

READERS

Alison Coffin - Chorus, Intuition, Star of the Nativity, Fugal Chorus, Chorale, Chorus of Angels, Voices of the Desert
Sharon Trueman Goodyear - Chorus, Feeling, Mary, Fugal Chorus, Chorale
Bonnie Andrews - Semi-Chorus, Solo, Fugal Chorus, Chorale, Rachel
Paul Goodyear - Narrator, Fugal Chorus, First Wise Man, Soldier
Doug Smith - Recitative, Fugal Chorus, Third Shepherd, Soldier
Stephen Lewis - Thought, Joseph, Second Wise Man, Fugal Chorus, Soldier
Mack Furlong - Sensation, Boys Semi-Chorus, Fugal Chorus, Second Shepherd, Herod, Voices of the Desert
Robert Nicolle - Gabriel, First Shepherd, Fugal Chorus, Soldier
Tor Fosnæs - Third Wise Man, Fugal Chorus, Simeon, Soldier

REVIEWS

[Auden's] *is a Christmas that can glimpse redemption even in the trivialization of Christmas, in the frantic shopping, distracted gaiety and unsuccessful attempts, as he says, to love all of our relatives. This is a Christmas for grown-ups.*

[Auden's] *concern in the poem is not simply to speak of the Nativity events but rather to draw out their incarnational impact upon the mundane world of the everyday ... because for Auden Christmas is ... an annual reminder that God has acted and is acting "to redeem from insignificance" the sludge of our everyday routines.*

Written in 1942 when the world was at war, Auden's Oratorio is a parable that merges the Biblical and the contemporary with a result that is simultaneously audacious and poetic.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Rick Singleton, Queen's College Provost, for the use of this beautiful Chapel and to Stephen Greene for room 401 at the Arts and Culture Centre.



A special thanks to Mack Furlong for directing our performance.

AUDEN OUT LOUD

reads

FOR THE TIME BEING A CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

by W.H. Auden



QUEEN'S COLLEGE CHAPEL

*What shall we say then?
Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
God forbid.
Romans VI*



PROGRAM

ADVENT

I—Chorus, Semi Chorus II—Narrator III—Chorus IV—Recitative
V—Chorus

THE ANNUNCIATION

I—Intuition, Feeling, Sensation, Thought II—The Four Faculties
III—Gabriel, Mary IV—Solo and Chorus

THE TEMPTATION OF ST. JOSEPH

I—Joseph, Chorus II—Narrator
III—Semi-Chorus, Boys Semi-Chorus, Chorus

THE SUMMONS

I—Star of the Nativity, First, Second & Third Wisemen
II—Narrator, Recitative III—Fugal Chorus IV—Narrator V—Chorale

THE VISION OF THE SHEPHERDS

I—First, Second, & Third Shepherds II—Three Shepherds
III—Three Shepherds, Chorus of angels, Chorus

AT THE MANGER

I—Mary II—Three Wise Men, Three Shepherds

MEDITATION OF SIMEON

I—Simeon, Chorus

THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS

I—Herod II—Soldiers III—Rachel

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

I—Mary, Joseph, Voices of the Desert II—Recitative
III—Narrator IV—Chorus

Please join us in the final Chorus see text at top of facing page

AUDIENCE

He is the Way
Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.
Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.
Love Him in the World of the Flesh;
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

PRODUCTION BACKGROUND

I discovered *For the Time Being* in 1972 at MUN's *Spanish Café*. I was gob-smacked on my first reading and I talked to performers and artists about a public reading but, alas, it was not then to be.

In the day I appreciated Auden for his take on society's flaws (it was the 1970's, I was a hippie, and the piece was not even 30 years old). Through later readings I began to appreciate it for its promise of redemption even though I was not then, and am not now, a practicing Christian. And, to my surprise, I found many references to the *Dao De Jing*, which text I have now studied for more than 50 years.

- Tor Fosnæs

NOTES

Please join us for refreshments after the reading in the Queen's College Common Room, just along the hall from the Chapel

This reading dedicated to Leslie McGrath who turned me on to Auden.