

Tring Choral Society





A Christmas Concert, featuring

Tring Choral Society and orchestra
Conductor; Colin Stevens
Leader; Janet Hicks
Ruth Holden, Harp
Ken Martlew, Organ

Brookmead School Choir Musical Director; Beth Brimmicombe Accompanist; Catherine Douglas

Michael Bernstein, Reader

Soloists: Sally Dussek, Katie Hughes and Heather Nash (sopranos), Cliff Brown and Chris Smith (tenors)

Saturday 17 December 2016 at 7.30pm

Registered Charity No. 276980



Part One



BENJAMIN BRITTEN: A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Wolcum Yole!
There is no Rose
That Yonge Child (Soprano: Sally Dussek)
Balulalow (Soprano: Katie Hughes)
As Dew in Aprille
This Little Babe
Interlude

In Freezing Winter Night (Soprano: Heather Nash, Tenor: Cliff Brown)
Spring Carol (Sopranos: Sally Dussek, Katie Hughes)
Deo Gracias

BROOKMEAD SCHOOL CHOIR

Zither Carol - Czech Folk Tune arr. Malcolm Sargent Do You Hear What I Hear? - Noel Ragley and Gloria Shayne, arr. Harry Simeone

DYLAN THOMAS - MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS

Reader; Michael Bernstein

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Soloist: Chris Smith

INTERVAL







Part Two





CAROL FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

O Come All Ye Faithful (Words on page 6)



GERALD FINZI: IN TERRA PAX

Soloist: Chris Smith

BROOKMEAD SCHOOL CHOIR

O Holy Night - Adolphe Adam arr. Mac Huff Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day - John Gardner

JOHN RUTTER: NATIVITY CAROL



CAROL FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen (Words on page 6)



HECTOR BERLIOZ: THE SHEPHERD'S FAREWELL

JOHN RUTTER: THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

READING: ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS I SCREAMED

Reader; Michael Bernstein



CAROL FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Words on page 6)





May we wish all our patrons, audience and friends of TCS a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous and musical new year!



Notes on the music



BENJAMIN BRITTEN: A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28, is a choral piece originally scored for three-part treble chorus, solo voices, and harp. Written for Christmas, with text from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, edited by Gerald Bullett; it is in Middle English. The piece was written in 1942 while Britten was at sea, going from the United States to England. We are performing the arrangement for four-part voices by Julius Harrison.

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS; FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

First performed at the 1912 Three Choirs Festival at Hereford Cathedral, this work is a single movement of roughly twelve minutes which consists of the English folk carols, all folk songs collected in southern England by Vaughan Williams and his friend Cecil Sharp a few years earlier. These are interposed with brief orchestral quotations from other carols, such as *The First Nowell*. This early work remains popular with choral societies, and is sometimes paired with his longer Christmas work, *Hodie*, of 1954. There is also a version of the *Fantasia* which replaces the orchestra with strings and organ, which is the one we are using this evening.

GERALD FINZI: IN TERRA PAX

This is a Christmas scene for soloist, mixed choir and orchestra. Written just two years before Finzi's death in 1956, this work skilfully juxtaposes words of Robert Bridges with the familiar Christmas passage from St Luke (II 8-14). With a childlike serenity of style, the work unites all its feelings, images and familiar events into one simple, shapely musical parrative.

HECTOR BERLIOZ: THE SHEPHERD'S FAREWELL

L'Enfance du Christ (The Childhood of Christ), a surprisingly intimate score from a composer best known for such blockbusters as the *Symphonie Fantastique* and the towering *Requiem*. It is probably the composer's most gentle choral work, and it originated in a surprisingly offhanded gesture. In 1850, while a bored guest at a Parisian party, Berlioz was asked to write in a friend's autograph album. On the spur of the moment, he began to jot down a few bars of music. "It seemed to have a rustic style," Berlioz later recalled, "and also to suggest a naïve mystical feeling, so I immediately invented some appropriate words for it. It became a chorus of shepherds in Bethlehem, bidding farewell to the infant Jesus as the Holy Family departs for Egypt."



The Carols



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord Late in time behold him come Offspring of a virgin's womb Veiled in flesh the God-head see Hail th'incarnate Deity Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the new born King.

