

# On Stage



## **PAUL SMITH**

*Director*

Paul Smith, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, received his education at the Royal College of Music in London and the Vienna Hochschule für Musik.

A winner of national and international piano competitions, and a participant in the U.S. State Department's Artistic Ambassador program, he also served as music director for famed Russian choreographer Leonid Massine. Since 1976 he has devoted himself to the cultural life of Marin County, California through solo piano, concerto and chamber music performances, directing several new music ensembles, and is artistic director

of Contemporary Opera Marin, which has received international acclaim for its production of contemporary works and rediscovered gems of past centuries. He is the director of classical music for radio station KWMR Point Reyes Station, and the founder and artistic director of the Music from Marin Chamber Players bringing world class musical performances to communities throughout Marin County. Paul was recently awarded the Sali Lieberman Award for contributions to the cultural life of Marin County. He now divides his artistic life time between Marin County, California and Gulfport, Florida.



**SIBEL  
DEMIRMEN**

*Soprano*



**CHRISTA  
DURAND**

*Soprano*



**VALENTINA  
OSINSKI**

*Contralto*



**MICHAEL  
ORLINSKY**

*Baritone*



**MARTIN T.  
BELL**

*Baritone*

# Program

## **Gloria, RV 589**

**Antonio Vivaldi**

(1678-1741)

- I. Gloria in excelsis Deo
- II. Et in terra pax hominibus
- III. Laudamus te
- IV. Gratias agimus tibi
- V. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis
- VI. Domine Fili unigenite
- VII. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei
- VIII. Qui tollis peccata mundi
- IX. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris
- X. Quoniam tu solus sanctus
- XI. Cum Sancto Spiritu

## **Oratorio de Noël, Op. 12**

**Camille Saint-Saëns**

(1835-1921)

- I. Prélude (Dans le style de Séb. Bach)
- II. Récit et choeur
- III. Air
- IV. Air et choeur
- V. Duo
- VI. Choeur
- VII. Trio
- VIII. Quatuor
- IX. Quintette et Choeur
- X. Choeur



# Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth!

## A Holiday Greeting from 18<sup>th</sup> Century Venice and 19<sup>th</sup> Century France to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Marin

After languishing in relative obscurity after the end of the Baroque era, since the mid-20th century, prolific composer and renowned violinist **Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)** has enjoyed a revival, not just among early music enthusiasts. Nowadays, his series of violin concertos, *The Four Seasons*, is a perennial on the classical music charts. His *Gloria*, a choral work, has become a favorite for the holiday season. The quotation of the angels' song in the Christmas story in the gospel of Luke; lines echo in Christmas songs through the years with the message of "peace on earth, goodwill among people."

The *Gloria* is a 4th-century CE Latin hymn that opens with the song from the gospel and proceeds to the glorification of the three persons of the Trinity. It was incorporated into the set of texts in the Roman Rite Mass that do not vary with the season of the liturgical year and is thus familiar as the second movement in many choral settings of the Mass.

Vivaldi's *Gloria RV 589* was composed around 1715 while serving as violin instructor and choirmaster at the Ospedale della Pietà orphanage in Venice. Vivaldi wrote many instrumental and choral pieces for the Ospedale's girls' choir and orchestra, which under his tutelage became widely recognized beyond the orphanage walls (the boys were given only vocational training in trades). The autograph manuscript of the *Gloria* is scored for four voices, including tenors and basses. Still, with some adaptations – such as having lower lines assigned to instruments – it may have been performed by female voices in Vivaldi's time, as in some modern recordings.

## Gloria, RV589

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of God's good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,

We give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father,

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)** had a long career as a church organist but, unlike church musicians of Vivaldi's time, was able to go freelance later in life as a pianist and composer of many works for piano, organ, orchestra, and opera, among them *The Carnival of Animals* familiar to many of us from childhood. His *Oratorio de Noël (Christmas Oratorio)* premiered in December 1869 at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Paris.

Unlike the oratorios of Handel and Mendelssohn, in whose tradition Saint-Saëns placed himself, the *Christmas Oratorio* does not tell a biblical story; the narrative portion of the piece is limited to the second movement, a setting of text from the gospel of Luke, ch. 2:8–14.



