



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

JANUARY 10, 2016
11:00AM IN THE SANCTUARY

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS (1951)
MUSIC AND LIBRETTO BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI (1911-2007)

Menotti was commissioned by Peter Herman Adler, director of NBC's new opera programming, to write the first opera for television. The composer had trouble settling on a subject for the opera, but took his inspiration from Hieronymus Bosch's *The Adoration of the Magi* (seen on today's bulletin cover) hanging in The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. As the air date neared, Menotti had yet to finish the score. The singers had little time to rehearse, and received the final passages of the score just days before the broadcast. The composer's companion, Samuel Barber, was brought in to complete the orchestrations. After the dress rehearsal, NBC Symphony conductor Arturo Toscanini told Menotti, "This is the best you've ever done."

Menotti distinctly wanted Amahl to be performed by a boy. In the Production Notes contained in the Piano-Vocal score he wrote: "It is the express wish of the composer that the role of Amahl should always be performed by a boy. Neither the musical nor the dramatic concept of the opera permits the substitution of a woman costumed as a child."

The booklet with the original cast recording contains the following anecdote from Menotti:

This is an opera for children because it tries to recapture my own childhood. You see, when I was a child I lived in Italy, and in Italy we have no Santa Claus. I suppose that Santa Claus is much too busy with American children to be able to handle Italian children as well. Our gifts were brought to us by the Three Kings, instead.

I actually never met the Three Kings—it didn't matter how hard my little brother and I tried to keep awake at night to catch a glimpse of the Three Royal Visitors, we would always fall asleep just before they arrived. But I do remember hearing them. I remember the weird cadence of their song in the dark distance; I remember the brittle sound of the camel's hooves crushing the frozen snow; and I remember the mysterious tinkling of their silver bridles.

My favorite king was King Melchior, because he was the oldest and had a long white beard. My brother's favorite was King Kaspar. He insisted that this king was a little crazy and quite deaf. I don't know why he was so positive about his being deaf. I suspect it was because dear King Kaspar never brought him all the gifts he requested. He was also rather puzzled by the fact that King Kaspar carried the myrrh, which appeared to him as a rather eccentric gift, for he never quite understood what the word meant.

To these Three Kings I mainly owe the happy Christmas seasons of my childhood and I should have remained very grateful to them. Instead, I came to America and soon forgot all about them, for here at Christmas time one sees so many Santa Clauses scattered all over town. Then there is the big Christmas tree in Rockefeller Plaza, the elaborate toy windows on Fifth Avenue, the one-hundred-voice choir in Grand Central Station, the innumerable Christmas carols on radio and television—and all these things made me forget the three dear old Kings of my old childhood.

But in 1951 I found myself in serious difficulty. I had been commissioned by the National Broadcasting Company to write an opera for television, with Christmas as deadline, and I simply didn't have one idea in my head. One November afternoon as I was walking rather gloomily through the rooms of the Metropolitan Museum, I chanced to stop in front of the Adoration of the Kings by Hieronymus Bosch, and as I was looking at it, suddenly I heard again, coming from the distant blue hills, the weird song of the Three Kings. I then realized they had come back to me and had brought me a gift.

I am often asked how I went about writing an opera for television, and what are the specific problems that I had to face in planning a work for such a medium. I must confess that in writing "Amahl and the Night Visitors," I hardly thought of television at all. As a matter of fact, all my operas are originally conceived for an ideal stage which has no equivalent in reality, and I believe that such is the case with most dramatic authors.

SYNOPSIS

Amahl, a disabled boy who can walk only with a crutch, has a problem with telling tall tales. He is sitting outside playing his shepherd's pipe when his mother calls for him (Amahl! Amahl!). After much persuasion, he enters the house but his mother does not believe him when he tells her there is an amazing star "as big as a window" outside over their roof (O Mother You Should Go Outside; Stop Bothering Me!).

