

CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS

St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

17 December 2016, 7 pm

PROGRAMME

The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

James Tradgett *cello*

Northumbrian Pipers *from Robson's Choice*

Catherine Robson, Kathy Palmer, Nick Leeming,
Louise Woodman

PART ONE

1. INTRODUCTION & SAFETY INFORMATION
(from St George's)

2. **Deck the hall with boughs of holly**
Words: Thomas Oliphant (1799 – 1873)
Music: trad. Welsh

Deck the hall with boughs of holly
'Tis the season to be jolly
Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel
Troll the ancient Christmas carol

See the flowing bowl before us,
Strike the harp, and join the chorus,
Follow me in merry measure
While I sing of beauty's treasure.

Fast away the old year passes.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses
Laughing, quaffing all together.
Heedless of the wind and weather.
Fa-la-la-la-la, fa-la-la-la

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3. **O come, o come Emmanuel**
Words: John Mason Neale (1818 – 1866)
Music: c. 13th century, arr. Paul Hillier

O come, o come Emmanuel and ransom captive
Israel ...
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel

O come thou rod of Jesse, free thine own from
Satan's tyranny ...
O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our
spirits by thine Advent here ...
O come, thou key of David and open wide our
heavenly home ...

O come Thou Lord of might! ...

4. **Ding! Dong! Merrily on High**
Words: G R Woodward
Music: 16th cent. French, arr. Charles Wood
(1866 – 1926)

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below let steeple bells be
swungen ...

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye
ringers ...

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5. **Cello solo**
Prelude, Bach Cello Suite No 1 in D (BWV 1012)
played by James Tradgett

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6. **While shepherds watched their flocks by night**
Words: Nahum Tate (1652 – 1715)
Music: Steve Locks
Dedicated to The Singers, first performance

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord
came down and glory shone around

7. **Dormi, dormi o bel bambin**
Words and melody: trad., Ticino, Switzerland
Music: arr. Paul Hillier

Sung in Italian

Sleep, sleep, O lovely child, king divine. Sleep, O my baby. Lullaby dear son, King of heaven, you who are so fair, o gracious lily.

Close your eyes, O my treasure, sweet love of this soul, Lord so high. Lullaby O infant king, in the hay, dear beloved, celestial love.

Why do you weep my child? Perhaps the cold is bothering you or the little donkey? Lullaby, O paradise of my heart, redeemer, I kiss your face.

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8. **Northumbrian pipers from Robson's Choice**
Bag Chanter and All, A Klostermann Shared and Strakonice Calypso (Catherine Robson)

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9. **Leise rieselt der Schnee**
Words: Eduard Ebel (1839 – 1905)
Music: traditional arr. for male voices by Paul Hillier
Sung in German

Softly falls the snow, quiet and frozen lies the lake. Christmas-like the forest sparkles. Rejoice! The Christ Child will come soon.

In our hearts it's warm, sorrow and grief fall silent. Life's worries fade away. Rejoice! The Christ Child will come soon.

Soon it's Christmas Eve. A choir of angels awakes. Listen how lovely it sounds. Rejoice! The Christ Child will come soon.

10. **The cherry tree carol**
Words and music: trad. English, arr. for female voices by Paul Hillier

When Joseph was a young man, a young man was he. He courted Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee.

As Joseph and Mary were walking one day, Here is apples and cherries enough to behold.

Then Mary said to Joseph, so neat and so mild

"Joseph, gather me some cherries for I am with child"

Then Joseph flew in angry, in angry he flew.

"Let the father of the baby gather cherries for you"

Lord Jesus spoke a few words, all down unto them. "Bow low down, low down cherry tree. Let the mother have some"

The cherry tree bowed low down, low down to the ground. And Mary gathered cherries, while Joseph stood around.

Then Joseph took Mary all on his right knee. He cried: O Lord have mercy for what I have done.

And Joseph took Jesus all on his left knee. Pray tell me little baby when your birth day will be?

On the fifth day of January my birthday will be, when the stars and the elements doth tremble with fear.

11. **Have yourself a merry little Christmas**
Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane

Have yourself a merry little Christmas
Let your heart be light
Next year all our troubles will be out of sight
Have yourself a merry little Christmas
Make the Yuletide gay
Next year our troubles will be miles away

Once again as in olden days
Happy golden days of yore
Faithful friends who were dear to us
Will be near to us once more.

Someday soon we all will be together
if the fates allow.
Until then we'll have to muddle through somehow.
So have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

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12. 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

13. **Bogoroditze Devo**

Music: Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Sung in Church Slavonic

Rejoice, O virgin Mary, full of grace, the Lord is
with thee: Blessed art thou among women, and
blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast
borne the Saviour of our souls.

14. **Serenity (O magnum mysterium)**

Music: Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Sung in Latin

Cello James Tradgett

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 Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

15. **Northumbrian pipers from Robson's Choice**

Plymouth Set: Portsmouth (trad. arr. Neil Smith),
Come ye not from Newcastle (trad. arr. Myrna
Luff), Welcome to the Town Again (trad. arr. Neil
Smith)

16. **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 ...

17. **Stille Nacht**

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792 – 1848)

Music: Franz Xavier Gruber (1787 – 1863)

arr. Sarah Robinson

Sung in German, English words below by John
Freeman Young, 1863

Soloist Lindsey Nicholls

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,
Heav'nly 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, Lord, at Thy birth

18. **Northumbrian pipers from Robson's Choice**

Geordie set: Billy Boy (trad. arr. Neil Smith), The
Keel Row (trad. arr. Derek Hobbs) and Bobby
Shaftoe (trad. arr. Derek Hobbs).

- 19. **El Noi de la Mare**
traditional Catalan carol
Sung in Catalanian

What shall we give to the Son of the Virgin?
What can we give that the Babe will enjoy?
First, we shall give Him a tray full of raisins,
Then we shall offer sweet figs to the Boy ...

- 20. **In dulci jubilo**
German, arr. Pearsall
Sung in German 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!

- 21. **When to the temple Mary went**
Words: John Troutbeck (1832 – 1899)
Music: Johannes Eccard (1553 – 1611)
Sung in memory of Annamaria McCool (d. 2016)

When to the temple Mary went, and brought the
Holy Child, Him did the aged Simeon see, as it
had been revealed. He took up Jesus in his arms
and blessing God he said:
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we
may ever be as once the faithful Simeon was,
rejoicing but in Thee; and when we must from
earth departure take, departure take, may gently
fall asleep and with Thee wake.

- 22. 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.

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

The Singers

Sopranos

Rachel Elliott, Suzanne Longley, Lindsey Nicholls,
Charlotte Treglown, Nicola Sugden,

Altos

Rose Haslam, Ann Hill, 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

Robson's Choice

Catherine Robson, Kathy Palmer, Nick Leeming,
Louise Woodman

Thank you so much for supporting this concert. All
The Singers wish you a joyous Christmas and a very
happy 2017.

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