



Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

Conductor:
Christopher Maxim

*An Evening of Music and Readings
for the
Festive Season*

*in aid of
Cancer Research UK*

Generously supported by
LANE & PARTNERS LLP

St Clement Danes
Tuesday, 18th December 2007
7.00pm

Adam lay ybounden

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Please stand and join in the singing from the SECOND verse

Soprano solo: Antonia Mott

*Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

**And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.**

**He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that Child, so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where, like stars, his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.**

Lætentur cæli

William Byrd (1543-1623)

A hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Quartet: Lisa Somerville, Ian Goddard,
Sam Butler, Tim Murray

Reading: *The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem*

St Luke 2:1-19

Please stand and join in the singing

1
**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

2
**Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds
The blessèd angels sing.**

3

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
 The world has suffered long;
 Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
 Two thousand years of wrong;
 And man, at war with man, hears not
 The love-song which they bring:
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
 And hear the angels sing!

Sing lullaby

Hurry to Bethlehem

Reading: *Christmas Day*

Please stand and join in the singing

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.*

4

For lo, the days are hastening on,
 By prophet-bards foretold,
 When, with the ever-circling years
 Comes round the age of gold;
 When peace shall over all the earth
 Its ancient splendours fling,
 And the whole world give back the song
 Which now the angels sing.

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Christopher Maxim (*comp.* 2005)

Christopher Smart (1722-1771)

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 Godhead 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 heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Ris'n 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.*

Benedicamus Domino

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

❧ INTERVAL ❧

A babe is born

William Mathias (1934-1992)

In dulci jubilo

German Traditional

arr. Robert Pearsall (1795-1856)

Please stand and join in the singing

**In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.**

**Enough for him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk,
And a mangerful of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.**

**Our God, heav'n cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.**

**What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet, what I can, I give him:
Give my heart.**

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Soprano solo: Antonia Mott

The crown of roses

Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Reading: *What the donkey saw*

Ursula A. Fanthorpe (*b.* 1929)

Please stand and join in the singing

**See, amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the tender lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.**

**Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in heights sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.**

Refrain

***Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"***

**Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss,
Down to such a world as this!**

Refrain

**Teach, oh teach us, holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee
In thy sweet humility!**

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Sir Christesmasse

Richard Smert (c.1400-c.1477)

Santa: Chris Goodwin
Santa's Little Helper: Tim Murray

Shakespeare's song of winter

Christopher Maxim (comp.2003)

Deck the hall

Welsh Traditional
arr. David Willcocks (b.1919)

Reading: *A Roman thank-you letter*

Marcus Valerius Martialis (1st century)
tr. James Michie

Please stand and join in the singing

**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,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

**God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
*Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
In the highest;
*Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born that happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
*Refrain***

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

English Traditional
arr. Arthur Warrell (1863-1939)

About Cancer Research UK

Cancer Research UK began life in February 2002 following the merger of Imperial Cancer Research Fund and The Cancer Research Campaign.

Aims

Cancer Research UK works alone and in partnership with others to achieve the following objectives:

- 1. To carry out world-class research into the biology and causes of cancer**
Cancer is a highly complex disease that is still only partly understood. Only through a better understanding of the disease will the improved treatments, diagnostics and prevention strategies of the future be developed.
- 2. To develop effective treatments and improve the quality of life for cancer patients**
Research will be carried out to accelerate cancer cure rates, aiming to translate our understanding of the disease into effective treatments. Research will also be directed at improving diagnosis of cancer, and at prolonging the life and improving the quality of life of those patients whose disease cannot be cured.
- 3. To reduce the number of people getting cancer**
Research will be carried out into the influence of lifestyle, individual risk, environment and interventions such as vaccination on cancer, and into how people can change their behaviours to reduce their risk of the disease. The wider public will be made aware of cancer risk factors and the options available to them to reduce that risk.
- 4. To provide authoritative information on cancer**
As a leading international research organisation Cancer Research UK will provide authoritative cancer information to the public and promote the best treatments and prevention strategies to governments, commercial organisations, those responsible for cancer care, and the media.

Further information about Cancer Research UK, including details of how you can become involved in supporting its work, can be found at:

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org>

or by contacting the charity at:

P.O. Box 123
Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PX
tel. (Supporter Services) 020 7121 6699
tel. (Switchboard) 020 7242 0200

The Giltspur Singers

...were formed in the autumn of 2003. They take their name from Giltspur Street, which leads up to the entrance of the church where they rehearse: St Bartholomew-the-Less, inside the grounds of St Bartholomew's Hospital in the City of London.

The members of the choir are professionals in a wide range of careers, including the law, finance, teaching, medicine, the entertainment industry, P.R. and I.T. Some are music graduates; but, for the majority, music has always been a hobby. It is the sense of music as a source of recreation and enjoyment that the Giltspur Singers hope to communicate in their performances.

Sopranos

Catriona Boyle, Julie Gonzalez Torres, Antonia Mott, Linda Pomeroy, Elisabeth Somerville, Katy Turner

Altos

Ian Goddard, Nicky Johns, Harriet Pask, Jennifer Suman

Tenors

Sam Butler, Simon Daniels, Christopher Goodwin, Christopher Killerby

Basses

Dan de Belder, Timothy Murray, Tom Newton, Nick Whitehead

Duncan Atkinson: Organist

...was Head Chorister at Rochester Cathedral and later Organ Scholar at the University of Bristol. He was called to the Bar in 1995 and is a member of the Chambers of Roy Amlot QC. Having been Organist of St Anne's with St Columba, Hoxton for ten years, he was appointed Organist & Choirmaster of St Margaret's, Lee in January 2006.

Dr Christopher Maxim: Conductor

... was Organ Scholar and a prizewinner at the University of Bristol. He was subsequently awarded a Research Studentship to Cardiff University, where he wrote his PhD. Chris is a published composer, academic and critic; and he has made radio broadcasts and appeared on television. He is Organist of St Matthew's Bethnal Green and Assistant Headteacher at Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate School in east London. To find out more about him and The Giltspur Singers, please visit his website: www.christophermaxim.co.uk

The Giltspur Singers would like to thank
LANE & PARTNERS LLP
for its generous support of tonight's concert.

*If you would like to join the Giltspur Singers
or if you would like to hear about future concerts
please sign up to the choir's mailing list,
which can be found at the ticket desk;
or contact the Choir Administrator, Tim Murray, at
tim.murray@lane.co.uk
or call him on
020 7539 4146*

www.christophermaxim.co.uk/the_giltspur_singers.html