Later that night, Amahl's mother weeps, praying that Amahl not become a beggar (Don't Cry Mother Dear). After bedtime (From Far Away We Come), there is a knock at the door and the mother tells Amahl to go see who it is (Amahl ... Yes Mother!). He is amazed when he sees three splendidly dressed kings (the Magi), one of whom is black. At first the mother does not believe Amahl, but when she goes to the door to see for herself, she is stunned. The Three Kings tell the mother and Amahl they are on a long journey to give gifts to a wondrous Child and they would like to rest at their house, to which the mother agrees (Good Evening!; Come In!), saying that all she can offer is "a cold fireplace and a bed of straw". The mother goes to fetch firewood, and Amahl seizes the opportunity to speak with the kings. King Balthazar answers Amahl's questions about his life as a king and asks what Amahl does. Amahl responds that he was once a shepherd, but his mother had to sell his sheep. Now, he and his mother will have to go begging. Amahl then talks with King Kaspar, who is childlike, eccentric, and a bit deaf. Kaspar shows Amahl his box of magic stones, beads, and licorice, and offers Amahl some of the candy (Are You A Real King?; This is My Box). The mother returns (Amahl, I Told You Not To Be A Nuisance!). Amahl is told to go fetch the neighbors (All These Beautiful Things; Have You Seen a Child?) so the kings may be fed and entertained properly (Shepherds! Shepherds!; Emily! Emily; Olives and Quinces; Dance of the Shepherds).

After the neighbors have left and the kings are resting, the mother attempts to steal for her son some of the kings' gold that was meant for the Christ child (All That Gold). She is thwarted by the kings' page. ("Thief! Thief!") When Amahl wakes to find the page grabbing his mother, he attacks him. ("Don't You Dare!") Seeing Amahl's weak defense of his mother and understanding the motives for the attempted theft, King Melchior says she may keep the gold as the Holy Child will not need earthly power or wealth to build his kingdom. ("Oh, Woman, You Can Keep That Gold") The mother says she has waited all her life for such a king and asks the kings to take back the gold. She wishes to send a gift but has nothing to send. Amahl, too, has nothing to give the Child except his crutch. ("Oh, No, Wait") When he offers it to the kings, his leg is miraculously healed. ("I Walk, Mother") With permission from his mother, he leaves with the kings to see the Child and give his crutch in thanks for being healed.

PRINCIPAL ARTISTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Amahl: Ian Torres | Stage Director: Jacqueline Quirk |
| Amahl Cover: Ganesh Scarozza | Music Director: Matthew Marco |
| The Mother: Jessica Best | Production Director: Wesley Krantz |
| King Kaspar: John Clayton | |
| King Melchior: Wayne Line | |
| King Balthazar: Nicholas Kilkenny | |
| The Page: Tyler Mecklenburg | |

Produced for Nickel City Opera by Valerian Ruminski and Wesley Krantz

ORCHESTRA:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Violin I: Carl Lam | Bass: Robert Webster |
| Violin II: Emily Greetham | Flute: Tatiana Brewer |
| Viola: Natalie Kane | Oboe: Kelly Gravel |
| Cello: Katie Weissman | Piano: Garrett F. Martin |

CHORUS:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Aurora Boneberg | Hillary Hunt | Elizabeth Parkes |
| Shirley Byczynski | Nicholas Irion | Peter Sawicz |
| Luis Clay | Meghan Kibler | Heidi Schneider |
| Val Cooley | Steven Maynard | Hannah Taylor |
| Kathryn Dielman | Brandon Mecklenburg | Reed Taylor |
| Kaitlyn Dykstra | Crystal Lee | Rob Vella |
| Lucia Helgren | Jacque Ornsby | Andrea Todaro |

WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

8:45AM in the Holmes Chapel with Communion and 11:00AM in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty will preach in the month of January