# Oratorio de Noël, Opus 12

## I. Prelude

### II. A quartet of soloists recites the story

In that region, shepherds lived in the fields, watching their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying...

The chorus then bursts into the angelic song that opens the traditional *Gloria* hymn:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

In the style of a cantata, the rest of the oratorio presents a selection of biblical passages alluding to the coming of the Messiah that appear in liturgies for the Christmas season. Drawn from the Old and the New Testaments, the texts and their settings vary in mood from meditative to agitated to exultant.

### III. Solo, Psalm 40 [39]:2

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me.

### IV. Solo and Chorus, John 11:27

Lord, I continue to believe that you are the anointed son of God, who has come into the world.

### V. Duet, Psalm 118 [117]: 26–28

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and he has given us light.

You are my God, and I will confess you; you are my God, I will extol you.

### VI. Chorus, Psalm 2:1 and doxology

Why do the nations/Gentiles rage and the peoples devise vain things?

### VII. Trio, Psalm 110 [109]:3

Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day you lead your forces on the holy mountains [translations of this puzzling verse vary].

### VIII. Quartet, Isaiah 49:13

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

### IX. Quintet and chorus, Lamentations 2:19, Isaiah 62:1

Arise, daughter of Zion, sing praise in the night, at the beginning of the watches!

[until] Zion's vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

### X. Chorus, Psalm 96[95]:8-13

Bring offerings and worship the Lord in the holy sanctuary.

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad

before the Lord because he comes.

## CHORUS

### SOPRANO

Dianna Baetz  
Sharon Burch  
Lisa Conlon  
Darol Donohoe  
Alice Hofer  
Pris Imlay  
Nancy F. Larsen  
Abigail Millikan-States  
Kai Okada  
Hannah Miner Panger  
Gail Rolka  
Susan Russell  
Beverly Schmidt  
Sarah Shockley  
Beki Simon  
Martha Wickliffe  
Gerrie Young  
Audrey Zavell

### ALTO

Judy Alstrom  
Annette Arena  
Carolyn Ashby  
Chris Baer  
Jan Booth  
Mary Lee Bronzo  
Leslie K. Brown  
Ruth Brown  
Posie Carroll  
Jane Chaudhuri  
Polly Coote  
Svetlana Darche  
Donna Dutton  
Emily Dvorin  
Judy Gottesman  
Susan Janson  
Bethe Jensen  
Gretchen Kucserka  
Leslie Kwartin  
Paula Martin  
Linda McCann  
Maggie McDowell  
Barbara Merino  
Shanna Moler  
Marie Narlock  
Ruth Nash  
Robin Nosti  
Mary Osterloh  
Myrna Pepper  
Jill Ross-Kuntz  
Marti Roush  
Cynthia Sawtell  
Patty Sempell  
Jo Sherlin  
Judy Simmons  
Julie Todd  
Katrina Urbach  
Elaine Weston  
Kathy Wilcox  
Shelley Winn  
Spirit Wiseman

### TENOR

Linda Davis  
Jon Goerke  
John Hart  
Don Hodge  
Dewey Livingston  
Moshe Oron  
Steve Orsary  
Jeffrey Paul  
Mickey Reighley  
Fred Ross-Perry  
Scott Sinott  
Babs von Dallwitz  
Kory Zipperstein

### BASS

Gary Appell  
Michael Burch  
Michael Carroll  
Dan Drake  
Michael Irvine  
Thilo Koehler  
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*Concertmaster*  
Lynn Oakley

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Milton Wong

### VIOLA

Meg Eldridge  
Joanna Pinckney

### CELLO

Carol Rice

### BASS

Mark Culbertson

### OBOE

Brenda Schuman-Post

### TRUMPET

Cortez Montalbo

### HARP

Aja Gianoloa-Norris

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Cheryl Ziedrich

Martin Oratorio would like to recognize,  
with love and appreciation,  
our long-standing member Nancy Flathman,  
who passed away in October, 2022.

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