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### Honneger: King David

WCU Concert Choir and Mastersingers with Chamber Ensemble

Ryan Kelly , conducting

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ARTHUR HONEGGER'S  
**KING DAVID**

*Sung in English and Performed by the*  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
Concert Choir & Mastersingers & Chamber Ensemble  
RYAN KELLY, CONDUCTOR

 **Mark**  
Records

# ARTHUR HONEGGER'S KING DAVID

In 1920, French dramatist René Morax authored a four-hour biblical stage drama on the life of David. Inspired by structures of Hindu theatre, he wrote many short scenes that would be executed in rapid succession. Morax wanted incidental music between scenes throughout the play; however, he completed the play in December, 1920 with only six months until the work's scheduled premiere. When several composers declined Morax' request to compose the music because of the time constraints, he asked conductor Ernest Ansermet and composer Igor Stravinsky for their recommendation. Both of them recommended then twenty-eight year old Arthur Honegger (1892-1955), a Swiss native composing in France.

Honegger agreed without seeing the libretto and with only two months to write twenty-seven movements of music. He completed the music for *Le roi David* in nine weeks and, unable to even review or revise it, sent it to be immediately rehearsed for the June premiere. He identified Bach and Stravinsky as the composers whose musical style most influenced his composing of *King David*. Stravinsky's influence is noticeable in his polymetric and polytonal movements, and Bach's by his use of counterpoint, *turba* choruses, and a chorale-like melody.

*Le roi David* was an immediate success, and public admiration for the music impelled Honegger and Morax to revise it as a concert work. Honegger re-orchestrated the music for full orchestra, and Morax reduced his four-hour stage drama to a dialogue of about fifteen minutes that would link the musical movements. Edward Agate freely translated this narration into English and adapted it with additional text from the Bible; since then, performers have likewise judiciously adapted the dialogue to better communicate the biblical drama to audiences while preserving its authenticity.

A beloved cornerstone of twentieth-century dramatic choral works, *King David* is considered part of the great oratorio lineage extending from Handel through Mendelssohn, Liszt, and Walton. — *Ryan Kelly*

RYAN KELLY, CONDUCTOR

Randall Scarlata *Narrator/Samuel*

Rebecca Field *Witch of Endor*

Gregory Feldmann *Saul*

In Young Lee *Soprano*

Emily Bullock *Mezzo-soprano*

Stephen Ng *Tenor*



# CONCERT CHOIR & MASTERSINGERS

Emily Alberici, Edward Allison, Ryan Battin, Ryan Beebe, David Beech, Ryan Blevins, Courtney Bopp, Ian Brady, Anna Buglio, Heidi Burgess<sup>A</sup>, Patrick Cassidy, Sunghye Choi, Adam Conti, Bridget Cotellesse, Samantha Crabill, Christopher Cropper, Jennifer D'Amico, Joyanna Daniel, Mario Delano, Lauren DeLong, Sarah Diamond, Kyle Duke, Sarah Elsheakh, Michael Fackenthal, Gregory Feldmann, Amanda Ficca, Jessica Floray, Taylor Gavin, Stacey Gerard, Natalie Gilbert, Angelica Grau, Caroline Haar, Thomas Hamilton, Stacey Harcum, Timothy Harman, Alec Hinchcliff, Caitlin Hoffert, Kellie Hoyt, Sara Jackson, Joseph James, Kayleigh Jardine, Dana Kacyon, Phoebe Kammerer<sup>S</sup>, Brett Kenna, Christina Kirchner, Boaz Kim, Kiera Kradzinski, Elizabeth Kretschmer, David Lewis, Jonathan Lightcap, Cameron Mast, Caitlin McCarthy, Tyneisha Menginie, Kara Miller, Marisa Miller, Jeffrey Moises, Mary Mount, Felicia Mulé, William Natter, Sean O'Neill<sup>T</sup>, Kyle Pedrick, Catherine Pfahler, Tyler Propfe<sup>B</sup>, Taylor Reeves, James Robison, Daniel Robnett, Jonathan Ruths, Carlos Santiago, Rachel Schuck, Taeyoung Seon, Paul Sharp, Abigail Shore, Lorenzo Simpson, Levi Steward, Bradley Vertigan, Jenna Violi, Dominic Vitale, Melissa Walker, Theresa Whitehead, John Williams

