

## CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS

St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

15 December 2018, 7 pm

### PROGRAMME

#### The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

with

Edmund Hunt composer

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 heav'n's domain,  
To bring men comfort in their pain.

3. **Traditional Gaelic Air: O' Luaidh**

(O my dearest darling)

Played by James Clark

4. **Up good Christen folk, and listen**

*Tune from Piae Cantiones 1582*

*Words and arrangement G R Woodward*

Ding-dong, ding; ding-a-dong-a-ding  
Ding-dong, ding-dong; ding-a-dong-ding

Up good Christen folk, and listen  
How the merry church bells ring  
And from steeple bid good people  
Come adore the new-born King.

Tell the story how from glory  
God came down at Christmas-tide,

Bringing gladness, chasing sadness,  
Show'ring blessings far and wide.

Born of mother, blest o'er other

*Ex Maria Virgine*

In a stable ('tis no fable)

*Christus natus hodie.*

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5. **Meine Seele erhebt den Herrn**

*Words: from the Magnificat, sung in German*

*Music: Heinrich von Herzogenberg (1843 – 1900)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded the low estate of his  
handmaiden:

for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall  
call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath done to me great  
things; and holy is his name.

6. **The Huron Carol**

*Words: J E Middleton (orig. Jean de Brébeuf,  
1642)*

*Music: trad. French arr. Robert B Anderson*

'Twas in the moon of winter time when all the  
birds had fled,  
The mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs  
instead.

Before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn,  
Jesus your king is born, in excelsis gloria

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe  
was found, a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped His beauty round.

But as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high  
Jesus your king is born, in excelsis gloria

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,  
The holy child of earth and heav'n is born today  
for you.

Come, kneel before the radiant boy who brings  
you beauty, peace and joy,  
Jesus your king is born, in excelsis gloria.

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7. **Northumbrian pipes set**

Played by James Clark

- Highland Laddie (Peacock manuscript of 1801) (trad. Northumbrian)
- Kiss'd her under the coverlet (trad. Northumbrian)
- The rock and the wee pickle tow (trad. Scottish)
- A mile to ride (Peacock manuscript)

8. **Lux Aurumque**

*Sung in Latin*

*English words by Edward Esch translated into*

*Latin by Charles Anthony Silvestri*

*Music: Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)*

Light,  
Warm and heavy as pure gold  
And all the angels sing softly  
To the new-born baby.

9. **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 ....

10. **The Lamb**

*Words: William Blake (1757 – 1827)*

*Music: Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980)*

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

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*

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**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.*

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**PART TWO**

12. **Vita Hominum**

*Sung in Latin*

*Words by Bede (672/3 – 26 May 735)*

*Music by Edmund Hunt*

*English translations by Christopher Hunwick and  
Gabriele Wright*

*Soloists: Lindsey Nicholls (soprano) Martin Lay  
(tenor)*

I ... Thus this life of man appears for a short  
while: but what follows, or what went before,  
we know not at all.

Meanwhile, since the condition of every  
generation of man is fragile and whirling like  
the waves, when suddenly a storm arises ...

II I know that when you board the ship, a  
contrary wind and storms will come upon you,

but you must remember to pour this oil, which I give to you, upon the sea; and, at once, as the winds quieten, a pleasant, calm sea will follow you and send you home the way you desire.

III Christ is the morning star, who, when the night of this world has passed, promises to his saints the light of life, and lays it open eternally.

IV Thanks be to God. Go in peace.

Edmund Hunt's *Vita Hominum* is the result of a year-long collaboration as part of Making Music's Adopt a Composer scheme.

Adopt a Composer is run by Making Music in partnership with Sound and Music, in association with BBC Radio 3, and funded by PRS For Music Foundation and the Philip and Dorothy Green Music Trust. It works exclusively with composers at the start of their careers, giving them crucial 'real world' compositional experience, as well as guidance from established mentors – Colin Riley, Fraser Trainer and David Horne.

