

Ember December 2020

Hearts and Voices Outstretched

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Artistic Director
Schola Cantorum on Hudson, home of
Ember, PROJECT : ENCORE™, Phoenix



In this complicated time, Ember seeks to provide a deep sense of warmth, joy, and peace in “Hearts and Voices Outstretched.” The focus is on hope and anticipation, sources ranging from ancient texts to such well-known carols as “O come, O come, Emmanuel” and “Silent Night.”

Light a candle or a fire in the hearth, heat your mulled cider, and prepare to let go of cares, concerns and busy schedule for one hour of beauty in song as only Ember can deliver.

The Program

Winter 2020: *Yver, vous n’êtes qu’un villain* (sung in French) Claude Debussy
Text by Charles d’Orléans; Richard Stokes, trans

Pamela Jones, soprano Ruston Ropac, alto Christopher Howatt, tenor John Maderazo, bass

Yver, vous n’êtes qu’un villain;
Esté est plaisant et gentil
En témoing de may et d’avril
Qui l’accompaignent soir et main.

Esté revet champs, bois et fleurs
De sa livrée de verdure
Et de maintes autres couleurs
Par l’ordonnance de nature.

Mais vous, Yver, trop estes plein
De nège, vent, pluye et grézil;
On vous deust banir en éxil.
Sans point flater je parle plein.

Winter, you are nothing but a rogue;
Summer is pleasant and kind,
As May and April can testify,
Accompanying it each eve and morn.

Summer is pleasant and kind,
With his verdant livery,
And many other coulours too,
As nature commands.

But you, Winter, you exude
Snow, wind, rain and hail;
You ought to be exiled.
Winter, you are nothing but a rogue.

Concert introduction: Artistic Director Deborah Simpkin King

'O' Antiphons and Carols

O Wisdom (O Sapientia)

Peter R. Hallock

O Wisdom, You came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reach from one end of the earth to another mightily and sweetly ordering all things. **Come and teach** us the way of prudence.

Veiled in Darkness

Glenn Rudolph

Still the earth in darkness lies, Up from death's dark vale arise Voices of a world in grief,
Prayers of men who seek relief; Now our darkness pierce again, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Light of light, we humbly pray, Shine upon Thy world today; Break the gloom of our dark night,
Fill our souls with love and light, Send thy blessed word again, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

From Emily Jane Brontë's "Anticipation" Mark Davies and Blane Shaw

O Lord and Ruler (O Adonai)

Peter R. Hallock

O Adonai, ruler of the house of Israel. You appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush;
on Mount Sinai you gave him your law: with outstretched arm **come and redeem** us (set us free).

Adam Lay YBounden

Frank Boles

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond: Four thousand winter Thought he not too long. *Deo gracias!*
And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerkes finden written in their book. *Deo gracias!*
Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been. Ne had never our lady A-been heav'nè queen.
Deo gracias!

Blessed be the time That apple taken was. Therefore we moun singen *Deo gracias!*

Reading from Henry David Thoreau Pamela Jones

O Root of Jesse (O Radix Jesse)

Peter R. Hallock

O Root of Jesse, you stand as an ensign to the peoples; before you kings shall keep silence,
all nations bow in worship: **Come and save** us, and do not delay.

Still, Still, Still

Norman Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber.

Reading from Barbara Brown Taylor Deborah King

O Key of David (O Clavis David)

John Muehleisen

O key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, what you open no one can close;
what you close no one can open. **O come, deliver** us from the chains of prison;
we who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Sure On This Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen
Text by James Agee

Sure on this shining night of star-made shadows round, kindness must watch for me this side the ground,
on this shining night.

The late year lies down the north, All is healed, all is health. High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night.

I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone of shadows on the stars, sure on this shining night.

From Lillian E. Curtis's poem, "Star of Hope"
Mark Aro

O Rising Dawn(O Oriens)

Peter R. Hallock

O Rising Dawn, Brightness of the light eternal, sun of righteousness: **Come and enlighten** those
who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Long-Expected Dawn

Karen Marroli

When our hearts are troubled and in need of light, and the darkness deepens 'midst the thick'ning night,
We await your coming as our souls press on toward a long-expected dawn.

When our hearts are broken and in need of balm, you send your promise, your hope and calm.
We await your presence as we travel on toward a long-expected dawn.

O Light of Hope! Break forth! Appear and shatter all the darkness here!
O let your advent herald clear an end to sorrow and to fear!

You come from heaven to make straight the way, birthing hope from sorrow, changing night to day.
Lord, walk among us as we journey on toward a long-expected dawn.

From Emily Dickinson's poem, "Hope Is the Thing with Feathers"
Caroline L. Sargent

O King of Nations (O Rex Gentium)

Peter R. Hallock

O King of nations and their desire; You are the cornerstone that binds two into one:
Come and save the creature whom you have fashioned from clay.

Lully, Lulla, Lullay

Philip Stopford

Pamela Jones, Soprano

Refrain: Lully, lulla, By, by, lully, lullay

O sisters too how may we do for to preserve this day? This poor youngling for whom we sing *[Refrain]*
Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day. His men of might in his own sight all young
children to slay. *[Refrain]*

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever morn and day. For Thy parting neither say nor sing,
[Refrain]

Reading from Anne Lamott's book, Help! Thanks! Wow!
Deborah King

O Emmanuel (O Emmanuel, Veni, veni)

Sheena Phillips

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

From A. A. Milne's poem, "Halfway Down"
Christopher Howatt

Pat-a-pan

David Conte

Willie, bring your little drum; Robin, bring your flute and come; And be merry while you play,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan,
And be merry while you play, On this joyful Christmas Day!

When the men of olden days To the King of Kings gave praise, On the fife and drum did play,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan,
On the fife and drum did play, On this joyful Christmas Day!

God and man today become More in tune than fife and drum, So be merry while you play,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, Pat-a-pat-a-pan,
So be merry while you play, Sing and dance this Christmas Day!

Shout the Glad Tidings

Ned Rorem

Shout the glad tidings, exultingly singing, Jerusalem triumphs, Messiah is King!
Sion, the marvelous story be telling, The Son of the Highest, how lowly his birth!
Tell how he cometh; from nation to nation The heart-cheering news let the earth echo round:
How free to the faithful he offers salvation, His people with joy everlasting are crowned.
Mortals, your homage be gratefully bringing, And sweet let the gladsome hosanna arise:
Ye angels, the full alleluia be singing; One chorus resound through the earth and the skies.
Shout the glad tidings.

Peace, Peace

Rick and Sylvia Powell; arr. Fred Bock

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace.

*Ember Artists wish you and yours
inner peace, the warmth of love, and vibrant joy
in this season of hope and holy days.*

Ember Artists

Ember is a mix of active professional singers and deeply experienced avocational singers. The roster includes close to 50 singers, with a typical involvement of 25-30 singers in a given concert. During this COVID season, one of our many safety adjustments that allow for live singing is that of singing with much smaller than usual numbers. (For more on our health and safety protocols, visit EmberEnsemble.org/COVID.)

Today's Ember Artists

Mark Aro
Susan Baer
Mark Davies
Christopher Howatt
Pamela Jones

Gordon King
John Maderazo
Matthew Oden
Ruston Ropac

Caroline L. Sargent
Blane Shaw
Virginia Steindorf
Alexander Wentworth
Anna Willson

Matthew Oden, Collaborative Accompanist ~ Bruno Mayoria, Flautist