

WELCOME
to the 24th annual concert presentation of
George Frideric Handel's

Messiah

PART I: The Christmas Story

produced and presented by

Williamsburg United Methodist Church

Friday, December 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Dave Rochford, Lead Pastor

Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton, Associate Pastor

Lou-Anne Smith, Director of Worship Arts

Thomas Marshall, Organist

Handel Chamber Orchestra & Chorus

Michelle Trovato, Soprano

Dr. Kelly J. Montgomery, Contralto

Ian Lane, Tenor

Chris Mooney, Bass

Libretto adapted from Holy Scripture by Charles Jennens (1700-1773)

First performance in Dublin, Ireland

13 April 1742

For information about our church, please contact us: (757) 229-1771 or www.williamsburgumc.org

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Wesley Choir: Students in grades 1-5 meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. in Room 173 to rehearse unison and two-part music that they will sing in worship about once per month.

Mini Melodies: This group offers a unique opportunity for preschoolers and pre-readers to dive into the world of singing, discover the magic of their own voices, and share in a joyful ministry experience. Join us in the parlor on Sundays from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. for an engaging musical adventure. Afterward, students can either be picked up or smoothly transitioned to the nursery. It's a wonderful way for the little ones to start their day with music and togetherness!

Canticles of Praise: Students in middle and high school rehearse choral music for worship. Rehearsal is Sunday afternoons from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. in Room 173

Bells of Praise: A bell choir for middle and high school students meets on Sundays from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. in Room 112.

Youth Praise Band: Our vocal and instrumental band for middle and high school students meets on Sundays from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. They lead worship in Sunday School and Messy Church, as well as in Sunday morning worship several times per year.

Sanctuary Choir: Join us for rehearsals on Mondays at 5:15 p.m., where musicians of all skill levels are welcome! Whether you're a beginner or have years of experience, you'll find a place in our diverse, supportive, warm and knowledgeable community. Please bring your own instrument. If you need assistance in finding one, we'll be more than happy to help! The Sanctuary Orchestra performs in worship about once a month, from September through May.

Koinonia Belles: Our handbell choirs are incredibly inclusive and welcoming. The morning group has ranged from a trio to a sextet. If we have enough players, we'll even bring back the In Nomine Dei Ringers! Koinonia Belles meets every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m..

Covenant Ringers: Covenant Ringers, our talented bell ensemble, meets on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.. You'll find the magical sounds resonating from the Bell Room (Room 112).

Sanctuary Orchestra: Our orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., and/or a new option of Sunday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.. We welcome beginners and experienced players alike! Eighth grade through adult.

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship

December 3, 10 & 17
8:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Special Events During Advent

Respite Care Benefit Concert

Bells, Orchestra, Choir and Organ
WUMC Sanctuary
Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Messy Church

WUMC Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, December 12 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Carols Round the Chrismon Tree

WUMC Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 13
from 6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

“Christmas at Williamsburg”

featuring WUMC choirs (both services)
WUMC Sanctuary
Sunday, December 17

A Service of Hope & Light

WUMC Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 20 from 12:15—1:15 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24
10:00 a.m. Family Worship & Children's Pageant
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship & Holy Communion
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship & Holy Communion

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25
Worship Recording will be available

All events are free. Free Childcare is available for all Sunday services, Messiah Concerts, and the 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank the following members and friends of our church who enthusiastically and graciously volunteered to assist with the many tasks for Messiah 2023. Their service spirit has shown brightly while working together to offer the gifts and joy of the Messiah concerts to our church and the community.

