

Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

An Evening of Music and Readings for the Festive Season in aid of Cancer Research UK

St Clement Danes
Tuesday, 13th December 2011, 7.00pm

Hosanna to the Son of David

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

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.*

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

1st Reading: *The Annunciation*

St Luke 1:26-42

*Ave Maria
Stars of the morning*

Robert Parsons (d.1570)
Christopher Maxim (comp.2010)

2nd Reading: *The birth of John the Baptist*

St Luke 1:57-66

This is the record of John
Countertenor solo: Richard Northcott

Orlando Gibbons

Five Carols for St Matthew's, Northampton

Richard Rodney Bennett (b.1936)

- i. There is no rose
- ii. Out of your sleep
- iii. That young child
- iv. Sweet was the song
- v. Susanni

3rd Reading: *The birth of Jesus*

St Luke 2:1-20

Three Carols for St Matthew's, Bethnal Green

Christopher Maxim

- i. All and some (*comp.*2008)
- ii. With merry heart (*comp.*2009)
- iii. A little child there is yborn (*comp.*2010)

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

Ding dong! merrily on high

C16th French tune

arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

∞ INTERVAL ∞

A spotless rose

Baritone solo: Christopher Goodwin
Long, long ago

} Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

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.

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.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music: 'Cranham' by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

*The shepherd's carol
Sussex Carol*

4th Reading: *That's Christmas!*

*The crown of roses
Past three a clock*

5th Reading: *Why we put Angels on top of Christmas Trees* Anon.

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

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.

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.

Bob Chilcott (b.1955)
English Traditional *arr.* Philip Ledger (b.1937)

Eileen Murray (b. 1937)

Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
English Traditional *arr.* Charles Wood

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

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

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

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 drinks at tonight's concert

The Giltspur Singers' Spring Concert will include première performances of attractive, atmospheric music by Josh Hummel (USA) and Alan Smith (UK): the winning pieces in the 2011 **Recital Music** Choral Music Composition Competition.

We are currently looking to recruit two more tenors because Simon Daniels is leaving us, following promotion to a new job. If you know of any good tenors looking to join a chamber choir, please put them in touch with us! Further details about joining the Giltspur Singers may be found at: www.christophermaxim.co.uk/giltspur_join.html

Sopranos

Linda de Belder, Julie Gonzalez Torres, Antonia Mott, Katy Turner, Helen Wyatt, Nicole Wyatt

Altos

Nicky Johns, Richard Northcott, Kirsty Payne, Ellie Searley, Elizabeth Shanahan

Tenors

Simon Daniels, Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds

Basses

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

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. He is Organist & Choirmaster of St Margaret's, Lee.

Dr Christopher Maxim (Conductor) is founder-conductor of the Giltspur Singers. His compositions have been performed as far afield as Germany, Holland, South Africa and the USA; as well as throughout the UK and Eire. His music is published in the UK by Allegro Music, Recital Music, the Royal School of Church Music and Stainer & Bell; in the USA by St James Music Press; and online at www.scoreexchange.com. Chris is also published in the fields of musicology and music criticism. He is Organist & Director of Music at St Matthew's, Bethnal Green. To find out more about Chris and The Giltspur Singers, please visit:

www.christophermaxim.co.uk