There will be further opportunities to hear Edmund Hunt's *Vita Hominum* during 2019, including:

**Durham Cathedral:** Nave performance on Epiphany Sunday, 6 January 2019, at 1.30 pm  
**St Giles Cathedral** Edinburgh: St Giles at Six, Sunday 14 July 2019 at 6.00 pm

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13. **Star in the South**

*Words: A P Herbert*

*Music: Polish arr. Malcolm Sargent (1895 – 1967)*

Who can name that bright flame which the Wise Men saw that night?  
Was it some God sent glow, or a splendid star we know?  
Southward they sallied from Jerusalem,  
What was the star stood over Bethlehem?  
Star on the hilltop shining like a gem,  
Are you the star that led to Bethlehem? ....

14. **Omnes de Saba**

*Sung in Latin*

*Music: Jacob Handl (1550 – 1591)*

All they from Saba shall come,  
bringing gold and frankincense:  
and shewing forth praise to the Lord.

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15. **Stille Nacht**

*Sung in German*

*Words: Joseph Mohr (1792 – 1848)*

*Music Franz Gruber (1787 – 1863)*

*arr. Sarah Gordon Robinson*

*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.  
Glory streams 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.

16. **Ding dong merrily on high**

*Words: G R Woodward (1848 – 1934)*

*Music: 16th cent. France, arr. Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)*

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17. **When to the temple Mary went**

*English words: John Troutbeck (1832 – 1899)*

*Music: Johannes Eccard (1553 – 1611)*

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  
may gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

18. 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**

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Thank you so much for supporting this concert. All  
The Singers wish you a joyous Christmas and a very  
happy 2019.

Many thanks to all at St George's for their generous  
help and support, and, in particular, to the Friends of  
St George's. Also a very warm welcome to Barnaby  
Gordon, Sharon Hughes and all the team from BBC  
Radio 3.

**EDMUND HUNT** ([edmundhunt.com](http://edmundhunt.com))

Edmund Hunt is a British composer. His work has  
been played in the UK and abroad by ensembles  
including Psappha, The Royal Northern Sinfonia, the  
Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra, The  
Curious Chamber Players and CoMA (Contemporary  
Music for All). In 2014, he was selected for the  
London Philharmonic Orchestra's Leverhulme Young  
Composers' programme. His composition 'Argatné!'  
was performed by the LPO in the Queen Elizabeth

Hall, London, and was reviewed in the Telegraph as  
'the most delicately beautiful piece of the evening'.  
Edmund has an MA from the University of Cambridge  
and an MMus from Newcastle University. He has  
recently completed a PhD in composition at the Royal  
Birmingham Conservatoire, where he is now a  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Much of Edmund's music is inspired by the early  
mediaeval literature of northern Europe. Although he  
often uses early texts, his approach is innovative and  
contemporary.

**JAMES CLARK**

James, who is studying product design, grew up in  
County Durham. He started playing the pipes 6 years  
ago and is self-taught, learning by spending time with  
musicians from the folk music scene. A major  
influence was when he started meeting pipers at folk  
festivals who were players of the old style border  
repertoire, and his playing has been highly influenced  
by them and border pipe manuscripts. This music is  
from the 18th century and was developed and played  
on early Northumbrian pipes, which only had 8 notes.  
The music is characterised by this limited scale and  
the tunes were often highly ornamented to  
compensate for that. James has also spent time  
learning from pipe makers and has made his own set.

**THE SINGERS** ([singers.org.uk](http://singers.org.uk))

The Singers is a chamber choir of around twenty five  
mixed voices based in Newcastle. Singers come  
mainly from Newcastle and Northumberland but  
others travel considerable distances to participate.

A high standard of musicianship and sight-reading is  
required as the group does not meet on a regular  
weekly basis largely owing to the numerous other  
musical commitments of members. The choir  
rehearses one weekend a month in Newcastle.

The choir sings regularly in Durham Cathedral, St  
Giles Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral, and Cologne  
Cathedral as well as St George's, Windsor and  
Liverpool and Blackburn cathedrals. The Singers hope  
to perform, in time, in all twelve, beautiful  
Romanesque churches in Cologne (still five to go!)