



* Conductor Michael Cayton

Seasonal Celebration

Saturday 7 December 2013
St Mary's Church, Rickmansworth



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Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to our Christmas concert, a special evening for three particular reasons.

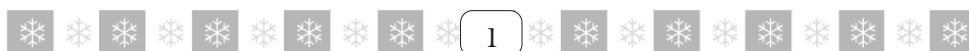
Firstly, we are excited to be performing a new work by Malcolm Archer, commissioned by the choir in memory of our former chairman Jim Darby. Jim was a key member of the Chiltern Choir from soon after its inception in 1980, and we are very pleased to welcome his widow Kath here tonight to share in this new piece in memory of Jim. We hope that not only will you enjoy listening to it tonight, but that it will find its way into the choral repertoire.

Secondly, this is the last concert that Patricia Parkes will be singing with us, as she has decided that the time has come for her to retire from the choir. Patricia is not only the sole remaining founder member of the choir, but she also convened the “singing group” at the Arts Centre from 1968 onwards – the group that became the Chiltern Choir in 1980. So she has been 45 years with the choir – and we are very sorry to see her leave. But we won’t be letting her go completely as we are delighted to announce she has agreed to become our President.

And finally, but by no means least, this concert marks the 10th anniversary of Michael Cayton joining the choir as our music director. The choir has thrived and has grown musically under Michael’s leadership and we feel very fortunate to have been singing under his baton over the last ten years. Thank you Michael for bringing your humour, enthusiasm and huge musical knowledge to Chorleywood every Tuesday evening, and for preparing us to sing in your 30th concert with us tonight.

We hope you enjoy your evening, and that we will see you at our next two concerts – in Watford on 29th March and in Chorleywood on 5th July. Further details can be found on the back cover

Gillian Pugh Chair, Chiltern Choir 01923 285505





This Evening's Programme

Choir ***Missa Sancti Nicolai*** (St Nicholas Mass)

Joseph Haydn

Soloists: Merriss Ratliff (Soprano), Helen Heenan (Alto),
Paul Jenkins (Tenor), Richard Watson (Bass)

- 1. Kyrie***
- 2. Gloria***
- 3. Credo***
- 4. Sanctus***
- 5. Benedictus***
- 6. Agnus Dei***

Concerto in C for Two Trumpets

Antonio Vivaldi

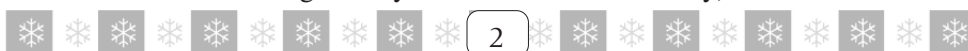
- I. Allegro***
- II. Largo***
- III. Allegro***

Choir ***Six Simple Carols***

Peter Skellern

- 1. Love is Come Again***
(Easter)
- 2. Love Divine is Coming***
(Advent)
- 3. Lullaby***

(After all the noise and commotion of the visiting shepherds and wise
men the Virgin Mary is left alone with her baby)





4. *Were You There?*

5. *How Long the Night*

(An old man, who in his youth was a shepherd boy, tells Luke of the night when the world changed)

6. *So Said the Angel*

Interval

during which refreshments will be provided

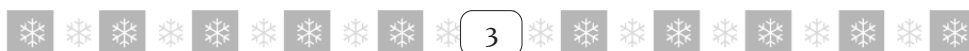
Choir & Audience ***Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

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 the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
*Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark...

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.

continued...





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...

Choir ***Awake my Soul and with the Sun***

Malcolm Archer

Commisioned by The Chiltern Choir in memory of Jim Darby.
World Premiere

Reading ***Two babies...?***

Japhet De Oliveira

Read by Sue Lloyd

Choir ***Star Carol***

John Rutter

Choir ***Jesus Christ the Apple Tree***

Elizabeth Poston

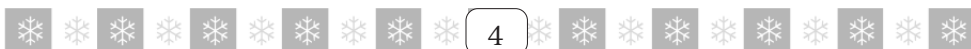
Soloist Sarah Warren

Choir ***Gabriel's Message***

Basque carol, arranged by David Willcocks

Choir & Audience ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

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.

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 wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

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!

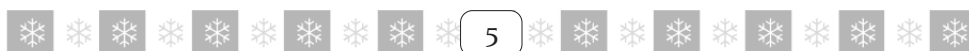
Trumpet Voluntary

Jeremiah Clarke

Reading *The Promise*

Alan Williams

Read by Sue Lloyd





Choir ***The Crown of Roses***

P. I. Tchaikovsky

Choir ***Mary's Lullaby***

John Rutter

Choir ***In the Bleak Mid-Winter***

Harold Darke

Soloists Sarah Warren and John Haslam

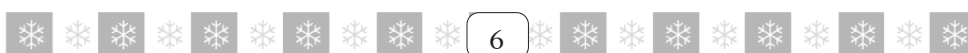
Choir & Audience ***Once in Royal David's City***

First Verse Solo, Second Verse (arr. Michael Cayton) **Choir Only**

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, the scorned, the lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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 who seemed so helpless
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 round,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned,
All in white shall wait around.

