



Early Music Hawaii
presents

The Polish Renaissance

Early Music Hawaii Ensemble
Alec Schumacker, director

The Singers

Erica Glenn, Georgine Stark soprano
Sarah Lambert Connelly, Sarah Young alto
Joshua Habermann, Tomás Ramos, Karol Nowicki tenor
Buz Tennent, Michal Nowicki baritone
Keane Ishii bass

The Players

Darel Stark, Maile Reeves violin
Katherine Crosier organ



Saturday, September 17, 2022 • 7:30 pm
Lutheran Church of Honolulu
1730 Punahou Street. Honolulu

The Polish Renaissance

Program

Bogurodzica	Anonymous
Mihi Autem	Marcin Leopolda (c.1540–1589)
Beata es Virgo Maria	Mikołaj Zieleński (c.1590–1650)
Praeludium in D Minor	Jan Podbielski (1680–1730)
Dulcis amor Jesu	Bartłomiej Pękiel (1601–1670)
Dwa Motety (two motets)	Wacław Szamotuła (1526–1560)
Trio Sonata	Stanisław Szarzyński (fl. 1692–1713)
Benedicimus Deum Coeli	Mikołaj Zieleński

Intermission

Prologue: La Liberazione di Ruggiero	Francesca Caccini (1587– c. 1641)
Fantasia & Fuga for organ	Diomedes Cato (1560–1627)
Viderunt omnes fines terrae	Mikołaj Zieleński
Psalm 132	Mikołaj Gomołka (1535–1600)
Concerto Aurea	Adam Jarzębski (c. 1590–1649)
Nunc Dimittis	Grzegorz Gorczycki (1667–1734)

Program Notes

We thank former Music Director Scott Fikse for the detailed research during and following a visit to Poland that inspired this program. Scott has moved to Seattle to pursue advanced studies but continues to sit on the EMH Board as our eyes and ears for early music developments on the mainland.

Poland embraced the Roman Church early in the 10th century. Its troubled political history has left very little record of music from medieval times, but our opening sequence of 13th century Gregorian chant for the Virgin Mary indicates that the Polish language was accepted alongside Latin from the early years. By the 16th century, the evidence of a past proliferation of musical tradition and education is clear from the prominence of native Polish composers from the courts of Kraków, Warsaw and many of the leading cities and bishoprics beyond. Indeed, all but one of the composers on tonight's program are Polish.

Two of the most celebrated composers of the 16th century, Marcin Leopolita and Wacław Szamotul, stand out for their command of renaissance polyphony in Latin and Polish. Szamotul died at the age of only 36 in 1560, and one contemporary wrote: "If the Gods had let him live longer, the Poles would have no need to envy the Italians their Palestrina." At the same time Mikołaj Gomolka published the seminal work "Melodies for the Polish Psalter," from which his Polish language Psalm 132 is presented this evening. Some of their works subtly quote Polish melodies and rhythms rather than conventional chants. In the late Renaissance and early Baroque, Mikołaj Zielenki reigned supreme at the Royal Court in Warsaw. Several of his works are featured in our program.

Instrumental music was well represented in the early Baroque. In church, the organ was prominent, leading to significant solos in the German tradition, played this evening by Katherine Crosier. The secular, intimate trio sonata popular in Italy for two violins and organ is also featured.

In 1628, the Italian opera arrived in Warsaw. Three years earlier, the Florentine singer and composer Francesca Caccini had produced the first known opera by a woman to celebrate the visit of the future king of Poland to the city. Its subsequent performance in Warsaw was the first time an Italian opera had been performed outside Italy. The extended Prologue to *La Liberazione di Ruggiero* is set on the banks of the River Vilnius and celebrates the only non-Polish composer this evening.

Ian Capps, *The Early Muse*, Hawaii Public Radio

Texts and Translations

Bogurodzica

*Bogurodzica, Bogiem sławiona, Maryja!
U twego sina Gospodzina Matko zwolena, Maryja,
Zyszczy nam, spuści nam! Kyrie eleison.*

Virgin Mother of God, God-famed Mary!
Ask thy Son, our Lord, God-named Mary,
to have mercy upon us and hand it over to us!
Lord have mercy!

Mihi autem nimis

*Mihi autem nimis honorati sunt amici tui,
Deus, nimis confortatus est principatus eorum.*

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper,
et saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

But to me, O God, how honored are your friends!
How much has their principality been strengthened!
Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, both now and always,
and for ever. Amen.

