

CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS

St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

16 December 2017, 7 pm

PROGRAMME

The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

Edgar Ho *piano*

Oscar Ho *classical guitar*

with **Edmund Hunt** composer and Northumbrian pipes

PART ONE

1. Here we come a-wassailing

Traditional English, arranged Paul Hillier

Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves
so green, and here we come a-wandering so
fair to be seen.

Love and joy come to you and to you your
wassail too, and God bless you and send you a
Happy New Year!

...

2. A tender shoot

Words: William Bartholomew (1793 – 1867)

Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1839 – 1907)

A tender shoot has started up from a root of
grace, as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's
holy race:

It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold
bleak winter, turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root
should spring; the Virgin Mary brought us the
branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might gave her this child to
save us, thus turning darkness into light.

3. The Lamb

Words: William Blake (1757 – 1827)

Music: John Tavener (1944 – 2013)

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

4. Agnus Dei

Music: Edmund Hunt, who also plays the
Northumbrian pipes in this performance

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.

5. Joseph and the Angel

Music: Hafliði Hallgrímsson (b. 1941)

As Joseph was a-walking, he heard an angel
sing, This night shall be born our heavenly king.
He neither shall be born, in housen nor in hall,
Nor in the place of Paradise
but in an ox's stall
Noe, Noe, Noe.

... He neither shall be clothed, in purple nor in
pall, but all in fair linen, as wear babies all.
... He neither shall be rocked, in silver nor in
gold, but in a wooden cradle, that rocks on the
mould.

... He neither shall be christened in white wine nor in red, but in the fair spring water as we were christened.

6. **Ave Maria**

Music: Robert Parsons (c. 1530 - 1572)

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb
Amen

7. **Capricho Árabe**

Francisco Tárrega (1852 – 1909)

Oscar Ho, classical guitar

8. **In dulci jubilo**

German, arr. Robert Pearsall (1795 – 1856)

Sung in English and Latin

In dulci jubilo now sing with happy hearts
Our heart's wonder lies *in praesepe*
And all your goodness *O princeps gloriae*
Trahe me post te!

O patris caritas, O nati lenitas
We were all lost *per nostra crimina*
But you gained for us *coelorum gaudia*
O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia nowhere more than here!
There the angels sing *nova cantica*
And the bells ring *in regnis curia*
O that we were there!

9. **Away in a manger**

Words and music: trad. English, arr. David Willcocks (1919 – 2015)

Away in a manger no crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
...

10. **Caput Apri Defero**

Music: Robert Pearsall

Caput apri defero,
Reddens laudes Domino.

The boar's head in hand bring I,
With garlands gay and rosemary,
I pray you all sing merrily,
Qui estis in convivio.

The boar's head, I understand,
Is the chief service in this land;
Look, wherever it be fand,
Servite cum cantico!

11. Carol for All

We wish you a Merry Christmas

West Country traditional

We wish you a Merry Christmas (X3)
and a Happy New Year.

REFRAIN

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin,
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year.

O bring us a figgy pudding (x3)
and a cup of good cheer.

REFRAIN

And we won't go until we get some (x3)
so bring some out here.

REFRAIN

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

12. **The Holly and the Ivy**

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 ...

13. **The Apple Tree**

Words: 'Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs' 1784

Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905 – 1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be
of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

14. **O magnum mysterium**

Music: Kjell Karlsen (b. 1947)

Sung in Latin

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,

lying in a manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy
to bear our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

15. **Quem pastores laudavere**

Music: arr. Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)

The one praised by the shepherds, whom the
angels told, "Now lay aside your fears,"
has been born the king of glory.

16. **Liebstraum**

Franz Liszt (1811 – 1886)

Edgar Ho, piano

17. **A Christmas Carol**

Words and Music: Charles Ives (1874 – 1954)

Little star of Bethlehem!
Do we see Thee now?
Do we see Thee shining
O'er the tall trees?
Little Child of Bethlehem!
Do we hear thee in our hearts?
Hear the Angels singing:
Peace on earth, goodwill to men!
Noel!

O'er the cradle of a King,
Hear the Angels sing:
In Excelsis Gloria, Gloria!
From his Father's home on high,
Lo! for us He came to die;
Hear the Angels sing:
Venite adoremus Dominum.

18. **Videntes Stellam**

Music: Francis Poulenc (1899 – 1963)

Seeing the star, the wise men
were overwhelmed with great joy;
and entering the dwelling,
they offered to the Lord
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

19. **Su Gan**

Welsh lullaby, arr. Howard
Soloist Lindsey Nicholls

Sleep child upon my bosom,
It is cosy and warm;
Mother's arms are tight around you,
A mother's love is in my breast;
Nothing shall disturb your slumber,
Nobody will do you harm;
Sleep in peace, dear child,
Sleep quietly on your mother's breast.
..

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night (x2)
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen."

END

RETIRING COLLECTION

You are invited to contribute to a retiring collection in aid of the **Send a Cow Kenya Mother and Child Appeal**. All donations will be doubled by the UK Government Aid Match scheme. Send a Cow Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the back of the Church.

Thank you very much.

20. **Wachet auf**

Chorale: Philipp Nicolai (1556 – 1608)
Music: Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)

Wake, awake, for night is flying,
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem, at last!
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
Come forth, ye virgins, night is past!
The Bridegroom comes, awake,
Your lamps with gladness take;
Hallelujah!
And for His marriage feast prepare,
For ye must go to meet Him there.

THE SINGERS

Sopranos

Rachel Elliott, Heather Harrison, Suzanne Longley,
Lindsey Nicholls, Charlotte Treglown,

Altos

Pamela Cummings, Rose Haslam, Ann Hill, Edmund Hunt,
Lisa McMaster, Marieke van der Putten,
Alison Rudd, Gaby Wright

Tenors

Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Philip Mountain

Basses

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

Conductor Donald Halliday

Thank you so much for supporting this concert. All The Singers wish you a joyous Christmas and a very happy 2018.

Many thanks to St George's for their generous help and support, and, in particular, to the Friends of St George's.

21. Carol for All

On Christmas Night

The Sussex Carol, English traditional

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring. (x2)
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.

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