

Orchestra Seattle and Seattle Chamber Singers
George Shangrow, Music Director

presents

Music from the High Baroque Courts IV

L'Allegro ed il Penseroso
Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Soloists
Ellen McLain, soprano
Carol Sams, soprano
Stephen Wall, tenor
Brian Box, bass

There will be an intermission between parts I & II

Friday, May, 29, 1992
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mt. Vernon, WA

Sunday, May 31, 1992
Kane Hall, University of Washington

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This concert is sponsored in part by generous grants from
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Program Text

PART 1

L'ALLEGRO

Recitative

Hence! Loathed Melancholy,
Of Cerberus, and blackest midnight born,
In Stygian cave forlorn
'Mongst horrid shapes, and shrieks, and
sights unholy
Find out some uncouth cell,
Where brooding darkness spreads his jealous
wings,
And the night-raven sings:
There, under ebon shades, and low-brow'd
rocks,
As ragged as thy locks,
In dark Cimmerian desert ever dwell!

IL PENSEROSO

Recitative

Hence! vain deluding joys, dwell in some idle
brain,
And fancies fond with gaudy shapes possess,
As thick and numberless
As the gay notes that people the sunbeams;
Or likest hov'ring dreams,
The fickle pensioners of Morpheus' train.

L'ALLEGRO

Air

Come, thou goddess fair and free,
In heav'n yclep'd Euphrosyne
And by men heart-easing Mirth,
Whom lovely Venus, at a birth,
With two sister-graces more,
To ivy-crowned Bacchus bore.

IL PENSEROSO

Air

Come rather, goddess sage and holy;
Hail, divinest Melancholy!
Whose saintly visage is too bright
To hit the sense of human sight;
Thee bright-hair'd Vesta long of yore,
To solitary Saturn bore.

L'ALLEGRO

Air

Haste thee, nymph, and bring with thee
Jest, and youthful jollity,
Quips, and cranks, and wanton wiles,
Nods, and becks, and wreathed smiles,
Such as hang on Hebe's cheek,
And love to live in dimple sleek;
Sport, that wrinkled care derides,
And laughter, holding both his sides.

Chorus

Haste thee, nymph, and bring with thee
Jest, and youthful jollity;
Sport, that wrinkled care derides,
And laughter, holding both his sides.

Air

Come, and trip it as you go,
On the light fantastic toe!

Chorus

Come, and trip it as you go,
On the light fantastic toe!

IL PENSEROSO

Recitative

Come, pensive nun, devout and pure,
Sober, steadfast, and demure;
All in a robe of darkest grain,
Flowing with majestic train.

Air

Come, but keep thy wonted state,
With even step, and musing gait;
And looks commercing with the skies,
Thy wrapt soul sitting in thine eyes.

Recitative

There held in holy passion still,
Forget thyself to marble, till
With a sad leaden downward cast
Thou fix them on the earth as fast;

Air

And join with thee calm peace, and quiet,
Spare fast that oft with gods doth diet,
And hears the muses in a ring
Round about Jove's altar sing.

Chorus

Join with thee calm peace, and quiet,
Spare fast, that oft with gods doth diet.

L'ALLEGRO

Recitative

Hence! loathed Melancholy,
In dark Cimmerian desert ever dwell!
But haste thee, Mirth, and bring with thee
The mountain nymph, sweet Liberty.
And if I give thee honour due,
Mirth, admit me of thy crew!

Air

Mirth, admit me of thy crew,
To live with her, and live with thee,
In unreprieved pleasures free:
To hear the lark begin his flight,
And singing startle the dull night;
Then to come, in spite of sorrow,
And at my window bid good morrow.
Mirth, admit me of thy crew!

IL PENSEROSO

Recitative

First, and chief, on golden wing,
The cherub Contemplation bring;
And the mute Silence hist along,
'Less Philomel will deign a song,
In her sweetest, saddest plight,
Smoothing the rugged brow of night.

Air

Sweet bird, that shun'st the noise of folly,
Most musical, most melancholy!
Thee, chauntress, oft the woods among,
I woo, to hear thy even-song.
Or, missing thee, I walk unseen,
On the dry smooth-shaven green,
To behold the wand'ring moon
Riding near her highest noon.
Sweet bird, etc.

L'ALLEGRO

Recitative

If I give thee honour due,
Mirth, admit me of thy crew!

Air

Mirth, admit me of thy crew!
To listen how the hounds and horn
Cheerly rouse the slumb'ring mom,
From the side of some hoar hill,
Through the high wood echoing shrill.

