

# Old Music *for the* New Year

## *Noël: Christmas Music from Baroque France*

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 2.30 p.m.

MICHEL CORRETTE (1707-1795)

SINFONIA 1, "SUR DES NOËLS FRANÇOIS ET ETRANGERS

*À la venüe de Noël – Moderato*

*Le Roy des cieux vient de naître – Andante*

*Voici le jour solemnel – Moderato*

*Adam fut un pauvre homme – Allegro*

HENRY DU MONT (1610-1684)

O GLORIOSA DOMINA

JEAN-FRANÇOIS DANDRIEU (1682-1738)

NOËLS EN FA (LIVRE DE NOËLS)

*Puer nobis nascitur (Trio sur les Flûtes – En Musette)*

*Savez-vous, mon cher voisin (Duo)*

*Ô Nuit, heureuse Nuit (Flûtes)*

*Mais on san es allé Nau (Duo – En Grand Jeu)*

MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER (1643-1704)

POUR LA VIERGE

HENRY DU MONT

SYMPHONIA & PAVANA

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN (1694-1772)

NOËL X: GRAND JEU ET DUO "QUAND DIEU NAQUIT À NOËL"

MARC-ANTOINE CHARPENTIER

MESSE DE MINUIT POUR NOËL

*KYRIE: Joseph est bien marié – Or nous dites Marie – Une jeune pucelle*

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO: Les bourgeois de Chastre – Ou s'en vont ces guays bergers*

*CREDO IN UNUM DEUM: Vous qui désirez sans fin – Voicy le jour solemnel de Noël – À la venüe de Noël*

*OFFERTOIRE: Laissez paitre vos beste*

*SANCTUS: O dieu qu netois je en vie*

*AGNUS DEI: A minuit fut fait un resveil*

CLAUDE BALBASTRE (1724-1799)

NOËL SUISSE "IL EST UN PETIT L'ANGE"

# THE MUSICIANS

Isolde Roberts-Welby, *soprano/alto*

Olivia Duffin, *alto*

Tim Carter, *tenor*

Jordan Rettich, *bass*

Celeste Lingas, *soprano*

Marc Destrubé, *baroque violin*

Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith, *baroque violin*

Joanna Hood, *baroque violin*

Natalie Mackie, *viola da gamba*

Christina Hutten, *organ*

Mark McDonald, *organ*

## PROGRAM NOTES

In France the earliest record of Christmas is in the year 496 when King Clovis and his three thousand warriors were baptized on Christmas Day. Ever since, the holiday has significantly become part of French identity.

Noëls were based on religious songs, folk-like in nature, and had long been accepted as part of the liturgy at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Noëls were essentially the songs of the people, with a very human perspective on the birth of Jesus, and were sung on this occasion throughout France set to popular tunes with names such as "Une jeune pucelle" and "Joseph est bien marié."

By the seventeenth century, instrumental versions of noëls appeared, although these were rarely set to text. Charpentier's setting of a complete Mass based on noëls was unprecedented in his lifetime.

In the 18th century organ arrangements of noëls were particularly popular. Balbastre was especially famous for his improvisations on noëls: when he played them at St Roch every year at Midnight Mass, the performance attracted such a crowd that in 1762 the archbishop finally forbade him to play.

**Marc-Antoine Charpentier** (1643 – 1704) composed one of his best-known compositions the *Messe de minuit pour Noël* (Midnight Mass for Christmas) around 1694 for the Jesuit church of the Église de Saint-Louis in Paris where he was music director. He upheld a longstanding tradition for this mass to be celebrated around midnight as the first of three on Christmas Day: to base the music on melodies of French noëls.

**Michel Corrette** (1707 – 1795) a French organist, composer and author of musical method books, served as organist at the Jesuit College in Paris from about 1737 to 1780. For many years his reputation rested on his teaching methods and educational works, and he can claim to have written and published more teaching methods than any other composer. In *Les Six Symphonies de Noël*, Corrette displays his innovative and truly creative side to include not just French noëls but also foreign carols.

**Henry Du Mont** (1610 – 1684) was harpsichordist at the court of the Duke of Anjou (Philippe I, Duke of Orléans, a brother of Louis XIV), and in 1660 obtained that post to the young queen Marie-Thérèse. In 1663 he became "maitre" of the Chapelle Royale in Versailles and in 1673 became Master of the Queen's Music.

**Jean-François Dandrieu** (c.1682 – 1738) was one of the four organists of the Chapelle royale of France and organist of the church of St Barthélémy in Paris.

**Louis-Claude Daquin** (1694 – 1772) was appointed organist at the Church of Saint Paul in Paris and later the Church of the Cordelier becoming organist to Louis XV at the Chapelle Royale and then titular organist at Notre-Dame Cathedral.

**Claude Balbastre** (1724-1799) played at the Concert Spirituel, was organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral then became harpsichordist to the French royal court where he taught queen Marie-Antoinette became organist for the future Louis XIII, King of France.

## TRANSLATIONS

O GLORIOSA DOMINA  
O glorious princess,  
Raised above the stars,  
He whom thou created with care  
Was suckled at thy holy breast.

That which Eve did ravish through her sin  
Thou givest back with generous fecundity:  
Weeping, they enter to the stars  
Through thee, the gateway to the heavens.

Thou art the door to the king on high,  
The bright doorway of light:  
Celebrate, ye redeemed people,  
The life given by the Virgin.

### POUR LA VIERGE

For thou art happy, O holy Virgin Mary, and art worthy of all praise,  
for out of thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God.  
Pray for the people, plead for the clergy, make intercession for women dedicated to God:  
May your help be to all who keep thy holy remembrance.  
For our of thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE JOINED US FOR THESE NEW YEAR  
CELEBRATIONS AND FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TOWARDS THE  
FUTURE OF THESE ANNUAL SEASONAL CONCERTS.

Old Music for the New Year is co-hosted by the Victoria Conservatory of Music's Pacific Baroque Festival  
and Christ Church Cathedral. We wish to thank all those who have made generous contributions to  
support today's concert and especially our sponsor Generational Wealth at Raymond James for their  
continued support.



If you would like to become a sponsor of next year's event, please contact  
Donald Hunt, Director of Music, Christ Church Cathedral  
250.383.2714 – [dhunt@christchurchcathedral.bc.ca](mailto:dhunt@christchurchcathedral.bc.ca)

## COMING SOON

### THE YEAR OF THE ORGAN: OPENING CONCERT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 4.00 P.M.

*Featuring Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite arranged for two organists!*

Donald Hunt & Mark McDonald, *organ*

Benjamin Butterfield, *tenor*

KlaVIERhands (Jane Edler-Davis & Wendy Stofer, *piano*)

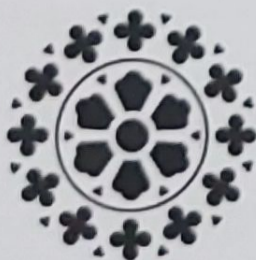
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