



# 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, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006  
7.00pm

**Hymn (please stand and join in the singing from the second verse)**

*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.*

For he is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness,  
And he shareth in our gladness.

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.

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.

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.

**Welcome**

*A Virgin Most Pure*

English Traditional

*arr.* Charles Wood (1866-1926)

*A Spotless Rose*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*Felix Namque*

Christopher Maxim (2006)

**Reading: *There was a Time***

**Joseph Breighner**

**Hymn (please stand and join in the singing)**

Of the Father's heart begotten  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain,  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
In her loving arms received,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

**Reading: *Christmas***

**Gertrude von Le Fort (tr. M. Chanler)**

*O Magnum Mysterium – Quem Vidistis Pastores  
Videntes Stellam – Hodie Christus Natus est*

**Reading: Luke 1:26-45**

**Hymn (please stand and join in the singing)**

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.

Still through the cloven skies they  
come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O’er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel-sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

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!

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look, now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

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.

**Reading: Luke 2:1-19**

*All this Time this Song is Best  
What Cheer?  
Make we Joy now in this Fest*

} William Walton (1902-1983)

❧ INTERVAL ❧

*In Dulci Jubilo*

German Traditional

*arr.* Robert Pearsall (1795-1856)

*Bethlehem Down  
Coventry Carol*

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

English Traditional

*arr.* Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

**Reading: *The Three Kings***

**H. W. Longfellow**

**Hymn (please stand and join in the singing)**

Unto us is born a Son,  
King of quires supernal:  
See on earth His life begun,  
Of lords the Lord eternal,  
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,  
Comes on earth a stranger;  
Ox and ass their owner know,  
Be-cradled in the manger,  
Be-cradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray,  
And grievously bewilder,  
So he gave the word to slay,  
And slew the little childer,  
And slew the little childer.

Of His love and mercy mild  
This the Christmas story;  
And O that Mary's gentle child  
Might lead us up to glory,  
Might lead us up to glory!

O and A, and A and O,  
*Cum cantibus in choro,*  
Let our merry organ go,  
*Benedicamus Domino,*  
*Benedicamus Domino.*

**Reading: *The Journey of the Magi***

**T. S. Eliot**

*O Little One Sweet*  
*The Oxen*  
*Past Three O'clock*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Christopher Maxim (2005)  
English Traditional *arr.* Charles Wood

**Reading: *Christmas at Fezziwig's Warehouse***

**Charles Dickens**

**Hymn (please stand and join in the singing)**

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour  
Was born upon this 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 heavenly 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. *Refrain*

The shepherds at these tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,

And left their flocks a-feeding  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
This blessèd Babe to find. *Refrain*

But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this Infant lay,  
They found him in a manger  
Where oxen fed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling,  
Unto the Lord did pray. *Refrain*

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
The holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface. *Refrain*

**Reading:** *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*

**Clement Clarke Moore**

**Hymn (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*

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with  
  lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*Refrain*

Lo! Star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our hearts' oblations:  
*Refrain*

**Final Thanks**

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

English Traditional

*arr.* Arthur Warrell (1863-1939)

*The Giltspur Singers would like to thank  
Lane & Partners LLP  
for its generous support of tonight's concert.*

## **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, and I.T. Some are music graduates and several are church organists; but, for the majority, music has always been a hobby. It is the sense of music as a source of relaxation and enjoyment that the Giltspur Singers hope to communicate in their performances.

### **Sopranos**

Katy Blatt, Amy Gooden, Antonia Mott, Elisabeth Somerville, Katy Turner

### **Altos**

Ian Goddard, Kirsty Payne

### **Tenors**

Simon Daniels, Chris Goodwin, Robin McCoubrey

### **Basses**

Tim Murray, Nick Whitehead, Tony Young

### **Dr Christopher Maxim: Conductor**

... is a published composer, academic and critic. He has broadcast on Radio 4, the World Service and Radio Wales; and he has appeared on *Teachers' TV*. His motet *Felix Namque* (one of the works featured in tonight's programme) received its first performance in August 2006, at the Vale of Glamorgan Festival, sung by the world-renowned Latvian Radio Choir. Chris's most recently published piece, *Christ was the Word* is included in the Royal School of Church Music's new collection of anthems, *Sunday by Sunday II*, which was released last month.

To find out more, please visit [www.christophermaxim.co.uk](http://www.christophermaxim.co.uk)

**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](mailto:tim.murray@lane.co.uk)  
or call him on 020 7539 4146

[www.christophermaxim.co.uk/the\\_giltspur\\_singers.html](http://www.christophermaxim.co.uk/the_giltspur_singers.html)