

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, 18th December 2012, 7.00pm

Hodie Christus natus est

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

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 1:26-38

Ave Maria

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Quartet:

Helen Blythe (soprano), Nicky Johns (alto),
Alan Jolly (tenor), Alex Milne (bass)

2nd Reading: *The birth of Jesus*

St Luke 2:1-7

*O magnum mysterium
In dulce jubilo*

Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)
German Traditional
arr. Robert Pearsall (1795-1856)

3rd Reading: *The angels and the shepherds*

St Luke 2:8-20

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

*The shepherds' farewell
The jolly shepherd*

Soprano solo: Antonia Mott
Tenor solo: Nick Grounds

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)
Christopher Maxim (*comp.* 2009)

∞ INTERVAL ∞

Ring out, wild bells!

WORLD PREMIÈRE PERFORMANCE

Gloria, Gloria

Alan Smith (b.1962)

Richard Rodney Bennett (b.1936)

Please stand and join in the singing

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:

Refrain

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:

Refrain

Words: English traditional

Music: English traditional, arr. David Willcocks

The three kings

Baritone solo: Christopher Goodwin

Lullaby, my sweet little baby

4th Reading: *Christmas expands to fill the space*

Walking in the snow

The oxen

5th Reading: *Winter complaint*

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

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:

Refrain

Then enter'd in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offer'd there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:

Refrain

Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

William Byrd (1539/40-1623)

Eileen Murray (b.1937)

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Christopher Maxim (comp.2005)

Ogden Nash (1902-1971)

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: 18th, 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 performances of English madrigals. Please visit www.christophermaxim.co.uk/giltspur_home.html for more details.

Would you like to join the Giltspur Singers? We have vacancies in all departments *except* the sopranos. Please visit www.christophermaxim.co.uk/giltspur_join.html for more details.

Sopranos

Anair Beverly, Helen Blythe, Julie Gonzalez Torres, Sally McLaren, Antonia Mott, Katy Turner, Nicole Wyatt

Altos

Nicky Johns, Kirsty Payne, Ellie Searley, Elizabeth Shanahan

Tenors

Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds, Alan Jolly

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. He is Director of Music at 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 in venues that include many cathedrals and Edinburgh's Usher Hall. 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 him, and The Giltspur Singers, please visit: www.christophermaxim.co.uk.