

# Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

## ***An Evening of Music and Readings for the Festive Season in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support***

St Clement Danes  
Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 7.00pm

*Adam lay ybounden*

Boris Ord (1897-1961)

***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.*

**2** 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.

**3** 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.

**4** 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.

**5** 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.

**6** 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)

*Which was the Son of...*

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *The Annunciation*

Luke 1:26-38 read by Elizabeth Shanahan

*I sing of a maiden  
O quickly come*

Christopher Maxim (comp. 2014 – première performance)  
Antony Pitts (b. 1969)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *The birth of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-7 read by Alex Milne

*O magnum mysterium*

Cristóbal de Morales (c.1500-1553)

*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.

**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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** *The angels and the shepherds* Luke 2:8-20 *ready by Adey Grummet*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)

*Please stand and join in the singing*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

**2** 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

**3** To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:

**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)*

**4** The heavenly babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'

**5** Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

**6** 'All glory be to God on high,  
And on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)*

*Music: 'Winchester Old' first published in Thomas Este's Psalter (1535);  
descants by Alan Gray (1855-1935) and Christopher Maxim (2013)*

*Sing lullaby*  
*Hodie Christus natus est*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)  
Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

❧ INTERVAL ❧

*Make we Joy now in this Fest  
Bethlehem Down  
Ding dong! merrily on high*

William Walton (1902-1983)  
'Peter Warlock' (Philip Heseltine) (1894-1930)  
Trad. arr. Nicholas Scott-Burt (b. 1962)

*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.*

**2** 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*

**3** 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*

**4<sup>th</sup> Reading:** *December*

*John Clare (1793-1864) read by John Neyman*

*The Lamb  
Hurry to Bethlehem*

John Tavener (1944-2013)  
Christopher Maxim (comp. 2005)

**5<sup>th</sup> Reading:** *Christmas Unwrapped*

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

What sweeter music  
Deck the hall

John Rutter (b. 1945)  
Welsh Traditional arr. David Willcocks (b.1919)

*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.*

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

**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:

**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?

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

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

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*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 members of the choir are professionals in a wide range of careers, including charities, dentistry, law, education, journalism, 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 concerts. To find out more about and The Giltspur Singers, please visit: [www.christophermaxim.co.uk](http://www.christophermaxim.co.uk).

**Sopranos** Becky Burraway, Rachel Duckett, Millicent Freeman, Helen Kirkpatrick, Antonia Mott, Katy Turner

**Altos** Elizabeth Bower, Adey Grummet, Nicky Johns, Kirsty Payne, Ellie Searley, Elizabeth Shanahan

**Tenors** Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds, Alan Jolly

**Basses** Dan de Belder, Matt Gardner, 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 Organist & Director of Music at St Margaret's, Lee.

**Dr Christopher Maxim (Conductor)** is founder-conductor of the Giltspur Singers and Organist & Director of Music at St Matthew's, Bethnal Green. His music is published in the UK by Allegro Music, Banks Music Publications, 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](http://www.scoreexchange.com). It has been recorded on the Herald, Stentor and Delphian labels.