

Dec 1998

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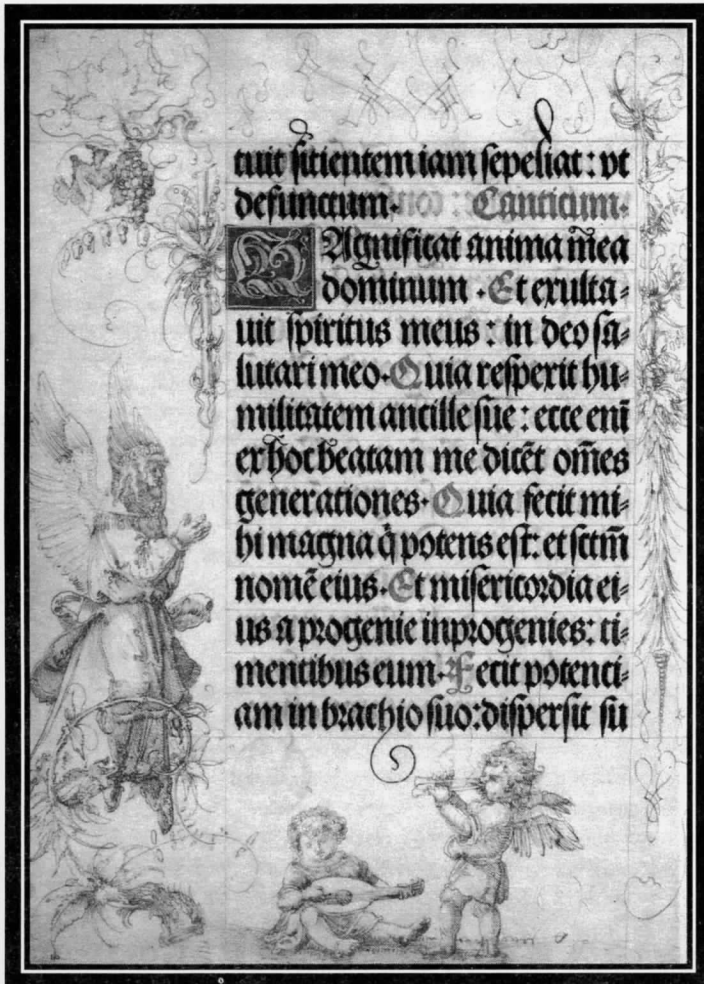
Women's

C·H·O·R·U·S

*Patricia Hennings, Director
Josephine Gandolfi, Pianist*

Canticles & Carols

❁ HOLIDAY CONCERT ❁



Wednesday, December 9, 1998, 7:30 p.m.
Valley Presbyterian Church
945 Portola Road
Portola Valley

Saturday, December 12, 1998, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 13, 1998, 4:00 p.m.
St. Patrick's Seminary
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park

Wednesday, December 16, 1998, 7:30 p.m.
Mission Santa Clara
Santa Clara

Sponsored by Foothill College

 Sponsored in part by
Arts Council
Silicon Valley



PROGRAM



INTROIT

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. J. Edmund Hughes

Handbells - Tricia Tani, Marsha Wells

I

RENAISSANCE MASTERS

Hodie, Christus natus est

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

c. 1525-1594

Hodie Christus natus est. Alleluia.
Hodie Salvator apparuit. Alleluia.
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,
laetantur archangeli: Noe, noe.
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*On this day Christ was born. Alleluia.
On this day the Saviour appeared. Alleluia.
On this day the angels and archangels
sing on earth joyfully: Noel, noel.
Today the just exult, saying:
Glory to God in the highest!*

O Sacrum Convivium

Tomás Luis de Victoria

c. 1549-1611

O sacrum convivium in quo Christus sumitur:
recolitur memoria passionis ejus.
Mens impletur gratia
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.
Alleluia!

