



SILENT NIGHT



ELEKTRA
WOMEN'S CHOIR

Morna Edmundson + Artistic Director
Stephen Smith + Piano
Vivian Chen + Harp

Elektra Women's Choir from Vancouver, Canada has been a leader among women's choirs since 1987. Under the direction of Artistic Director, **Morna Edmundson**, the choir is known for its adventurous programming and performance excellence. Elektra produces an annual concert series in Vancouver. In addition to performing worthy repertoire from the past, the choir has commissioned over 90 compositions and arrangements.

Elektra has released 15 CDs and its website offers a permanent repertoire resource for other choirs. Its celebrated outreach programs encourage, train, and mentor the next generation of youth and adults: singers, conductors, and composers. A multiple national prize-winning ensemble, Elektra has been honoured to perform at major conferences of choral professionals worldwide.

Elektra Women's Choir



It's Christmas,

and Elektra is arriving at the party with seven creative guests—the composers and arrangers whose works are here. **Bernat Vivancos** is based in Barcelona, and his arrangement of *Angels We Have Heard on High* sparkles with playful nuance. Ottawa-based **Kelly-Marie Murphy** wrote *Hodie Christus Natus Est* at the invitation of both Elektra and our friends in Ottawa, l'ensemble vocal sénior De La Salle, **Robert Filion**, Conductor. **J. David Moore's** *Veni, Veni* is a meditation that expands on both the musical and poetic themes of this most ancient of melodies. Berlin-based composer and arranger **Winnie Brückner** is represented with two

of her arrangements. *O Jesus, Sweet Child* is the traditional German carol, *O Jesulein Zart*, given a lighthearted lift in this 5/4 rhythm, and *Silent Night* is simply stunning in its simplicity. Canada's **Don Macdonald's** lyrical style marries perfectly with the centuries-old words of *There is No Rose*. Minnesota-based **Abbie Betinis' In the Bleak Midwinter** has become a choral classic. And **Sarah Jaysmith's** lovely *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella!* brings the innocence and enthusiasm of its story to life. I hope this collection of new discoveries will bring you the joy of the season.

Morna





MORNA EDMUNDSON

is one of Canada's best-known choral conductors with a strong reputation for excellence. Based in Vancouver, she is Artistic Director of Elektra Women's Choir and EnChor, an auditioned SATB choir. Passionate

since childhood about choral singing, Morna obtained degrees and diplomas in vocal music in Vancouver, Bellingham, and Stockholm, Sweden where her teachers included Eric Ericson. Under her leadership, Elektra is a proud leader in the worldwide women's choir community, programming a season of concerts, commissioning, recording, and engaging with women of all ages and their conductors through a suite of outreach programs. Morna has worked with choirs of all ages, voicings, and abilities, serves the choral community through volunteerism, and has been recognized with awards from within the choral scene and the broader community.



STEPHEN SMITH

Stephen Smith grew up in rural Nova Scotia, where he sang and played the piano from an early age. After initial studies in his home province in both piano and organ, he

attended the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England. While there, he participated in national and international competitions and won numerous awards and distinctions. Since 1990, Stephen has lived in Vancouver, obtaining his doctoral degree in piano performance from the University of British Columbia, and contributing to the musical life of the city as a performer, teacher, conductor, composer and arranger. Central to Stephen's career is his long-standing relationship with some of Vancouver's finest choral groups, with whom he collaborates as a pianist, composer, and arranger.

Born in Taiwan, **VIVIAN CHEN** first became acquainted with the music of the harp on a family trip to Vancouver, which later on became her home. With a Master of Music Harp Performance degree from the University of British Columbia, Vivian is a student of Heidi Krutzen. In 2012, she made her first concerto debut with the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, and has since performed with the Vancouver Opera Orchestra. In 2015, she was selected as principal harpist of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. Vivian is expanding her love of music through her studies of conducting and composition.

1 | LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES

Text and melody: traditional French
Arranged by: Bernat Vivanco
Publisher: Self published

Les anges dans nos campagnes,
ont entonné l'hymne des cieux;
et l'écho de nos montagnes
redit ce chant mélodieux:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Bergers, pour qui cette fête?
Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?
Quel vainqueur, quelle conquête
mérite ces cris triomphants?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Dans l'humilité profonde

ou vous paraissez à nos yeux,
pour vous louer, Dieu du monde,
nous redirons ce chant joyeux:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Cherchons tous l'heureux village
qui l'a vu naître sous ses toits,
offrons Lui le tendre hommage
de nos cœurs et nos voix!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Ils annoncent la naissance
du Libérateur d'Israël,
et pleins de reconnaissance
chantent en ce jour solennel:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*Angels in our midst have
intoned the anthem of heavens,
And this melodious song
echoes from our mountains:
"Glory to God in the highest!"*

