



# CELESTIAL SPRING

BY F. MELIUS CHRISTIANSEN

TEXT BY OSCAR R. OVERBY '21

DIR. THOMAS MCCARTHY '25 AND CLAIRE BOUMA '25

 PRESENTED BY THE  
CHRISTIANSEN CHOIR

ELW #308: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

- Please join in singing. -

*Celestial Spring*

F. Melius Christiansen (1871 - 1955)

Text by Oscar R. Overby '21 (1892 - 1964)

*I. The Spirit's Yearning*

Let there be light!  
And the dome of the mountain was lit,  
With the shimmering shine of the sun,  
And the thunder of torrents afar,  
And the shudder of sea was begun.

Live and attain!  
And the spirit came to reign.

O lord of spirits divine,  
In whom our lives begin,  
Remember each child of thine,  
And restore us from sin.

Amid the shudder of sea,  
The tremble of souls astray,  
We long to commune with Thee,  
Thou source of dawn and day.

Torch from on high,  
Let the dome of the mountain tops flame,  
With the glory and grace of thy name.  
And O Lord thy creation once more  
to thy image and freshness restore

Earth, sky, and sea, and the spirit wait on thee.

## II. *Exaltation*

Mellow music mingles in every mood of reawakening spring,  
Lingers like a beautiful balm of benediction rises on wing  
And impels my spirit to sing.  
O be joyful, sing to your maker, God, creator who can adorn  
Hill and valley lost and forlorn with splendor richer, rarer than morn  
Soul, arise, you're heavenly born.

How can gladness ever borrow  
Of the somber hues of sorrow,  
When the springtime is here?

No when myriad hosts are bringing,  
To the hills in happy singing,  
The assurance of grace.

Then distrusts within surrender,  
Till the heart is touched and tender  
Like a heavenly face.

How can spirit bow in silence  
When the song on the highlands  
Is announcing the year?

Mellow music rises with every scent of reawakening spring  
Fragrantly ascending the heights, its stimulation sweetly to bring  
Angelward on spiritual wing.  
O be joyful sing to your maker, let God's grace be deck and adorn  
Heart and hope and spirit forlorn like incense lit on altars of morn,  
Soul, arise, you're heavenly born.

Mellow music mingles in every mood of reawakening spring,  
Lingers like a beautiful balm of benediction, beautiful balm of spring.

### III. *Regeneration*

The woodlands are turning from slumber and yearning  
to blossoming cheer,  
The meadows and mountains with song and with fountains  
announce a new year.

As springs recreation brings wondrous salvation  
To quicken the earth so springtime of heaven  
In mercy has given my soul a new birth.

How dreary, dark and dismal is winter's frozen tomb,  
When beauty bows in sorrow and mourning,  
To mingle with its gloom when verdure lies in mourning,

Must hope in darkness be?  
Or will regeneration begin God's mystery?

The woodlands are turning from slumber and yearning  
to blossoming cheer,  
The meadows and mountains with song and with fountains  
announce a new year.

As springs recreation brings wondrous salvation  
To quicken the earth so springtime of heaven  
In mercy has given my soul a new birth.

When woodlands are turning, no season of yearning  
has power over me:  
The Lord, God, has spoken, my prison is broken, my spirit is free.

The woodlands are turning from slumber and yearning  
to blossoming cheer.

#### *IV. Glorification*

Hosanna, a new Hosanna,  
Within is ringing,  
new glory bringing,  
To God on high

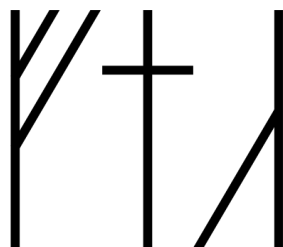
Who has exalted this lowly mortal  
to heaven's portal beyond the sky.

Hosanna, a new Hosanna,  
All life embraces,  
While growing praises,  
To God arise

And soon my spirit shall sing victorious,  
With God the glorious in paradise.

Let there be light!  
And there was light.

A new Hosanna now is ringing and my heart is singing now,  
Let there be light! And there was light.



THE  
CHRISTIANSEN  
CHOIR

Thomas McCarthy '25, Director  
Claire Bouma '25, Assistant Director

**SOPRANO I**

Claire Bouma '25  
^ Rachel Du Four '25  
Ellie Glenn '27  
Sofie Urberg-Carlson '26

**SOPRANO II**

\* Abby Carter '25  
Grace Jasinski '27  
Sierra Penning '26

**ALTO I**

Shayla Gleason '27  
Julia Grayson '27  
Megan Haas '27  
Kaylyn Scourbys '24

**ALTO II**

Jenna Dahlberg '27  
Ebba Nordstrom '27

**TENOR I**

+ Julian Colville '25  
Johnny Jelatis '27  
Matteo Machado '26  
Thomas McCarthy '25

**TENOR II**

Dalton Ballinger '27  
John Rasmussen '27  
Benjamin Quist '27

**BARITONE**

Parker Chelikowsky '27  
Tommy Etten '27  
Tyler Hansen '26  
Robert Shaw '27  
Atle Wammer '24

**BASS**

Ryan Hemingway '27  
Murali Meyer '25  
Demitrius Urban '26

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\* Manager | ^ Treasurer | + Rehearsal Pianist

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Anton Armstrong '78, Advisor



## ABOUT THE CHOIR

The Christiansen Choir is a student-led ensemble dedicated to performing and preserving the works of F. Melius Christiansen and the St. Olaf choral tradition. Each spring, the choir performs a concert which features lesser known works from within the St. Olaf choral tradition. The 28 members of the choir are all current students who have

volunteered their time for eight rehearsals over the course of the spring semester. The Christiansen Choir also hosts a variety of activities intended to build community among all St. Olaf musicians, including pop-up choirs, movie nights, and other social events throughout the year.

## ABOUT THE PIECE

*Celestial Spring* is a celebration of both the divine and the ephemeral beauty of nature. This motet, crafted for unaccompanied choir, showcases Christiansen's mastery in blending complex harmonies with soaring melodies, creating an ethereal and uplifting experience.

The piece is emblematic of Christiansen's deep religious faith and his Nordic heritage, reflecting themes of renewal and transcendence. Oscar Overby's text, often poetic and rich in imagery, speaks to the spiritual rejuvenation that parallels the awakening of the natural world in springtime. While the second and fourth movement of the work have become staples of the Lutheran choral tradition, the first and third movement have gone decades without performance. This lovely work is sure to spread joy and hope throughout St. Olaf and beyond on such a beautiful spring day.



