

WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC SHARED WITH US TODAY

SOLOISTS

Allison Benoit, *soprano*
Esther Keller, *soprano*
Kaleigh Odum, *mezzo-soprano*
Jacob McCain, *tenor*
Jackson Baldwin, *baritone*

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Jake Rouge, *violin*
Liz Ivy Wilson, *violin*
Jorge Richter, *viola*
Zach May, *cello*
Zack Ross, *organ*

THE MAGNIFICAT

The *Magnificat* or Cantic of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:46-55) is one of three evangelical canticles found in the first two chapters of the Gospel of St. Luke. Like the other two (the *Benedictus* or Cantic of Zachary, Luke 1:69-79, and the *Nunc dimittis* or Cantic of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32), it is to be interpreted as a personal expression of joy and thanksgiving and, symbolically, as the thanksgiving prayer and praise of all Israel for the Incarnation's fulfillment of God's promise of redemption. Mary, the Virgin Mother, is also "the highest and most perfect personification of Israel, the virgin daughter Sion" who rejoices at the inestimable favor bestowed on her (and Israel's) lowly estate. She sings praises to God her Savior (verses 46-50), recalls the mercies shown to Israel (verses 51-53), and sings of the Incarnation's fulfillment of God's ancient promise to Abraham (verses 54-55). To this song of rejoicing sung by the Blessed Virgin during the Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, the Roman liturgy appends the traditional doxology, the *Gloria Patri*.

From *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire, Vol. I*
Compiled and Edited by Ron Jeffers

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The Song of Mary

(A version of the *Magnificat* based on Luke 1:46-55)

My soul sings of you, O God.
My spirit delights in your Presence.

You have cherished my womanhood.
You have honored earth's body.

All will know the sacredness of birth.
All will know the gift of life.

Your grace is to those who are open.
Your mercy to the humble in heart.

The dreams of the proud crumble.
The plans of the powerful fail.

You feed the hungry with goodness.
You deny the rich their greed.

The hopes of the poor are precious.
The birth pangs of creation are heard.

You have been faithful to the human family.
You are the seed of new beginnings.

My soul sings of you, O God.
My spirit delights in your presence.

From *Sounds of the Eternal* by John Philip Newell

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