IL PENSEROSO

Air

Oft on a plat of rising ground,
I hear the far-off curfew sound,
Over some wide-water'd shore,
Swinging slow, with sullen roar;
Or, if the air will not permit,
Some still removed place will fit,
Where glowing embers, through the room,
Teach light to counterfeit a gloom.

Air

Far from all resort of Mirth,
Save the cricket on the hearth,
Or the bellman's drowsy charm,
To bless the doors from nightly harm.

L'ALLEGRO

Recitative

If I give thee honour due,
Mirth, admit me of thy crew!

Air

Let me wander, not unseen
By hedge-row elms, on hillocks green:
There the ploughman, near at hand,
Whistles over the furrow'd land,
And the milkmaid singeth blithe,
And the mower whets his scythe,
And every shepherd tells his tale
Under the hawthorn, in the dale.

Air

Or let the merry bells ring round,
And the jocund rebecks sound
To many a youth, and many a maid,
Dancing in the chequer'd shade.

Chorus

And young and old came forth to play,
On a sunshine holiday,
Till the livelong daylight fail.

Thus past the day, to bed they creep,
By whisp'ring winds soon lull'd asleep.

Intermission

PART II

IL PENSEROSO

Recitative

Hence! vain deluding joys,
The brood of folly, without father bred!
How little you bested,
Or fill the fixed mind with all your toys!
Oh! let my lamp, at midnight hour,
Be seen in some high lonely tow'r,
Where I may oft out-watch the Bear
With thrice-great Hermes, or unsphere
The spirit of Plato, to unfold
What worlds, or what vast regions hold
Th'immortal mind, that hath forsook
Her mansion in this fleshy nook.

Air

Sometimes let gorgeous Tragedy
In sceptred pall come sweeping by,
Presenting Thebes, or Pelops' line,
Or the tale of Troy divine;
Or what, though rare, of later age
Ennobled hath the buskin'd stage.

L'ALLEGRO

Air

Populous cities please me then,
And the busy hum of men.

Chorus

Populous cities please me then,
And the busy hum of men.
Where throngs of knights, and barons bold,
In weeds of peace high triumphs hold;
With store of ladies, whose bright eyes
Rain influence, and judge the prize
Of wit, or arms, while both contend
To win her grace, whom all commend.
Populus cities, etc.

Air

There let Hymen oft appear
In saffron robe, with taper clear,
And pomp, and feast, and revelry,
With mask, and antique pageantry;
Such sights as youthful poets dream
On summer eves by haunted stream.

IL PENSEROSO

Recitative

Me, when the sun begins to fling
His flaming beams, me, goddess, bring
To arched walks of twilight groves,
And shadows brown that Sylvan loves;
There, in close covert, by some brook,
Where no profaner eye may look.

Air

Hide me from day's garish eye,
While the bee with honied thigh,
Which at her flow'ry work doth sing,
And the waters murmuring,
With such consort as they keep
Entice the dewy-feather'd sleep;
And let some strange mysterious dream
Wave at his wings in airy stream
Of lively portraiture display'd,
Softly on my eyelids laid.
then, as I wake, sweet music breathe,
Above, about, or underneath,
Sent by some spirit to mortals good,
Of th'unseen genius of the wood.

L'ALLEGRO

Air

I'll to the well-trod stage anon,
If Jonson's learned sock be on;

Or sweetest Shakespeare, Fancy's child,
Warble his native wood-notes wild.

Air

And ever against eating cares,
Lap me in soft Lydian airs;
Sooth me with immortal verse,
Such as the meeting soul may pierce
In notes, with many a winding bout
Of linked sweetness long drawn out;
With wanton heed, and giddy cunning,
The melting voice through mazes running,
Untwisting all the chains that tie
The hidden soul of harmony.

Air

Orpheus self may heave his head
From golden slumbers on a bed
Of heap'd Elysian flowers, and hear
Such strains as would have won the ear
Of Pluto, to have quite set free
His half-regain'd Eurydice.

Air

These delights if thou canst give,
Mirth, with thee I mean to live.

Chorus

These delights if thou canst give,
Mirth, with thee I mean to live.

Orchestra Seattle and the Seattle Chamber Singers

George Shangrow, Music Director

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Susan Dunn
Sue Herring
Deb Kirkland, concertmaster
Fritz Klein, principal second
Diane Lange
Rebecca Soukup

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Robert Shangrow

Cello

Julie Reed
Maryann Tapiro, principal

Bass

Alan Goldman

Flute

Janeen Shigley

Oboe

Huntley Beyer
M. Shannon Hill, principal

Bassoon

Judith Lawrence

Trumpet

Matthew Dalton, principal
Gary Fladmoe (5/31)
John McLandress (5/29)

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William Hunnicutt

Timpani

Barb Barzynski

Harpichord

Robert Kechley

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