*O sacred banquet in which Christ is received;
the memory of His passion is recalled.
Mind is filled with grace,
And to us is given a pledge of future glory.
Alleluia!*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

William Byrd

1543-1623

Cathleen Kalcic, mezzo-soprano

II

EARLY BAROQUE MASTERS

Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her

Johann Hermann Schein

1586-1630

Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her,
Ich bring euch gute neue Mär.
Der guten Mär bring ich so viel,
Davon ich sing'n und sagen will.

*From heaven above I come to earth.
I bring you tidings of great mirth.
I bring you news of peace and joy,
Which I shall sing and I shall say.*

Wohl dem, der nicht wandelt im Rath der Gottlosen

Heinrich Schütz

1585-1672

from *Kleine geistliche Concerte*, Bk. 1 No. 9

Wohl dem, der nicht wandelt im
Rath der Gottlosen,
noch tritt auf den Weg der Sünder,
noch sitzt da die Spötter sitzen.
Sondern hat Lust zum Gesetze des Herrn,
und redet von seinem Gesetze Tag und Nacht.
Der ist wie ein Baum gepflanzt an
den Wasser Bächen,
der seine Frucht bringet zu seiner Zeit,
und seine Blätter verwelken nicht;
und was er machet, das geräth wohl.
Alleluia!

*Blessed is he who walks not in the
path of the Godless,
nor treads in the way of the sinner,
nor sits where the scornful sit.
But delights in the laws of the Lord
and discusses His laws day and night.
He is like a tree planted by the
water stream
that yields fruit in its season,
and whose leaves never fade;
and whatever he does shall prosper.
Alleluia!*

Ehre sei Gott, arr. Jerry Wesely Harris

Heinrich Schütz

1585-1672

Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe,
Friede auf Erden,
und den Menschen ein Wohlgefallen.

*Glory to God in the highest.
Peace on earth,
and goodwill to all people.*

III

TWENTIETH CENTURY MOTETS

Tota pulchra es, from *Quatre Motets sur ses Thèmes Grégoriens*

Maurice Duruflé

1902-1986

Tota pulchra es Maria
et macula originalis
non est in te.
Vestimentum tuum candidum quasi nix,
et facies tua sicut sol.
Tu gloria Jerusalem,
Tu laetitia Israel,
Tu honorificentia populi nostri.

*You are all fair, O Mary,
and the stain of original sin
is not in you.
Your vestments are white as snow,
and your face is like the sun.
You are the glory of Jerusalem,
the joy of Israel
and the honor of our people.*

Intonation - Deanna Knickerbocker

Salve Regina

Ramona Luengen

(written 1987)

Salve Regina, mater misericordiae:
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes,
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos
ad nos converte.
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

*Hail, O Queen, Mother of Mercy;
our life, our sweetness, and our hope: hail!
To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To you we send up our sighs, groaning
and weeping in this valley of tears.
Hasten therefore, our advocate,
and turn your merciful eyes
toward us.
And show us Jesus, the blessed fruit
of your womb, after this exile.
O merciful, O pious, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

Descant - Jeanne Benioff, MaryLouise Thomaston, Mary Tusa

Hodie Christus natus est

József Karai

b. 1927

Text - See Palestrina "Hodie Christus natus est"

IV

Messe à trois voix

André Caplet

1878-1925

Kyrie
Gloria

V

Missa Brevis in tempore violentiae

Ron Jeffers

b. 1943

Kyrie
Gloria



INTERMISSION



VI

Canticle of Mary, *Luke 1:46-55*

Libby Larsen
b. 1950

"This is a joyful Canticle of Mary. In the text, Mary 'acclaims' the Lord. When I went to the dictionary to read about the word 'acclaim,' I discovered that the first definition is 'to salute with shouts or sounds of joy and approval.' This definition suggests that when Mary 'acclaims' the Lord, she not only accepts the conception — she shouts her approval. This is an image of Mary at the Visitation far different from those I have known. I wanted the music to reflect this resounding, noisy joy, and decided that straightforward, melodic lines would represent Mary in her humble acclamation. The accompaniment could then represent, in tempo and texture, the jubilation, energy, and celebration. The solo oboe is the exuberance and free spirit."