Messiah Manager:

Donna Herman

Chancel Set-up:

Drew Alexander
Judy Alexander
Doug Arbuckle
Jeremy Boudreaux
Gerald Bullock
Tammy Bullock
Ella Bullock
Jake Foley
Bill Herman
Greg Johnson
Kim Johnson
Shane Johnson
Ryan Staggs
Jenn Staggs

Child Care:

Marcella LeGrand
Kristina Wolf

Child Care Hostess:

Marilyn Casey

Flowers:

Donna Herman
Elgin Morris,
Williamsburg Floral

Greeters:

Marijane Harper
Lisa Rochford

Handel's Helpers:

Bill Herman

Programs:

Donna Herman
Nancy Reynolds
Michelle Roy
Lou-Anne Smith

Program Proofers and Stuffers:

Annette Bell
Warren Bell
Ella Bullock
Tammy Bullock
Kim Johnson

Reception:

Cathy Allport
Kelli Mansel-Arbuckle
Cindy Banek
Ella Bullock
Tammy Bullock
Barbara Feagin
Suzan Griffin
Marijane Harper
Bill Herman
Kim Johnson
Bonnie Knizatko
Joy Mair
Pamela Mason
Hawley Mason
Taylor Mason
Cassie Maye
Charlotte McCarter
Jeannie Niebel
Maynard Randolph
Karen Red
Linda Rhodes

Lisa Rochford
Kim Kirby-Saunders
Barbara Stahl
Donna Ward

Rehearsal Team:

Suzan Griffin
Janet Henke
Bill Herman
Linda Upshaw

Sound:

Todd Lindley
Jim McCarter

Tellers:

Russ Henke
Janet Henke
Barbara Neary

Technology Assistant:

Josh Clayton

Transportation:

Greg Johnson

Ushers:

Doug Arbuckle
Gene Bruss
Debbie Bruss
Jeremy Boudreaux
Jessie Boudreaux
Judy Emmanuel
Vivian Golding
Joyce Hedgepath
Chalannes Hoover

Greg Johnson
James Warwick Jones
Jack Kerdasha
Joann Lawson
Monty Mason
Bob Parsons
George Sallwasser
Susan Sallwasser
Steve Tingen
Rick Viancour
Laura Viancour

Pastors:

Rev. Dave Rochford
Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton
Deacon Troy Sims

Ministry Staff:

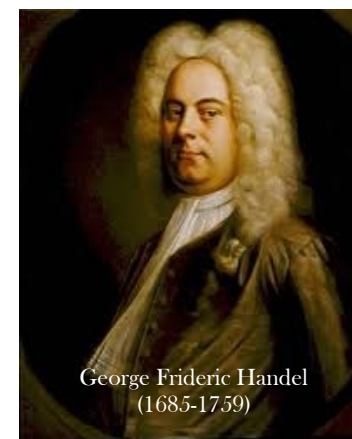
Zach Griggs
Cornelia Jude
Tom Marshall
Laura Pittman
Lou-Anne Smith
Anthony Williams

Administrative Staff:

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Josh Clayton
Stephen Jones
William Jones
Nancy Reynolds
Michelle Roy
Lionel Taylor
Greg Whiteside
Kristina Wolf

Messiah

The Story of George Frideric Handel



George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

If George Frideric Handel's father had had his way, millions of people over the last 272 years would not have enjoyed the brilliance of his son's most famous oratorio, Messiah, or any of his other musical pieces.

Born in 1685, the young Handel loved music from an early age and wanted to pursue musical studies, but his father objected. The elder Handel would not even allow his son to own a musical instrument. The thinking was that pursuing a musical career would not lead to sufficient income.

Fortunately, for Handel as well as future generations of music lovers, his mother, Dorothea, supported his musical pursuits and encouraged him to practice without his father's knowledge.

After an organ performance at the age of seven, Handel met composer and organist, Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow, who took him on as a pupil. With Zachow's guidance, Handel had mastered composing for the organ, oboe and violin by the time he was 10 years old.

Handel composed various church cantatas and chamber music over an approximately five to six year period, starting at the age of 11, but he finally succumbed to his father's insistence of studying law. By the time he was 18, he dropped his law studies and accepted a violinist's position at the Hamburg Opera's Goosemarket Theater in his native Germany.

