



The St. Martin's Voice

The Newsletter of St. Martin's Chamber Choir

“Thou Little Tiny Child”

Christmas with St. Martin's Chamber Choir

By Timothy J. Krueger, Artistic Director

*"Lullay, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay"*

So lamented the mothers of Rama at the slaying of their children, according to a 16th-century "Shepherd's Play" from Coventry (and also, incidentally, where the English word "lullaby" comes from). This "Slaughter of the Innocents" is a part of the Christmas story not given much attention these days -- at least since Victorian times -- lest our season of celebration be dampened in any way. But it used to be an integral part of the story, and was acted out in countless Medieval Dramas such as that cited above. Indeed, without the wicked Herod and his jealous lust for power, thus



putting the young child at risk, the story loses some of its dramatic punch, and has become just a sweet story of an obscure birth, special though this may be on its own.

While not re-enacting a Medieval Drama with any specificity, St. Martin's endeavors to reproduce the solemnity of such an event in this year's Christmas concerts. The first half contains at least half-a-dozen different settings of the well known *Coventry Carol*

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“Thou Little Tiny Child”

Christmas with St. Martin's Chamber Choir

**Friday, December 19th, 7:30 p.m.,
St. John's Cathedral, Denver**

**Saturday, December 20th, 7:30 p.m.,
First Congregational Church, Boulder**

**Sunday, December 21st, 3:00 p.m.,
Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver**

*Tickets: Premium \$25 (limited quantity) Adult \$20,
Senior \$18, Student \$5*

(303) 298-1970 or www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

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quoted above -- from the original Medieval setting to one written especially for this concert. These are interspersed with related works, motets from the Feast of the Innocents, lullabies, and carols, all performed without interruption. Music by Palestrina, Britten, Victoria, Schlenker, and others will set a contemplative mood, inviting the audience to ponder the vulnerability of the Christ child, and the ugliness of violence in the face of such heavenly beauty.

The second half of the concert will feature the Camille Saint-Saëns *Oratorio de Noël*, or *Christmas Oratorio*. This 35-minute work will feature the Confluence String Quartet, in addition to Don Hilsberg, harp, and Frank Nowell, organ, in addition to the choir and vocal soloists. Written when Saint-Saëns was just 21, it contains a simplicity and charm that is quite fitting to the Christmas story, and demonstrates the young Saint-Saens' veneration for Bach.

I am personally more pleased with the concept for this concert than any Christmas concert I have heretofore planned, so I encourage you not to let any concern that it will be a little too solemn for your tastes keep you away. I look forward to seeing you there, and wish you very happy holidays!

Purchase your SMCC concert tickets online

Concert tickets can now be purchased through the St. Martin's website! Just log on to www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org, go to the 2008-09 Concert Season page, and securely purchase your tickets for any upcoming SMCC performance.

15th Anniversary Season

Still to come from St. Martin's Chamber Choir

February, 1809 (Cameo Concert*): Join us as we observe the February 2009 bicentennial of the births of 19th century giants Felix Mendelssohn, Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln.

Fri., Feb. 13, 2009, Denver &
Sun., Feb. 15, 2009, Castle Rock

Passio Christi This program of moving Lenten works features the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Thomas Tallis and John Ferguson's *Christus* for choir and viola.

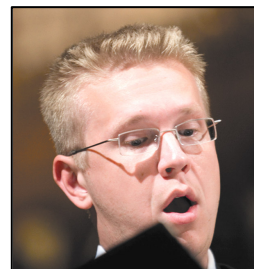
Fri., Apr. 3, 2009, Denver &
Sat., Apr. 4, 2009, Boulder

Enlightenment A Cappella – Unaccompanied choral music of the 18th century, a time generally associated with *basso continuo*.

Fri., Jun. 5, 2009, Denver &
Sun., Jun. 7, 2009, Denver

Find concert details and purchase tickets at www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org or 303-298-1970

* *Cameo Concert*: \ 'ka-mē-,ō 'kän(t)-sərt \, N., SMCC choral performance, one hour in length, less expensive tickets, unusual programming, unconventional venues, audience participation.



St. Martin's CD recordings – the perfect holiday stocking-stuffers!

Delight the choral music lover on your holiday gift list with St. Martin's CDs in their stocking or under the tree. SMCC has released nine acclaimed CDs, including "A Marian Christmas" and "A Marian Christmas II".

To order any St. Martin's Chamber Choir CDs or to reserve your advance copy of the choir's upcoming release featuring the works of Colorado composer Terry Schlenker, just call **303-298-1970**, visit www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/discogra.htm, or make your purchase at a concert.