-Libby Larsen

Susan Malloy, soprano
Amy Hanson, oboe

VII

Hanukkah Blessings

Ron Jeffers
b. 1943

The Hebrew word *Hanukkah* means "dedication" and refers to the joyous eight-day celebration through which Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple of Jerusalem. On the first night of Hanukkah, the blessings are recited or chanted and one candle is lit with the *Shamash* or "servant" light; on the second night, two candles are lit, and so on. On every night of Hanukkah, two *berochot* ("blessings") are chanted or recited.

The first is a blessing over the candles themselves: *Blessed You, Lord our God, King of the world, who has sanctified us by His commandments and has commanded us to light the candle of Hanukkah.*

The second *berachah* expresses thanks for the miracle of deliverance: *Blessed You, Lord our God, King of the world, who has performed miracles for our forefathers in those days of this season.*

There is a third *berachah* which is chanted or recited only on the first night. This is the *Shehecheyanu* prayer, pronounced by Jews on all happy occasions: *Blessed You, Lord our God, King of the world, who has granted us life and who has sustained us and who has allowed us to reach this season.*

- Program notes by Ron Jeffers

Sivivon, traditional Jewish folksong

arr. Valerie Shields

Spinning top, spin, spin, spin, Hanukkah is a good holiday!
It is a holiday of joy for the people. A great miracle happened there!

Loretta Ames, violin; Amy Hanson, oboe

VIII

Selections from Dancing Day, a cycle of traditional Christmas carols

arr. John Rutter
b. 1945

1. Personent Hodie

On this day the voices of boys ring out, joyfully praising Him who is born to us, given by the most high God, and begotten of the Virgin's womb. He was born into the world, swaddled in rags, and placed in a manger in a lowly stable, the heavenly ruler; the prince of darkness has been vanquished. Three kings came to see the little one; they followed the star to Bethlehem in order to worship Him. They offered Him gold, incense, and myrrh. All clerics, as well as boys, sing as angels: Since You came into the world, let praise for You pour forth. Therefore, glory to God in the highest.

2. Angelus ad virginum

3. There is no rose

Kyle Sofman, soprano; Barbara Saxton, alto

4. Coventry carol

5. Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Beatrice Fanning, soprano



FEATURED COMPOSERS



LIBBY LARSEN

As one of the most active and successful composers working today, Libby Larsen has produced a substantial body of important works for orchestra, dance, opera, choral, chamber, and solo performance. Recognized for "her subtle and sophisticated harmony, revealing an extraordinary capacity for combining seemingly dissimilar elements with great ease," her works are widely performed and recorded. Her "Sonnets from the Portuguese" is featured on the 1994 Grammy Award-winning CD, "The Art of Arleen Auger." Larsen's opera, *Frankenstein, the Modern Prometheus*, was selected as one of the eight best classical music events of 1990 by USA Today. Koch International released an all-Larsen CD with the London Symphony Orchestra in August 1997. Libby Larsen is also an articulate and influential advocate for the arts. In 1973 she co-founded the Minnesota Composers Forum. She is an advisor to many musical organizations, including the National Endowment for the Arts, ASCAP, and the American Symphony Orchestra League. She has served as Composer-in-Residence with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Charlotte Symphony and is the newly appointed Composer-in-Residence with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Among her awards are the National Endowment for the Arts Composer Fellowships, the American Council on the Arts Young Artist Award, a Bush Artists Fellowship, commissions from Meet the Composer/Readers Digest Lila Wallace Foundation, and commissions from the American Composers Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the Cleveland String Quartet, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, Arkansas Opera Theater, Eugenia Zukerman, Arleen Auger, The Walker Art Center, the Plymouth Music Series, and The Schubert Club of St. Paul. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota and California Institute of the Arts, as well as a guest lecturer at colleges and universities throughout the country, and is a Co-founder of the nationally acclaimed American Composers Forum.