Beginning with a stroke in 1737 and another six years later, Handel endured a series of health issues that likely included depression and culminated with total blindness by 1752. Still, none of his health problems kept him from his passion for music.

After his first stroke affected the movement of his right hand, he defied pessimists with a full recovery, enabling him to pen his most famous work, Messiah. He repeated his quick recovery from his second stroke to continue his work.

Perhaps it was Handel's own struggles that contributed to him being a compassionate and generous man. He designated the proceeds from Messiah's first performance to three charities—Mercer's Hospital, the Infirmary, and the prisoners of the Mashalseas'. The tradition of supporting charities with Messiah proceeds continues today.

Handel's generosity continued even at his death, dividing his assets among his servants and various charities, as well as leaving money to pay for his own funeral so that the burden would not fall on his loved ones.

Handel died, at age 74, in his rented house in London, April 14, 1759, the day after the 17th anniversary of Messiah's first performance. He is buried in London's Westminster Abbey, in Poet's Corner.

However, it was soon his skill on the organ that actually gained him the most attention.

In 1704, at age 19, he composed the first of nearly 50 operas. He went to Italy in 1707 and made his home there for several years composing operas before eventually winding up in London. There in 1711 his breakthrough work, the opera *Rinaldo* was first performed. That gave him the widespread recognition he needed to expand his musical career.

He decided to make London his permanent home in 1726 and became a British citizen. He continued to produce Italian operas but, when they fell out of favor, he turned to oratorios. He composed some 30 oratorios, the most famous being Messiah, which was written in 1741 and first performed in 1742 in Dublin.

Glory to God in the Highest!

Messiah

A Sacred Oratorio
George Frideric Handel

Invocation	Pastor
Overture	Handel Chamber Orchestra
Recitative: “Comfort Ye”	Ian Lane, tenor
Air: “Ev’ry Valley Shall Be Exalted”	Ian Lane, tenor
Chorus: “And The Glory Of The Lord”	
Recitative: “Thus Saith The Lord”	Chris Mooney, bass
Recitative: “But Who Shall Abide The Day Of His Coming”	Chris Mooney, bass
Chorus: “And He Shall Purify”	
Recitative: “Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive”	Dr. Kelly Montgomery, contralto
Air & Chorus: “O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings To Zion”	Dr. Kelly Montgomery, contralto
Recitative: “For, Behold, Darkness Shall Cover The Earth”	Chris Mooney, bass
Air: “The People That Walked In Darkness”	Chris Mooney, bass
Chorus: “For Unto Us A Child Is Born”	
Pifa	
Recitative: “There Were Shepherds Abiding In The Field”	Michelle Trovato, soprano
Recitative: “And, Lo, The Angel Of The Lord Came Upon Them”	Michelle Trovato, soprano
Recitative: “And The Angel Said Unto Them”	Michelle Trovato, soprano

My dad used to say, “it takes a heap of living”. When I was nine years old, my mom suffered a life-threatening health crisis, so Dad had personal experience! A submariner in World War II, he seemed to outrun the sinking of several submarines on which he had served. My dad was brave but truly suffered through tough times as did all his fellow sailors, soldiers—the entire world in his day.

Today life is tumultuous as well, and we wonder what horrors we may hear about at the end of the day. Many people around the world are suffering because of war, and our hearts hurt for them and the humanity that is selfishly and unjustly being slaughtered.

Tonight, my hope is that you will have a moment of escape from this world and the tumult of your own life. May you hear the enduring words and music of Messiah which promises One who bears our burdens because he is “Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”.

We must not forget the world around us, so as this music springs joy and hope in your heart, may you share the light of Christ with your neighbors near and far this Christmas. God has given us the gift of his Son. May we selflessly share that gift of love with everyone around us and the world! Let there be peace on earth and in the hearts of all!

