



# 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, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
7.00pm

*People, look East*

French traditional melody  
*arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)*

*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.**

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

Music: H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) *harm.* A. H. Mann (1850-1929); descant by David Willcocks (*b.* 1919)

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *The genealogy of Jesus Christ, according to St Matthew (1:1-17)*

*Which was the son of...*

Arvo Pärt (*b.* 1935)

*The genealogy of Jesus Christ, according to St Luke (3:23-38)*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *The birth of Jesus, according to St Matthew (1:18-25)*

*There is no rose*

John Joubert (*b.* 1927)

*Rorate Coeli*

Christopher Maxim

(*comp.* 2010: *première performance*)

Text on next page

*Rorate coeli desuper!*  
Heavens, distil your balmy showers:  
For now is risen the bright Daystar,  
From the rose Mary, flower of flowers:  
The clear Sun, whom no cloud devours,  
Surmounting Phoebus in the east,  
Is comen of his heavenly towers,  
*Et nobis puer natus est.*

Sinners be glad and penance do,  
And thank your Maker heartfully;  
For he that ye might not come to,  
To you is comen full humbly,  
Your soulès with his blood to buy,  
And loose you of the fiend's arrest,  
And only of his own mercy;  
*Pro nobis puer natus est.*

Celestial fowlès in the air,  
Sing with your notès upon height,  
In firthès and in forests fair  
Be mirthful now at all your might;  
For passed is your dully night:  
Aurora has the cloudès pierced,  
The sun is risen with gladsome light,  
*Et nobis puer natus est.*

Sing heaven imperial, most of height,  
Regions of air make harmony.  
All fish in flood and fowl of flight,  
Be mirthful and make melody:  
All *Gloria in excelsis* cry,  
Heaven, earth, sea, man, bird and beast;  
He that is crowned above the sky  
*Pro nobis puer natus est.*

William Dunbar (c.1465-1530)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** *The birth of Jesus, according to St Luke (2:1-20)*

*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

*Messe de Minuit*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704)

Soloists: Nicky Johns (Haute-contre), Christopher Goodwin (Taille), Nick Whitehead (Basse)

MOVEMENTS	Sections based on French carols	<i>French carols</i>
KYRIE	Kyrie eleison I Christe eleison Kyrie eleison II	<i>Joseph est bien marié</i> <i>Or, nous dites, Marie</i> <i>Une jeune pucelle</i>
GLORIA	Laudamus te Quoniam tu solus Sanctus	<i>Tous les bourgeois de Châtre</i> <i>Ou s'en vont ces gais bergers</i>
SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS	Sanctus	<i>O Dieu, que n'étais-je en vie</i>
AGNUS DEI	[All]	<i>A minuit fut fait un réveil</i>

∞ INTERVAL ∞

*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 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.**

**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!**

**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.**

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876)

Music: Traditional English melody, adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900); descant by Christopher Maxim (b. 1971)

*Carol of the Bells*

Ukrainian Traditional

*Infant holy, infant lowly*

Polish Traditional *arr.* David Willcocks

*Zither Carol*

Czech Traditional  
*arr.* Malcolm Sargent (1895-1967)

**4<sup>th</sup> Reading: Molesworth's Christmas** (from *How to be Topp*) Geoffrey Willans (1911-1958)

***The Jolly Shepherd (Can I not sing but "Hoy"?)*** Christopher Maxim (*comp.* 2009)

Soprano solo: Antonia Mott

Tenor solo: Nick Grounds

*Can I not sing by "Hoy"*  
*When the jolly shepherd made so much joy?*

The shepherd upon a hill he sat;  
He had on him his tabard and his hat,  
His tar-box, his pipe and his flagat;  
He name was called Jolly Wat,  
*For he was a good herdsboy.*  
*With hoy!*  
*For in his pipe he made so much joy.*

The shepherd upon a hill was laid;  
His dog to his girdle was taid.  
He had not slept but a little braid  
But "Gloria in excelsis" was to him said.  
*With hoy!*  
*For in his pipe he made so much joy.*

