

CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS

St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne
14 December 2024, 7 pm

PROGRAMME

The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

with special guest

James Clark Northumbrian pipes

PART ONE

1. INTRODUCTION & SAFETY INFORMATION

(from St George's)

2. O little one sweet

German chorale, arranged J S Bach (1685 – 1750)

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
Thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken,
Equal to be with us poor men.

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
With joy thou hast the whole world filled;
Thou camest here from heavn's domain,
To bring men comfort in their pain.

3. Gaelic Air: O' Luaidh

(O my dearest darling)
played by James Clark

4. Adam lay ybounden

Words: anon 15 Century

Music by Boris Ord (1897 – 1961)

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond:
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkès finden
Written in their book.

Nè had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
Abeen heavenè queen.

Blessèd be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!

5. Ne timeas Maria

Tomas Luis de Victoria (c. 1548 - 1610)

Sung in Latin

Fear not, Mary, for you will be greatly blessed by the
Lord
Behold, you will conceive and bear
A Son and he shall be called the most high

6. There is no rose

Words: Anonymous, c. 1420

Music: Alison Willis (b. 1971)

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
Pari forma.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo:
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus. Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
That He is God in persons three,
Pari forma.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo:
Gaudeamus.

Now leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

7. **Instrumental set**
played by James Clark

Over the border's

8. **The Holly and the Ivy**

Words: trad. English

Music arr. H. Walford Davies (1869 – 1941)

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
the holly bears the crown.

O, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir ...

The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower ..
The holly bears a berry as red as any blood ..
The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn ..
The holly bears a bark as bitt'r as any gall ..

9. **O magnum mysterium**

Tomas Luis de Victoria (c. 1548 - 1610)

Sung in Latin

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!
O blessed virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

10. Carol for All

We wish you a Merry Christmas

West Country traditional

Words on separate sheet

INTERVAL: 20 minutes

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served at the back of the church. Many thanks to the Friends of St George's for providing this.

PART TWO

11. Carol for all

The twelve days of Christmas

Words on separate sheet

12. **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell**

Words, late 15 century

Music: Elizabeth Maconchy (1907 - 1994)

Nowell sing we now all and some,
For Rex pacificus is come.

In Bethlehem, in that fair city,
A child was born of a maiden free,
That shall a lord and prince be,
A solis ortus cardine.

Children were slain in full great plenty,
Jesu, for the love of thee;
Wherefore their souls saved be,
Hostis Herodis impie.

As the sun shineth through the glass,
So Jesu in his mother was;
Thee to serve now grant us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas.

Now God is come to worship us;
Now of Mary is born Jesus;
Make we merry amonges us;
Exultet caelum laudibus.

Nowell sing we now all and some,
For Rex pacificus is come.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell

13. **Away in a manger**

Tune Cradle Song

Arr. William Kirkpatrick

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

I love You, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask You to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Your tender care
And fit us for heaven
To live with You there

14. **Instrumental set**

James Clark

Low country dance, Highland laddie's

15. **Silent Night**

Words: J F Mohr, translated: John Freeman Young
Music: Libby Croad (b. 1981)

Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus at thy birth, Lord, Jesus Lord, at thy birth

16. **Quem pastores laudavere**

Words: traditional, sung in Latin
Music James Bassi (b. 1981)

Shepherds left their flocks a-straying
God's command with joy obeying
When they heard the angel saying:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Wise Men came from far, to see him
Knelt

in homage to adore him;
Precious gifts they laid before him:
Gold and frankincense and myrrh

Let us now in every nation
Sing his praise with exultation
All the world shall find salvation
In the birth of Mary's Son

17. **Senex puerum portabat**

Tomas Luis de Victoria (c. 1548 - 1610)
Sung in Latin

The old man carried the child,
but the child ruled the old man;
him whom the Virgin brought forth,
and after childbirth remained a virgin
him whom she bore, she adored.

18. Carol for All

On Christmas Night

*The Sussex Carol, English traditional
Words on separate sheet*

END

Thank you so much for supporting this concert. All The Singers wish you a joyous Christmas and a very happy 2025. Many thanks to all at St George's for their generous help and support, and, in particular, to the Friends of St George's.

JAMES CLARK

James, who makes and plays small pipes, grew up in County Durham. He started playing the pipes 10 years ago and is self-taught, learning by spending time with musicians from the folk music scene. His playing has been highly influenced by the pipers he has met and by border pipe manuscripts from the 18th century. The music is characterised by an 8 note scale and the tunes were often highly ornamented. James has learned from pipe makers and is now a professional pipe maker himself. His second set tonight will be on a set of border pipes he recently built.

THE SINGERS (singers.org.uk)

The Singers is a chamber choir of around twenty-four mixed voices based in Newcastle. Singers come mainly from Newcastle and Northumberland but others travel considerable distances to participate. The choir rehearses one weekend a month in Newcastle.

The Singers

Sopranos

Helen Barber, Miriam Cummins, Suzanne Longley, Rachel Lyons, Lindsey Nicholls, Jane Noble, Charlotte Treglown

Altos

Addison Bartlett-Shore, Robyn Bartlett-Shore, Pamela Cummins, Ann Hill, Lisa McMaster, Alison Rudd, Alice Ward, Gaby Wright

Tenors

Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Philip Mountain

Basses

Matthew Dunford, Richard Kerr, Steve Locks, Alex Moon, Chris Tradgett, Ian Wainwright

Conductor

Donald Halliday

Some Future Local Events

Durham Cathedral

High Mass for the Epiphany
Monday 6 January 2025 7pm

Malcolm Missa ad praesepe – George Malcolm
Omnes de Saba – Jacob Handl

Jesmond Festival 2025

Festival Concert
10 May 2025 3pm
St George's Jesmond
Programme to be announced