January 17 -John 2:1-11; *The First Miracle*

January 24- Luke 4:14-21; *Filled with Power - the Leaders*

January 31-Luke 4:21-30; *Filled with Power -the Congregation*

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Sunday, January 10

12:00 AM Confirmation Retreat
 6:30 AM Jeff-Maintenance
 8:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 8:45 AM Worship/Communion
 9:30 AM Dialogue Diner
 9:30 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:35 AM Adult Bible Class
 9:35 AM Spiritual Life
 9:35 AM Case Library Series
 11:00 AM Worship/Amahl
 11:10 AM Sunday School
 12:30 PM Dream Group 1
 3:00 PM Amahl
 7:00 PM WOW Book Discussion

Monday, January 11

WPC Closed

9:00 AM Amahl
 7:00 PM WOW Book Discussion

Tuesday, January 12

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 4:00 PM ENERGY Program
 5:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts
 6:00 PM Zen Dharma

Wednesday, January 13

9:30 AM Worship Planning Mtg.
 12:00 PM Bulletin Deadline
 1:30 PM Staff Mtg.
 4:00 PM ENERGY Program
 4:30 PM WPC Choir School
 5:30 PM Pathways To Peace
 8:00 PM AA Mtg.

Thursday, January 14

7:15 AM Wake Up Group
 8:30 AM Centering Prayer
 4:00 PM ENERGY Program
 5:30 PM Gay Bingo Board Mtg.
 6:00 PM Handbells

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 15

11:30 AM Fridays @ WPC
 5:00 PM Duffield Winter Retreat
 5:30 PM Taize Worship

Saturday, January 16

9:00 AM VOICE Board Retreat

Sunday, January 17

8:00 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
 8:30 AM Infant/Toddler Care
 8:45 AM Worship/Communion
 9:30 AM Heavenly Grounds
 9:30 AM Confirmation Class
 9:35 AM Spiritual Life
 9:35 AM Adult Bible Class
 9:35 AM Case Library Series
 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 AM Worship

WESTMINSTER PRESENTS

Fridays @ Westminster! Come for Music, Stay for Lunch

Each Friday, a 30 minute lunchtime concert featuring local Buffalo artists will play in our historic Sanctuary, from Noon until 12:30PM. A Food Truck will be at Westminster each Friday, so stay for lunch! Donations benefit the Westminster Friends of Music.

15 January: Garrett Martin, organ
 22 January Marie Karbacka, soprano, EunJoo Jeon, piano
 29 January: Jacqueline Quick, soprano, Matt Marco, piano

Taizé Service-Friday, January 15

Westminster will offer a Taizé service of music, prayer and contemplation on the third Friday of each month.

Masterworks Service - Sunday, March 13

The Choirs of Westminster and musicians of the BPO present two choral and orchestral masterworks: Andrew Carter's *Benedicite* and Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*.

GIVING 2016

GRATITUDE IN EVERY *Action*

Pledges received as of 01/05/16



| Number of Pledges Received | Total Pledges Received | Dollars to Goal |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 203 | 405,445 | 194,555 |

We ask that you consider the blessing that Westminster is in your life and with a grateful heart send your Intention Card with support for 2016. Giving your financial pledge will enable Westminster to continue to show our gratitude to God by sharing our blessings within our church home and our community. There are several ways to share your intention: Return your intention card by mail or make your pledge online at www.wpcbuffalo.org/pledge2016 or email Nancy Berger, nberger@wpcbuffalo.org. Please give - every gift counts!

Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today.

We invite members and visitors to sign the friendship/registration pad as it is passed during the service. Please indicate if you would like information sent to you or request a call from the pastor.

As a More Light church, we invite all persons of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community to membership and full participation in worship, leadership, service opportunities and all ministries of Westminster.

We light our peace candle remembering those relatives of Westminster members and all who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our prayers for peace include our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools & families.

Bibles are available at the Sanctuary entrances.

Wireless Receivers for hearing assistance are available in the Church Conference Room.

If you need assistance, please ask any Deacon.

MISSION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The ENERGY Program - creates a caring environment where refugee and immigrant students, grades 1-6 from Buffalo's West Side gain social and cultural awareness and self-confidence through improving their English language skills. Contact Carol Greetham at 507-8216 or carol@wedibuffalo.org for more information, to donate or to volunteer.