*Shepherds, what is this celebration for?
For whom are these songs?
Which conqueror, what conquest,
deserves these triumphant cries:
"Glory to God in the highest!"
In the profound humility*

*in which you appear before our eyes,
To praise you, Lord of the world,
we'll sing again this joyous song:
"Glory to God in the highest!"*

*Let us all look for the blessed village
that saw him born beneath its roofs,
Offer him our tender homage
from our hearts and from our voices: "
Glory to God in the highest!"*

*They announced the birth
of Israel's liberator
And full of gratitude,
this solemn day they sing:
"Glory to God in the highest!"*

2 | HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST

Text: Latin
Composed by: Kelly-Marie Murphy
Publisher: Cypress Choral Music, CP 1660

Hodie Christus natus est:
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt angeli:
laetantur archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi dicentes:
Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Alleluia!

*Today Christ is born;
today the Saviour has appeared;
today the angels sing,
the archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

3 | **VENI, VENI**

Text: 12th century Latin
Translation: Mark Dietrich
Composed by: J. David Moore
Publisher: Fresh Ayre Music
FAM-0069-02

Veni, veni o oriens!
Solare nos adveniens,

Come, o dawning of the day.

Veni, veni o oriens!
Solare nos adveniens,
Noctis depelle nebulas,
Dirasque noctis tenebras.

Veni, O Sapientia,
Quae hic disponis omnia,
Veni, viam prudentiae
Ut doceas et gloriae.

Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel
nascetur pro te, Israel.

Rejoice!

*Come, o dawning of the day.
Blessed morning, hallowed night.
Illuminate our rocky way.
Dispel the shadows of the night.*

Gaude, gaude, Emmanuel
nascetur pro te, Israel.

*Come, o wisdom, in whose cause
The hopeful gather here to sing.
Teach us the glory of your dawn.
Bring order to our wandering.*

Veni, veni

*The light in me greets the light in you.
The spirit in me greets the spirit in you.*

4 | **O JESUS, SWEET CHILD (O JESULEIN ZART)**

Original Text and Melody: 17th century German
Translation: Christopher Inman
Arranged by: Winnie Brückner
Publisher: Helbling Chormusik

O Jesus, sweet child, how hard is your bed,
O Jesus, sweet child, for your tender head?
Sleep now, oh close your eyes in peace,
and grant us, in you, blessed release.
Child Jesus so sweet, we lie at your feet.

Winds, gentle and mild, disturb not the child!
All storming must cease, your Lord is at peace!
Sleep, child, oh close your eyes in peace,
and grant us, in you, blessed release.
Winds, gentle and mild, disturb not the child!

With peace all around, no movement or sound
the silence will break. The child will not wake.
Sleep then, and close your eyes in peace,
and grant us, in you, blessed release.
And may the Lord keep you safe in sweet sleep.

5 | THERE IS NO ROSE

Text: Medieval English

Composed by: Don Macdonald

Publisher: Cypress Choral Music CP1106

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space.
Res miranda (*wonderful thing*)

By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three.
Pares forma (*of the same form*)

The angels sungen the shepherds to,
"Gloria in excelsis Deo". (*Glory to God in the highest*)
Gaudeamus (*Let us rejoice*)

Leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus (*Let us go*)

6 | IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

verse two by John Andrew Storey;

verses three and four by Rosetti/Betinis

Melody by: Gustav Holst

Arranged by: Abbie Betinis

Publisher: Abbie Betinis Music Co. AB-047-10

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Christ a homeless stranger, so the gospels say,
Cradled in a manger and a bed of hay;
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed,
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have thronged the air.
Shepherds, beasts, and wise men,
may have gathered there.
But only his mother in her tender bliss,
Blessed this new redeemer, blessed him with a kiss.

What can I give you, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give you; give my heart.

7 | BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE, ISABELLA!

Original Text and Melody: Traditional French
Arranged by: Sarah Jaysmith

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle we'll run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village,
Jesus is born, and Mary calls us,
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother,
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is her son.

Who is that who comes here a-knocking?
Who is that knocking here at the door?
Open up! I've arranged on a platter
Wonderful cakes for all who want them.
Knock, knock, open the door now quickly
Knock, knock, open and let us in.

It is wrong when the baby is sleeping,
It is wrong to make so much noise.
Please, be quiet, and don't wake the baby.
Jesus may rouse at any moment.
Hush, hush, see how the babe is dreaming,
Hush, hush, see how he sleeps so well.

Gently, now, in this little stable,
Gently, now, come close to the crib.
Jesus is such a beautiful babe,
His skin is so pale, his cheeks are rosy.
Oh! Oh! See how he sleeps so soundly,
Oh! Oh! See how he smiles in dreams.

8 | SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Original Text: Joseph Mohr
Composed by: Franz Xaver Gruber
Arranged by: Winnie Brückner
Publisher: Helbling Chormusik

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,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.