See PWC's Fall Newsletter for a personal interview with Libby Larsen.

RON JEFFERS

Ron Jeffers has achieved musical renown in four different areas of accomplishment: as a teacher, a choral conductor, a composer, and a publisher. For many years he was the Director of Choral Activities at Oregon State University, and has also taught at the University of Choral Directing in Corvallis, Oregon. He recently retired from both of those academic positions, and now devotes himself full time to managing Earthsongs, a company based in Corvallis and co-founded by Mr. Jeffers that publishes choral music from other cultures in their original languages. Earthsongs celebrates its tenth anniversary this year with the introduction of three new pieces from Inner Mongolia. Mr. Jeffers was able to work directly with the conductor of the Mongolian Choir while he was visiting Eugene, Oregon, this year, to ensure an authentic interpretation of the works.

The Chorus has featured a number of Mr. Jeffers' compositions in recent years, including two on this season's program: the "Missa Brevis in tempore violentiae," and "Hanukkah Blessings." Two of his other works can be heard on PWC's recently released "Songs of the Spirit" CD: "Whitman 'Credo'" (text excerpted from Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*) and "Indian Singing" (text from poems by Gail Tremblay). The Chorus has also been privileged to have Mr. Jeffers lead two recent workshops, where he focused on teaching the Chorus how to learn and interpret music from other cultures and how to strengthen choral ensemble. The Chorus looks forward to continued opportunities to work with Mr. Jeffers and perform his music.

THE PENINSULA WOMEN'S CHORUS

The Peninsula Women's Chorus has earned a national and international reputation as one of the finest women's choirs in the United States. The Chorus, specializing in serious music for women's voices from the medieval through contemporary periods, performs in the original languages and from memory. Established in 1966 by Marjorie Rawlins, the Chorus performs extensively throughout the Bay Area. The Chorus has been broadcast on National Public Radio and has appeared on television both nationally and internationally. The Chorus has made three overseas concert tours: in 1981 to Austria, Germany, and Switzerland; in 1984 to Great Britain, where they participated in the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales, and appeared on BBC television; and in the summer of 1994 to Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, and Latvia, during which they won second prize at the Tallinn International Choral Competition. The Chorus performed at the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, in 1987, singing a feature concert of music from the film, *Song of Survival*, and presenting music for women's voices in a special interest session of music by Kirke Mechem. In March of 1992, they performed at the ACDA Western Division Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, and in 1993, the Chorus was selected by jury to perform on the main venue at the ACDA National Convention in San Antonio. In October 1995, PWC and director Patricia Hennings made their highly successful operatic debut in the West Bay Opera production of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. This fall the Chorus presented an Inaugural Centenary Concert at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco, in honor of the centennial of St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. In the past two seasons, the Chorus performed the national anthem at the opening game of the San Jose Lasers of the ABL, the women's professional basketball league. The Chorus has previously released two CDs, "Treasures" and "Alleluia Psallat," and this winter is releasing its third, "Songs of the Spirit."

PATRICIA HENNINGS, DIRECTOR

Patricia Hennings, director of the Peninsula Women's Chorus since 1975, has directed the PWC in three appearances at ACDA regional and national conventions and is active as a clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pomona College, and Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from Stanford University. She is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, and has received the Sword of Honor and the Rose of Honor from this professional women's music organization. As Director of Choral Activities at Skyline College, she has conducted the Skyline College Choir and the Skyline Chorus, and has taught world music and a humanities course in art and music. She served as national chairperson of women's choirs from 1990 to 1993 for the American Choral Directors Association. In 1996 she was the guest conductor for the GALA Choruses' Festival V in Tampa, Florida, and in February 1998 she conducted the first Women's Honor Choir for the ACDA Western Division conference. In March 1999 she will serve as guest conductor for the ACDA Women's Chorus Festival at the Stanislaus campus of California State University.

