

SONOMA
Bach

PRESENTS

AN EARLY MUSIC CHRISTMAS

MYSTERY AND JUBILATION



CIRCA 1600 CHAMBER CHOIR

Robert Worth, director • Charles Rus, organist

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 8 PM
St. Vincent's Catholic Church, Petaluma

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 4 PM
Saturday Afternoon Club, Santa Rosa



Clockwise from top left:

Robert Campin “Annunciation” 1428

Strictly speaking, the moment before the Annunciation, as Mary has yet to look up from what must have been a very good book

Master of Vyšší Brod “Nativity” c1350

“Vyšší Brod” - the town “at the high ford” or - is in the South Bohemian region of what is now the Czech Republic.

Tomas Luis de Victoria

“O magnum mysterium” 1572, cantus

Although the original publication entitles it “In Circumfisione Domini,” its text is taken from a responsory of Christmas Matins and its use has always been as a Christmas motet.



Cover design by Moira Hill
 Painting: “Adoration of the Magi” Pietro Perugino, c. 1504

Sonoma Bach Presents

*An Early Music Christmas:
Mystery and Jubilation*

featuring

Circa 1600

Charles Rus, organ

Robert Worth, director

Friday, December 13, 2013
St. Vincent's Catholic Church
Petaluma

Sunday, December 15, 2013
Saturday Afternoon Club
Santa Rosa



Mystery and Jubilation

With joy approach:

“Ennatus est Emmanuel”

Organ: Noël Grand jeux et duo (part one)

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Who spake by the prophets:

Poem: “God’s Grandeur”

“Ecce Virgo concipiet”

Organ: Il n’est rien de plus tendre

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

Jean-Francois Dandrieu (1682-1738)

The maiden in the garden:

Poem: “The Annunciation”

“Ave Maria”

Organ: Noël Grand jeux et duo (part two)

Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Daquin

A child is born:

Poem: “The Innkeeper’s Wife” (*The Witnesses*)

“O magnum mysterium”

“Hodie Christus natus est”

Clive Sansom (1910-1981)

Tomás Luis deVictoria (1548-1611)

Palestrina

Poem: “The Stable”

“Gaude et laetare”

Organ: Puer nobis. Ons is gheboren.

Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957)

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Sweelinck

Angelic hymn:

“Kyrie” (*Missa O magnum mysterium*)

Poem: “Hymn to Joy”

“Gloria” (*Missa O magnum mysterium*)

Organ: Noël Grand jeux et duo (part three)

Victoria

Julia Cunningham (1916-2008)

Victoria

Daquin

A joyful noise:

Poem: “BC : AD”

Venite exultemus Domino

U.A. Fanthorpe (1929-2009)

Byrd

INTERMISSION

Shining like the sun:

"In dulci jubilo à 2"

Praetorius

Organ: Votre bonté grand Dieu (part one)

Claude-Bénigne Balbastre (1724-1799)

Three in one:

Poem: "Christmas is Really for the Children"

Steve Turner (b. 1949)

"Credo" (*Missa O magnum mysterium*)

Victoria

Organ: Quoy ma voisine, es-tu (fâchée)

Michel Corrette (1707-1795)

With ah! bright wings:

Poem: "Sanctus" (*Mass for the Day of St. Thomas Didymus*)

Denise Levertov (1923-1997)

"Sanctus-Benedictus" (*Missa O magnum mysterium*)

Victoria

"Angelus ad pastores ait"

Sweelinck

Poem: "Questions about Angels"

Billy Collins (b. 1941)

"Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her à 4"

Praetorius

Organ: Votre bonté grand Dieu (part two)

Balbastre

All that love can bring:

Poem: "The Adoration of the Magi"

Christopher Pilling

"Vidimus stellam"

Byrd

"In natali Domini"

Praetorius

Poem: "Kid Stuff"

Frank Home (1899-1974)

"Stella quam viderant magi"

Palestrina

Organ: Puer nobis nascitur

Dandrieu (1682-1738)

And on earth, peace:

Poem: "Christ Climbed Down"

Lawrence Ferlinghetti (b. 1919)