~Lou-Anne Smith, Conductor

Peace On Earth, Goodwill Towards Men

We thank the following donors for their generous support.

Fishamble Street Society: \$500 +

Anonymous
Linda Baker
Robert and Marilyn Casey
Jim and Jean Clemens
David and Linda Graham
Bill and Donna Herman
Joanne Lawson and
James Warwick Jones
Norb and Mary Ellen Smith

Vivian Golding
Linda and Bill Hansell
Ken and Peggy Hook
David and Phyllis Lee
Sandy Marcuson
Keith Morrow
John and Susan Novak
Debbie Rathke
Marilyn Schempf, in memory of
Bryan Schempf
John, Bev and JD Tressler
Nate and Peggy Walkley
Peter and Linda Weaver

Sue Steberl
Lori Wisniewski
Betsy Ziskind

Wesley Society: \$25-\$49

Anonymous
Betsy Harrison
Bob and Fran Lane
Lucia and Richard Sebastian
Richard and Carolyn Thompson
Rita Welty

Handel Society: \$250-\$499

Barbara Blanton
Dorothy Carns
David and Charla Cordle
Peter and Myfanwy Morgan
H. Donald and Carol Nelson
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Soulen

Messiah Friend Society: \$50-\$74

Anonymous
Nathalie Bacskay
Nancy Bond
Carolyn Ebert and Ken Turner
David and Teri Hindman
Annie McGrath
Dr. Pam Pare`
Lynda Sharrett

Conductor’s Society: \$100-\$249

Woodrow M. Ken Brooks Jr.
Gerald and Tammy Bullock
Beth and Carlton Casey

All donations received after November 16th will be acknowledged in the WUMC Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters.



Ian Lane, *tenor*

Upon graduation from Virginia Tech, Ian Lane, tenor, was accepted into The United States Army Chorus, the vocal counterpart to The United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own." As a member of the world's most prestigious all male ensemble, he was a featured soloist across the nation, performing for audiences ranging from intimate gatherings of U.S. and foreign dignitaries to venues with audiences in the thousands. Since leaving the Army Chorus, Ian has become a frequently featured actor at The Riverside Center for the Performing Arts in Fredericksburg. Some of his favorite roles and shows include Dave, *The Full Monty* (featuring Sally Struthers); Sir Bedevere, *Monty Python's SPAMALOT*; Joey, *Sister Act*; Big Bopper, *Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story*; Santa, *A Christmas Story*; Samuel, *Pirates of Penzance*; and Abner Dillon, *42nd Street* with Broadway's original Annie, Andrea McArdle. A versatile performer, Mr. Lane is frequently featured as a guest soloist for area orchestras, choral societies, and churches. He resides in Fredericksburg with his wife, Liz and sons, AlanMichael and Brody. This performance is dedicated to victims of hatred and bullying around the world. Let there be peace on earth.



Chris Mooney, *bass*

Christopher Mooney has appeared nationally with New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival; the Aspen Opera Theatre, Opera Northeast, Connecticut Grand Opera, State Repertory Opera of New Jersey and the Caramoor Festival. He has shared the stage with such notables as Sherrill Milnes, Jerry Hadley, Jerome Hines, Renee Flemming and Marcello Giordani. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in Opera Orchestra of New York's production of *Lucrezia Borgia*. Mr. Mooney received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his Master's Degree from the Juilliard School. He has served on the

voice faculties of Virginia Commonwealth University, Christopher Newport University and Randolph Macon College. Locally he regularly sings with the Virginia Opera and the Virginia Symphony. He has served as Vice President and governor of Virginia NATS. Mr. Mooney serves on faculty with Opera Festival di Roma, directing opera scenes and performing in their main stage productions in Rome and Orvieto, Italy. In 2018 he created the Jamestown Youth Choir, bringing historically-themed musical programs to the Williamsburg area. He joined the voice faculty at the College of William and Mary in 2021 and serves as the Applied Music Coordinator. Mr. Mooney continues to educate local singers from his home studio, preparing them for careers in the arts.



