

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, 16th December 2015, 7.00pm

Here is the little door

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

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.*

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 feelth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

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.

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.

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.

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 (1919-2015)

O thou, the central orb

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

1st Reading: *The Annunciation*

Luke 1:26-38 *read by Antonia Mott*

*The Angel Gabriel
Bogoroditsye Dyevo*

Basque carol, *arr.* David Willcocks
Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

2nd Reading: *The birth of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-7 *read by Nick Grounds*

*A boy was born in Bethlehem
Stille Nacht*

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
Franz Xaver Grüber (1787-1863),
arr. Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

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.

2 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 angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

3 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.

4 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.

Words: *Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

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

3rd Reading: *The angels and the shepherds* Luke 2:8-20 read by *Helen Kirkpatrick*

*A sound of angels
The Shepherd's Carol
The Sussex Carol*

Christopher Tye (c.1505-before 1573)
Bob Chilcott (b.1955)
English traditional, arr. Philip Ledger

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*

Rorate coeli
See, see the Word is incarnate

Christopher Maxim (*comp.*2010)
Orlando Gibbons

∞ INTERVAL ∞

The shepherds' cradle song
My Lord has come

Karl Leuner (*fl.*1817), *arr.* C. Macpherson (1870-1928)
Will Todd (*b.*1970)

Please stand and join in the singing

All

Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep, and crisp, and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

2 Gentlemen

"Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"

Ladies

"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

3 Gentlemen

"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither."

All

Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

4 Ladies

"Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer."

Gentlemen

"Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."

5 All

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

Words: J. M. Neale (1818-1866)
Music: *Piae Cantiones* (1582), *arr.* Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

The Song of Anna
Carol of the Bells

Christopher Maxim (*comp.*2015)
Ukrainian Traditional

4th Reading: *King John's Christmas*

A. A. Milne (1882-1956) *read by Alex Milne*

Movements from the unfinished oratorio *Christus* Felix Mendelssohn

Recitative: *When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem*

Trio: *Say, where is he born, the King of Judaea?*

Chorus: *There shall a star from Jacob come forth*

5th Reading: *The Night Watch*

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

White Christmas

Irving Berlin (1888-1989) *arr.* Christopher Maxim (2015)

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:

*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 and PREMIER FOODS
for their generous sponsorship of the drinks and mince piece 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, education, entertainment, health, I.T., journalism, law and P.R. 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.

Sopranos Julie Gonzalez-Torres, Helen Kirkpatrick, Antonia Mott, Michelle Thomson, Katy Turner
Altos Elizabeth Bower, Annie Lund, Nicky Johns, Kirsty Payne
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 Perry QC and Simon Denison QC; and Senior Prosecution Counsel at the Central Criminal Court. He is Organist & Director of Music at St Margaret's, Lee.

Dr Christopher Maxim (Conductor) was Organ Scholar and a prize winner at the University of Bristol, and afterwards held a Research Studentship at Cardiff University. Following several years lecturing at Cardiff and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, he moved into the secondary education sector and is now Headteacher of Beths Grammar School. He is a widely published composer, and is Organist & Director of Music at St Matthew's, Bethnal Green.