JOSEPHINE GANDOLFI, PIANIST

Pianist Josephine Gandolfi performs as soloist, chamber musician, and vocal accompanist, and has appeared in concert and on radio in many parts of the United States, Germany, France, and Israel. In California she has appeared under the auspices of the San Francisco Chamber Music Society, the Cabrillo Music Festival, and on numerous university, museum, and community concert series. She has taught piano at Stanford University and the University of California at Santa Cruz, and has held the position of coach-accompanist at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Since 1992, she has been accompanist to the Peninsula Women's Chorus. She has recorded for CRI, New Albion, Koch International, and German National Radio in Berlin and Bremen. In February 1999, she will serve as the pianist for the ACDA National Women's Honor Choir in Chicago.



CHORUS MEMBERS



FIRST SOPRANO: Jeanne Benioff, Sue Casey, Mardie Daul, Marjie Hempsted, Sue Hnilo, Lydia Hwang, Deanna Knickerbocker, Shaula Kumaishi, Sue Malloy, Jill Mueller, Mercidita Navarro, Carol Schultz, Judy Sweet, MaryLouise Thomaston, Mary Tusa

MEZZO SOPRANO: Marie des Jardins, Beatrice Fanning, Cathleen Kalcic, Robin Khodair, Andra Marynowski, Gail Schwettman, Paula Sebring, Bonnie Senko, Kyle Sofman, Carol Stevens, Tricia Tani, Kathie Underdal, Eithne Wait-Karski, Cindy Welker

FIRST ALTO: Loretta Ames, Meredith Anchan, Priscilla Bates, Alice Bauder, Ruthellen Dickinson, Sue Irvine, Emily Jiang, Betsy Landergren, Michele Nigh, Mimi Patterson, Kathy Plock, Christina Sebastian, Julia Shelby, Claire Taylor, Deanne Tucker, Marsha Wells

SECOND ALTO: Mary Ager, Anne Anderson, Beverly Colquhoun, Lisa Fenwick, Mary Ellen Foley, May Goodreau, Valerie Hornstein, Jan Reinhardt Houlihan, Barbara Kaplan, Kathy MacLaury, Elena Melendez, Kim Mortyn, Gerri Roe, Sonja Salveson, Barbara Saxton, Mary Shaw



JOIN THE CHORUS



The Peninsula Women's Chorus welcomes experienced singers to audition for membership in this dynamic ensemble. Rehearsals are held during the school year every Monday evening from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at Foothill College, Middlefield Campus. Auditions for the Chorus are held the first two Mondays of September and January. For further information, please call 650-327-3095.



SPECIAL THANKS



A special thanks to members of the Peninsula Women's Chorus Auxiliary who help with the production of our concerts: Ernest Adams; Russ Ames; Carl Anderson; Jim Bauder; Juanda Benson; Ellie and Phil Chambers, John Daul, Mike Dodd, Bob and Jan Fenwick, Jason Gaines, Gil Gross, Lizbeth Holley, Greg Kimura; Al Knickerbocker; Mary Lorey; Dorothy Mak; Jeff Malloy; David Meckler; Venicio Navarro; Barbara Pforzheimer; Stew Plock; Carolyn, Bob, Janet, and Jeff Rutherford; Charlie Schulz; Larry Sebring; Bob Shaw; Noel Stevens; Steve Tani; Liz Thompson; Jerry Underdal; and Marg Zellner

Thanks to the following for their donations to the Chorus: Karin L. Graham; Earl and Ann Hennings; Al Knickerbocker; B. Langsdorf; Alicia Lefetra; William Nicols; Martha Purl; and Joan B. Robinson

Thanks also to the following for their contributions: Andrew Heller of Location Digital Recording for recording services; Rick English Pictures for videography; Ruthellen Dickinson for program content; and Mary Tusa for graphic design and production of the season brochure, concert program, and "Songs of the Spirit" CD insert.

