



# *To Sing the Birth*

## **University of Mount Union Christmas Festival**

Thursday, December 4, 11:15 a.m.,  
Friday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. and  
Saturday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.,  
Myers Sanctuary, Dewald Chapel

# Christmas at the University of Mount Union

With a distinguished legacy that is deeply rooted in the very history of the institution, the choral program at the University of Mount attracts attention wherever and whenever it performs. Crowds gather to take in the musical splendor of our student vocalists – on campus, in the community and around the world.

The study of music has played a significant role in the exceptional experience we provide at Mount Union since the very first days of the institution's 168-year history. It's fundamental to our philosophy, our liberal arts foundation and our mission to prepare students for fulfilling lives, meaningful work and responsible citizenship. Music is, without a doubt, a long-standing tradition at the University.

This evening, we join to hear the performances of our Concert Choir and Cantus Femina, two vocal ensembles that are integral components of our music program. Our annual holiday concert – a relatively new addition to the institution's rich history of musical performance – unites choral selections and traditional carols with scripture and readings of the season. This event is truly one-of-a-kind, and we, as listeners, have the great fortune of basking in its uniqueness. In past years, audiences have sung the praises of *Child of Light*, *The-Heart-in-Waiting* and *When All the Stars Held Their Breath* and this year's *I Sing the Birth* promises to be another outstanding performance that none of us will soon forget.

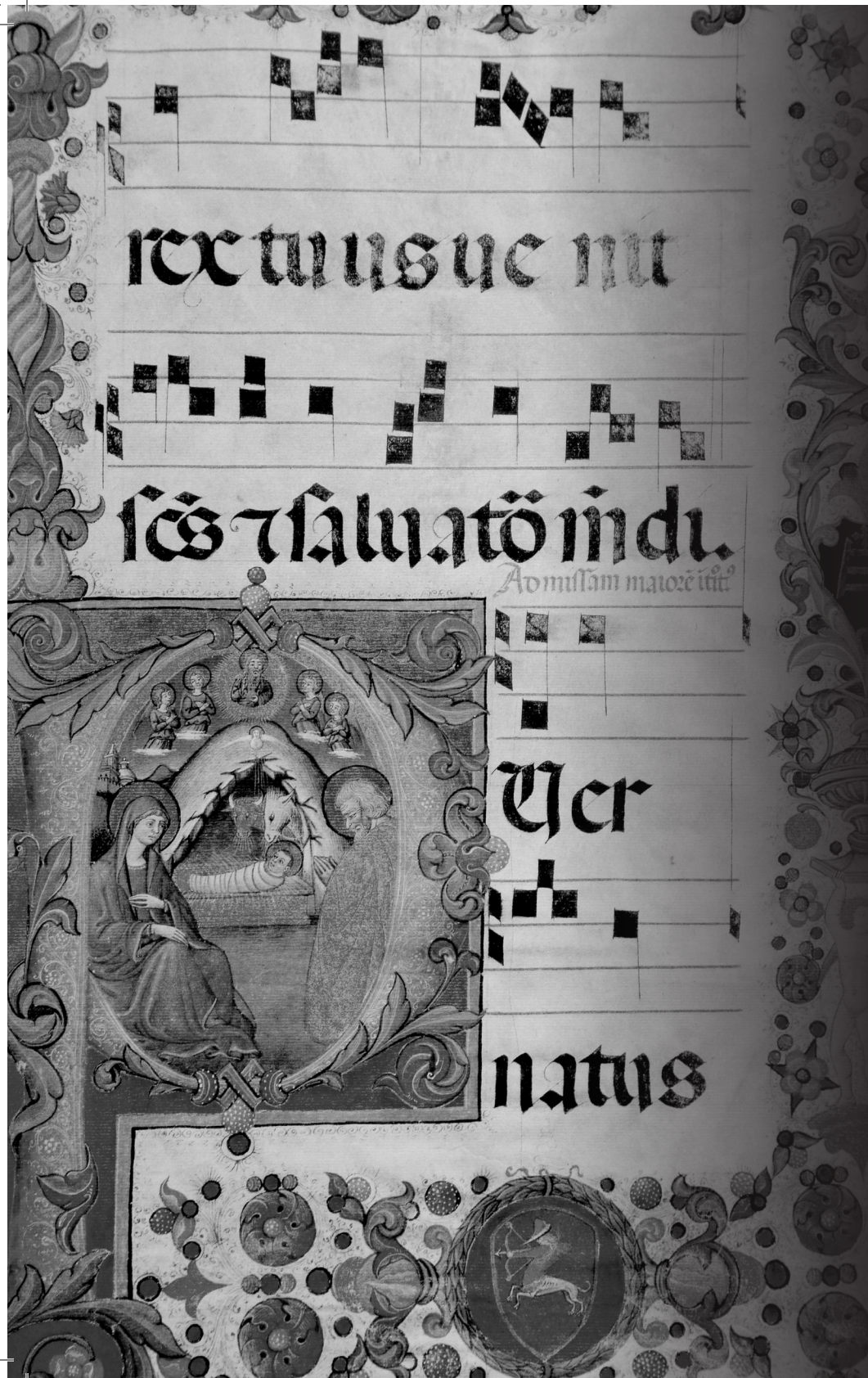
Thank you for joining us this evening. On behalf of the entire Mount Union community, I wish you a holiday season full of blessings and joy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard F. Giese  
President of the University of Mount Union