S, A, T, B *section leader*

## CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Danielle Brosious, Jessica Schury  
*Flute/Piccolo*  
Henry Grabb *Oboe/English Horn*  
Jack Hontz, Chance Wheeler  
*Clarinet/Bass Clarinet*  
Kyle Gautieri *Bassoon*  
Jean-Christophe Dobrzelewski,  
Robert Skonizcin *Trumpet*  
Elizabeth Pfaffle *Horn*

Daniel Cherry *Trombone*  
Hyeji Park *Celesta*  
Hyunsuk Kim *Piano*  
Justin Streletz *Harmonium*  
Patrick Nugent *Double Bass*  
David Nelson *Timpani*  
Christopher Hanning, Timothy Sestrack,  
Garrett Aman *Percussion*

# WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

TIMOTHY V. BLAIR, Dean

JON LESSER, Associate Dean

Since its founding in 1871, West Chester University of Pennsylvania has offered a music curriculum. The School of Music boasts 80 faculty members who proudly serve its more than 500 students and is the only School of Music in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. The mission of the School of Music at WCU is to create a learning environment that provides the highest order of education in all major aspects of music, to establish a foundation for lifelong growth in music, and to offer programs and degrees that are tradition based but future oriented. In pursuing this mission, we reaffirm our commitment to diversity within the School of Music. Our faculty members strive to be inspiring teachers as well as musical and intellectual leaders. Further, we endeavor to expand the music opportunities available to all students and to enhance the quality of our community's musical life.

## CHOIRS AT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

DAVID P. DEVENNEY, Director of Choral Activities

RYAN KELLY, Associate Director of Choral Activities

The choral program at West Chester University has a long and proud tradition. We are an important part of the University's cultural life, with 250 or more students enrolled each semester in our six ensembles. Each year, thousands of people hear a West Chester choir—not only on campus but through off-campus performances throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington, along the East Coast, and in California, Florida, the desert Southwest, and Europe. Beyond concerts, we regularly bring to campus nationally renowned guest composers and clinicians, have an active ACDA student chapter, and offer educational workshops for teachers and high school students and a graduate M.M. degree in choral conducting. Most importantly, those involved in the WCU choral program find community—a place where singing abounds, where artistry flourishes, and where lifelong relationships begin. Visit [www.wcuchoirs.us](http://www.wcuchoirs.us) for more information.

Recorded at the Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre on the campus of West Chester University, West Chester, PA on November 6-8, 2014 • Executive Producer: Mark J. Morette  
• Producer: David St. Onge • Engineer: Robert Rust • Assistant Engineers: David St. Onge, Chelsi Reed • Graphics: Denise Johnson, MarkArt • Special thanks to David P. DeVenney, Raymond Friday, Swarthmore United Methodist Church, Andrew Yozviak, WCU Student Government Association

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*Sung in English and Performed by the  
West Chester University  
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& Chamber Ensemble*

1. Introduction
2. The Song of David, the Shepherd  
*Mezzo-soprano*
3. Psalm: All Praise to Him  
*Chorus*
4. Fanfare and Entry of Goliath  
Song of Victory  
*Chorus*
5. March and Song of Victory, reprise  
*Chorus*
6. Psalm: In the Lord I Put My Faith  
*Tenor*
7. Psalm: O! Had I Wings Like a Dove  
*Soprano*
8. Song of the Prophets  
*Chorus*
9. Psalm: Pity Me, Lord  
*Tenor*
10. Saul's Camp
11. Psalm: God the Lord Shall Be My Light  
*Chorus*
12. Incantation of the Witch of Endor  
*Witch of Endor, Saul, Samuel*
13. March of the Philistines
14. Lament of Gilboa  
*Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Chorus*
15. Song of the Daughters of Israel  
*Soprano*
16. The Dance before the Ark  
*Soprano, Chorus*
17. Song: Now My Voice in Song Up-soaring  
*Chorus*
18. Song of the Handmaid  
*Mezzo-soprano*
19. Psalm of Penitence  
*Chorus*
20. Psalm: Behold in Evil I Was Born  
*Chorus*
21. Psalm: O, Shall I Raise My Eyes?  
*Tenor*
22. The Song of Ephraim  
*Soprano, Chorus*
23. March of the Hebrews
24. Psalm: Thee Will I Love, O Lord  
*Chorus*
25. Psalm: In My Distress  
*Chorus*
26. The Crowning of Solomon
27. The Death of David  
*Soprano, Chorus*