



SPELMAN | MOREHOUSE

99th Annual

Christmas Carol

CONCERT

~ PRESENTING ~

THE SPELMAN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB | KEVIN JOHNSON, DIRECTOR
AND
THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE GLEE CLUB | DAVID MORROW, DIRECTOR
JOYCE F. JOHNSON, ORGANIST

FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2025
7:30 P.M.
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6, 2025
7:30 P.M.
SISTERS CHAPEL
SPELMAN COLLEGE

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2025
6:00 P.M.
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE



PROGRAM

It is requested that there be no applause at any point in this program.

The audience is invited to join with the chorus in singing the first, the last, and all other selections marked with an asterisk, and requested to remain seated during the processional and recessional.

PRELUDE

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Richard Purvis

PROCESSIONAL

HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

Old English

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun.
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turns to light,
Whose souls condemned and dying,
Are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers
Spring in His path to birth;
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

O'er every foe victorious
He on His throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all blest;
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever,
His changeless name of Love.

THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

Egil Hovland

The Word was made flesh,
and dwelt among us.

We behold the glory,
full of grace and truth.

In the beginning was the Word,
the Word was with God.

In Him was life,
and the life was the light of men.

He came to His own,
and His own received Him not.

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SIR CHRISTÉMAS
William Mathias

Nowell, nowell.
Who is there that singeth so,
I am here, Sir Christèmas.
Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!
Welcome to all, both more and less!
Come near, come near, come near.
Nowell, nowell.

Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs,
Tidings I you bring:
A maid hath borne a child full young,
Which causeth you to sing:
Nowell, nowell.

Christ is now born of a pure maid,
Born of a pure maid;
In an ox-stall he is laid,
Wherefore sing we at a brayde:
Nowell, nowell.

Buvez bien, buvez bien
Par toute la compagnie.
Make good cheer and be right merry,
And sing with us now joyfully:
Nowell, nowell!

SILENT NIGHT
arr. Kevin Johnson

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing,
"Alleluia! hail the King!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend the light;
With the angels let us sing
"Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."

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GLORY TO GOD
Kevin Johnson

Praise the Father and the Son.
You alone are the Holy One!
Lord God, heavenly King.
Glory to your name we sing!

Father God we worship you.
Holy God we worship you.
Take my sins and make me whole.
Lord, revive my aching soul!

Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Peace on earth, good will toward men.

Refrain:
Glory to God in the highest! Peace to all God's people on Earth!

GLORIA FOR CHRISTMAS
arr. Jim Ailor

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the highest!)

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plain,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strain.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing!



THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH
Marques L.A. Garrett

Hodie Christus natus est; (Today Christ is born;)
Hodie Salvator apparuit. (Today the savior has appeared.)

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
It will lead to the place where the Savior's born.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow, follow,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
Follow the star of Bethlehem.
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord!
What did she name him? Yes, Lord!
She named him King Jesus, Yes, Lord!

Venite, venite in Bethlehem:
Natum videte Regem Angelorum.

(Come, O come to Bethlehem:)
(See the new-born King of Angels.)

If you take good heed to the Angel's word
You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd;

Leave your flocks and leave your lambs.
Leave your sheep and leave your rams.

Oh, Mary, what you gonna call yo' pretty little baby?

Puer natus est nobis,
Puer natus est in Bethlehem,
Hic jacet in praesepio,
Et vocabitur nome ejus:
Magni consilii Angelus

(A boy is born to us,
(A boy is born in Bethlehem)
(Here lies in a manger,) (And his name shall be called:)
(The Angel of great council)

Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Rise!



CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE
Steven Quesnel

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight
Celebrate, celebrate, Christ the New Life.