***We kindly ask that you hold your applause until after the singing of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."***



*What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a Carol for to sing  
The birth of this our Heavenly King?  
Awake the Voice! Awake the String!*

— Robert Herrick, 1591-1674

**Prelude on "DIVINUM MYSTERIUM"** ..... T. Frederick H. Candlyn

**Reading from "Advent 1955"** ..... John Betjeman

The world seems traveling into space,  
And traveling at a faster pace  
Than in the leisured summer weather  
When we and it sit out together,  
For now we feel the world spin round  
On some momentous journey bound —  
Journey to what? to whom? to where?  
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,  
Your world is journeying to the birth  
Of God made Man for us on earth.'

**Alleluia, Rejoice!** ..... *Veni, veni Emmanuel/Hodie Christus natus est*, Plainsong  
setting by J. Edmund Hughes

O come, O come Emmanuel (*Today Christ is born.*)  
And ransom captive Israel (*Today the Savior has appeared.*)  
That mourns in lonely exile here (*Today the Angels sing.*)  
Until the Son of God appear (*Today the righteous rejoice, saying:*)  
Rejoice, rejoice (*Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.*)  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel (*Alleluia.*)

#### **CAROL FOR THE AUDIENCE**

##### **O come, O come Emmanuel**

(The audience is invited to stand)

O, come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O, come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O, come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh,  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

#### **Prayer of Invocation**

#### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**The Glory of the Father** ..... Egil Hovland

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God.  
In Him was life, and the life was the light of all.  
He came to his own, and His own received Him not.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.  
— adapted from John 1

**The Word was God** ..... Rosephanye Powell

In the beginning was the Word,  
And the Word was with God,  
And the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made that have been made.  
Nothing was made, He has not made.  
All things were made by him.  
— John 1:1-3

**Reading from "I Sing the Birth was Born Tonight"** ..... Ben Johnson

I sing the birth was born tonight,  
The author both of life and light;  
The angels so did sound it.  
And like the ravished shepherds said,  
Who saw the light, and were afraid,  
Yet searched, and true they found it.  
The Son of God, the eternal king,  
That did us all salvation bring,  
And freed the soul from danger;  
He whom the whole world could not take,  
The Word, which heaven and earth did make,  
Was now laid in a manger.

**Away in a Manger**.....William Kirkpatrick  
setting by Ola Gjeilo

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

**Puer natus in Bethlehem** .....*Puer natus in Bethlehem*, Plainsong  
setting by Peter Latona

A child is born in Bethlehem, alleluia!  
Exult with joy, Jerusalem, alleluia, alleluia!

*Refrain: New songs of joy we sing!  
Christ is born: O come adore him.  
Bring Praises to your King.*

The Father's Word on high did take, alleluia,  
A mortal form for mortal's sake, alleluia, alleluia! *Refrain*

Our feeble flesh and His the same, alleluia,  
Our sinless brother He became, alleluia, alleluia! *Refrain*

There, in a lowly manger, lies, alleluia,  
Our Lord who reigns above the skies, alleluia, alleluia! *Refrain*

Rejoicing in His holy birth, alleluia,  
We praise our God who came to earth, alleluia, alleluia! *Refrain*

**There Is No Rose** .....Stephen Caracciolo

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu.  
*Alleluia.*

For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space.  
*Resmiranda.* (Wonderful circumstance)

By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three.  
*Pares forma.* (Equal in form)

Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyous birth.  
*Transeamus.* (Let us go)

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu.  
*Gaudeamus.* (Let us rejoice)

**CAROL FOR THE AUDIENCE**  
**What Child Is This?**

(The audience is invited to stand)

What Child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

**Scripture Reading:**..... Luke 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**..... Jackson Berkey

Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen.

