

Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) presents



Thursday, December 21, 2023 1:15 pm  
St. Malachy's Church – The Actors' Chapel in New York City  
Live Streamed to [midtownconcerts.org](http://midtownconcerts.org) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

## Concordian Dawn

### *Veni, Redemptor Gencium*

*Amber Evans ~ soprano & percussion David Dickey ~ countertenor & recorder*  
*Clifton Massey ~ countertenor Thomas McCargar ~ baritone Niccolo Seligmann ~ vielle & percussion*  
*Christopher Preston Thompson ~ director, tenor & medieval harp*

Veni, redemptor gencium — Milanese sarum chant	St. Ambrose (4 <sup>th</sup> c.)
Isaiah's Prophecy: <i>נת בן, לְנוּ-יֵלֶד יֵלֶד-כִּי-</i>	traditional Hebrew cantillation
Sybil's Prophecy: Iudicii Signum	traditional Spanish (10 <sup>th</sup> c.)
Alle psallite cum luya	Montpellier Codex (13 <sup>th</sup> c.)
La Messe de Tournai Kyrie ~ Gloria	B-Tc A27 anc. 476 (13 <sup>th</sup> –14 <sup>th</sup> c.)
Orientis partibus (instrumental)	GB-Lbl Eg. 2615 (13 <sup>th</sup> c.)
Conditor alme siderum Ther is no rose of swych vertu	Guillaume DuFay (1397–1474) Agincourt Roll (early 15 <sup>th</sup> c.)
La Messe de Tournai Sanctus	
Quem pastores laudavere (instrumental)	Hohenfurth Monastery Ms. 28 (early 15 <sup>th</sup> c.)
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Gotham Early Music Scene, 340 Riverside Drive, Suite 1A, New York, NY 10025 (212) 866-0468  
Robby Meese, Midtown Concerts Manager Kevin Devine, Midtown Concerts Assistant Manager

Toby Tadman-Little, Program Editor Paul Arents, House Manager Christina Britton Conroy, Announcer and Make-up Artist  
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Naomi Morse, Director of Marketing John Thiessen, Executive Director



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<b>Gabriel, fram Heven King</b>	Arundel MS (13 <sup>th</sup> c.), Cotton Fragments (14 <sup>th</sup> c.), Dublin Troper (14 <sup>th</sup> c.)
<b>De monte lapis</b>	St. Martial MS D24 (12 <sup>th</sup> c.)
<b>Verbum caro factum est</b>	Aosta MS (14 <sup>th</sup> c.), Jistebnice Cantional (c. 1420), Trent MS (15 <sup>th</sup> c.)
<b>Alma redemptoris mater</b>	Sarum Antiphonale (13 <sup>th</sup> c.)
<b>Ave, regina celorum/Alma redemptoris mater</b>	Las Huelgas Codex 121 (13 <sup>th</sup> c.)
<b>Personent hodie (instrumental)</b>	Piae Cantiones (1582)
<b>La Messe de Tournai</b>	
Agnus dei	
<b>Gaudete</b>	Piae Cantiones (1582)

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This Christmas concert highlights some of the most beautiful and rarely heard repertoire from the medieval holiday season. With one of the earliest surviving polyphonic mass compilations, *Missa Tournai*, as the concert's centerpiece, we offer a true holiday commemoration through medieval liturgy and carols. The Mass setting is a three-voice polyphonic compilation found in a manuscript from Tournai. The six mass movements (four of which are included on this program) represent musical styles from both the thirteenth-century *ars antiqua* (Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) and the fourteenth-century *ars nova* (Gloria, Credo, *Ite missa est*). Given the differences in compositional style from one movement to the next, it is assumed that the movements were composed by multiple anonymous composers. But, they are all positioned together in the manuscript, suggesting that they were intended, at least at some point, to be used during liturgical services as a complete ordinary mass — one of the earliest such compilations known today. Scholars also speculate that the famous *ars nova* composer, Guillaume de Machaut, might have known the Gloria and Credo movements and that they might have influenced his own setting of the ordinary mass (which is the first mass composition by a single composer known to us today.) The remaining works on this afternoon's concert represent transcriptions from single sources or confluences of material from multiple sources, as noted above. We hope this concert brings you a moment of peace, reflection, and musical enjoyment, and we wish you a wonderful holiday season!

## TRANSLATIONS

**Veni, redemptor gentium** – (1) Come, redeemer of the nations and bring the virgin birth. Every age will be amazed, as such a birth befits God. (2) Not from human seed, but from a mystical breath God's word was made flesh, and the fruit of the womb flourished. (7) Your cradle glitters brightly and the night breathes in a new light, that no darkness may intervene and faith shines without end.