Christmas, when children of all ages sing:
Praising and worshipping Christ the new King.
Christmas, when peace like a dove in its flight,
Broods over all people on this Holy night.
The Christ child who comes is the Master of all,
No palace too great and no cottage too small,
The angels who welcome Him sing from the height,
“In the City of David a King in His might.”
Then let every heart keep its Christmas within
Rejoice in the warmth of the fellowship kin.
Let peace still the Earth on this holy night;
Let love warm the air through the dawn’s breaking light.
The stars of the midnight which compass us round,
Will see a strange glory and hear a sweet sound,
And say, “Look the Earth is ablaze with delight,
All people on earth do rejoice at the sight.”

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight
Celebrate, celebrate, Christ the new Light.

THE FIRST NOEL
Chorus and Audience
English Carol

The first noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind has bought.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the Earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain:
Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel.



CEREMONY OF CAROLS
Benjamin Britten
Spelman College Glee Club

Wolcum Yole!

Wolcum, wolcum, wolcum be thou hevenè king.
Wolcum Yole! Wolcum, born in one morning!
Wolcum for whom we sall sing!
Wolcum Thomas, martyr one,
Wolcum Innocents every one,
Wolcum Stephen and John,
Wolcum ye all that are here.
Wolcum all and make good cheer!
Wolcum Twelfth Day both in fere!
Wolcum good New Year,
Wolcum Yole!

Balulalow

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweit,
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,
And I sall rock thee to my hert,
And never mair from thee depart.
But I sall praise thee evermoir
With sangis sweit unto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow
And sing that rycht Balulalow.

This Little Babe

This little Babe so few days old
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake,

There is no Rose

There is no rose of such vertu
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia.
For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space.
Res miranda.
By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three.
Pares forma.
The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus.
Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus.

Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmed wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.
His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, hay-stalks his stakes,
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.
My soul, with Christ join thou in fight,
Stick to the tents that he hath pight;
Within his crib is surest ward,
This little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

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THE SNOW
Edward Elgar
Spelman College Glee Club

O snow, which sinks so light,
Brown earth is hid from sight,
O soul be thou as white,
Be thou as white as snow.

O snow, which falls so slow,
Dear earth quite warm below
O heart, so keep thy glow beneath the snow.

O snow, in thy soft grave,
Sad flow'rs sad, flow'rs the winter brave;
O heart, so soothe and save, as does the snow.

The snow must, melt must go,
Fast, fast as water flow,
Not thus, my soul, O sow
Thy gifts to fade like snow.
Not thus, my soul, O sow
Thy gifts to fade like snow.

O snow, thou'rt white no more,
Thy sparkling too is O'er
O soul, be as before,
Was bright the snow.

Then as the snow all pure,
O heart be, but endure;
Through all the years full sure,
Not as the snow,
Not as the snow.

CHILDREN, GO WHERE I SEND THEE

arr. Kevin Johnson
Negro Spiritual
Spelman College Glee Club

Children go where I send thee,
How shall I send thee?
One for the little bitty baby
Wrapped in swaddlin' clothin',
Laid down in a manger,
That's born! Born, Born,
Born in Bethlehem!

Children go where I send thee,
How shall I send thee?
Two for Paul and Silas
One for the little bitty baby
Wrapped in swaddlin' clothin',
That's born! Born, Born,
Born in Bethlehem!

Children go where I send thee,
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee ten by ten
Ten for the ten commandments.
Nine for the nine that dressed so fine.
Eight for the eight that stood at the gate.
Seven for the seven that when up to heaven.
Six for the six that never got fixed.
Five for the gospel preachers.
Four for the four that stood at the door.
Three for the Hebrew chillun'
Two for Paul and Silas
One for the little bitty baby
Wrapped in swaddlin' clothin',
Laid down in a manger!

Refrain: That's born! Born, Born, Born in Bethlehem!



WE ARE CHRISTMAS
Sarah Benibo/Kevin Johnson
Spelman College Glee Club

In a stable in Bethlehem a baby was born, born of a virgin,
God's only son. Angel Gabriel told them to have joy have no fear; for this baby our Savior He could dry every tear.
Mary magnified The Lord in her soul and she cried, for this Baby, she would bear, Had all power and all might.
Born for all people to be free and Redeemed, he lives today within us though we don't always see.

