

"The CBS chorus ... carried the evening with cohesion and intensity."
Niels Swinkels, *San Francisco Classical Voice*, October 2015

CALIFORNIA BACH SOCIETY

Paul Flight, Artistic Director

presents

Joyeux Noël!

A French Christmas, medieval to the present

Friday, December 4, 2015, 8pm, at First Unitarian Universalist Church
1187 Franklin Street at Geary, San Francisco 94109

Saturday, December 5, 2015, 8pm, at All Saints' Episcopal Church
555 Waverley Street at Hamilton, Palo Alto 94301

Sunday, December 6, 2015, 4pm, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2300 Bancroft Way at Ellsworth, Berkeley 94704

Doors open 30 minutes prior to each performance.

Tickets: \$33 (discounts for advance purchase, seniors, students, and under 30)

650-485-1097 | <http://www.calbach.org> | info@calbach.org

Palo Alto, November 5, 2015

Artistic Director Paul Flight and the 30-voice California Bach Society present "Joyeux Noël!" on December 4–6 in San Francisco, Palo Alto, and Berkeley. Our program will span the centuries, from Gregorian chant and a 14th-century mass, to Mouton's "Noe, noe, psallite" and Charpentier's charming Christmas noëls, to Berlioz's evocative "Shepherd's Farewell," and to 20th-century Francis Poulenc's motets for Christmas and modern variations on traditional French carols.

In addition, we will present an example of French organ noëls, played by the resident organist at each venue: Reiko Oda Lane (First Unitarian, San Francisco), Rodney Gehrke (All Saints', Palo Alto), and George Emblom (St. Mark's, Berkeley).

The Program:

Puer Natus est nobis

Gregorian chant

Messe de Tournai: Kyrie and Gloria

Anonymous, 14th century

Noël, Noël, Noël

Antoine Busnois (c.1430-1492)

Noël

Antoine Brumel (c.1460-1515)

Esprits divins	Claude Goudimel (1510-1572)
Hodie nobis coelorum rex	Claude Goudimel (1510-1572)
Noe, noe, noe, psallite noe	Jean Mouton (c.1459-1522)
Allons gai, gai, gai, bergères	Guillaume Costeley (c.1531-1606)
Salve puerule	Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)
Or nous dites, Marie	traditional
Une jeune pucelle	
Laissez paître vos bêtes	

INTERMISSION

Noel X (Grand jeu et duo)	Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
Reiko Oda Lane (Friday), Rodney Gehrke (Saturday), George Emblom (Sunday), organ	
L'adieu des bergers from L'enfance du Christ	Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)
Hymne à la Vierge	Pierre Villette (1926-1998)
Courons à la fête	Gaston Roussel (1913-1985)
Dans les ombres de la nuit	Peter Mathews (b.1944)
Quatre motets pour le temps de Noel O magnum mysterium Quem vidistis Videntes stellam Hodie Christus natus est	Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Biographies:

To download photos, please go to <http://www.calbach.org/press.html>

The **California Bach Society**, a 30-voice chamber chorus, has established a reputation for its interpretations of Renaissance and Baroque choral music and has been specializing in historically informed performances since 1998. The appointment of artistic director Dr. Paul Flight in 2006 has resulted in highly successful concert seasons. He has enthralled audiences and critics with his thoughtful and refreshing programming, and has become well respected for bringing lesser-known Baroque masterworks to Bay Area stages. In February 2013, Leon Chisholm of *San Francisco Classical Voice* wrote: **"In recent years, the California Bach Society has become a prospector of Baroque gold. Its concerts have brought forth exquisite, rarely heard works by forgotten masters from the lost frontier, to the delight of its audiences."**

Artistic Director **Dr. Paul Flight**—a noted choral conductor, teacher, and singer—is in his tenth season with the California Bach Society. A former member of such distinguished ensembles as the Waverly Consort, Theatre of Voices, Pomerium Musices, and the New York Collegium, he brings a wealth of expertise to CBS. Critics have praised Dr. Flight’s conducting acumen, stating: **“Flight has made of the choral group a professional ensemble capable of every expressive nuance and glorious ensemble sound.”** In addition, he is the artistic director of Schola Cantorum San Francisco, a professional chamber choir, and the founding director of Berkeley-based Chora Nova. For nine years Dr. Flight was principal conductor of the Madison Early Music Festival, where he directed masterworks by Bach, Handel, Telemann, Vivaldi, Purcell, Dufay, and Guerrero. He has twice been a visiting professor of music at the University of California at Berkeley, directing the music department’s top choral ensembles. As a visiting professor at Mills College, he has lectured on opera, and music history and form. He conducted an operatic double-bill production of Gustav Holst’s *Savitri* and Darius Milhaud’s *Les malheurs d’Orphée* for Mills College. Dr. Flight received his doctorate from Indiana University, where he studied conducting with Robert Porco. He has recorded a program featuring the music of Croce for *Harmonia*, a nationally syndicated radio show, and appeared as a guest on KALW radio’s performing arts program *My Favorite Things* as well as KALW’s *Open Air*.

