



Robbinsdale Area Schools

Music Festival



Featuring:

Combined Choirs & Orchestras from
Robbinsdale Armstrong and
Robbinsdale Cooper High Schools
with the All-District Elementary Choir



Thursday, October 25, 2001

7:30 p.m.

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis



Program

Welcome.....Harry McLenighan, Principal, Robbinsdale Armstrong High School
David Adney, Principal, Robbinsdale Cooper High School

The Star Spangled Banner.....Text by Francis Scott Key/Music by John Stafford Smith
Performed by the All-District Elementary Choir

Al Shlosha D'Varim..... Allan E. Naplan
The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace.
Performed by the All-District Elementary Choir

Remarks.....Stan F. Mack II, Superintendent, Robbinsdale Area Schools

The Creation (Act I and Excerpts from Act II).....Franz Joseph Haydn
Performed by the combined choirs and orchestras of Robbinsdale Armstrong and
Robbinsdale Cooper High Schools with the All-District Elementary Choir

The Creation

During the 1790s Haydn made two phenomenally successful visits to London. So warm was his welcome that for a time he even considered settling there. While in London Haydn became acquainted with the oratorios of Handel. His expressed admiration for these works prompted the suggestion that he try his hand at the form. Haydn was given a libretto that was originally intended for Handel but was never composed. The text was drawn from Genesis and inspired by Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Haydn felt his command of English was insufficient to tackle a setting in English, so he took the libretto back to Vienna. He had the text translated into German and spent almost two years composing the score, paying close attention to every detail. *The Creation* was published in 1800 with both English and German texts, the first-ever publication of a dual-language choral composition.

Stylistically, *The Creation* alternates between the language of Handelian oratorios and German singspiel. This produces the effect of periodically bringing the work's lofty subject matter down to a very human level. The first private performance was in April, 1798 in Vienna. News spread quickly and the first public performance was received with rave reviews to sold-out audiences in March, 1799, including as many as 180 instrumentalists and possible 400 people in all. His creativeness and new ideas boldly transformed music in the 18th century and continues to inspire audiences today.