Hail the heav'n 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 man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come all ye faithful
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,
C come let us adore him
Christ the L ord

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb.
Very God, begotten, not created.
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 heav'n 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 on Christmas morning. Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n. 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.

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

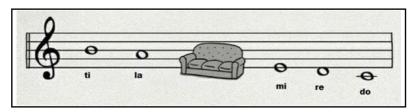
God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay.
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day.
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father A blessed angel came, And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same. How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name. O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed babe to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

But when to Bethlehem they came Whereat this infant lay, They found him in a manger, Where oxen feed on hay, His mother Mary kneeling, Unto the Lord did pray O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place, And with true love and fellowship Each other now embrace. This holy tide of Christmas All others doth deface. O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.



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If you like what you hear (and see) tonight, and would like to be involved as a choir member, patron or helper (or perhaps you would simply like to learn more about Tring Choral Society), our web site will provide a mine of information

Our web site contains details of future concerts, rehearsal dates and many other details that are sure to interest friends of our choir. You can visit us at www.tringchoral.org.uk

As a member of the choir, you will not only have the chance to sing some of the world's greatest music, but you will also benefit from the choir's healthy social life!

Our Membership Secretary, Margaret Collier, will be pleased to hear from you on 01296 660406 or email; margaretmcollier@gmail.com





The Choir



SOPRANOS

Celestria Bell Gillie Bliah Corinna Chute Hilary Colbert Margaret Collier Sally Dussek Elaine Florsheim Mary Haywood Zoe Hill Katie Hughes Sue Jones Christine Keen Lucv Kibble Harriet Mackinder **Brigid Mathers Heather Nash** Eileen Patterson Barbara Pearce Pam Rush Rosemary Southworth Helen Stokes Elizabeth Thompson Jennifer Watkins

Jenny Watt

ALTOS

Karen Baldwin Rachel Baldwin Christine Bass Janet Briant Nicky Bull Jean Bygate Kathy Chantler Sue Collins Kate Davies Ann Denwood **Dorothy Denwood** Margaret Flanigan Jane Glover Janet Graves Maggie Halsey Jenny Hoare Lorna Lang Jane Legg Gill Lerigo Elizabeth Moxley Rhian Nicholls Flizabeth Norris Enid Powell Marilyn Pryor Harriette Purchas Phyllis Reynolds **Chris Sivers**

TENORS

Jenny Brannock-Jones
Cliff Brown
Richard Brown
John Deane
Roger Judd
Andrew Robertson
Chris Smith
David Wilde
David Williamson
Max Wittwer
Tom Wittwer

BASSES

Robert Allnutt
Michael Bernstein
David Chasey
Dave Clarke
Bob Davies
Paul Doughty
Peter Graves
Richard Grylls
Geoff Harrison
Tony Mackinder
David Morgan
Richard Onslow
Richard Tregoning
John Wignall
Guy Williams



Orchestra



Leader; Janet Hicks

Violins; Frances Bigg, Ed Hewitt,
Darrell Dunning, Lesley Pearce, David Glenister,
Fiona Jacob, Roger Neighbour, Chris Shelley
Violas; Katie Hayes, John Saunders,

Roger Evans, Steffi Cook

Cellos; Hilary Drinkall, Herrick Hayes

Bass; Sudhir Singh Flute; Caroline Welsh

Oboes; Victoria Parkins, Frances Slack

Clarinet; Thomas Dryer-Beers
Bassoon; Caroline Cartwright

Horns; John Lavell, Herrick Hayes

Trumpets; Allan Robinson, Jeremy Loukes

Timpani; Richard Tait Percussion; John Stevens

Harp; Ruth Holden Organ; Ken Martlew

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tring Choral Society thanks Beechwood Fine Foods, Tring, for support as our ticket agents.

The piano accompanist for Tring Choral Society rehearsals is Anna Le Hair

Our thanks go to Roy Mathers for writing and compiling this programme.

We are grateful for the presence of St John Ambulance representatives at this concert.



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For a minimum donation of £25, you too could become a Patron of Tring Choral Society, this annual donation entitling you to two free tickets (in any one season). You will also receive an annual newsletter giving concert details in advance, and an invitation to join our social events.

To become a Patron, simply fill in the form below and send it, with your donation, to Mrs B S Mathers, 8 Old Mill Gardens, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 2NZ
Telephone: 01442 872727

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