

Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

St Clement Danes

Wednesday, 11th December 2019, 7.00pm

Here is the little door

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Please stand and join in the singing of the carol from the SECOND verse

Solo: Antonia Stoneman

*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)

1st Reading: *Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold* (Isaiah 9:2,6-7) read by Jonathan Stoneman

*Vigilate
O Radiant Dawn*

William Byrd (c.1539/40 or 1543-1623)
Sir James MacMillan (b.1959)

2nd Reading: *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary* (Luke 1:26-38) read by Lydia Manuell

*A tender shoot
A virgin most pure*

Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)
English traditional, arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

3rd Reading: *The birth of Jesus* (Luke 2:1-20) read by David Bright

*The blessed Son of God
Away in a manger*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Trad. Normandy tune arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

Please stand and join in the singing of the carol on the next page

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 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)

*Infant holy, infant lowly
Love came down at Christmas*

Polish traditional, arr. David Willcocks
Christopher Maxim (comp. 2019 world première)

4th Reading: *Where is this stupendous stranger?* Christopher Smart (1722-1771) read by Nicky Johns

Please stand and join in the singing of the carol

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not—
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

4 For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876)

Music: Traditional English melody, adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900); descant by Christopher Maxim (2006)

*A Babe is born
Benedicamus Domino*

Peter Racine Fricker (1920-1990)
'Peter Warlock' (Philip Heseltine: 1894-1930)

∞ INTERVAL ∞

Five Carols for St Matthew's, Northampton

Richard Rodney Bennett (1936-2012)

- i. *There is no rose of such virtue*
- ii. *Out of your sleep arise and wake*
- iii. *That younge child when it gan weep*
- iv. *Sweet was the song the Virgin sang*
- v. *Susanni (A little child there is yborn)*

Please stand and join in the singing of the carol

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; descant by Thomas Armstrong (1898-1994)

5th Reading: *Innocent's Song* Charles Causley (1917-2003) read by Cathy Johns

Lully, Lulla, Lullay
Moonless Darkness

Philip Stopford (b.1977)
Christopher Maxim (comp.2019 *world première*)

Three movements from the unfinished oratorio *Christus*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

- i. Recitative *When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem* (S: Lydia Manuell)
- ii. Trio *Say, where is he born* (T: Nick Grounds, B1: Tim Murray, B2: Alex Milne)
- iii. Chorus *There shall a star*

Please stand and join in the singing of the carol

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: *Piæ Cantiones* (1582), arr. Reginald Jacques

6th Reading: *Christmas is really for the children* Steve Turner (b.1949) read by Dan de Belder

Ding dong! merrily on high
Patapan

16th century French tune arr. Nicholas Scott-Burt (b.1962)
French traditional arr. Sheena Phillips (b.1958)
Recorder: Nicky Johns

Please stand and join in the singing of the carol

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...
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 by J. F. Wade (c.1711-1786);
descant by David Willcocks

We wish you a Merry Christmas

English Traditional arr. Arthur Warrell (1882-1939)

The Giltspur Singers would like to thank **Holland and Knight (UK) LLP**
for their generous support of tonight's concert

The Giltspur Singers

Sopranos	Elizabeth Bathurst, Katy Honan, Lydia Manuell, Antonia Stoneman, Michelle Thomson
Altos	Elizabeth Bower, Fran Burn, Nicky Johns
Tenors	Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds
Basses	Dan de Belder, Alex Milne, Timothy Murray
Accompanist	Duncan Atkinson QC
Conductor	Dr Christopher Maxim