Beata es Virgo Maria

*Beata es Virgo Maria, quae omnium portasti Creatorem:
genuisti qui te fecit et in aeternum permanes virgo. Alleluia!*

Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Mary, who didst bear the
Creator of all things: Thou didst bring forth Him, who
made Thee, and remainest forever a virgin.

Dulcis Amor Jesu

*Dulcis amor Jesu, dulce bonum dilecte mi.
O dilectissime Jesu rogo te. Sagittis tuis confige me,
moriar pro te mi Jesu. Trahe me post te, inter
flores pone me. Quia langueo pro te, tu fons,
tu vita, tu lux, tu spes, tu bonitas infinita.*

Sweet love Jesus, sweet salvation, my beloved,
O dearest Jesus, I beg you. Your arrows pierce me,
I die for you, my Jesus. Take me with you, place me
among flowers, because I yearn for you, you source,
you life, you light, you hope, you endless goodness.

Dwa Motety

*1. Ach mój niebieski Panie! Bóże wszechmogący!
W jedności świętej, wiecznie królujący.
Nie lża mnie upadłemu, a złości pełnemu,
jedno k'tobie się uciekać, Panu Boga memu.
Daleś mi więc otuchę, wpiśmie przez proroka,
Że ty śmierci nie pożądasz, Chrzesznego człowieka.*

*2. Kryste dniu naszej światłości, nocne odkrywasz ciemności
Za światłość Cię prawą znamy, Gdy Twej nauki słuchamy.*

Lo, my heavenly Lord! God omnipotent!
United in the Holy Trinity, reigning for eternity.
There is no recourse left for me, fallen from grace and full of anger,
but to escape towards you, Lord, my God.
You gave me comfort then, through the scripture of the prophet,
that you do not desire the death of a sinner.

Christ, our light of day, you uncover the night's darkness.
We recognize you for your righteous light
when we listen to your teachings.

Benedicimus Deum Coeli

*Benedicimus Deum coeli et coram omnibus viventibus
confitebimur ei, quia fecit nobiscum misericordiam suam.*

Bless the God of heaven; in the sight of all who live,
we will praise Him, because he has shown us His mercy.

La Liberazione di Ruggiero

Neptune: Not because the African and Chorus conspire against Aeneas in anger; not because Jove comes to my Kingdom for Europa disguised as a bull; but to marvel that on Tuscan shores and among Flora's fair sons, the bright Son of the Sarmation King opens his eyes, do I, Monarch of the Sea, arise from the waves.

Come with me, Spirits of the Waters, honor Him in peace who defeated the Moscovite, Thracian and Tartars. Sovereign irrigator of my kingdom, faithful Tributary Vistula, it is fitting for you to sing the great praises which the Tuscan kingdom gladly celebrates.

Vistula: Revered Lord of the watery kingdom, these waters have not the trumpets to ring the praises of these glorious kings, although the heart blazes with desire to do so. It is silent and sighs for it. Only the lyre of Phoebus can sing the praises for this unconquered Mars and fill the pages with his immortal fame. To the sound of these waves, we beg to satisfy him with fine singing:

Chorus of the Water Deities: Golden-haired God of fair Parnassus, send out from your golden strings the sweet harmony to match the valor of this most brave King.

Duo: For his ardor, for the toil of Bellona, weave for his hair a fair garland. Sing, kind Deity, the wonderful sound of his glory.

Trio: Do so, from your fair breast, while the fierce trumpet is silent in happy peace.

Tenors and Sopranos: Sing, kind Deity, the wonderful sound of his glory.

Neptune: After sky and sea today decree equal sway to thy great valor, may it please you to hear how Ruggiero abandoned the love of evil Alcina. Through the ardor of his beloved, he spurned the sorceress's base deceits. The brave-hearted courage of the loving Prince gave joy to her royal heart.

Chorus of the Water Deities: Golden-haired God of fair Parnassus, send out from your golden strings the sweet harmony to match the valor of this most brave King.

Viderunt Omnes

Viderunt omnes fines terrae salutare Dei nostri.