**Cradle Hymn**.....Kim André Arnesen

Hush my dear, lie still and slumber,  
Holy angels guard thy bed!  
Heavenly blessings without number  
Gently falling on thy head.

See the kindly shepherds round Him,  
Telling wonders from the sky!  
When they sought Him, there they found him,  
With His Virgin-Mother by.

See the lovely babe a-dressing;  
Lovely infant, how He smiled!  
When He wept, the mother's blessing  
Soothed and hushed the Holy Child.

May'st thou live to know and fear Him,  
Trust and love Him all thy days;  
Then go dwell forever near Him,  
See His face, and sing His praise!

**A Stable-Lamp is Lighted** .....David Conte

A stable-lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;  
The stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;  
A barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;  
The palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull and dumb,  
And lie within the roadway to pave His kingdom come.

But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;  
The stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry in praises of the child  
By whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.

**CAROL FOR THE AUDIENCE**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

(The audience is invited to stand)

O come, all ye faithfull, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**Reading from "I sing the Birth was Born Tonight"** .....Ben Johnson

The Father's wisdom willed it so,  
The Son's obedience knew no "No,"  
Both wills were in one stature;  
And as that wisdom had decreed,  
The Word was now made flesh indeed,  
And took on him our nature.

What comfort by him do we win,  
Who made himself the price of sin,  
To make us heirs of glory!  
To see this babe, all innocence;  
A martyr born in our defense:  
Can man forget the story?

**What Wondrous Love** .....American Folk Hymn  
setting by Robert Scholz

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

**Benediction**

**CAROL FOR THE AUDIENCE**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

(The audience is invited to stand)

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

**Noël Suisse** .....Louis-Claude Daquin

**Officers**

Dr. Grant William Cook III, Director of Choral Activities  
Rev. Marty CashBurless, University Chaplain  
Callie Livengood, Director of New Media  
Brad and Sue Goris  
The Kern Family

**Collaborative Artists**

Ivy Adams, organ  
Brent Schloneger, piano  
Amanda Myhal, soprano  
David Lenahan, orator  
Rachel Irwin, orator  
Sarah Yannic, orator

### Concert Choir

#### Soprano

|                            |                                 |           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Erin Bel                   | Neuroscience                    | Junior    |
| Victoria Blankenship       | Criminal Justice                | Senior    |
| Kacey Cooper               | Music Education (voice)         | Senior    |
| Elizabeth Galloway-Purcell | Music Education (voice)         | Freshman  |
| Marissa Gatsios            | Biochemistry                    | Sophomore |
| Jacqueline Jepsen          | Biochemistry                    | Sophomore |
| Megan Ostrofsky            | Middle Childhood Education      | Junior    |
| Natalie Ricciutti          | Psychology                      | Junior    |
| Jenna Scurich              | Intervention Specialist         | Junior    |
| Mary Anne Snyder           | Early Childhood Education       | Sophomore |
| Jenna Waterman             | Biology and Exercise Science    | Junior    |
| Devan Weckerly             | Communication: Integrated Media | Junior    |
| Brittany Wilk-Adams        | Human Resource Management       | Senior    |

#### Alto

|                      |                                    |           |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Angelica Bartholomew | Nursing                            | Freshman  |
| Maya Brown           | Music(voice)                       | Senior    |
| Caelyn Eppler        | Music Education (voice)            | Sophomore |
| Victoria Ginty       | Music (voice) and Japanese         | Freshman  |
| Sarah Hohenadel      | Biology                            | Junior    |
| Demi Lohr            | Music Education (piano)            | Senior    |
| Amanda Myhal         | Biochemistry                       | Senior    |
| Taylor Nervo         | Biology                            | Senior    |
| Rebecca Passer       | International Studies              | Sophomore |
| Brianna Searing      | Music Performance (flute)          | Senior    |
| Courtney Wachal      | French and International Relations | Senior    |
| Haley Walls          | Music Education (voice)            | Junior    |
| Theresa Waseity      | Exercise Science                   | Junior    |

