

## Program Notes

*Magnificat: An Advent Recital* features different settings of the Magnificat text (Luke 1:46-55). In music, this text has been set many times in “major works” – meaning works for chorus and soloists. The program begins with one of the seven famous “O” Antiphons, based on whichever one fits the day on which the recital is being performed. The “O” Antiphons are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer (Vespers) from December 17-23. The majority of the program is a pastiche-like “multi-composer Magnificat” comprised of the soprano solos from eleven different *Magnificat* settings from the Baroque through the 20th century. The recital concludes with Naji Hakim’s *Magnificat* for soprano and organ, composed in 2006.

### The Magnificat (Canticle of Mary) in the Bible

#### *Luke 1:39-56*

“During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” And Mary said:

**“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.”

## Texts and Translations

### *“O” Antiphons*

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem Gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae: veni, et illumine sedentes in tenebris et umbra mortis.

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

## *Magnificat*

Magnificat anima mea Dominum;  
Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari  
meo, Quia respexit humilitatem  
ancillae suae;  
ecce enim ex hoc beatam  
me dicent omnes generationes.  
Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,  
et sanctum nomen ejus,  
Et misericordia ejus a progenie  
in progenies timentibus eum.  
*Fecit potentiam brachio suo;*  
*Dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.*  
Deposuit potentes de sede,  
et exaltavit humiles.  
Esurientes implevit bonis,  
et divites dimisit inanes.  
Suscepit Israel, puerum suum,  
recordatus misericordiae suae,  
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semeni ejus in saecula.  
Gloria Patri, et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto:  
sicut erat in principio,  
Et nunc, et semper: et in Saecula  
saeculorum. Amen.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor  
on his humble servant.  
From this day all generations  
will call me blessed,  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear Him  
in every generation.  
*He has shown the strength of his arm;*  
*he has scattered the proud in their conceit.*  
He has cast down the mighty from their  
thrones, and has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of  
mercy, the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.

German text for the Telemann setting of *Fecit potentiam*:

Er übet Gewalt mit seinem Arm, und zeistreuet, die hoffärtig sind in ihres Herzens Sinn.