The shepherd said anon-right:  
"I will go see yon ferly sight.  
"Whereas the angel singeth on height,  
"And the star that shineth so bright."  
*With hoy!*  
*For in his pipe he made so much joy.*

When Wat to Bethlehem come was  
He sweat: he had gone faster than a pace.  
He found Jesu in a simple place  
Between an ox and ass.  
*With hoy!*  
*For in his pipe he made so much joy.*

***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.**

"Jesu, I offer to thee here my pipe,  
"My skirt, my tar-box and my scrip;  
"Home to my fellows now I will skip,  
"And also look unto my sheep."  
*With hoy!*  
*For in his pipe he made so much joy.*

"Now farewell, mine own herdsman, Wat."  
"Yea, for God, Lady, even so I hat.  
"Lull well Jesu in thy lap,  
"And farewell, Joseph, with thy round cap."  
*With hoy!*  
*For in his pipe he made so much joy.*

"Now may I well both hop and sing  
"For I have been at Christès bearing.  
"Home to my fellows now will I fling.  
"Christ of heaven to his bliss us bring!"  
*For he was a good herdsboy.*  
*With hoy!*  
*For in his pipe he made so much joy.*

*Can I not sing by "Hoy"*  
*When the jolly shepherd made so much joy?*

Anon. (early C16th?)

**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.**

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: English traditional *arr.* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

**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.**

*Gloucestershire Wassail  
Jesus Christ the apple tree  
What sweeter music?*

English Traditional, *arr.* R. Vaughan Williams  
Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)  
John Rutter (*b.* 1945)

**5<sup>th</sup> Reading:** *To whom it may concern*

Eileen Murray (*b.* 1937)

*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.***

**Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love:  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?**  
*Refrain*

**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*

**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*

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

Words: C18th, *tr.* F. Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

Music: Anon., but possibly J. F. Wade (c.1711-1786); descant by David Willcocks

*We wish you a Merry Christmas*

English Traditional *arr.* Arthur Warrell (1900-1970)

The Giltspur Singers would like to thank  
CLARK RICKETTS LLP  
*for its generous sponsorship of  
the refreshments at tonight's concert.*

*Thank you for attending tonight's concert.  
Future performances are publicised at  
[www.christophermaxim.co.uk](http://www.christophermaxim.co.uk)  
(follow the link to the Giltspur Singers homepage  
and then to the Forthcoming Performances page).*

*We welcome enquiries from prospective members.  
Further details may be found at the same web address.*

## 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:

Angel Building  
407 St John Street  
London EC1V 4AD  
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 choir performs mainly in and around London. Repertoire ranges from medieval music to contemporary pieces and the choir sings in several languages, among them Latin, French, German and early forms of English.

The members of the choir are professionals in a wide range of careers, including the law, finance, education, journalism, retail, the entertainment industry, P.R. and I.T. Some are music graduates but, for the majority, music has always been a hobby: a source of recreation and enjoyment that the Giltspur Singers hope to share in their performances.

## Sopranos

Julie Gonzalez Torres, Natasha Johnson, Antonia Mott, Elisabeth Somerville, Katy Turner

## Altos

Catriona Edwards, Nicky Johns, Clodagh O'Reilly, Ali Smith

## Tenors

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 David Fisher QC & David Perry QC and Junior Prosecution Counsel at the Central Criminal Court. 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 and also directs the St Teilo Singers, a peripatetic liturgical choir. Former conducting posts include the University of Bristol Church Choir, the Cardiff University Chamber Choir, the Cardiff University Church Choir, the Cardiff Bay Singers and the Elizabethan Singers of London. Chris's compositions are performed as far afield as Germany, the USA and South Africa. They are published in the UK by Allegro Music, the Royal School of Church Music and Stainer & Bell; in the USA by St James Music Press; and online at [www.sibeliusmusic.com](http://www.sibeliusmusic.com). Chris is also published in the fields of musicology and music criticism. He is Organist of St Matthew's, Bethnal Green, where his latest composition, *A Little Child there is Yborn* will receive its première performance at the Carol Service at 6.00pm on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December. All are welcome! To find out more about Chris and the Giltspur Singers please visit [www.christophermaxim.co.uk](http://www.christophermaxim.co.uk).