So this Christmas please remember what the true meaning is: Remember Gabriel and Mary and the Savior who lives.
Remember we are Christ among us and we live for His cause to fulfill his purpose daily as we bring joy to all.
We are comfort for the hurting, mending each broken heart
We are friendly to the lonesome and unite those far apart.
We're his hands who touch the sick and they're instantly whole.
We are water for the thirsty and speak peace to ev'ry soul.

He lives in you! He lives in me!
We are Christmas!

Refrain:
We are Christmas, We are God's hands
To care for one another in these worn torn lands.
We are Christmas, the love that we share,
Will carry one another 'til we understand,
We are Christmas!

***JOY TO THE WORLD**
George F. Handel
Chorus and Audience

Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and
grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love.

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While field and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.



A WINTER TRIPTYCH (EXCERPTS)

James Adler
Morehouse College Glee Club

Gloria! Sing Noel, all sing Noel.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen:
God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by Name.

"Fear not then," said the Angel, "Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might."
Wassail Song:

God bless the master of this house, likewise the mistress too;
And all the little children that round the table go;
O, here we come a wassailing, among the leaves so green,
And here we come a-wandering, so fair to be seen:
Love and joy come to you, and to you and your wassail too,
And God bless you, and send you a happy New Year,
And God send you a happy New Year!

Recapitulation:

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
Like we true loving brethren each other to embrace;
For the merry time of Christmas is drawing on a pace.

French Noel:

Here between ass and oxen mild,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, my little child.
Here in the crib, secure from harms,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, in your mother's arms.

Refrain:

Angels from on high,
Hover in the sky,
Keeping watch above th'incarnate
God of love.

Here between rose and lily white,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, my son tonight.
On this fair night for holy joy,
Sleep, sleep, sleep, my little boy.



THIS CHRISTMAS
Donny Hathaway and Nadine McKinnor
arr. Paul Langford
Morehouse College Glee Club

Hang all the mistletoe
I'm gonna get to know you better
This Christmas
And as we trim the tree
How much fun it's gonna be together
This Christmas

Fireside is blazing bright,
We're caroling through the night
And this Christmas will be
A very special Christmas for me

Presents and cards are here
My world is filled with cheer and you
This Christmas
And as I look around,
Your eyes outshine the town and you do
This Christmas

Fireside is blazing bright
We're caroling through the night
And this Christmas will be
A very special Christmas for me.

WHAT YOU GONNA CALL YO' PRETTY LITTLE BABY?
Spiritual
arr. Noah F. Ryder
Morehouse College Glee Club

What you gonna call yo' pretty little baby, born, born in Bethlehem?
Some say one thing, I'll say Immanuel. Sweet little baby, born in a manger.
Some call Him one thing, I'll call Him Jesus. Sweet little baby, born in a manger.

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ALL 'ROUND DE GLORY MANGER
Spiritual

arr. Willis Laurence James/Leonard de Paur
Morehouse College Glee Club

Dey turn 'way Mary an'-a Joseph, 'way from the inn,
Dey Laid my pretty little Jesus down in the straw,
An' all His Pretty little fingers played in de straw,
An dat's what made de glory manger!
An'-a hallelujah, Lord.
Wasn't dat a bright Bethlehem mornin'
All 'round de glory manger?

BETELEHEMU
(Yoruba/Nigerian)
Olatunji-Whalum
Morehouse College Glee Club

Awa yio ri Baba Gbojule
Awa yio ri Baba Feyinti
Nibo Labi Jesu
Nibo la gbe bi i

Betelehemu ilu ara
Nibe labi Baba o daju
Iyin, iyin, iyin ni fun o
Adupe fun ojo oni
Baba olore o
Iyin fun o Baba anu
Baba, to dawa si

We are glad that we have a Father to trust,
We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon.
Where was Jesus born?
Where was He born?