#### Tenor

|                     |                           |           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Mark Amabeli        | Mechanical Engineering    | Senior    |
| Tim Anderson        | Marketing                 | Sophomore |
| Ben Hayes           | Music (voice)             | Freshman  |
| Joshua Leiter       | Mechanical Engineering    | Freshman  |
| David Lenahan       | Theatre and Music (voice) | Sophomore |
| Sean MacGillivray   | Music Performance (voice) | Freshman  |
| Cody Meese          | Nursing                   | Freshman  |
| Jesse Reed          | Music Education (voice)   | Sophomore |
| Clinton Simmons III | Political Science         | Sophomore |
| Jacob Ward          | Art and Education         | Senior    |

#### Bass/Baritone

|                   |                                 |           |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Anthony Bucci     | Intervention Specialist         | Freshman  |
| Collin Edwards    | Nursing                         | Sophomore |
| Connor Funk       | Math and Music (percussion)     | Freshman  |
| Bradley Geist     | Criminal Justice                | Sophomore |
| Matt Gorman       | English: Literature and Writing | Junior    |
| Zach Henkels      | Mechanical Engineering          | Freshman  |
| Kenan Irish       | Music Performance (piano)       | Freshman  |
| Daniel Kravchenko | International Studies           | Junior    |

|               |                   |          |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| Jacob Rogers  | Psychology        | Junior   |
| Shawn Tyler   | Sport Business    | Junior   |
| Tony Walsh    | Religious Studies | Junior   |
| Martin Zapata | Psychology        | Freshman |

### Cantus Femina

#### Soprano

|                            |                                      |           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Allison Bates              | Music Education (flute)              | Junior    |
| Erin Bell                  | Neuroscience                         | Junior    |
| Ali Caldwell               | Nursing                              | Freshman  |
| Taylor Castle              | Nursing                              | Freshman  |
| Kacey Cooper               | Music Education (voice)              | Senior    |
| Abby Dodds                 | Music Performance (voice)            | Freshman  |
| Elizabeth Galloway-Purcell | Music Education (voice)              | Freshman  |
| Marissa Gatsios            | Biochemistry                         | Sophomore |
| Alexa Goffos               | Early Childhood Education            | Freshman  |
| Joan Hoile                 | English: Writing                     | Freshman  |
| Kayla Hollinger            | Nursing                              | Freshman  |
| Katherine Letts            | Music Education (voice)              | Freshman  |
| Demi Lohr                  | Music Education (piano)              | Senior    |
| Libby Medvin               | Athletic Training                    | Freshman  |
| Chie Nishikawa             | Accounting                           | Senior    |
| Yuki Oride                 | International Business and Economics | Junior    |
| Megan Ostrofsky            | Middle Childhood Education           | Junior    |
| Natalie Ricciutti          | Psychology                           | Junior    |
| Madison Sikyta             | Athletic Training                    | Sophomore |
| Mary Anne Snyder           | Early Childhood Education            | Sophomore |
| Brittany Yanik             | Biology                              | Junior    |

#### Alto

|                    |                                     |           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Alexandria Baklarz | Early Childhood Education           | Junior    |
| Rachael Beach      | Early Childhood Education           | Junior    |
| Shannon Catanella  | Theatre                             | Freshman  |
| Rebecca Cooper     | Math and Finance                    | Freshman  |
| Olivia DeMartino   | History and Music (piano)           | Freshman  |
| Caelyn Eppler      | Music Education (voice)             | Sophomore |
| Kelsey Foegen      | German and Japanese                 | Junior    |
| Abbie Fox          | Undecided                           | Sophomore |
| Claire Gliozzi     | Music (violin)                      | Junior    |
| Miranda Huebner    | Early Childhood Education           | Junior    |
| Rachel Irwin       | Theatre and Communication           | Sophomore |
| Mikayla Kovacic    | Religious Studies and Music (piano) | Sophomore |
| Kayla Lehman       | Communication and Theatre           | Freshman  |
| Abbey Molnar       | Finance                             | Freshman  |
| Taylor Nervo       | Biology                             | Senior    |
| Rebecca Palmer     | Music Education (clarinet)          | Sophomore |
| Rebecca Passer     | International Studies               | Sophomore |
| Brianna Searing    | Music Performance (flute)           | Senior    |
| Sarah Slagle       | Theatre and Music                   | Freshman  |
| Alex Waitinas      | Theatre and Music                   | Junior    |
| Haley Walls        | Music Education (voice)             | Junior    |
| Sarah Yannic       | Theatre                             | Sophomore |





Where *Exceptional* Begins

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