

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, 17th December 2013, 7.00pm

Hosanna to the Son of David

Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

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 Prophet foretells
the coming of the Messiah*

Isaiah 40:1-11 read by Roger Butterworth

O Lord, look down from Heaven

Jonathan Battishill (1738-1801)

2nd Reading: *The Annunciation*

Luke 1:26-38 read by Adey Grummet

There is no rose of such virtue

John Joubert (b.1927)

Benedictus

Christopher Maxim (comp.2012)

3rd Reading: *The birth of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-20 read by John Neyman

A spotless rose

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

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

Quatre Motets pour un temps de Noël

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

(i) O magnum mysterium; (ii) Quem, vidistis pastores?;
(iii) Videntes stellam; (iv) Hodie Christus natus est

∞ INTERVAL ∞

*On this day earth shall ring
The little road to Bethlehem*

Charles Hylton Stewart (1884-1932)
Michael Head (1900-1976)

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.

4 Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air:
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved
With a kiss.

5 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.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

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

*No small wonder
Ad cantus leticie*

Paul Edwards (b. 1955)
Christopher Maxim (*comp.*2013)

4th Reading: BC : AD

U. A. Fanthorpe (1929-2009)
read by Dan de Belder

*O God, who by the leading of a star
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)
John Gardner (1917-2011)

5th Reading: Let nothing you dismay

Eileen Murray (b.1937) *read by Katy Turner*

Please stand and join in the singing

1 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.*

2 God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
Refrain

3 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

4 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

5 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
In the highest;
Refrain

6 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 Trad. 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 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, Russian, and early forms of English. The members of the choir are professionals in a wide range of careers, including charities, law, education, journalism, the entertainment industry, P.R. and I.T. Some are music graduates and some perform professionally on their instruments. For the majority, however, music has always been a hobby: a source of recreation and enjoyment that the Giltspur Singers hope to share in their concerts. To find out more about and The Giltspur Singers, please visit: www.christophermaxim.co.uk.

Sopranos

Helen Blythe, Julie Gonzalez Torres, Helen Kirkpatrick, Antonia Mott, Katy Turner

Altos

Elizabeth Bower, Nicky Johns, Kirsty Payne, Ellie Searley

Tenors

Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds, Alan Jolly

Basses

Dan de Belder, Matt Gardner, Mike Henry, Alex Milne, Timothy Murray

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 are performed around the world, and have been heard at such prestigious venues as St Paul's Cathedral; the Usher Hall, Edinburgh; and regularly on the world's largest fully-functioning organ in the Wanamaker Store in Philadelphia, USA. Chris's music is published in the UK by Allegro Music, Banks, 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; and a Vice Principal of Bishop Challoner Catholic School in the East End.