"Agnus Dei" (*Missa O magnum mysterium*)

Victoria

Organ: Votre bonté grand Dieu (part three)

Balbastre

Go forth singing:

Poem: "Reindeer Report"

Fanthorpe

"Gaudete omnes"

Sweelinck

*This concert is made possible in part by generous donations from
Linda & David Hanes, Renata Breth & Steve Osborn, and Elizabeth & Charles McCarthy.*

Program Notes

*So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel*

*"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.*

--Thomas Hardy (from 'The Oxen')

Welcome, and thanks for taking a little time out from your busy holiday season to attend our concert, *An Early Music Christmas: Mystery and Jubilation!* We hope that we can provide for you a little of what's truly magical about Christmas—powerful and delightful music, people gathered together, thoughts and prayers and wishes, and reflections on what's truly important and how we might want to choose to live our lives over the coming year.

We have woven together for this concert six distinct musical skeins, using the Christmas story as the structural backbone, with poetry (mostly modern this year) to delineate the narrative and to complement and expand upon the texts of the musical pieces. A particular intention in this 2013 edition of our *Early Music Christmas* is to reach out to those of our audience who aren't Christian believers. It's not that we want to leave out the devout!—but we want you all to know that this is a big-tent operation, plenty of room for all of us to take part here.

The singers in *Circa 1600* are a typical 21st-century California mixed bag from a religious point of view—some practicing Christians, some various degrees of lapsed, some from other traditions, some professing to no formal beliefs. But I think it's accurate to say that we all feel the power of the messages conveyed in the music, each in our own way—for many of these messages are truly universal. We can all relate to breathless anticipation of a great event; to the joys and fears of a life-changing milestone such as childbirth; to shouting our elation from the highest hilltops; to the beauty of giving, and the manner in which the giver is often the one most changed thereby.

Thus poems such as Gerard Manley Hopkins' *God's Grandeur*, though mentioning the deity, points our minds most clearly towards the broad power of nature to renew and revive. Julia Cunningham's *Hymn to Joy* draws from the pastoral traditions of Christmas to paint a picture of the entire animal kingdom welcoming the new baby boy. Denise Levertov's *Sanctus* yearningly imagines the angels as giving 'to the Vast Loneliness a hearth, a locus'. And *Kid Stuff*, by Frank Home, challenges us to recapture the Christmas message and make it our own: 'We've all got to go chasing stars again!'

The purpose of our concert is not to provoke belief nor to confirm any point of view. Rather, we joyfully share with you music we have worked with over these past several months, artifacts from musicians long ago who reach out to us across the centuries, in hopes that all of us—performers, audience, ancestors—will gather as around a campfire, warming our spirits over a fire of hope, love, devotion and generosity.

As to the musical skeins which make up our concert: It turns out to be quite an international affair. From England, we have the great William Byrd, including his incomparable *Venite exultemus*, one of the greatest musical portrayals of bubbly joy. From Italy, we have drawn from the works of that quintessential Renaissance composer, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, featuring the exquisite five-voice *Ave Maria* as well as a festive double-choir piece for Christmas Day (*Hodie Christus natus est*). Our Spanish composer, Tomás Luis de Victoria, is represented by his beloved motet, *O magnum mysterium*, as well as by his mass based upon the motet, which we have distributed through the program, so that it acts as a binding force, much as it would have done in its original liturgical context.

Many of us discovered and fell in love with the Dutch composer Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck last year, when we performed his most famous motet, *Hodie Christus natus est*. We have since discovered that that was just the tip of a tremendous iceberg of ebullient song, as demonstrated tonight in our three motets from his *Cantiones Sacrae*. From Germany, we feature the great Michael Praetorius, including two of his inimitable and staggeringly creative elaborations of Christmas hymns, *In dulci jubilo* and *Von himmel hoch*. And, to cap it off, as well as to create yet another unifying tread, we are delighted to welcome back Charles Rus, who will play French noëls and variations on our beautiful Henk Klop chamber organ.

We hope you enjoy our concert!! And we wish you a most wonderful holiday season, and the happiest of new years.