Organ

Prelude and Fugue in B

Marcel Dupré

Choir

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish, traditional, arranged by David Willcocks

Choir

The Twelve Days of Christmas

English, traditional, arranged by John Rutter

Choir

Silent Night

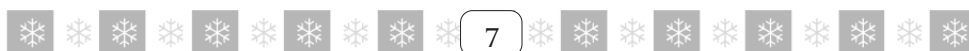
Franz Gruber, arranged by Jonathan Rathbone

Choir & Audience

O Come All ye Faithful

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.

...continued

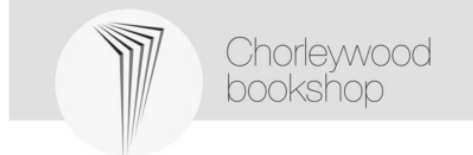




God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Lo! star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our heart's oblations:
O come...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come...



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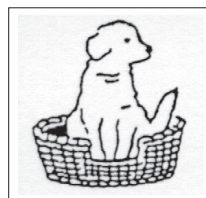
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Programme Notes

Missa Sancti Nicolai

Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)

Haydn's *Saint Nicolas Mass* was written to celebrate the name day of his employer, Prince Nicholas, on December 6th, 1772.

The work has the characteristics of an Advent pastoral Mass, associated with Christ's birth in a stable and the shepherds in the fields. The first and final movements use the same pastoral material with their gentle, lilting 6/4 time and falling phrases in parallel thirds and sixths. Led by the solo quartet this forms a calm framework to the Mass. The lively, exultant tutti *Gloria* leads into the lyrical soprano solo *Gratias agimus tibi*. A more thoughtful *Qui tollis* leads back to the joyous mood of the *Quoniam tu solus sanctus* with its fugal *Amen*. In Haydn's own words "I hope God will not be angry if I am irrepressibly cheerful in my worship of Him."

The chorus' dance-like *Credo* draws breath for the slow minor of the quartet to declaim the birth and death of Christ. The jubilant mood is renewed for the *Et resurrexit* and the rapid word-setting of the rest of the creed and affirmative *Amen*. The accompanying pastoral sextuplets create an atmosphere of calm beauty throughout the *Sanctus* before the exuberant *Pleni sunt coeli*.



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The solo quartet setting of the *Benedictus* is perhaps the most thoroughly worked of this mass concluding with the briefest of choral *Osannas* recalling the last twenty bars of the previous movement. The mood of the final *Agnus Dei* is solemn with its G minor pulsating quavers and falling counter-melody on the organ, before returning to pastoral calm for the *Dona nobis pacem*.

Concerto for Two Trumpets

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)

The concerto for two trumpets is typical of Vivaldi's writing – this evening played with organ reduction. The two outer movements are brilliant *Allegros* with lots of exhilarating high virtuosic passages for the soloists. There are sections of dramatic dialogue between the orchestra (organ) and the soloists to start and end the movements, and longer episodes for the soloists and continuo, alternating with passages scored for strings. The slow movement, originally scored for strings alone, is very short and forms a strong contrast to the outer movements relying for its effect on inventive use of harmony.

Six Simple Carols

Peter Skellern (1947–)

Peter Skellern is a renowned composer and has appeared on television and radio. His first hit single was *You're a Lady* in 1972 which reached No. 3 in the UK singles chart. He went on to host his own television chat show "Private Lives". In the 1980s he had a famous collaboration with the lyricist Richard Stilgoe performing their own brand of musical comedy with comic songs such as *Joyce the Librarian*. Later in his life Peter has been writing choral music and has composed a number of significant pieces. His *Waiting for the Word* was performed on BBC's Songs of Praise and he has received a number of commissions, notably from the Aeolian Singers in Hemel Hempstead.

The *Six Simple Carols* take a unique journey through the Christian story. We begin with Easter and a setting of the 15th Century carol *Love is Come Again* to make the analogy between the cold weather and Jesus' burial in the tomb, only to blossom at Easter. The second carol takes us to Advent and reminds us that though the weather is cruel, Love Divine is coming. The third carol creates a tender moment when after all the noise and commotion of the visiting shepherds and wise men, Mary is left alone with her baby and sings a lullaby. Number four is a happy, boppy carol with lots of humour. Watch out for the fun piano solo in the middle! The fifth carol is the story of an old man who tells a story to the Gospel writer, Luke, of the night in his youth as a shepherd boy when the world changed. The finale to the first half of the concert is the rhythmically exciting sixth carol, *So Said the Angel*.





Awake, my Soul, and with the Sun

Malcolm Archer (1952 –)

Malcolm Archer is a composer, organist and choral and orchestral conductor. He is currently director of chapel music at Winchester College, having held posts at Norwich, Bristol, Wells Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral. His anthem for the Chiltern Choir uses the words of Thomas Ken "Awake my soul, and with the sun" written in 1674 for the boys of Winchester College.

