



Edited by: B.T. Sculac Stern

December 2016

Welcome!

Please join us for our
2016-2017 Season.
We hope you enjoy it!

In this Issue of GraceNotes:

Upcoming Concert Program

Concert Notes from our Music Director

Performance at Carnegie Hall

Announcing our Benefit, Birds & Bees

Subscriptions & Tickets

Attend all three concerts at a discount!

Subscription for 2016-17 season is **only \$64**.

Take the opportunity to hear all three concerts.

Save 15% on the per-concert ticket price.

[BUY SUBSCRIPTION NOW](#)

Come to our upcoming concert:

O Magnum Mysterium

Friday, December 16, 2016 at 8 pm

Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 4 pm

[BUY TICKETS NOW](#)

Upcoming Concert Program

O Magnum Mysterium

Classics and Carols of the Renaissance and Twentieth Century

Tomas Luis de Victoria, *Missa O Magnum Mysterium*

William Byrd, *Sacerdotes Domini*

Jacob Handl, *Pueri, concinite*

Francisco Guerrero, *Qué buen año es el del cielo*

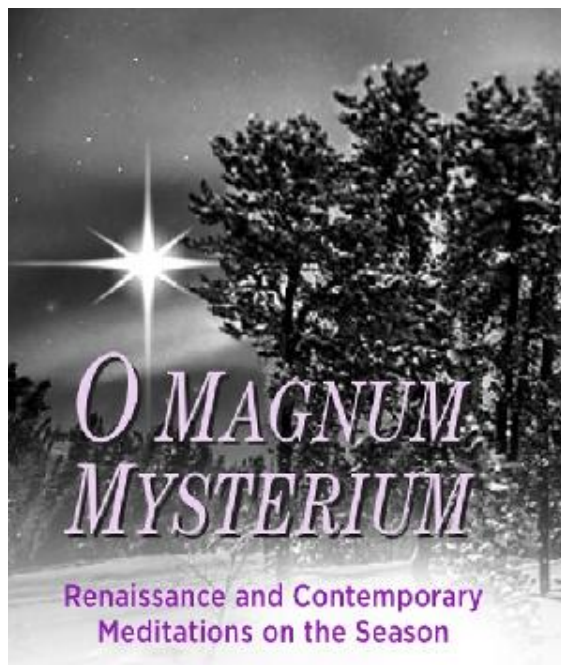
Abbie Betinis, *The Mirthful Heart*

Pavel Chesnokov, *Spasenie Sodelal*

Stephen Paulus, *Hallelu!*

Shaw and Parker, arr. *La virgen lava panales*

Shawn Kirchner, arr. *Brightest and Best*



Jacob Handl, *Mirabile Mysterium*
J.S. Bach, *O Jesulein Süß*
Jacob Handl, *Resonet in Laudibus*
Eric Whitacre, *Lux Aurumque*
Howard Skempton, *Adam lay-y-bounden*
Daniel Pinkham, *Christmas Eve*
Daniel Pinkham, *Thou hast turned my laments into dancing*
Morten Lauridsen, *O Magnum Mysterium*
Tomas Luis de Victoria, *O Magnum Mysterium*

BUY TICKETS NOW

Advent Lutheran Church: 2504 Broadway (at 93rd Street)

Tickets: \$25 (\$30 at the door) Seniors and Students discounts are available

Concert Notes from our Music Director

By: Clara Longstreth

The upcoming concerts on December 16 and 18 offer music that focuses either on counterpoint or harmonic color.

In the Renaissance works of Victoria and Byrd melodic lines enter in turn and are interwoven, forming shifting chords. The harmonic palate is usually simple: the interest lies in the horizontal lines. The concert includes a mass and five motets of this kind.

At the other extreme from counterpoint is music in which the vertical sonority is the important element. Much Russian for chorus is organized around vertical harmony in which many voices sing the same text at the same time. NAS men will sing one Chesnokoff work of this kind.

The American composers Morten Lauridsen and Eric Whitacre have gained enormous popularity for their choral music, much of which is characterized by chords with added dissonance for color within a tonal context. This music is long on atmosphere, short on counterpoint, and can be stunningly beautiful. We will sing one piece each of Lauridsen and Whitacre, in each case one of their most beloved works, *O Magnum Mysterium* and *Lux aurumque*.

We will also sing several works by Renaissance composer Jacob Handl. In one he writes contrapuntal lines and also imagines strangely effective chromatic chords. The piece, *Mirabile Mysterium*, thus incorporates both counterpoint and color chords.

Four works on the program are either folk song arrangements or are folk like in character. We will be singing a new work by a beloved younger composer, Abbie Betinis. This one, for women's voices and drum, has a life affirming text by a poet writing in 1914. *The Mirthful Heart* includes these lines:

*"Without, a city's whirling dust,
a city's alley-wall:*



NASA's Hubble Space Telescope image of newly formed stars.
Credit: NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA) -
ESA/Hubble Collaboration.

*Without, a bleak, pale strip of sky,
Within, high festival.*

*Exultant, rapture-flooded, mad
With mystic inner mirth,
My heart holds her strange carnival
Unseen of all the earth."*

Performance at Carnegie Hall

By: John Pinegar

All you need to do is say "Carnegie Hall" and interest rises, either as a performer or as a music lover. On Saturday, November 19, NAS had the pleasure of being both. Participating together with the West Point Glee Club, the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony Orchestra, and the Young New Yorkers' Chorus, The New Amsterdam Singers powered their way through the wonderfully crafted *Dreams of the Fallen*, by Jake Runestad, and the rousing *Symphony No.9 (Ode to Joy)* by L. Von Beethoven.



Photo courtesy of Mike Landy.

Arranged as a tribute to veterans, the concert was terrific. Playing to a sold-out house, the ensemble performed beautifully, the choir's diction of the German and the English able to be heard in the far balconies. David Bernard, PACS's dynamic conductor, led the group with passion and grace, and brought out the best of the musicians and singers. The long hours of rehearsals paid off, and the performance was worth every minutes of work put into it. Our only regret is that we only got to perform the music once.

Following in the footsteps of earlier collaborations between NAS and PACS, this version was very successful. The 205-voice choir had ample oomph to keep pace with the orchestra, and the soloists were very capable. Maybe we can do this again sometime.

Announcing our Benefit, Birds & Bees

*Need something to look forward to in the dead of winter,
when all the festive holidays are long gone?*

NAS has just the thing...a Cabaret Valentine on February 11 intriguingly entitled:

Birds & Bees ...and what Mom never told you!

It's going to be an evening focused on "the vagaries of romance!" Enjoy the wit and wisdom of Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, George Gershwin, Tom Lehrer, Gilbert & Sullivan, and the Beatles, among others, as interpreted by



three of your favorite NAS songbirds. Chase away those dreary winter blues with great food, ample spirits, delicious desserts, and music! There will also be a Silent Auction offering fabulous gifts you can win for that special valentine or your dear friends.

Seating is limited, so get your tickets soon - don't miss out!

Purchase Benefit Tickets NOW

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2017 • 6:00–9:30pm

Location: 301 West 57th Street, New York City

Includes: Food, drink, dessert & coffee



View our website for information, past articles, tickets, and more: www.nasingers.org

connect with us