--Bob Worth

Performers

Charles Rus (organ) is Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina, Washington. A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Charles received degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the University of Michigan, and, as a Fulbright Scholar, the Folkwang Hochschule für Musik in Essen, Germany. His teachers include Russell Saunders, Robert Glasgow, and Gisbert Schneider. During his 20 years in San Francisco, he was an organist for the San Francisco Symphony, organ teacher at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, organist for Temple Emanuel, and Music Director at St. John's Episcopal Church. He has played concerts solo and with the San Francisco Symphony in much of Asia, Europe, and the United States. His liturgical compositions are published by the Church Hymnal Corporation. Charles loves kayaking on Lake Washington and Puget Sound, swimming, and, most of all, playing with his buddy Pointer, who can often be found in his office.

Circa 1600 is Sonoma Bach's chamber choir. Focused upon the nexus between the Renaissance and the Baroque, it draws repertoire primarily from the 16th and 17th centuries with occasional forays backward to the 15th century and forward to the 18th century. Guiding lights include Josquin Desprez, Claudio Monteverdi, and Heinrich Schütz.

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Steve Osborn

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Robert Worth

Robert Worth (music director) recently retired as Professor of Music at Sonoma State University, where he taught choral music and many other subjects for 27 years. He is the founding music director of Sonoma Bach. In addition to his work in the fields of choral and early music, Bob has a specialty in Kodály musicianship training, and for ten years ran the ear training program at SSU. He is a composer and arranger of both choral music and jazz, and his vocal jazz arrangements have been performed by many groups throughout California and beyond. He was deeply involved in the Green Music Center project in its early years, serving as consultant to the architects on such issues as acoustics, choral performance facilities and the Cassin pipe organ. Bob received his BA in music at SSU in 1980, and earned his MA in musicology at UC Berkeley. He has received numerous community and university honors, including SSU's Outstanding Professor Award for 1996-97 and Distinguished Alumni Award for 2007-08. After completing numerous collaborative projects with Jeffrey Kahane and the Santa Rosa Symphony, he was named to the position of choral director at the Santa Rosa Symphony in 2002.

Translations

Ennatus est Emmanuel (anonymous Medieval hymn)

Ennatus est Emanuel, Dominus,
Quem praedixit Gabriel, Dominus,
Dominus salvator noster est.

Hic jacet in praesepio, Dominus,
Puer admirabilis, Dominus.
Dominus salvator noster est.

Haec lux est orta hodie, Dominus,
Ex Maria Virgine, Dominus.
Dominus salvator noster est.

Lo! Emmanuel, the Lord, is born,
whom Gabriel foretold, the Lord—
the Lord is our savior.

Here he lies in a manger, the Lord—
wondrous boy, the Lord—
the Lord is our savior.

This light, the Lord, has dawned
this day from the Virgin Mary.
The Lord is our savior.

Ecce Virgo concipiet (Isaiah 7:14)

Ecce virgo concipiet et pariet filium
et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel. Alleluia.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive & bear a son, & shall
call his name Immanuel, God with us. Alleluia.

Ave Maria (Luke 1:28)

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Regina coeli,
dulcis et pia, o Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
ut cum electis [te] videamus.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Queen of heaven
sweet and merciful, O Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
that with the elect we may gaze [upon thee].

O magnum mysterium (responsorial chant at Matins on Christmas Day)

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepio.
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.

O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!
O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

Hodie Christus natus est (Magnificat antiphon at Vespers on Christmas Day)

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit: Noe, noe.
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli: Noe, noe.
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Noe, noe.

Today Christ is born:
Today the Savior appeared: Noël, Noël.
Today on Earth the Angels sing,
Archangels rejoice: Noël, Noël.
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Noël, Noël.

Gaude et laetare (antiphon for Christmas Day)

Gaude et laetare, Jerusalem; ecce Rex tuus venit:
de quo Prophetae praedixerunt,
quem Angeli adoraverunt,
quem Cherubim et Seraphim
Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus proclamant.

Rejoice & be glad, Jerusalem; behold, thy King comes:
whom the Prophets foretold,
whom Angels worship,
whom Cherubim & Seraphim
proclaim Holy, Holy, Holy.