The Chiltern Choir commissioned this anthem from Malcolm Archer in memory of Jim Darby (1939 – 2011, pictured right), who joined the choir in 1981, soon after its inception. He served as chair on two occasions, standing down in 2005 when he and Kath moved to Wiltshire. Jim was an excellent bass and, more recently tenor, and is remembered for his integrity and his humour, and for being what some have described as a "gentle giant". He put a huge amount into the choir, and we know how much he enjoyed his time with us. He had many friends and when Kath suggested at his funeral that donations should be made to the Chiltern Choir we decided we would like to add to those donations and commission an anthem.



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This Evening's Performers

Michael Cayton, *Conductor...*

...after training at Kneller Hall, served with the Grenadier Guards as a trumpeter before studying piano at the Royal College of Music, where he gained his BMus and ARCM and won the Hilda Anderson Deane prize for conducting and improvisation. While completing postgraduate répétiteur studies he was appointed the first organ Scholar at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Since his debut as an organist at the Royal Festival Hall in 1988, Michael has been in demand as a recitalist and accompanist and has appeared all over the country and in Europe, with notable London appearances at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster Abbey, Blackheath Concert Halls and the Wigmore Hall.

Since 2003 he has simultaneously held the posts of Director of Music at St John's Wood Church, organist at Belsize Square Synagogue and, last but not least, conductor of the Chiltern Choir. He has conducted the Watford Philharmonic Chorus, Goldsmiths Choral Union, City Chamber Choir, Aeolian Singers and English Chamber Choir and has broadcast on Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 5 Live, the World Service and on BBC1's Songs of Praise. His church music is published by Redemptorist - the responsorial psalms are now a staple of parish churches up and down the country. With broad musical tastes, a hunger to learn new styles and a particular talent for improvisation, he may often be found performing jazz, German cabaret and Judeo-Spanish Ladino music as well as fusion and funk.

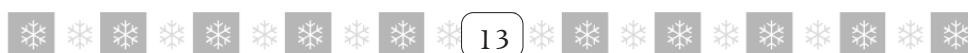
Ian Shaw, *Organist...*

...has studied at Cambridge (where he was Organ Scholar of St John's College and a John Stewart of Rannoch Scholar in Sacred Music), at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam and, as a mature student, at Goldsmiths College. He has been Sub-Organist at Durham Cathedral and Director of Music at St Peter's Eaton Square.

As a pianist, he has worked with Opera North, Northern Ballet Theatre, BBCSSO and, for eleven years, Scottish Opera, where he was responsible for many national tours. Since returning to London, he has worked with ENO, British Youth Opera and Music Theatre Wales (on both of the productions so highly acclaimed at the ROH Linbury Studio last month).

Recent compositions include a song cycle for Rebecca Bottone, *A Breath of Nothing*, and choral commissions from Magdalen College, Oxford and St John's College, Cambridge. His work has been described as "redoubtable" by The Scotsman and "sometimes amusing" by the Dean of Durham.

continued...





Christopher Deacon and Jo Harris, *Trumpeters*

James Bower, *Percussionist*

The Chiltern Choir - Members Singing This Evening

Sopranos:

Caroline Bartlett, Anita Catterick, Beverley Grayley, Jenny Gorsuch, Anne Grove, Jill Haslam, Barbara Johnson, Sue Kesteven, Sue Lloyd, Teresa Oliver, Merriss Ratliff, Margaret Ross, Jan Sharp, Beverley Small, Hilary Walmsley, Sarah Warren, Gillian Watson, Anne Wilson.

Altos:

Cathy Amos, Jane Anderson, Judy Booth, Sue Canderton, Roy Cottrell, Ana De'Ath, Liz Dobson, Cathrien Dyas, Rita Fryer, Philippa Goss, Helen Heenan, Anne Keyworth, Charlotte Kohnhorst, Fiona Lean, Gillian Pugh, Maggie Shrive, Jill Swainson, Rhona Taylor, Brenda Tomsett, Sue Treanor, Marian Wax, Jenny West, Beryl Whittaker.

Tenors:

Mick Currey, Andy Etchells, Steve Godbold, Paul Jenkins, Colin Parkes, Isabel Walker.

Basses:

Tony Catterick, Steven Frank, Tim Goodwin, John Haslam, John King, Stuart Marshall, Keith Pulford, Martin Robinson, Bill Sharp, Richard Watson.

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The Chiltern Choir

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<i>Mrs H. Hall</i>	<i>Mrs J. Martin</i>	<i>A. N. Other,</i>
<i>Mr N. B. Kingon</i>	<i>Mrs H. Nest</i>	

The following people have been made honorary members in recognition of their extended service to the choir:

<i>Mrs K. Darby</i>	<i>Mrs A. Sedgwick</i>
<i>Mr M. Gaudie</i>	<i>Mr D. Treanor</i>
<i>Mr D. Lloyd</i>	<i>Mr N. Wax</i>

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