**לְנוּ-יֵלֵד יֵלֵד-כִּי- נָתַן בָּנוּ, לְנוּ-יֵלֵד יֵלֵד-כִּי-** – For us a child is born; a son is given to us: and the government will be upon his shoulder; and his name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

**Iudicii Signum** – The sign of the Judgment: the earth shall grow wet with dew. From heaven the King will come who will reign through the ages, as if present in the flesh to judge the world. And all the kings will stand before this Lord, and there a river of fire and Sulphur will fall from Heaven.

**Alle psallite cum luya** – Alle—sing with—luya. Alle—resoundingly sing with—luya. Alle—all the heart's desire to God, sing with—luya.

**Kyrie** – Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

**Gloria** – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of The Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Conditor alme siderum** – (1) Generous creator of the stars, everlasting light of believers, Christ, redeemer of us all, hear now our prayers. (2) Though you suffer the decay of death, the perishing of all, you have saved the suffering world, bringing us your healing balm. (3) As the world turned to evening, like a bridegroom from his chamber you came forth from the most pure cloister of the virgin Mother. (4) All creatures in heaven and on earth kneel down before your mighty power. All accept your command. (5) So we pray, holy judge of all the world to come, that you will keep us safe when we face the armed enemy. (6) Let all glory be to you, Christ, most holy King, and to you, Father, with the Spirit advocate, forever and ever. Amen.

**Sanctus** – Holy, holy, holy, lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that comes in the name of the lord: Glory to you, oh lord in the highest.

**De monte lapidis** – From out of the mountain the stone is hewn, yet no assisting hand is interposed. From out of the earth the fountain springs forth. The Father and creator of all things is born of the daughter. Oh, veiled in the cloak of man, in majesty without benefit of seed, God is born of a virgin.

**Verbum caro factum est** – (Refrain) The Word was made flesh by the virgin Mary. (1) In this rounding of the year, life is given to the world; a little boy is born to us by the virgin Mary. (2) Oh blessed woman, the glory of whose womb cleanses the sins of the world by the virgin Mary. (3) A star brings forth the sun, the sun brings salvation and takes unto itself true flesh by the virgin Mary. (4) A source from its own river is born for the people, whom it has brought from prison by the virgin Mary. (5) Glory, honor, power be to the Lord God, Father, and Son, and to the Holy Ghost by the virgin Mary.

**Alma redemptoris mater** – Nourishing Mother of the Redeemer, gateway to heaven, who is always accessible to souls and is the star of the sea, come to the aid of the fallen people who strive to rise: You bore to the world, wonder of nature, your Holy Creator: Virgin before and after, the mouth of Gabriel hails you, have mercy on us sinners.

**Ave regina celorum** – Hail, Queen of heaven; hail, Mother of the angels; hail, holy root, from which arose the light of the world; rejoice, glorious one, most beautiful of all; hail, most lovely, and always pray to Christ for us.

**Agnus dei** – Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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**Gaudete** – (Refrain) Rejoice, rejoice: Christ is born of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice! (1) The time of grace that we have wished for has come. Let us devoutly raise up songs of joy. (2) God has become man and nature marvels. The world has been renewed by the reign of Christ. (3) Ezekial’s gate, once closed, is passed through, whence the light arises and salvation is found. (4) Therefore, let us all sing in the light. Let it bless the Lord and bring salvation from our King.

## **ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE**

**Concordian Dawn**, ensemble for medieval music, specializes in 12th- through 14th-century vocal repertoire, drawing on primary source material and focusing on socio-philosophical similarities between texts from centuries ago and the mindset of modern society. In doing so, the ensemble produces a musical experience accessible to contemporary audiences, relating the human condition of the past to the familiar experiences of the present. Concordian Dawn was founded in 2012 and performs regularly on the east coast, annually with Gotham Early Music Scene in NYC, and at venues across the country. The ensemble’s “mesmerizing” (*Early Music America*) debut album, *Fortuna Antiqua et Ultra* (MSR Classics), was released in December of 2021 to critical acclaim. The ensemble's second album — based on their collaboration and publication with medieval studies scholar Sarah Kay, entitled *Medieval Song from Aristotle to Opera* — was released in October of 2023 (MSR Classics) following the 2022 book/website publication (Cornell University Press). Concordian Dawn made its west coast debut in 2022 with the Santa Cruz Baroque Festival and at UC-Berkeley and UC-Davis. The ensemble, which received a 2020 Ensemble Forward Award from Chamber Music America, and its director, Christopher Preston Thompson, have performed and led workshops and lectures for Princeton University, Stanford University, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, New York University, the University of Pennsylvania, the Modern Language Association, the CUNY Graduate Center and the Medieval Academy of America, among others. For more information, please visit [www.concordiandawn.com](http://www.concordiandawn.com).

**Next Week: Nathan Whittaker & Nathaniel Chase**  
*The Odd Couple: Lindley & Dragonetti*