The West Side Bazaar: 25 Grant Street. Lunch and shopping.

Friday: 11 AM – 8PM, Saturday, 10 AM – 8PM

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 11AM – 7PM

Westminster's Alcohol and Drug Education and Referral Service has been working quietly and steadily since 1981 to help members and friends with any questions they may have about alcohol or other drugs. Call any of us for free and confidential advice. Phil Stevens, Chair 839-3357; Dave Carstensen 884-5403, Ken Carter 833-9287, Ellen Smith 882-2064, Jim Wieland 523-0217.

Westminster Members: If you are recovering from an illness/surgery or are a caregiver with an ill family member, or have had a new baby, Westminster can provide a simple meal for those in need. Please contact Jamie at 884-9437, ext. 326 or email jadamczyk@wpcbuffalo.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Childcare is available for children under the age of 5 years from 9:30AM to 12:30AM in the WECF building. Childcare providers will meet with parents and children at the entrance to the Westminster Early Childhood Programs (WECF) school building. Weather permitting, the children will be able to play in the playground.

- 3-5 year olds: Mrs. Debby & Mr. Chris LaMendola are our beloved preschool teachers. The three through five year class meets in the Early Childhood building. The children and their teachers walk to the building together and in cold weather, the children need their coats.
- 1st - 5th graders: Each month their class rotates through our three Rotation Workshops: Creation Station, Holywood and Apostles Playhouse
- 6th & 7th graders meet with their teacher, Marta Butzer, each Sunday in the last classroom on the Parish Hall balcony.
- 8th grader Confirmation Class meets 9:45-10:45AM in Parish Hall balcony
- Our Senior Highs (9th through 12th graders) meet each Sunday at 9:30AM in the Parish Hall kitchen for Dialogue Diner.

PASSAGES: A PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

Lunch at 12:30PM in the Oak Room, 1:15PM program in the Case Library. The first Tuesday of each month. These programs vary between speakers, music concerts and films with a focus on the intellectual, physical and spiritual life of retired adults. Please sign up on the table in the Gallery Room, or RSVP to Jamie, 884-9437. Save the Date: February 2nd. Program will be announced.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR SCHOOL

The Senior Choristers, ages 12-18, rehearse each Wednesday, September through May, 5:30-6:30PM in the Holmes Chapel. The Senior Choristers produce a high volume of quality choral repertoire each week for use in worship and concert.

The Junior Choristers, ages 7-11, rehearse simultaneously with the Senior Choristers each Wednesday, September through May, 5:30-6:30PM in the Holmes Chapel, with the assistance of Ms. Hillary Hunt. The Junior Choristers further their ability to read music and various languages while shaping the voice into a beautiful treble instrument.

The Apprentice Choristers, ages 4-6, rehearse each Wednesday, September through May, 4:30-5:15PM in the Holmes Chapel. The Apprentice Choristers are taught fundamental music and choral skills, with the assistance of Dr. Val Cooley. Participation in the programs is not limited to Westminster members; all are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music gmartin@wpcbuffalo.org 884.9437 ext. 318.

BECOME A PART OF OUR LIFE

Anyone who would like to learn more about our community and the many ministries we support is invited to attend a meeting immediately following worship. Our next date is Sunday, February 21. The Rev. Thomas Yorty, Pastor of Westminster, will tell the story of our church along with the current programs of outreach and mission in the city and region. There will be time for conversation and an opportunity to get answers to any questions you may have. Light, healthy refreshments will be served. At the conclusion of the meeting, those who so desire will be received into the membership of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Yorty, tyorty@wpcbuffalo.org or 830-8596), Karen Keaton, khkeaton@verizon.net or any staff member.

