sarah Brooks  
✱ Mary Duff  
Beate Gersch  
Melissa Hinz  
Thea Janisch  
Lynn Keller  
Katrina Lemens  
Amy Lewison  
Lynn Morgan  
Anne R. Pingel-Nichols  
Kara Noah  
Julie Ottum  
Catherine Pippitt  
Ronna Rawlins  
✱ Jennifer Sauer  
Lynda Southwick  
Heather Stewart  
Jen Streit

### *Tenor*

Mark Begin  
✱ Steve Brick  
Stephen Christensen  
Elliot Friedman  
Jerry Hui  
Steve Johnson  
Michael Mangan  
Joseph Schlicht  
Douglas Swiggum  
✱ Andrew Taylor  
Joseph Testa

### *Alto*

Kristine Beck  
Susannah Brooks  
Robyn Chase  
Monica Degeneffe  
Ena Foshay  
Leslie Frank ✱  
Alexandra Hendrick  
Hope Horton  
Carrie Kruse  
Mihcal J. McClelland  
Kathleen Otterson  
Sue Reget  
Jenny Saffran  
Mary Woodworth Schmidt ✱  
Gail Ward

### *Bass*

Jim Adams  
John Bohman  
Dennis Egge  
Dennis Haight  
Dale Johnson  
Steve Larkin  
Rob Littell  
Brian Petty  
Jim Pippitt  
Dennis Reece  
Phil Rosten  
Bernie Schlafke  
Don Stanislawski  
Mark Werner

Mary Woodworth Schmidt, Asst. Conductor  
Jane Peckham, Rehearsal Accompanist  
✱ Board Members