

# ***Our Lady and Her Court***

## ***Cantorae St. Augustine***

***May 6, 2011***  
***Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine***

The audience is kindly requested to turn off cell phones,  
and to refrain from applause until the end of the program. Thank you!

### ***“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”***

Prologue: “Verbum caro” in 3 Flavors:

*This responsory for Terce on Christmas Day finds itself to be first a chant, second a processional conductus with added Latin lyrics, and finally, a joyful Spanish villancico that mixes Latin and 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish.*

#### **I. “Our Lady sings Magnificat with tune surpassing sweet”**

The First “Prequel” to Christmas: Introit for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception:

*The introit in English from the Anglican Use Gradual and Richard Rice’s 2004 setting of the Latin text Gaudens gaudebo are drawn from Isaiah 61: 10 – I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.*

In the Courtyard at Montserrat: Stella Splendens

*Stella Splendens is a 14<sup>th</sup> century round dance from the Llibre Vermell de Montserrat, which recommended wholesome songs for the pilgrims as they passed the night in the church. The lyrics describe the “splendid star on the mountain” that all run to see.*

The Second “Prequel”: Nativitas tua and Magnificat, Tone 1 from the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*This antiphon of great antiquity is shared by both the eastern and western churches. The Tone One Magnificat setting alternates between Gregorian chant and polyphonic verses by M. J. Ballou.*

The Annunciation: Ave Maria Chant and Ave Maria, Blesséd Maid

*The Gregorian Ave Maria is paired with a 1992 anthem by English composer Philip Noble. The text is taken from John Keble’s poem on the Annunciation in The Christian Year (1827).*

## **II. Our Lady's Court – “And all the virgins bear their parts, Sitting about her feet.”**

Valiant Women, Strong Yet Gentle: Nobilem Christi

*This splendid medieval hymn from the Common of Holy Women is drawn from the Office of Morning Prayer.*

St. Clare of Assisi: Selections from the Messe de sainte Claire – Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei

*This setting of the Mass for women's voices and salterio was written by Catherine Weidemann in 2007 as a gift for the Poor Clares of Lourdes and Nîmes. A mosaic of St. Clare (1194-1253) holding a monstrance appears in the Cathedral-Basilica's Blessed Sacrament Chapel.*

St. Bridget of Kildare: Hymn to St. Bridget and Her Prayer

*This traditional song, sung here in English, praises the “Mary of the Gael,” a virgin, a foundress, and an abbess (451-525). Her feast day on February 1<sup>st</sup> is seen as a harbinger of springtime. The prayer attributed to her dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> century.*

## **III. “O God that I were there!”**

The Universal Longing: Oneida. “Let me go where saints are going.”

*This 2007 camp-meeting song uses a late 19<sup>th</sup> century text. A dedicated singer and student of the Sacred Harp tradition, Aldo Thomas Ceresa has been writing music in the style of The Sacred Harp since 2005. Living in Brooklyn, NY, he has taught singing schools and composition workshops in the genre in the US, France, Ireland, Poland and the UK.*

### ***About Cantorae St. Augustine***

Founded in 2007 as the St. Augustine Schola Cantorae, Cantorae is devoted to the rich heritage of a cappella (unaccompanied) sacred music with a special emphasis on Gregorian chant. In addition to monthly Vespers at the Shrine of La Leche, Cantorae has sung at Founder's Day Masses, as well as weddings and special services. Its members are a mix of professional and amateur singers on the First Coast.

Director Mary Jane Ballou has over 30 years of experience in directing choirs and independent vocal ensembles in California, New York, and Florida. Beginning with conservatory training as a pianist and organist, Ms. Ballou continued her studies in Eastern and Western liturgical music with Fr. Lawrence Heiman, C.P.P.S., Scott Turkington, William Mahrt and others. An active member of the Church Music Association of America, Ms. Ballou writes and speaks on the past and future of sacred music. She also performs professionally on Celtic harp and salterio.

### ***Members of Cantorae St. Augustine***

*Beverly Barker, Elizabeth Gessner, Jean Goodwin, Chris Kiel,  
Kathy Hale, Shannon McKay, Ernani Morgan  
Mary Jane Ballou, Director*

To learn more about Cantorae, visit [www.cantorae.com](http://www.cantorae.com) or find us on Facebook.