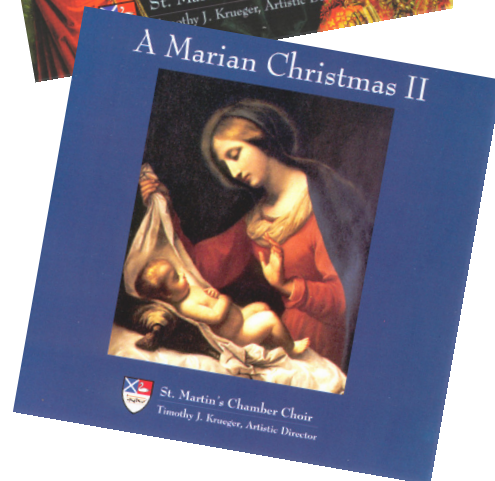
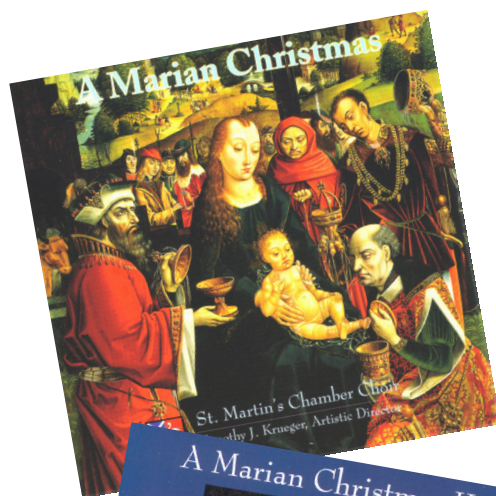
Critical acclaim for "A Marian Christmas"

A simply marvelous program of un-hackneyed music, fresh and resting in the ears with great beauty. This quiet, simple, mothering music is just right for Christmas Eve.
American Record Guide

Praise for "A Marian Christmas II"

From the Annunciation to the joy of Christmas day itself, this impeccably sung choral collection is an outstanding sequel to the original 1998 "A Marian Christmas" CD.
Vermont Public Radio

St. Martin's Chamber Choir is one of the finest American ensembles you'll hear on recordings. ClassicsToday.com



Feasts of St. Martin for 2008-09

Coming soon: **Finlaw's Phantoms at "The Ellie"** – A special backstage opera house tour with Ellie Caulkins, followed by a cozy, elegant lunch at Limelight Restaurant. Saturday, January 17th, price \$100 per person.

St. Martin's offers exciting Feasts events throughout the season, including a CD release party in February, an "open" SMCC rehearsal, a "Spanish Guitarra" house recital, a Capitol Hill garden tour, and much more.

For more information visit
[www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/Feasts 2008-09.htm](http://www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org/Feasts%202008-09.htm).

Make your reservations today by calling 303-298-1970 or by emailing info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org.

To show your support for St. Martin's Chamber Choir, have you thought about...

- ...signing up for EFT/ACH monthly or semi-monthly direct deposit donations?
- ...contributing to the choir's **general fund** or the **Mark Sheldon Memorial Fund**?
- ...making a **multi-year giving pledge**?
- ...asking your employer about their **charitable gift matching program**?
- ...donating an **unwanted vehicle**?
- ...making a **gift of stock**?

Find out more about supporting SMCC by contacting us at
info@StMartinsChamberChoir.org or
303-298-1970

“Thou Little Tiny Child”

Christmas with St. Martin’s Chamber Choir

- ⊞ Spellbinding *a cappella* works by Palestrina, de Wert, Victoria, Britten, Kirchoff and others
- ⊞ The medieval *Coventry Carol*, both in its original form and arranged by Shaw, Warner, and Eychaner
- ⊞ Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Christmas Oratorio*, with choir, soloists, string quintet, harp and organ

Where & When:

Friday, December 19th, 7:30 p.m.,
St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral
1350 Washington St., Denver

Saturday, December 20th, 7:30 p.m.,
First Congregational Church,
1128 Pine St., Boulder

Sunday, December 21st, 3:00 p.m.,
Augustana Lutheran Church,
5000 E. Alameda Ave., Denver

For tickets call (303) 298-1970 or visit
www.StMartinsChamberChoir.org

St. Martin’s Chamber Choir gratefully acknowledges the generous support of:

Carson-Pfafflin
Family Foundation

The Kenneth Kendal
King Foundation



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2015 Glenarm Place, Denver, CO 80205
Fifteenth Concert Season, 2008-09

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