



# **Sts. Peter & Paul Choir**

## **Christmas Chorale**

*(Chorale will start 15 minutes before each Mass  
throughout Christmastide)*

### **[Christmas Day]**

**25 December 2016, 11am Sunday Mass**

"Puer Natus est Nobis"

"Be Still My Soul"

"O Sacrum Convivium"

### **[Mary, Mother of God]**

**31 December 2016, 5:30pm Mass**

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

"O Sacrum Convivium"

### **[Epiphany]**

**7 January 2017, 5:30pm Mass**

"Puer Natus est Nobis"

"Christmas Lullaby"

"Joy to the World"



**"Puer Natus est Nobis"** is the Introit for the Mass in the Day celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord, and it dates back to the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. The edition that is sung by the choir today dates back to the middle ages and is taken from the Graduale Romanum, which is a collection of Propers and Ordinaries of the Mass for the Catholic Liturgy.

**"Be Still My Soul"** is a poem composed by the Lutheran Nun Katharina A.D. von Schlegel in the early 1700's at the height of the Lutheran pietism movement. The tune FINLANDIA which accompanies the text is an adaptation of Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) *Finlandia*, Op. 26. whose piece symbolizes the struggles of the Finnish people, resolving in the serenity of hope.

**"O Sacrum Convivium"** is a prose honoring the Blessed Sacrament, and the text is attributed with some probability to St. Thomas Aquinas. Its sentiments express the profound affinity of the Eucharistic celebration described as a banquet in the Paschal Mystery. The choir sings the motet by Richard Farrant (1525 – 1580), who was a peer of William Byrd & Christopher Tye during the tumultuous Protestant-Catholic tensions in the English courts.

**"O Come All Ye Faithful"** has been interpreted as a Jacobite rallying cry for the Stuart cause (the Roman Catholic House of Stuart appealed to Pope Clement XI for the restitution of their monarchy over England, Scotland and Ireland). Symbolisms of "faithful" (reference to the Jacobites), "Bethlehem" (a common cipher for England), and "Regem Angelorum" (a pun on *Angelorum* and *Anglorum*, i.e. English).

**"Joy to the World"** written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), whose popularity as the first English hymn writer made him known as the "Father of Hymns". You will notice that the lyrics make no reference to the usual Christmas allegories of shepherd, mangers, wise men or angels as Watts did not write the song for Christmas. Instead, the original intent for the song was for the second coming of the Lord. Christmas won't always be a joyful time, but when Jesus comes again, all of nature will sing!



## Invitation

If you are open to learning about Church Music History, Gregorian & Plainchant, Polyphonic Motets & Praise Anthems, we'd be happy to chat with you!

We invite friends to journey with us in our discovery & study of the sung traditions of the Catholic faith.

Enquiry Dates are (Saturdays, 3:30pm – 4:30pm):

**January 14 & 21**

Room 7, SPP Church Level 2

**CONNECT WITH US AT:**

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