



VESPERS

2025

MEMORIAL CHAPEL
NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NEW YORK



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PROGRAM



Prelude

Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major

Allegro

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Arranged by Steven Brook

The six Brandenburg Concertos were composed by J.S. Bach for His Royal Highness Christian Ludwig, the Margrave of Brandenburg, and were dedicated in 1721. While Cöthen was a relatively small town with few cultural amenities, the Margrave was an accomplished musician who put his complete faith — and his newly acquired orchestra — behind the talents of Bach. Each of the six concertos differs in instrumentation and focus. Some, such as Nos. 4 and 5, are focused on soloists, while others, such No.1, are focused on the group itself.

Chamber Orchestra

Introit

Veni Emmanuel

Ancient plainsong

Arranged by Sheila Heffernon

Spencer Hirschey '26, soloist, NMH afternoon

Anthony McNamara '26, soloist, NMH evening

Henry Ormont '26, soloist, New York

James Wareham '26, chimes

Concert Choir

Processional

Sing We Noel

19th-century French carol

Arranged by Harvey B. Gaul

The congregation is invited to stand and join in the singing.

Dost thou remember the prophet of old,
Who that most wondrous story told,
How of a virgin pure and mild
Should be born a perfect child?
The seer spake true the virgin so fair
A son from heaven doth declare.
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Angels praise God in glorious strain,
Mortals take up the glad refrain.
Bright in the East, fair shining Star,
Thou lead'st the wise men from afar.

'Tis here He lies! Rejoice! Rejoice!
In praise lift up a sounding voice!
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Now let Hosannas ring o'er all the earth,
Proclaim the infant Jesus' birth!
Spread the glad tidings of a Saviour found,
With joy let ev'ry heart abound.
Our Lord is born! Green garlands bring.
We'll crown the newborn infant King!
Sing we Noel, Noel, Noel.

Words of Welcome

Brian Hargrove, Head of School

The Unexpected Early Hour

Reena Esmail (b. 1983)
Text by Rebecca Gayle Howell

Reena Esmail is an Indian-American composer whose music explores the cross relationship between Western and Hindustani music. This piece is based on "Raag Ahir Bhairav." A raag is a melodic framework for a song, similar to a Western scale or mode, and is meant to "color the mind" (raag is from the Sanskrit word for coloring or dyeing) in the emotion of its qualities. This raag is meant to be sung early in the morning, which correlates to the Christian practice of Lauds, or daybreak prayers.

NMH Singers

The Adoration of the Magi

Timothy Stephens (b. 1951)
Text by W.B. Yeats

Seacht bpáidreacha fó seacht
Chuir Muire faoi n-a Mac,
Chuir Brighid faoi n-a brat.
Chuir Dia faoi n-a neart,
Eidir sinn 'san Sluagh Sidhe,
Eidir sinn 'san Sluagh Gaoith.

Seven prayers seven times,
Send Mary by her Son,
Send Bridget by her mantle,
Send God by his strength,
Between us and the faery host,
Between us and the demons of the air.

William Butler Yeats' short story "The Adoration of the Magi" ends with the narrator describing a centuries-old Gaelic prayer: "When I pray against the demons I repeat a prayer which was made I know not how many centuries ago to help some poor Gaelic man or woman who had suffered with a suffering like mine." Yeats' magi search and wait for Christ's second coming with their "eyes still fixed, hoping, hoping."

Eavan Connelly '26, violin

Concert Choir and Chamber Orchestra

A Reading from the Book of Psalms

Psalm 27 Verse 1

Psalm 112 Verse 4

Gabe Adams '28, NMH afternoon
Parker Newman '26, NMH evening
Amasa Shippee '29, New York

This Little Light of Mine

Traditional American gospel
Arranged by Clifton J. Noble

This song served as an enduring and powerful anthem during the American Civil Rights Movement. A traditional gospel song with roots in the American South, its simple yet resolute message — refusing to let one's inner light be extinguished — was transformed into a potent tool for activists. The song was frequently sung at meetings and marches and during sit-ins and jail stays, often with verses adapted to the immediate circumstances, such as challenging segregationist practices. The communal singing fostered solidarity and courage in the face of violence and oppression, embodying the unwavering hope for equality and justice. This arrangement is by local composer Jerry Noble.

