

# Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

*in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support*

**St Clement Danes**

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 7.00pm

*Hosanna to the Son of David*

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

***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 feeleth 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*

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** *The prophet foretells the coming of the Messiah* Isaiah 40:1-11 *read by Mark Honan*

*Lætentur cæli*

William Byrd (c.1539/40-1623)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** *The Annunciation*

Luke 1:26-38 *read by Nick Whitehead*

*Angelus ad Virginem*  
*There is no rose*

Trad. arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)  
John Joubert (b. 1927)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** *The birth of Jesus*

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

***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.

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

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

*Dormi Jesu*  
*The darkest midnight*

Edmund Rubbra (1901-1986)  
Christopher Maxim (2016 – world première performance)

**4<sup>th</sup> Reading:** *The angels and the shepherds* Luke 2:8-20 read by Nicky Johns

*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

*Gloria in Excelsis* (Missa Sancti Nicolai)  
*Soprano solo: Antonia Mott*

F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

## ∞ INTERVAL ∞

*Jesus Christ the apple tree*  
*O magnum mysterium*

Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)  
Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)

*Please stand and join in the singing*



The stars shone down to welcome Christ  
On his first night on earth  
And one star, brightest of them all,  
Blazed for Messiah's birth.  
No royal cradle welcomed him,  
No robes of state were worn.  
But in the outhouse of an inn  
The Prince of Peace was born.

3 From Eastern lands the wise men came  
To greet this newborn king,  
Though shadows hung around the gifts  
They brought to honour him.  
Their dreams and visions drew them on  
Past Herod's jealous eye.  
Their pilgrimage of faith and hope  
Led by that star-strewn sky.

2 Around the fields of Bethlehem  
Great angel voices rang  
And startled shepherds left their sheep  
To hear the words they sang.  
'Good news, great joy and peace is come.  
A child is born this night  
Whose life and death will change the world  
And you will see this sight.'

4 So may we in this present time  
Be constantly aware  
That God still comes in human form  
To those who trust and care.  
May we, like shepherds, hear his voice:  
Like wise men, travel far  
To find our faith newborn again  
Beneath that Christmas star.

Words: *Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940)*

Music: 'Thurstaston' by *Christopher Maxim (b. 1971)*

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*Bethlehem Down*  
*The Fader of Heven (O Magnum Mysterium)*

'Peter Warlock' (Philip Heseltine) (1894-1930)  
Peter Maxwell Davies (1934-2016)

**5<sup>th</sup> Reading:** *Refugees*

Eileen Murray (b.1937) read by Katy Honan

*Up! good Christen [sic] folk, and listen*  
*Let Christians all with joyful mirth*

*Piae Cantiones* (1582) arr. G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)  
Christopher Maxim (1999)

***Please stand and join in the singing***

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray.  
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;*  
*O tidings of comfort and joy!*

3 The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoicèd much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
This blessèd Babe to find.

*Refrain*

2 From God our heav'nly Father  
A blessèd angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name.

*Refrain*

4 But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this Infant lay,  
They found him in a manger  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling,  
Unto the Lord did pray.

*Refrain*

5 Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface.

*Refrain*

Words: *English traditional*  
Music: *English traditional arr. David Willcocks*

**6<sup>th</sup> Reading:** *Happy Christmas, Auntie Peggy*

Paul Curtis (b.1956) read by Dan de Belder

*Sir Christesmasse*

Richard Smert (c.1400-c.1477)

*Santa: Tim Murray*

*Santa's Little Helper: Chris Goodwin*

*Zither Carol*

Czech Traditional arr. Malcolm Sargent (1895-1967)

***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:  
*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 by 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  
HOLLAND AND KNIGHT (UK) LLP and PREMIER FOODS  
*for their generous support of tonight's concert*

### **The Giltspur Singers**

**S** Pravda Bokil, Sarah Dowling, Katy Honan, Helen Kirkpatrick, Antonia Mott, Michelle Thomson  
**A** Elizabeth Bower, Nicky Johns, Kirsty Payne  
**T** Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds  
**B** Dan de Belder, Matt Gardner, Alex Milne, Timothy Murray, Nick Whitehead

**Accompanist** Duncan Atkinson QC

**Conductor** Dr Christopher Maxim