

Welcome to

A CONCERT OF CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

by

THE WENDEL SINGERS

(conductor Joe Reeves,
accompanist Lynne Staveley)

and

GAWTHORPE BRASS 85

(conductor John Edward)

at

St Philip's Church, Scholes

Wednesday 6th December 2023

at 7.30pm



PART 1

Choir: Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts

From *The Christmas Oratorio*

Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921).

Choir & Audience

This bright hymn for Advent by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) is based on Psalm 98. The American composer Lowell Mason published the tune, Antioch, in an 1836 collection of hymn tunes, as 'from Handel'. It would appear to be his own composition with echoes of 'Lift up your heads' from The Messiah in the first four notes, and maybe from 'Comfort ye' in the third line.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. 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.



Choir

Gabriel's Message

Words by Revd S. Baring-Gould (1834-1924), tune from an old Basque carol,
arr Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)

Poverty *Adaptation of the Welsh carol O deued bob Cristion by Jane Ellis (c.1840), translated by Kate Roberts (1877-1962) and W.T. Pennar Davies (1911-1906). Melody arr. Caradog Roberts (1879-1935)*

Band

March: The Shining Star
An Austrian Carol

P. Graham
Arr N Hall

Choir

The Little Road to Bethlehem First published 1946; words by Margaret Rose (d. 1958), music by Michael Head (1900-1976). Head was a British composer who gave piano recitals in factories during the war.

The Birthday of a King Written c.1890 by William Harold Neidlinger (1863-1924), who was born and brought up in New York. He studied music in London and Paris before returning to the USA, where he was an organist, conductor and composer of operas, cantatas, children's songs and sacred music.

Band

The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy
Who is He?

Arr. E Silfverberg
B Hanby Arr. R Philips

Choir & Audience

Words by James Montgomery (1771-1854); old French tune arr. Francis Melville. Montgomery was born in Scotland, the son of a Moravian minister. He was educated and partly trained for the Moravian ministry at Fulneck, but his education was unfinished and he drifted through various jobs in Mirfield, Wath-upon-Dearne and Sheffield, eventually becoming editor of the Sheffield newspaper *Iris*. He wrote and published many poems supporting social reform and some 400 hymns. His most successful and lasting efforts are such fine hymns as *Hail to the Lord's anointed*, *Be known to us in breaking bread*, and this carol, whose tune is called *Iris*.

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen his natal star:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,

4. Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,

INTERVAL

PART 2

Choir and Congregation

As with gladness men of old

Words by W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Melody abridged from a chorale, Treuer Heiland, by C. Kocher (1786-1872), arr. David Willcocks. Dix was born and educated in Bristol. He spent most of his life as a maritime insurance manager in Glasgow. He was a prolific hymn writer. Other hymns of his that have stood the test of time are Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, and the harvest hymn To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise. Sir David Willcocks CBE MC (1919-2015) was an outstanding conductor, organist, composer and arranger of church music, famous particularly for his 17 years as choral director of the Choir of King's College Cambridge. With Reginald Jacques and John Rutter he published the series of books, Carols for Choirs, which allow us to enjoy the glorious settings that were first heard in the annual Nine Lessons and Carols service from King's.

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee

2. As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed;
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.

4. In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun, which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Allelujahs to our King.

Choir

Christmas Lullaby

David Willcocks conducted The Bach Choir, as well as the Choir of King's. To celebrate his 70th birthday, The Bach Choir commissioned this piece from John Rutter (born 1945), who composed both the words and the music. It was first performed in the Royal Albert Hall in 1989.

Mary had a Baby

This African-American spiritual is of unknown origin. It possibly came from the island of St Helena, off the coast of South Carolina. It became known to white audiences early in the 20th century. This musical setting is by Sir Malcolm Sargent (1895-1967), the famous conductor of the Royal Choral Society.

Band

A Winter's Tale

Snow White selection

M Batt/T Rice Arr J Edward

F Churchill Arr D Wright

Choir & Congregation

Various versions of this ballad have been around since about 1770 with as many as eight verses. The tune first appeared in E.F. Rimbault's A Little Book of Christmas Carols in 1846. This setting is by David Willcocks.

**God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.**



**From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
Refrain**

**But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray.
Refrain**



TURN OVER

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface.
Refrain



Choir

The Colours of Christmas

John Rutter

A Great and Mighty Wonder

Words by Germanus (c.634-734), tr. John Mason Neale (1818–66) and others; German carol melody harmonised by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621). Neale, an Anglican priest and scholar, gave us many fine translations from Latin, Greek, Russian and even Syrian sources, including ‘O come, O come Emmanuel’, ‘Of the Father’s love begotten’, and ‘Good King Wenceslas’.

Interlude

Pauline Duncan Austwick: *Messiah*

Choir, Band and Audience

John Byrom (1692-1762), a Mancunian, was educated in medicine at Cambridge and Montpellier. He taught a system of shorthand to John and Charles Wesley, who used it to write their journals. In 1723 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Byrom wrote this poem for his daughter, at her request, and presented the manuscript to her on her breakfast plate on Christmas Day 1749 under the heading Christmas Day for Dolly. The following year a group of boys led by John Wainwright, organist of Stockport Church, visited the Byroms’ home and sang it just after midnight on Christmas Eve to the tune Wainwright had composed, which later appeared in many books. It is often called Yorkshire, but its other name, Stockport, is more appropriate. Our version of the poem is much reduced from the original 52 lines! The choral and instrumental descants are by John Ross (from ScoreExchange.com).



1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above:
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

2. O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

3. Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

Band

Recessional: *Yuletide Rag*

R Philips

Christmas Wrappings

Phoney Santa in the store,
With sack and paunch so full:
His bogus beard a mobile mask
Of two-faced cotton-wool.

Phoney Jesus, centre-piece
Of glossy decoration
In good-for-sales shop-window crib
Devoid of consecration.

And yet the proper Santa thrives
In each child who believes;
The living Jesus changes lives
On caring Christmas Eves.

Oh, lead us, Lord, from surface things
To truth beneath the trappings,
From token Christs and cardboard Kings —
Forgive our Christmas wrappings.

Arnold Kellett (1926-2009)