Lou-Anne Smith, *conductor*

Lou-Anne Drechsler Smith received a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Baylor University, Waco, TX. At Baylor, she studied voice with John Van Cura and coached with Richard Aslanian. She has sung with the Fort Worth Opera Chorus, Shreveport Opera, Commonwealth Musical Stage and Virginia Opera. As a Spectrum Artist with Virginia Opera, Mrs. Smith traveled throughout the state of Virginia performing in accessible operas for elementary school children. These roles included the mother and grandmother in *Little Red Riding Hood* plus performances in *Samson and Delila*. In mainstage productions, she performed the roles of Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Amina in *La Traviata*, the page in *Salome*, Giovanna, in *Rigoletto*, and Mary in *Der Fliegende Hollander*. Mrs. Smith has worked for over 22 years in the United Methodist Church at a variety of churches in the Hampton Roads area, including Zion Grace United Methodist Church in Norfolk, Great Bridge United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, and Trinity United Methodist Church in Poquoson. In January of 2013, Mrs. Smith was appointed Associate Director of Music Ministries at Williamsburg UMC and named Director of Music Ministries in November of 2014. Together with Anthony Williams, Associate Director of Music and Tom Marshall, Organist, she oversees all of the music ministries of the church and conducts the annual Messiah concerts. Mrs. Smith and her husband, Mark, are residents of Williamsburg, and have two sons, Hunter, stationed at Ft. Eustis and a member of the U. S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band (TRADOC); and Hamilton, an Associate Systems Engineer at Mitre, Bedford, MA.

Recitative: "And Suddenly There Was With The Angel"

Michelle Trovato, soprano

Chorus: "Glory To God"

Air: "Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter Of Zion"

Michelle Trovato, soprano

Recitative: "Then Shall The Eyes Of The Blind"

Dr. Kelly Montgomery, contralto

Air: "He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd"

Dr. Kelly Montgomery, contralto

Chorus: "His Yoke Is Easy"

Offertory

Pastor

Music:

Suite 1 in FM, No. 8 Bournee, No. 9 Hornpipe

Handel Chamber Orchestra

At this time a free-will offering will be accepted.

Benediction

Pastor

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.
And he shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings and Lord of Lords,

Hallelujah!

Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

CHORUS

We wish to thank the Messiah Chorus members from 13 church choirs and 7 communities throughout the Hampton Roads Region, Springfield, VA and Elmhurst, IL who generously volunteered their time and beautiful voices to present Handel's glorious Messiah for WUMC's 24th consecutive year.

SOPRANO

Georgiana S. Avioli
Nathalie Bacskay
Linda Baker
Diane Boyette
Mary Dunnigan
Jan Firestone
Wendy Geiger
Betsy Harrison
Stephanie Lupo
Catrin Morgan
Dr. Pam Pare`
Pat Ricciarelli
Lucia Villa Sebastian
Mary Self
Lynda Sharrett
Hana Shinn-Anderson
Jenn Staggs
Sue Steberl
Rita Welty
Lori Wisniewski
Carol Woody
Betsy Ziskind

ALTO

Judy Alexander
Kathryn Blue
Emily Haydn
Barbara Haynes
Elizabeth Hiestand
Sharon Jefferies
Sarah Luke
Kristin McAlister
Terri Morgan
Susan Novak
Laurel Palmer
Jill Ramsaur
Debbi Rathke
Rachel Scoles
Kay Shipp
Mary Stutz
Wendy Waldeck
JoAnne Youhas

TENOR

Dave Amaker
Barbara Blanton
Ray Boyette
Ken Brooks
Eric Dawnkaski
Harry Doyle
Jim Drummond
Bill Forrest
Brad Kiebner
Sandy Marcuson
Barbara Miller
Eric Palmer
Alex Schwartz
Clyde Self
Steve Snyder
Steve Washburn