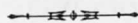
Cover illustration: Albrecht Altdorfer, page from the Prayer-book of Emperor Maximilian I, c. 1513

Visit our Web page!
<http://www.pwchorus.org>

PWC'S NEWEST CD

The Peninsula Women's Chorus announces the release of its latest CD, "Songs of the Spirit," featuring inspirational music ranging from the vocal orchestra arrangements of the documentary film *Song of Survival* to the scintillating contemporary works of Ron Jeffers and Lou Harrison. For those who have requested a recording of Dvořák's powerful "Largo," Johansson's shimmering "Examine Me," R. Murray Schafer's exotic "Snowforms," or the PWC's favorite "Shenandoah," this CD is for you!

*This CD made possible in part by a grant from
The Peery Foundation*



Also available:

"TREASURES"

PWC's first CD includes innovative works by contemporary composers Libby Larsen, Michael Cleveland, David Conte, Nancy Telfer, and Knut Nystedt, and a nod to the Western tradition with works by Victoria and Holst.

"ALLELUIA PSALLAT"

Music for the yuletide, this CD features some of PWC's best-loved Christmas music, including pieces by Hildegard von Bingen, Benjamin Britten, and Kirke Mechem.

These CDs can be purchased in the lobby at today's performance.



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Merry Christmas

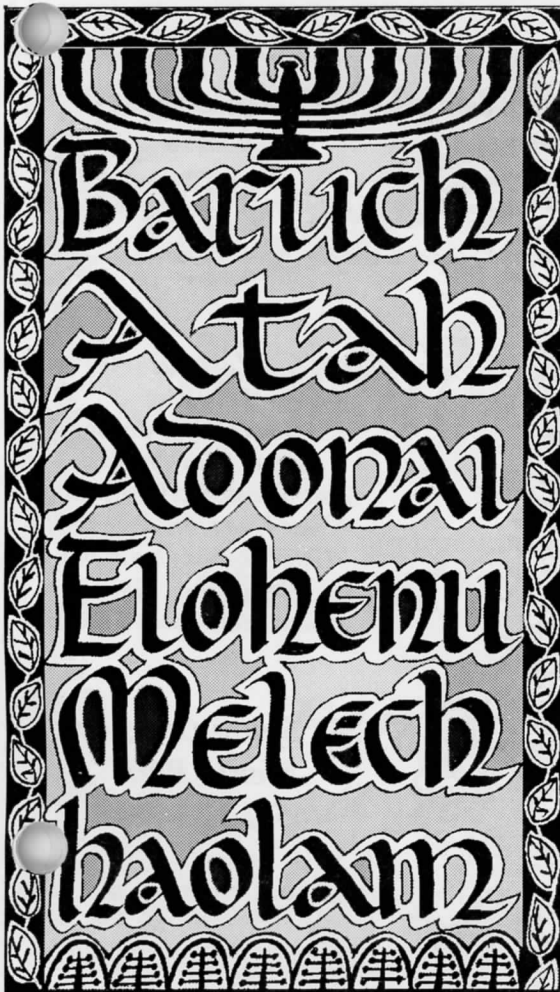
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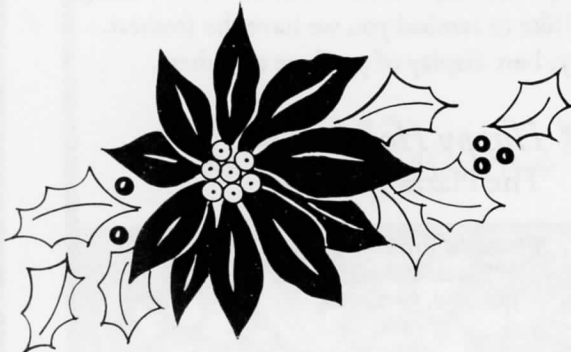
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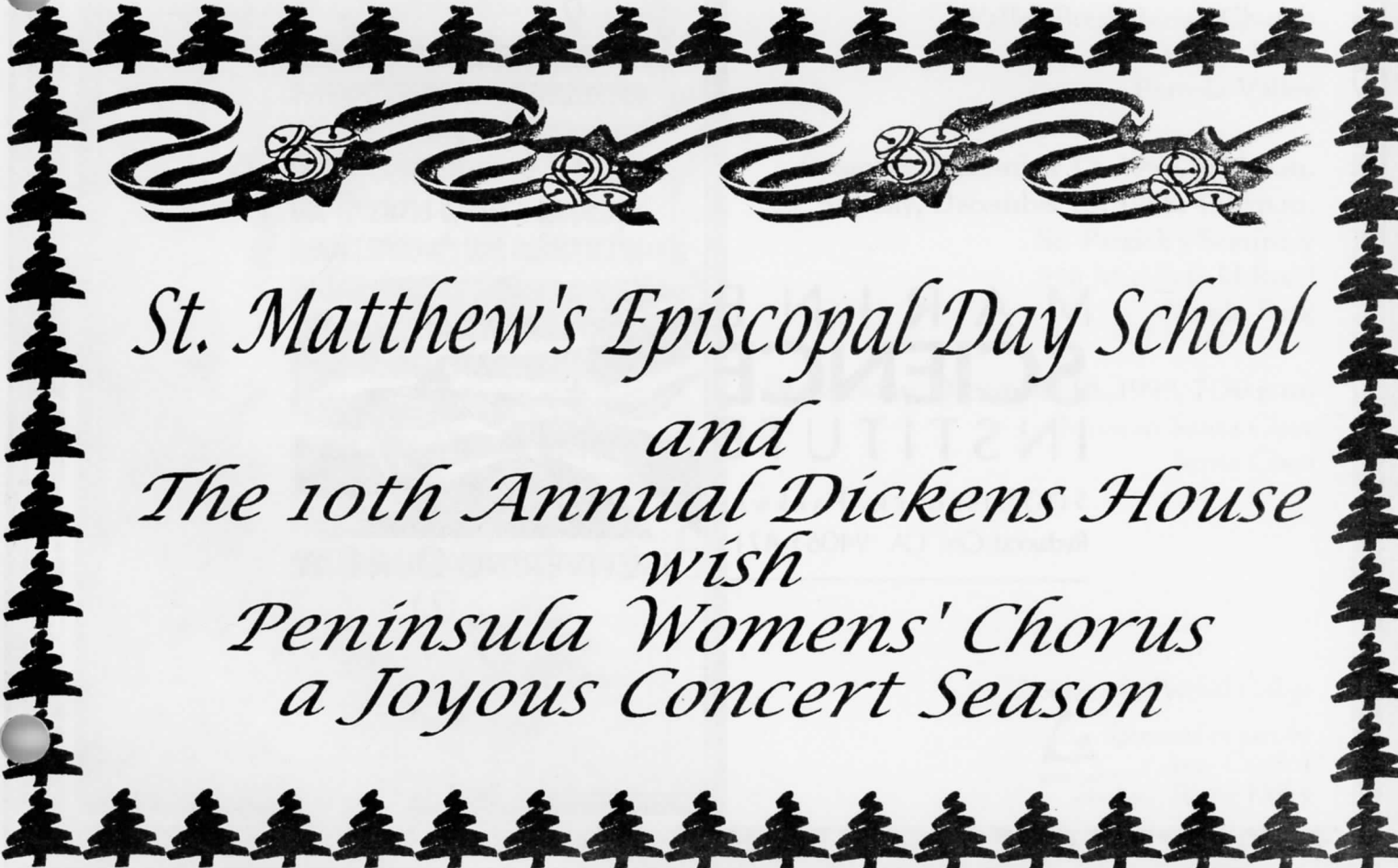
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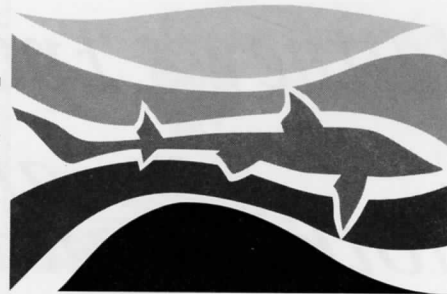
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