YOUTH EVENTS - C.I.A (Christians in Action)

Friday, January 8 to Sunday, January 10: Confirmation class retreat
Sunday, January 10: 9:30am - Dialogue Diner (Parish Hall Kitchen)

SUNDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

ADULT BIBLE STUDY : 9:35AM - 10:45AM in the first room on the balcony on the 3rd floor. Our class welcomes adults who are interested in exploring the Christian story, by studying the scripture and applying those lessons learned to our present lives. Come as your schedule permits.

CASE LIBRARY CONVERSATIONS : January 10, 17, 24 & 31: Travelogue Series: Westminsterites will present slide shows and share with us their travel experiences in a 4-week series.

January 10: *Ride of the brotherhood: China and Western Afghanistan*
Reed Stevens and Greg Stevens

January 17: Fred Cooley will present the story of evolving watercolor skills in the context of a marriage, sailing, art, and seeing in general. 25 years of sailboat cruising (and 70 years of photography starting with a Brownie Hawkeye). Photos and/or paintings by Val and Fred will be used to demonstrate the points being made in the discussion.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

January 10 & 17, 2016, Presenter: Ansie Baird. Poet Ansie Baird will lead us in a discussion and writing exercises related to transformation

MEN'S & WOMEN'S RETREATS - SAVE THE DATES!

The Women's Retreat is Friday, January 29– Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, Bemus Point, NY. Registration forms are on the Information Table. Reserve your room by January 3rd.

The Men's Retreat is Friday, January 22 & Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Byrncliff Resort. Registration forms, brochure with schedule and reading material are on the Information Table in the Gallery Room.

Worship in the Holmes Chapel - 8:45 a.m.

*The Gathering is an opportunity for worshippers to greet one another and to share prayer concerns.
An offering plate has been placed on the Communion Table to receive your gifts.*

Chiming of the Trinity

The sounding of the chimes, invoking Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, is an invitation to prepare for worship through a time of silent reflection. Please be respectful of those who are praying.

Opening Voluntary

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Yorty

Call to Worship

The people stand and remain standing for the hymn.

Opening Hymn, No. 66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

Prayer of Confession

We are precious in your sight,
yet we often forget that we are your beloved.
We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant.
We follow selfish goals
and deny that our way of life harms others and
hurts your world.
We are sorry and we want to change.
Create in us a clean heart,
strengthen our resolve,
reconcile us one to another,
and bless us with your peace. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie *The people sing.*

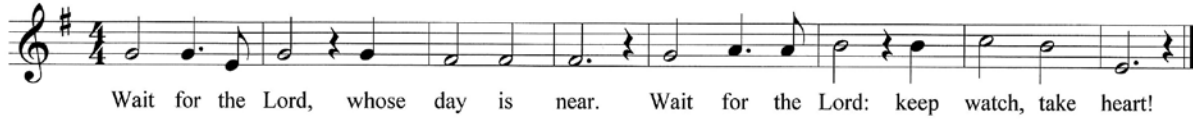
John Weaver (1984)



Words of Assurance

Response

The people stand to sing.



Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Luke 3:16-17, 21-22

Meditation

Who Are We?

Prayers of the People

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sending Hymn, No. 63

As With Gladness Men of Old
The people stand to sing.

Dix

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Noël Nouvelet

Richard Hudson

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Thomas H. Yorty

Organist: Garrett Martin, Organist and Director of Music Ministries

The flowers in the Chapel this morning are given in memory of Elizabeth and Robert Cooley by the Cooley Family.



The Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI) Board of Directors Invites You To The Newly Renovated Social Hall Campbell Student Union, SUNY Buffalo State, 1800 Elmwood Ave.

WEDI Winterfest

February 5, 2016 6:30PM – 9:30PM

Fun & Festivities. Food Stations Provided by The West Side Bazaar.
One Complimentary glass of beer or wine
Complimentary Valet Parking included
Live and Silent Auctions,
Interactive Displays.
Music provided by Kelly Bucheger and What Would Mingus Do? (WWMD)

RSVP by January 23, 2016
Winterfest2016.brownpapertickets.com



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

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