Yuko Tanaka, a native of Tokyo, Japan, is active as harpsichord and fortepiano soloist and ensemble performer. Yuko was a soloist at the Carmel Bach Festival for 15 seasons, and she performs with numerous ensembles, including Bertamo, Music of the Spheres, Archetti, Ensemble Montichiari, Musica Pacifica, Philharmonia Baroque Chamber Players, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, and American Bach Soloists. She has appeared at the Berkeley Festival and Exhibition and the Bloomington Early Music Festival. She has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Ballet orchestra. She maintains a private studio, conducts master classes, and appears as guest lecturer at various universities. Recent engagements include performances at the Frick Collection (New York City), Täge Alter Musik Regensburg (Germany), and the Istanbul International Music Festival, as well as performances on National Public Radio and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation broadcasts.

Yuko received a doctorate in early music from Stanford University and has studied with Margaret Fabrizio at Stanford University, Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Ketil Haugsand in Oslo, Norway. She has recorded with Koch International and Delos International.

Reiko Oda Lane, a native of Yokohama, Japan, first began her musical training with her mother at a young age. She received her advanced training under Professor Arthur Howes at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland, where she graduated with top honors. Subsequently, she received the Conservatory’s coveted Artist Diploma in Organ, hers being only the second such honor given in the history of the Conservatory since Virgil Fox.

With a special love of Bach, Reiko has concertized in Europe, Japan, and the United States, and will be on her fourth European tour, to Hungary, Romania and Poland, in June of 2016. She has been the organist at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Francisco since 1997.

The present organ at the First Unitarian Universalist Church was built in 1967 by Dr. Robert

Noehren of Ann Arbor, Michigan. It contains sixty-three ranks comprised of 3,110 pipes that are arranged in six divisions: Great, Bombarde, Positiv, Swell, Solo, and Pedal divisions. It is one of the largest Robert Noehren organs built in the United States. For the instrument's fiftieth anniversary in 2017, it will undergo a complete renovation of the console in the summer of 2016.

Rodney Gehrke is director of music at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, organist and choir director at San Francisco's Temple Emanu-El, and professor of organ at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He holds a musicology degree from UC Berkeley. He is a past dean of the San Francisco chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and played the organ and directed the choir at Temple Emanu-El for the opening service of the 2011 Region IX Convention of the American Guild of Organist.

In 1985, in observance of the 300th birthday of J.S. Bach, Mr. Gehrke played the complete organ works of Bach in twelve recitals. In March 2011, he played a recital at the church most popularly associated with Bach, St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany. In June 2011, he was the keynote presenter for the 100th anniversary of Seoul Theological University, Korea, where he played a recital, led an Episcopal liturgy, and offered two lectures and a day of master classes. In November 2015, he played two recital programs in Yokohama, Japan, on the large Fisk Organ in Minato Mirai Concert Hall.

George Emblom serves as director of music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Berkeley, organist and choir director of Temple Sinai, Oakland, assistant professor of church music and director of chapel music at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Episcopal), and instructor of organ at UC Berkeley. He is a member of the Association of Anglican Musicians and the San Francisco chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Serving at St. Mark's since 1992, Mr. Emblom directs one of the finest parish choirs in the entire Bay Area. He has led and directed the St. Mark's Choir on four tours to England. The choir also regularly joins together with the choir of Temple Sinai, Oakland, in singing joint interfaith services.

At St. Mark's, Mr. Emblom directs the Second Sunday Organ Recital Series, currently in its thirtieth season. In 2001 he oversaw the successful organ additions project, in which the parish engaged the Flentrop Orgelbouw of Zaandam, Holland, to enlarge the pedal division of the organ.

Mr. Emblom graduated with distinction from St. Olaf College and the Conservatory of Music of the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

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