All the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalm 132

*Pomni, Panie, Dawida y jego trudności,
Które ciepiał w nadzieię Twoioey życzliwości,
Który Tobie w te słowa przysiągł, swemu Bogu:
“Nie chcę ani nawiedzić pierwey swego progu,
Ani na swym lożu leżć, ani oczu zmrużyć,
Ani pożądných darów snu słodkiego użyć,
Aż plac naydę, Boże mój, Twemu kościołowi
Y wymierzę świętemu miejsce oltarzowi.”*

Lord, remember David, and all his afflictions:
who swore to you, his God, by these words:
“Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house,
nor go up to my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes,
or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord,
a habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.”

Nunc Dimittis

*Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine
secundum verbum tuum in pace.
Quia viderunt oculi salutare tuum,
quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum,
lumen ad revelationem gentium
et gloriam plebi tuae Israel.*

Now Lord, let your servant depart in peace,
for my eyes have seen the salvation which
you have prepared before all nations.
A light to lighten the heathen and the glory
of your people Israel.

The Artists

Alec Schumacker, director

Alec Schumacker is Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor at Hawai'i Pacific University, where he conducts the International Vocal Ensemble and the International Chorale. He presently serves as vice president of the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. He completed his DMA in choral conducting at the University of Miami, where he studied with Joshua Habermann and Karen Kennedy. His master's degree in choral conducting is also from the University of Miami. He graduated cum laude with honors in music from Williams College.

An award-winning composer and arranger, Alec's choral music is published by Alliance Music Publications, earthsongs, and World Projects. His works have been performed around the country by all-state choruses and prestigious ensembles,

including the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the New World Symphony, the University of Delaware Chorale, the Frost Chorale, the Voices of Aloha, and even at the NFL's Pro Bowl in 2016.

The Singers

The Early Music Hawaii Choir was formed in 2013 under the artistic direction of the late Carl Crosier. The core group has since appeared in several guises as a chamber ensemble and in its form today as multiple soloists and choral singers. It is made up of Honolulu's finest early music performers, many of them recognized as veterans in the performance of this and other major repertoires of the professional music world in Hawai'i.

The Players

The instrumental ensembles are smaller, reflecting the nature of early music performance. They draw on early music specialists who also perform with major local institutions, including the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra and Hawai'i Opera Theater. This evening's complement of two violins and organ showcases the popular trio sonatas of the period. The organ repertoire reflects the importance of the instrument at that time in solo repertoire and support of singers. Darel Stark and Maile Reeves have featured prominently in EMH programs from our earliest days. Katherine Crosier has been a leading organist and teacher in Hawai'i for many years and serves as artistic director on the EMH Board.

Sponsors and Contributors

As we enter a new season of live concerts after the pandemic, we are most grateful for the support of our sponsors and contributors during the past year and of those who have already renewed their support going forward. Mahalo!

Annual Sponsors (\$500 and above): Jacques & Nancy Baenzinger, Marilyn & Carl Bernhardt, Ian & Jeannette Capps, Lynne Johnson, Carol Langner, Bernice & Robert Littman, Bill Potter, Mark Russell & Rudy Riingen, Amy Taniguchi, Eldon Wegner.

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Many thanks to our loyal team of volunteers who consistently give their time and efforts to make these concerts run smoothly: Randy and Jeanne Castello, Mary Delos Santos, Anne and John Flanigan, Ulrike Scherer.

Special thanks to Katherine Crosier for artistic direction and the design of promotional materials and concert programs, and to Jeannette Johnson-Capps for managing the complex logistics of concerts on O'ahu.

Early Music Hawaii thanks the **Lutheran Church of Honolulu** for continuing to host our concerts for more than a decade. The Church resonates with the exceptional acoustics and warm aloha which suit the early music repertory so well.

Early Music Hawaii is a non-profit organization established in 2004 to promote the performance and enjoyment of medieval, renaissance and baroque music in our islands and to encourage historical performance practices. Each concert year, we present one major choral/orchestral concert and one chamber concert in Honolulu, all with local performers. We also present two leading professional early music ensembles from the mainland who perform in Honolulu and Kailua-Kona as well as teach at workshops when appropriate.

Modest membership dues, concert proceeds and free will donations sustain these efforts. Ticket sales alone cannot cover the cost of concert presentations, here or elsewhere in the US or abroad. We are most grateful to a select number of generous sponsors and hope you will consider making a donation at www.earlymusichawaii.org.

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Please note that EMH was mistakenly listed under Hawai'i Island at branches but donations are equally valid for O'ahu.

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