

Christmas With Wartburg



*From the East to the West
The Light Shines Forth*

As the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son.

Matthew 24:27

Christmas With Wartburg, 1988

From the East to the West

The Light Shines Forth

The audience is kindly requested to refrain from applause until the completion of the program.

From its very beginning, the Christmas Story has embraced both the East and the West, transcending all borders and systems and bringing "peace on earth, good will among all people." The year 1988 marks the 1000th anniversary of the first baptism in Russia and the beginning of the church there. We are also approaching, in 1992, the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the first Christian on American shores. To celebrate this universality, music for this program is either Russian (R) or American (A).

Preludial Music:

Come, Savior of the Nations

Organ

J.S. Bach

Festival Prelude

Brass Quartet

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Prayer of Jesus

Organ

Olivier Messiaen

Fanfare and Variations of Noel Nouvelet

Trumpets and Organ

Raymond W. Haan

Holy, Radiant Light (R)

Wartburg Choir

Alexander Gretchaninoff

Rejoicing (A)

Wartburg Concert Band

Alfred Reed

The Birth

Ave Maria (R)

Wartburg Choir

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Away in a Manger (A)

Castle Singers and Chamber Orchestra

Arr. Arthur Harris

The Shepherds

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (A)

Assembly

Richard Storrs Willis

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (A)

Castle Singers

Arr. Edwin Fissinger

I Wonder as I Wander (A)

Wartburg Choir

John Jacob Niles

Russian Christmas Music (R)

Wartburg Concert Band

Alfred Reed

The Wise Men

We Three Kings (A)

Assembly

J.H. Hopkins

The Great Gate (R)

Wartburg Concert Band

Modest Mussorgsky

All on a Christmas Morning (A)

Castle Singers

Alfred S. Burt

World-wide Celebration of the Light

Salvation Is Created (R)

Wartburg Concert Band, Choir, Castle Singers

Pavel Tschesnokoff

Joy to the World (A)

Assembly

Lowell Mason

Sing to the Lord a New Song - Psalm 96 (A)

Wartburg Concert Band, Choir, Castle Singers

Frank Bencriscutto

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And people bent on war hear not
The love song which they bring:
O, hush the noise of bitter strife
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

REF: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring, to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Pray'r and praising, all are raising,
Worship Him, God most high.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Seal'd in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia;
Earth to the heav'ns replies.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
//And heav'n and nature sing.//

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains //Repeat the sounding joy.//

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
//Far as the curse is found.//

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
//And wonders of his love.//

Christmas With Wartburg

Wartburg College remains faithful to its Christian heritage. This is evident each December with its eloquent and meaningful Christmas With Wartburg productions.

The event evolved from the tradition of group caroling that was popular when Wartburg College was located in Clinton, Iowa. The first formal program, a candlelight service, was assembled during the 1930s by Phi Sigma, a women's organization. When Wartburg moved back to Waverly, the program was sponsored by the organization, Chi Rho, whose members were religion and pre-seminary students. Dr. Conrad Becker, president from 1945-64, suggested offering the program to the community as Wartburg's gift, and it remains the college's offering to its constituencies.

The strength of Christmas With Wartburg's message and the quality of the music attract large audiences. What originally was a single performance expanded into two on-campus productions. In 1980, Christmas With Wartburg was performed in Waterloo and Cedar Falls, and in 1986, Des Moines was added to its itinerary.

For many in the audience, the early December performances are timed as a fitting opening to the Advent Season. For students, the performances climax the academic year's Fall Term and are among the last events scheduled before final examination week.

Students begin rehearsing months in advance of the December performances. Four major music organizations, involving some 170 musicians, participate. Each organization has a rich performance history. Three of them conduct international tours every fourth year and other years take a 10-day tour in a different region of the U.S. The 75-voice Wartburg Choir includes a Chamber Choir of 26 voices. The Wartburg Concert Band has 60 musicians, and the Castle Singers number 18 vocalists and four instrumentalists. The Wartburg Chamber Orchestra has 20 members. Music students represent almost every academic discipline at the college.

Wartburg College is a private, four-year, liberal arts college, located in Waverly, Iowa. It offers four degrees on the bachelor's level: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, and Bachelor of Applied Arts or Science. A student may choose from 45 majors and 14 professional programs. Wartburg is a coeducational college of 1,350 students. It is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is proud of its 135-year history.

The name Wartburg honors the German landmark, Wartburg Castle, which is located in the German Democratic Republic near Eisenach. The castle has a 900-year history. During the stormy days of the Reformation, it served as a refuge for Martin Luther, who translated the New Testament into German there in 1521. Bach was born near Eisenach in 1685, and the Wartburg car is manufactured there today.

The Wartburg Bookstore will be open for your convenience before and after the two performances of Christmas With Wartburg in Neumann Auditorium. Hours are Dec. 1, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., and Dec. 4, 2 - 8 p.m.