Bethlehem, the city of wonder
That's where the Father was born for sure!
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.
We thank thee for this day.
Gracious Father
Praise be to the Father
Merciful Father

***O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**
J.F. Wade
Chorus and Audience

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory
giv'n; Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!

Refrain:

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

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BEHOLD THE STAR!
arr. William L. Dawson
Negro Jubilee

Behold the star! Behold the star up yonder!
Behold the star! It is the star of Bethlehem.
There was no room found in the inn,
For Him who was born free from sin.

The wise men came from the East,
To worship Him, the "Prince of Peace."
A song broke forth upon the night,
Peace, peace on Earth, good will to men.

HERE'S A PRETTY LITTLE BABY
Spiritual
arr. Willis Laurence James

Here's a pretty little baby! Look in the manger! Behold, believe and be baptized.
Wise Men riding. Bright star shining. His name is Jesus! Behold, believe and be baptized.

MARY HAD A BABY
Roland Carter

Mary had a baby
O, oh my Lord!
Mary had a baby
O, oh my Lord!

Where was He born?
Born in a manger low
Where was He born?
Born in a manger low.

Mary had a baby
O, oh my Lord!
What did they call him?
Some call Him one thing
What did they call him?
But I'll call Him another
What did they call him?

Some say Immanuel
What did they call him?
I'll call Him
Sweet Little Jesus Boy
I'll call Him Jesus

He is called King Jesus
Wonderful counselor
Mighty God Everlasting Father

He's the Prince of peace
Mary had a baby
O, oh my Lord!

What did they call him?
Some call Him one thing
What did they call him?
But I'll call Him another
What did they call him?

Some say Immanuel
What did they call him?
I'll call Him
Sweet Little Jesus Boy
I'll call Him Jesus,
He is called King Jesus
Wonderful counselor!

Mighty God Everlasting Father
He's the Prince of peace
Mary had a baby
O, oh my Lord!



THIS CHRISTMAS DAY Kevin Johnson

This Christmas day!
Christmas is the celebration of Jesus
Christ the lord of every nation
The keys to the kingdom brought to us by the king
With strength, power authority, in God we believe
You know there's so many souls in the world lost, and alone
In need of charity and love with Christ on the throne
it's time we must
Be the change we cater to these ones
And feed the sheep of the god that we love

Now let us go and build a city of God
In every land and every nation
The time has come let's go
And work for the King
With peace, love, and joy we proclaim

This Christmas day!
Go ye therefore and teach all nations, go
Love one another, serve one another,
Love one another, serve one another.
Go ye therefore and teach all nations, go
Help one another, bless one another,
Help one another, bless one another
This Christmas day!

No matter who you are
No matter the circumstances that brought you to the Lord,
No matter your skin color, background this is true religion
Rich serving the poor and the living serving the living.

Let's go out to the spectrum with the truth and can help.
What good is the good news if you're keeping it all to yourself?
For God so loved his peeps
That he sent his son to save all who believe.

Now let us go and build a city of God
In every land and every nation
The time has come let's go
And work for the King
With peace, love, and joy we proclaim

We are called to obey Jesus
And he gave us a command
To love the orphan and widow
Serve each other and love every man
Let's go to all the nations let's bring Gods peace to all
Encourage freedom, justice, dignity, and self control

Now let us go and build a city of God
In every land and every nation
The time has come let's go
And work for the King
With peace, love, and joy we proclaim

This Christmas day!
Go ye therefore and teach all nations, go
Love one another, serve one another,
Love one another, serve one another.
Go ye therefore and teach all nations, go

Help one another, bless one another,
Help one another, bless one another
This Christmas day!

*GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN Negro Jubilee Chorus and Audience

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

When I was a seeker,
I sought both night and day;
I asked the Lord to help me
And he showed me the way.

He made me a watchman
Upon a city wall;
And if I am a Christian,
I am the least of all.

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RECESSIONAL
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING
Felix Mendelssohn

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on Earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail th’ Incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail, the heav’n born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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