Select Treble Ensemble

Scherzo

Roger Zare (b. 1985)

This light, bright, and joyful composition was written when the composer was just 15 years old. It was inspired by the scherzo of Beethoven's 7th symphony. Scherzo means a "musical joke," and the performers should be playful with the notes. The musicians use a technique called spiccato in this piece. Spiccato is when the players bounce their bows above the strings as they play to create a short and light articulation.

Chamber Orchestra

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo, traditional
Text by John M. Neale

The congregation is invited to stand and join in the singing.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are bless'd forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

A Reading from the Sutra of Contemplation of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life

Miller Ming '26, NMH afternoon
Grace Huang '26, NMH evening
Cerys Coffey '29, New York

Cantata BWV 29

Johann Sebastian Bach

Wir Denken Dir
Gedenk' an uns mit diener Liebe
Sie Lob und Preis mit Ehren

Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir
und verkündigen deine Wunder.

Gedenk an uns mit deiner Liebe,
Schleuß uns in dein Erbarmen ein!
Segne die, so uns regieren,
Die uns leiten, schützen, führen,
Segne die gehorsam sein!

Sei Lob und Preis mit Ehren
Gott Vater, Sohn, Heiligem Geist!
Der woll in uns vermehren,
Was er uns aus Gnaden verheißt,
Dass wir ihm fest vertrauen,
Gänzlich verlassen auf ihn,
Von Herzen auf ihn bauen,
Dass unsr Herz, Mut und Sinn
Ihm tröstlich solln anhangen;
Drauf singen wir zur Stund:
Amen, wir werden's erlangen,
Glaubn wir aus Herzens Grund.

We thank you, God, we thank you and
proclaim your wonders.

Remember us with your love,
enclose us in your pity!
Bless those who govern us,
those who guide, protect and lead us,
bless those who are obedient!

Be glory, praise and honor to all the
Holy Trinity!
that we may trust Him wholly, to His
control resign,
rely upon Him solely, with heart and
with will and mind
hold fast to Him forever; so sing we all
today:
Amen! for this is our portion, that
naught can take away.

Johann Sebastian Bach's opening chorus from "Cantata BWV 29" is renowned for its majestic and celebratory character, but it is perhaps most famous for being the direct source for the "Dona nobis pacem" ("Grant us peace") section that concludes his monumental "Mass in B minor" (BWV 232). The soprano aria "Gedenk an uns" ("Remember us") is a moment of profound yet elegant prayer and devotion. The melodic line is supported by a delicate oboe accompaniment, which weaves an intricate tapestry of contemplative beauty that contrasts with the grand choral setting of the surrounding movements. The cantata concludes with the full-throated chorale, when the entire ensemble joins together in a unified and glorious affirmation of praise.

Aurora Song '26, soloist, NMH afternoon
Amelia Sabetti '27, soloist, NMH evening
Charlotte Relyea-Strawn '26, soloist, New York
Lucas Black '29, oboe

Concert Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Text by Charles Wesley

The congregation is invited to stand and join in the singing.

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

A Reading from the Quran, Surah 24 Verse 35

Danah Daley '26, NMH afternoon
Selina Cakir '26, NMH evening
Allen Chen '26, New York

Lumen

Abbie Betinis (b. 1980)

"Lumen accipe et imperti. Do ut des. Receive the light and pass it on. I give that you may give." The composer writes: "This Latin text is a motto for many schools around the world, so I decided I wanted to make the music sound like one voice is 'teaching' the next voice. I played with musical imitation in different ways, because learning isn't just about echoing, but experimenting, too. I also imagined the light growing and growing each time it passes from singer to singer, so the music starts with small intervals and gradually expands into larger leaps and longer scales."

Select Treble Ensemble



Adam lay ybounden

Luke D. Rosen (b. 1979)

The text for this piece is from the 15th century. While it starts in a dark frame of mind, describing 4,000 years of human suffering due to the famed eating of the apple from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, it turns to a “felix culpa” (translated from Latin as a blessed fault or happy accident), whereby, had the apple not been consumed, the Virgin Mary would not have become Queen of Heaven.

NMH Singers

Amaryllis

Matt Riley (b. 1982)

In “Amaryllis,” composer Matt Riley demonstrates two exceptional compositional skills: highly melodic writing and mastery of the string orchestra idiom. As the amaryllis plant opens its glorious trumpet-like flower in the winter months, so does Riley’s melody unfold and blossom over a Mozart-like orchestration.

