



Christmas with the Giltspur Singers

Accompanist:
Duncan Atkinson

Conductor:
Christopher Maxim

*An Evening of Music and Readings
for the
Festive Season*

*in aid of
Cancer Research UK*

St Clement Danes
Tuesday, 15th December 2009
7.00pm

Please stand and join in the singing from the SECOND verse

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.*

**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 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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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: H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876) *harm.* A. H. Mann (1850-1929); descant by David Willcocks (*b.* 1919)

1st Reading: *The Annunciation & The Visitation*

St Luke 1:26-42

*Ave Maria
A Virgin most Pure*

Robert Parsons (*d.* 1570)
English Traditional *arr.* Charles Wood (1866-1926)

2nd Reading: *The Nativity*

St Luke 2:1-7

For unto Us a Child is Born from Messiah

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Please stand and join in the singing

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart
Prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of
His righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders, of his love.**

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: Anon. (though often spuriously attributed to Handel), *arr.* Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Two Carols from *O Magnum Mysterium*

Peter Maxwell Davies (*b.* 1934)

O Magnum Mysterium – Haylle, comly and clene

Sussex Carol

English Traditional *arr.* Philip Ledger (*b.* 1937)

3rd Reading: *The Angels and the Shepherds*

St Luke 2:8-20

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 Mendelssohn; descant by David Willcocks

Gloria in Excelsis from *Missa Sancti Nicolai*

F. J. Haydn (1732-1809)

Soprano solo: Antonia Mott

∞ INTERVAL ∞

Benedicamus Domino

Corpus Christi Carol

Soprano solo: Antonia Mott

Tenor solo: Chris Goodwin

Bethlehem Down

‘Peter Warlock’ (Philip Heseltine) (1894-1930)

Please stand and join in the singing

**Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal,
Of lords the Lord eternal.**

Gentlemen

**This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer,
And slew the little childer.**

**Christ, from heav’n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Be-cradled in the manger,
Be-cradled in the manger.**

Ladies

**Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary’s gentle child
Might lead us up to glory,
Might lead us up to glory!**

**O and A, and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino,
*Benedicamus Domino.***

Words: *Piae Cantiones* (1582), tr. G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)

Music: *Piae Cantiones*, arr. David Willcocks

4th Reading: *The Wise Men ask the Children the Way*

Heinrich Heine (1797-1856)

tr. Geoffrey Grigson (1905-1985)

Movements from the unfinished oratorio *Christus*

Mendelssohn

Recitative: *When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem*
Lisa Somerville (soprano)

Trio: *Say, where is he born, the King of Judæa?*
Nick Grounds (tenor)
Nick Whitehead (1st bass)
Tim Murray (2nd bass)

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

Illuminare, Jerusalem

Judith Weir (b.1954)

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.**

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."**

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."**

Words: J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

Music: *Piae Cantiones* (1582), arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

All and Some

Christopher Maxim (*comp.* 2008)

Sans Day Carol

Cornish Traditional, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

Up! Good Christian Folk, and Listen

Melody from *Piae Cantiones* (1582)
arr. G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)

5th Reading: *I keep my Snowman in the Freezer*

Ian McMillan (b. 1956)

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.***

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

**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***

**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***

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

**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 Traditional

arr. Arthur Warrell (1900-1970)

*Thank you for attending tonight's concert.
Future performances are publicised at*

www.christophermaxim.co.uk

*(follow the link to the Giltspur Singers homepage
and then to the Forthcoming Performances page).*

*We welcome enquiries from prospective members.
Further details may be found at the same web address.*

About Cancer Research UK

Cancer Research UK began life in February 2002 following the merger of Imperial Cancer Research Fund and The Cancer Research Campaign.

Aims

Cancer Research UK works alone and in partnership with others to achieve the following objectives:

- 1. To carry out world-class research into the biology and causes of cancer**
Cancer is a highly complex disease that is still only partly understood. Only through a better understanding of the disease will the improved treatments, diagnostics and prevention strategies of the future be developed.
- 2. To develop effective treatments and improve the quality of life for cancer patients**
Research will be carried out to accelerate cancer cure rates, aiming to translate our understanding of the disease into effective treatments. Research will also be directed at improving diagnosis of cancer, and at prolonging the life and improving the quality of life of those patients whose disease cannot be cured.
- 3. To reduce the number of people getting cancer**
Research will be carried out into the influence of lifestyle, individual risk, environment and interventions such as vaccination on cancer, and into how people can change their behaviours to reduce their risk of the disease. The wider public will be made aware of cancer risk factors and the options available to them to reduce that risk.
- 4. To provide authoritative information on cancer**
As a leading international research organisation Cancer Research UK will provide authoritative cancer information to the public and promote the best treatments and prevention strategies to governments, commercial organisations, those responsible for cancer care, and the media.

Further information about Cancer Research UK, including details of how you can become involved in supporting its work, can be found at:

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org>

or by contacting the charity at:

P.O. Box 123
Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3PX
tel. (Supporter Services) 020 7121 6699
tel. (Switchboard) 020 7242 0200

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. Venues include St Mary's, Blackheath; Godalming Parish Church; St Giles-in-the-Fields; St Mary-le-Bow; St Dunstan's Stepney; the Chapel of Gray's Inn; St Mary's, Wimbledon; The Temple Church; St George's, Bloomsbury; St Mary's, Clapham; and St Vedast-alias-Foster. Repertoire ranges from medieval music to contemporary pieces; and the choir sings in several languages, including Latin, French, German and early forms of English.

The members of the choir are professionals in a wide range of careers, including the law, finance, education, medicine, the entertainment industry, P.R. and I.T. Some are music graduates; but, for the majority, music has always been a hobby. It is the sense of music as a source of recreation and enjoyment that the Giltspur Singers hope to share in their performances.

Sopranos

Linda de Belder, Julie Gonzalez Torres, Antonia Mott, Elisabeth Somerville, Katy Turner

Altos

Catriona Boyle, Ian Goddard, Nicky Johns, Harriet Pask

Tenors

Sam Butler, Simon Daniels, Christopher Goodwin, Nick Grounds

Basses

Dan de Belder, 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 Roy Amlot QC and Junior Prosecution Counsel at the Central Criminal Court. Having been Organist of St Anne's with St Columba, Hoxton for ten years, he was appointed Organist & Choirmaster of St Margaret's, Lee in January 2006.

Dr Christopher Maxim (Conductor)

... is founder-conductor of the Giltspur Singers and also directs the St Teilo Singers, a peripatetic liturgical choir. Former conducting posts include the Cardiff Bay Singers and the Elizabethan Singers of London. Chris's compositions are published in the UK by Allegro Music, the Royal School of Church Music and Stainer & Bell; and in the USA by St James Music Press. His music is also available at www.sibeliusmusic.com. Pieces have been featured in the Vale of Glamorgan and Macynlleth Festivals (Wales), the Annual Festival of New Organ Music (London) and the Irish Recorder and Viol Course (Eire); and his music is performed a far afield as Germany, the USA and South Africa. The carol *All and Some*, included in tonight's concert, was published in May of this year by Allegro Music and is the musical insert in the latest edition of *Organists' Review*. Two new Christmas choral pieces are to receive their premières on Sunday, 20th December: *With Merry Heart* (St Matthew's, Bethnal Green: 4.00pm) and *The Jolly Shepherd* at (St Margaret's, Lee: 6.30pm). Chris is also published in the fields of musicology and music criticism. He is Organist of St Matthew's, Bethnal Green; and an Assistant Director of Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate School. To find out more about him and the Giltspur Singers please visit www.christophermaxim.co.uk.