Kyrie (from Missa O magnum mysterium)

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy Christ have mercy Lord have mercy

Gloria (from Missa O magnum mysterium)

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to those of good will.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we adore thee, we glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory
Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father almighty.
The only-begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
Who takes away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Who sittest at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou alone art holy. Thou alone art the Lord.
Thou alone art most high, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Ghost
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Venite exultemus Domino (Psalm 95)

Venite, exultemus Domino; jubilemus Deo salutari
nostro; praeoccupemus faciem ejus in confessione, et
in psalmis jubilemus ei

Come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful
noise to God, our salvation. Let us come before him
with thanksgiving, and rejoice in him with psalms.

In dulci jubilo à 2 (14th-century macaronic hymn)

In dulci jubilo, Nun singet und seid froh!
Unsers Herzens Wonne Leit in praesepio;
Und leuchtet wie die Sonne Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O!

In sweet rejoicing, now sing and be glad!
Our hearts' joy lies in the manger;
And it shines like the sun in the mother's lap.
You are the alpha and omega!

Credo (from Missa O magnum mysterium)

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem coeli et terrae,
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.
Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,
filium Dei unigenitum.
Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
only-begotten son of the father.
Born of the Father before all worlds.

Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero.
Genitum non factum, consubstantialem Patri;
per quem omnia facta sunt.
Qui propter nos homines
et propter nostram salutem
descendit de coelis.
Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto
ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est.
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis: sub Pontio Pilato,
passus et sepultus est.
Et resurrexit tertia die,
secundum Scripturas.
Et ascendit in coelum:
sedet ad dexteram Patris.
Et iterum venturas est cum gloria,
iudicare vivos et mortuos:
cujus regni non erit finis.
Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum et vivificantem;
qui ex Patre Filioque procedit.
Qui cum Patre et Filio
simul adoratur et conglorificatur:
qui locutus est per Prophetas.
Et unam sanctam catholicam
et apostolicam Ecclesiam.
Confiteor unum baptisma
in remissionem peccatorum.
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum.
Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

God of God, light of light,
true God of true God;
Begotten, not made; consubstantial with the Father;
by whom all things were made.
Who for us men,
and for our salvation,
came down from heaven.
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary; and was made man.
He was crucified for us, under Pontius Pilate,
suffered and was buried.
And the third day he rose again,
according to the Scriptures.
And ascended into heaven.
He sits on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead;
and his kingdom shall have no end.
And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
Who together with the Father and the Son
adored and glorified;
who spoke by the Prophets.
And in one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism
for the remission of sins.
And I await the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sanctus and Benedictus (from Missa O magnum mysterium)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one that comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Angelus ad pastores ait (Luke 2:10)

Angelus ad pastores ait: annuntio vobis gaudium
magnum, quia natus est vobis hodie Salvator mundi.
Alleluia.

The angel said to the shepherds: 'I bring you tidings
of great joy, for the Saviour of the world has been
born to you today.' Alleluia.

Von Himmel hoch da komm ich her (Christmas hymn by Martin Luther)

Von himmel hoch da komm' ich her,
ich bring euch gute neue Mär.
Der guten Mär bring ich so viel,
davon ich sing'n und sagen will.

From heaven above I come to you,
I bring you good, new tidings.
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing.

Vidimus stellam (Matthew 2:2)

Vidimus stellam ejus in Oriente, et venimus cum
muneribus adorare Dominum.

We have seen his star in the East and are come with
gifts to adore the Lord.

In natali Domini (14th-century Latin hymn)

In natali Domini
clamant mortales singuli:
Wo ist uns ein Kind geborn?
Zu Bethlehem ist uns geborn ein Kindelein.
gewunden in ein Tuechelein.
Jesus ist der Name sein.

At the birth of the Lord
all mortals cried out together:
Where is the child born for us?
In Bethlehem is the little child born for us,
wrapped in a blanket:
Jesus is his name.

Stella quam viderant magi (Matthew 2:9-10)

Stella quam viderant Magi in Oriente antecede-
bat eos donec venirent ad locum ubi puer erat
videntes autem eum gavisi sunt gaudio magno.