Caleb Chung '26 and Zane Hong '27, violins

Chamber Orchestra

**A Reading from the Book of Isaiah
and from the Gospel of Luke**

Brian Hargrove

Isaiah Chapter 9 Verse 2

Luke Chapter 2 Verses 1 to 14

Gloria

Ondi Yohan Tambunan (b. 1990)

This is a vibrant and unconventional take on the traditional Latin text, offering an energetic expression of praise. The Indonesian composer infuses the piece with rhythmic vitality and distinctive nontraditional elements. The music balances moments of Gregorian chant-like simplicity with complex, layered choral textures, creating a soundscape that embodies the sheer joy and majesty of the text.

Concert Choir

Adeste Fideles

Latin, 18th century
J.F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751
Arranged by Sir David Willcocks

Adeste fideles; laeti triumphantes
Venite, venite in Bethlehem,
Natum videte, Regem angelorum:
Venite adoremus, Dominum.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, in the highest:
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee, be glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

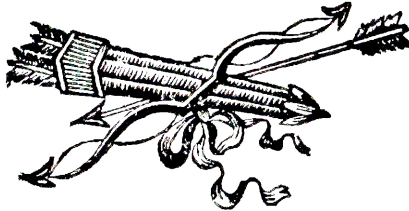
Stille Nacht

Franz Grüber (1787–1863)
Text by Joseph Mohr

Charlotte Relyea-Strawn '26, soloist, NMH afternoon
Aurora Song '26, soloist, NMH evening
Sarah Keator '26, soloist, New York

Postlude

Matthew McClure, organist





Northfield Mount Hermon Concert Choir

Alexandra Ludwig, director; Matthew McClure, accompanist
Managers: Henry Ormont '26, Charlotte Relyea-Strawn '26, Aurora Song '26

SOPRANO

Macy Anhalt* '26
Kensley Batchelder^
Cerys Coffey '29
Cassie Evans '28
Charlotte Helgeson '28
Illari Malpica Ufret '27
Angelina Marakaeva '26
Liann Mejia* '28
Lillie Prewitt-Freilino '29
Charlotte Relyea-Strawn** '26
Amelia Sabetti** '27
McKenzie Sherer** '28
Sarah Simeon-Fra '27
Aurora Song** '26
Lucy Sylvester '27
Sophia Tian '28
Clair Ward^

ALTO

Aly Baze '27
Tabatha Collins^
Liv Eakin '28
Kate Ellis-Henderson '27
Christina Kapadnis* '29
Jennifer Keator^
Sarah Keator* '26
Isabella Li '29
Izzy Li** '28
Karen Nagasaki-Takemoto* '27
Adebimpe Omotosho '27
Naomi Paik '28

Esme Robinson* '26
Charlotte Sell '28
Gabrielle Sogg '27
Ysabelle Sun '28
Elisa Vallina '29
River Vélez '28
Aya Weisser '27
Audrey Yeung '28

TENOR

Juno Batty '26
Leni Hill '28
Frank Nguyen** '28
Andrea Orsini '28
Rui Yang** '28

BASS

Marvin Garcia^
Sidney Harris '29
Spencer Hirschey '26
Samuel Kay '28
Asa Kelly '29
Jimmy Liu** '29
Anthony McNamara '26
Atticus Nicholas '28
Henry Ormont** '26
David Reeder ^
Tim Relyea^
Ben Rosenthal '27
Amasa Shippee '29

*Select Treble Ensemble

**NMH Singer

^NMH staff/faculty

NMH Chamber Orchestra

Steven Bathory-Peeler, director

VIOLIN

Henry Chao '28,
principal 2nd
Caleb Chung '26,
Concertmaster
Eavan Connelly '27
Zane Hong '27
Sophie Jin '28
Léo Palmer '27
William Silvester '26
Amelia Tae '28

VIOLA

Andy An '29,
principal
Allen Chen '26
Oliver Newman '27

CELLO

Jumpei Morita '29
David Zhang '27
Samantha Zhong '26,
principal

HEAD USHERS

Wendy Young, NMH afternoon;
Stephen Allison P'19, '21, '23,
NMH evening

USHERS

Emily Liu '27
Sophie Cao '27
Bonnie He '27
Laurence Pan '27
Eben Lewis '27
Caylee Marsan '27
Leah Song '27
Mia Soriano '27

CANDLE LIGHTERS

Ivy Bu '26
Anna Chechile '26
Niayla Curley '26
Abigail Georges '26
Avery McGowan '26
Jane Namusisi '26
Ruby Neutra '26
Kiki Wang '26





Special Thanks

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