



UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS

presents
PSALM CONCERT

Richard Cox, Conductor
**William M. Folger, Rehearsal Accompanist
and Associate Conductor**

Jennifer Ayers
Kemp Baker
Darrell Beck
Brian Carter
Amy Castor
Anne Coltrane
Jennifer Corbell
Kenzie L. Dula
Aviva B. Ezring

Jason Karn
Mary Martin
Ellen Mills
Randy S. Price
Brett Pryor
Michael Scheidt
Abigail J. Southard
D. Paul Strickland
Paul Tapler

Thursday, October 19, 2000
7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall, Music Building

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

PROGRAM

Track #

1 **In te, Domine, speravi** **Heinrich Schütz**
(1585-1672)

2 **The Sixty-Seventh Psalm** **Charles Ives**
(1874-1954)

3 **Richte mich, Gott, Op. 78, No. 2** **Felix Mendelssohn**
(1809-1847)
William M. Folger, Conductor*

4 **Vesperæ solennes de Confessore, K. 339** **Wolfgang A. Mozart**
(1756-1791)

5 **Dixit Dominus**
Confitebor tibi
Quartet: Ms. Southard, Ms. Ezring, Mr. Karn, Mr. Strickland
6 **Beatus vir**
7 **Laudate pueri**
8 **Laudate Dominum**

9 **Magnificat**
Ms. Castor
Quartet: Ms. Mills, Ms. Martin, Mr. Carter, Mr. Pryor

Violin I: Sarah Womack, Wendy Rawls, David Mullikin

Violin II: Susan Gallimore, Eve Hubbard, Theresa Fox

Cello: Beth Vanderborgh, Lynne Latham

Bass: Holly Butenhoff

Trumpet: Michael Hengst, Andy Ross

Timpani: Mike Austin

Keyboard: William M. Folger

*In partial fulfillment of the degree requirements for the
Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting

The hall is equipped with a listening assistance system.
Patrons needing such assistance should please see
one of the ushers in the lobby.

PROGRAM NOTES AND TRANSLATIONS

The setting of texts from the Psalms has been a favorite occupation of composers for centuries. This program illustrates a few of the ways composers have treated these texts. The juxtaposition of the drastically different pieces from the early 17th century, the early 19th century, and the very end of the 19th century, is deliberate, intended to show that serious composers over the centuries have approached these wonderful texts with very different musical styles but with remarkably similar commitment to finding musical equivalents for the words.

The Schütz setting, from his *Cantiones sacrae* of 1625, shows a remarkable response to each phrase of the text in terms of musical ideas to match the words, from Psalm 31:

In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust; let me never be put to confusion;
deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Charles Ives grew up in Danbury, Connecticut, listening to the sounds of various church choirs, town bands, and other local musical enterprises. Sometimes it seems as though as he writes his own music he is hearing several of these groups simultaneously. The Sixty-Seventh Psalm, written in 1898, uses the typically 20th-century technique of bitonality, the men often singing in G minor while the women sing in C major. The psalm concludes with a brief passage that sounds like Anglican Chant except that while the men and the women are singing in triadic harmony, their harmonies continue to clash. The result is a remarkably powerful musical statement of this text:

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee. O God: let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon the earth. Let the people praise thee, O God: let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

The Mendelssohn setting of Psalm 43 is one of a number of Psalms by this composer, some, like this one, a cappella, others with full orchestral accompaniment. "Richte mich, Gott" was written in 1844 for the Berlin Dom, where there was a tradition of a cappella double-chorus music.

Give sentence with me, O God, and defend my cause against the ungodly people; O deliver me from the deceitful and wicked man. For thou art the God of my strength; why hast thou put me from thee? and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me? O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me, and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling; And that I may go unto the altar of God, even unto the God of my joy and gladness; and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God. Why art thou so heavy, O my soul? And why art thou so disquieted within me? O put thy trust in God; for I will yet give him thanks, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

The traditional Vesper service of the Roman Catholic Church includes five psalms and a setting of the Magnificat, the specific psalms varying with the day and the year. A musical setting for a Vesper service normally includes these items. Mozart composed the K339 setting in 1780, apparently for use in the Salzburg Cathedral.

Dixit Dominus. The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool." The Lord will send the scepter of your power out of Zion, saying, "Rule over your enemies round about you. Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth; in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you, like dew from the womb of the morning." The Lord has sworn and he will not recant: "You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." The Lord who is at your right hand will smite kings in the day of his wrath; he will rule over the nations. He will heap high the corpses; he will smash heads over the wide earth. He will drink from the brook beside the road; therefore he will left high his head. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen. (Psalm 110).

Confitebor tibi. I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the deeds of the Lord! they are studied by all who delight in them. His work is full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures for ever. He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. He has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations. The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity. He sent redemption to his people; he commended his covenant forever; holy and awesome is his Name. Glory be to the Father, etc. (Psalm 111).

Beatus vir. Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in his commandments! Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last for ever. Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice. For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance. They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord. Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies. They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor. The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish. Glory be to the Father, etc. (Psalm 112).

Laudate pueri. Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the Name of the Lord. Let the Name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth for evermore. From the rising of the sun to its going down, let the Name of the Lord be praised. The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth? He takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes. He sets them with the princes, with the princes of his people, he makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Glory be to the Father, etc. (Psalm 113).

Laudate Dominum. Praise the Lord, all you peoples, for his mercy is great toward us and his truth endures for ever. Glory be to the Father, etc. (Psalm 117).

Magnificat. My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden; for behold, all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty has magnified me, and holy is his Name. His mercy is great toward those who fear him. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their seat and has exalted the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things and has sent the rich empty away. He remembering his mercy has helped his servant Israel as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, etc.