The star which the Wise Men saw in the East went
before them until it came to where the Child was.
When they saw it, they rejoiced with great joy.

Agnus Dei (from Missa O magnum mysterium)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi
Dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world:
Grant us peace.

Gaudete omnes (Psalm 99)

Gaudete omnes, et laetamini,
quia ecce, desideratus advenit.
Introite in conspectu eius in exultatione.
Scitote quoniam ipse est expectatio nostra. Alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, all of you
for behold he for whom you longed comes.
Enter into his presence with singing.
Know that he is our hope. Alleluia.



The mission of Sonoma Bach is to build a community of music-lovers to share the experience of Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, & Classical music in Sonoma County. Sonoma Bach brings together musicians of all ages to present outstanding performances of the finest repertoire & offers a broad array of educational activities, workshops, & festivals for both amateur & professional singers & instrumentalists.

Sonoma Bach concentrates its efforts in four areas:

Sponsoring ensembles: We serve as an umbrella organization for Sonoma Bach Choir, Circa 1600, Live Oak Baroque Orchestra, & the Santa Rosa Symphony's Honor Choir.

Presenting concerts: We produce a concert series featuring our own ensembles as well as outstanding guest artists.

Promoting education: We sponsor a broad array of early music workshops, helping singers & instrumentalists to build technique, sensitive ears, & sharp minds.

Providing resources: We provide musicians & the community at large with a range of resources, including scores, books, recordings, & software.

Through these activities, Sonoma Bach hopes to promote a shared enthusiasm for early music & historical performance practice throughout Sonoma County & beyond.

Please visit us at www.sonomabach.org

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Led by Bob Worth

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Upcoming Concerts

JANUARY 3
DREAMS OF SPRING
Live Oak Baroque Orchestra

April 25 & 26
EARLY MUSIC UNCORKED: SONGS OF LOVE AND NATURE
Circa 1600

May 2 & 4
J.S. BACH IN CHURCH & CHAMBER:
THE FIFTH BRANDENBURG AND THREE GREAT CANTATAS
Sonoma Bach Choir & Live Oak Baroque Orchestra

Upcoming Classes

January 3-5
Baroque Strings Workshop

January 21, 28, February 4, & 11
Ready, Set, Sing!

February 22
Explorachorium: The Renaissance Takes Flight

March 15
On the Light, Fantastick Toe

The 2013-2014 season is made possible in part by generous donations from the Alfred and Hannah Fromm Fund & the Donald and Maureen Green Family Foundation.



Clockwise from bottom left:

Tomas Luis de Victoria
 “Kyrie” from *Missa Omagnum mysterium*
 1592, cantus & tenor

The mass is based on the motet, using almost all the motives found in the earlier work.

Francesco Pesellino
 “Journey of the Magi” c1446
 Here Melchior crosses the Red Sea.

Le Nain Brothers
 “Adoration of the Shepherds” c1640
 One shepherd and an angel are looking left. It has been suggested that they have seen the approach of the magi - the subject of a lost painting.





PRESENTS THE 4TH ANNUAL

BAROQUE STRINGS WORKSHOP

With Elizabeth Blumenstock, Mary Springfels,
Phebe Craig, William Skeen, and Aaron Westman

January 3–5, 2014

Sheraton Hotel, Petaluma, CA

www.sonomabach.org



PRESENTS

LIVE OAK BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

Elizabeth Blumenstock, director

Friday, January 3, 2014, 8 PM

DREAMS OF SPRING



Live Oak Baroque Orchestra warms up a winter's evening with "La Primavera" ("Spring") from Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, along with Bach's enigmatic D minor Concerto for two violins. This program also features spring-themed works by Christopher Simpson, James Oswald, and Dietrich Becker and explores the 17th-century roots of this tradition.

7:30 PM: Join us for a BachGrounder!

Tickets \$20 ~ Senior \$18 ~ Student \$12

Christian Science Church 522 B Street, Petaluma

For tickets and information, contact 877-914-BACH www.sonomabach.org