



# Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

*Accompanist:*  
**Duncan Atkinson**

*Conductor:*  
**Christopher Maxim**

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

*in aid of  
Cancer Research UK*

St Clement Danes  
Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
7.00pm

*Here is the little door*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*Please stand and join in the singing from the SECOND verse*

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.**

Words: Mrs C. F. Alexander (1823-1895)

Music: H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) *harm.* A. H. Mann; descant by David Willcocks

*The truth from above*

Solo: Nick Grounds

English traditional

*arr.* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Magnificat* from the Short Service in F

John Blow (1649-1708)

**Reading:** *The birth of Jesus*

St Matthew 1:18-25

*A spotless rose*

Solo: Chris Goodwin

} Herbert Howells

*Sing lullaby*

*Please stand and join in the singing*

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angles keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.**

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray:  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: English traditional *arr.* Ralph Vaughan Williams; descant by Thomas Armstrong

*See, see the Word is incarnate*

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Verse soloists: S: Antonia Mott, A: Nicky Johns, A: Ian Goddard,  
T: Chris Goodwin, T: Nick Grounds, B: Alex Milne

**Reading:** *Noel: Christmas Eve, 1913*

Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

*Please stand and join in the singing*

1  
**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!**

2  
**From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessèd angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.  
*Refrain***

3

**The shepherds at those 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*

4

**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.**

*Refrain*

5

**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*

Words: English traditional

Music: English traditional *arr.* David Willcocks

*Let Christians all with joyful mirth*

Christopher Maxim (*comp.* 1999)

## ❧ INTERVAL ❧

*The Lamb*

John Tavener (*b.* 1944)

*Blake's Cradle Song*

Christopher Maxim (*comp.* 2008)  
*première performance*

*Please stand and join in the singing*

1

**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.**

2

**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.**

3

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.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
 Music: 'Cranham' by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

4

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.

Reading: *The meeting place*  
 (after Rubens: *The Adoration of the Magi* 1634)

Christopher Pilling (b. 1936)

*The Three Kings*  
 Solo: Sam Butler

Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)  
*arr.* Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)

*Ding dong! merrily on high*

C16th French tune  
*arr.* Charles Wood (1866-1926)

*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.***

**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 heav'n-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.***

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others  
 Music: adapted from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); descant by David Willcocks



# 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, education, 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

Linda de Belder, Julie Gonzalez Torres, Andrea Liu,  
Antonia Mott, Elisabeth Somerville, Katy Turner

## Altos

Catriona Boyle, Ian Goddard, Nicky Johns,  
Sophie Lunn-Rockcliffe, Harriet Pask

## Tenors

Sam Butler, Simon Daniels, Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds

## Basses

Dan de Belder, Alex Milne, Timothy Murray, Nick Whitehead

## Duncan Atkinson: (Accompanist)

...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)

... is founder-conductor of the Giltspur Singers. His former conducting posts include the Cardiff Bay Singers and the Elizabethan Singers of London. Chris's compositions are performed on both sides of the Atlantic and, in his native Wales, have been featured in the Vale of Glamorgan and Macynlleth Festivals. His music is published in the UK by Stainer & Bell, the Royal School of Church Music and IAO/Allegro Music; and in the USA by St James Music Press. It is also available at [www.sibeliusmusic.com](http://www.sibeliusmusic.com). The carol *Let Christians all with Joyful Mirth*, included in tonight's concert, was published in October of this year by IAO/Allegro Music and is the musical insert in the latest edition of *Organists' Review*. Chris is also published in the fields of musicology, music criticism and education. He is Organist of St Matthew's, Bethnal Green and an Assistant Director of Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate School. To find out more about him and the Giltspur Singers please visit [www.christophermaxim.co.uk](http://www.christophermaxim.co.uk).