BASS

Drew Alexander
Christopher Becke
Ethan Buck
Gerald Bullock
Carlton Casey
Robert Casey
Brad Crawford
Robert Firestone
David Jarman
Bob Lane
Keith Morrow
James Noran
John Novack
Paul Robbins
Jim Waldeck

HANDEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Lou-Anne Smith, conductor

VIOLIN I

Arkady Heifets,
concertmaster
Susannah Livingston
Susan Via

VIOLIN II

Susan Bedell
Alyssa Evans
Karen Stowe

VIOLA

Jena Chenkin
Brian Evans

CELLO

Sarah Glosson
Dionne Smith

BASS

Ayça Kartari

OBOE

David Garcia
Vicky Hamrick

BASSOON

Iva Haga

TRUMPET

Mark Nixon
Ryan Staggs

ORGAN AND HARPSICHORD

Thomas Marshall

TIMPANI

Dan Knipple

REHEARSAL PIANIST

Sarah Bland



Michelle Trovato,
soprano

Michelle Trovato, soprano, is delighted to return to sing *Messiah* with Williamsburg United Methodist Church. Other 2023 highlights include the role of Madame Lidoine in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with the Bronx Opera Company, *Done Made My Vow* by Adolphus Hailstork with the New York Philharmonic, and Connecticut Choral Society's *breath of life*. In 2022, She starred as soprano soloist in Poulenc's *Gloria* with the Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey and presented concerts throughout NYC. Most recently, she joined the roster of the New York Philharmonic Chorus for 2 gala concerts at the newly renovated David Geffen Hall in Lincoln Center, one of which was filmed and premiered for PBS Great Performances.

Other credits include: Seattle Opera, Opera Colorado, Utah Festival Opera, the Caramoor Festival, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Philharmonic of Southern New Jersey, Jackson Symphony, Spokane Symphony, Stamford Symphony, Symphonic Orchestra of Tirana (Albania), the Crimea Philharmonic Orchestra (Ukraine), Opera Les Azuriales (France), and the Kennedy Center. Locally, Michelle has appeared with Opera in Williamsburg for their productions of *Così fan Tutte*, *La Cenerentola*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and *L'elisir d'amore*, and *The Magic Flute*, with the Williamsburg Symphony in the World Premiere of Sophia Serghi's *Full Moon Haiku*; in recital with the Williamsburg Music Club and at the College of William & Mary; and as soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Lynchburg Choral Union.



Dr. Kelly J. Montgomery,
contralto

KELLY MONTGOMERY, contralto, is currently a member of Old Dominion University's Diehn School of Music voice faculty, having also served on the faculties of Ithaca College, Pittsburg State University, and Mississippi State University. Dr. Montgomery's singing career includes professional concert tours throughout the Middle East, Asia, and Europe in addition to principal operatic roles and featured concerts with *Cincinnati Opera*, *Des Moines Metro Opera*, *New York Baroque*, *Symphonicity Orchestra of Virginia Beach*, and *Virginia Beach Musical Theater Company*, to name but a few. She's also led master classes and sung with principal orchestras in New York, Canada, Ireland, and Ukraine. Her dossier includes prizes from Regional and District Metropolitan Opera Auditions, in addition to glowing reviews from *Opera News*, *Opera Canada*, and a notable principal performance under contemporary composer, John Corigliano, in his opera *The Ghosts of Versailles* with *Indiana University Opera Theater*. She received her Doctorate in Vocal Performance from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2011. Dr. Montgomery's internationally esteemed teachers, coaches, and conductors include James King, Virginia Zeani, Carlisle Floyd, Nicolai Rossi-Lemeni, Rosalind Elias, Carlos Montane, Carol Smith, Martha Lipton, Klara Barlow, Imre Pallo, James Lucas, Chris Nance, and Thomas Baldner.

Rejoice