

CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS

St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

14 December 2019, 7 pm

PROGRAMME

The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

with

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

(O my dearest darling)

Played by James Clark

4. **Adam lay ybounden**

Words: anon 15 Century

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 clerkes finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken
been,
Ne had never our lady, abeen heavene queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was
Therefore we moun singen deo gracias

5. **Jesus Christ, The Apple Tree**

Music by Elizabeth Poston (1905 – 1987)

The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green
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
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 brought
For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have brought
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 a while
I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest a while
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
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

6. **Angelus ad pastores ait**

Raphaella Aleotti (c. 1570 – c. 1646)

Sung in Latin

The angel said to the shepherds 'I bring you tidings
of great joy, for the Saviour of the world has been
born for you today.' Alleluia.

7. **There is a flower**

Words by John Audelay (15th century)

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Soprano soloist: Lindsey Nicholls

There is a flow'r sprung of a tree,
The root thereof is callèd Jesse,
A flow'r of price;
There is none such in paradise.
This flow'r is fair and fresh of hue,
It fadeth never, but ever is new;
The blessed branch this flow'r on grew
Was Mary mild that bare Jesu,
A flow'r of grace;
Against all sorrow it is solace...
....

8. **Hodie Christus natus est**

5 part, sung in Latin

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562 – 1621)

Today Christ is born: Today the Saviour appeared:
Today on Earth the Angels sing,
Archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

9. **Northumbrian pipes set**

Played by James Clark

Lochaber dance (trad. Scottish)
Gang to the ky with me (trad. Northumbrian)
Shuffle (D. O'kane)

10. **Lullay my liking**

Music by Lisa McMaster

Lullay myn liking, my deir son, my sweteing
Lullay my deir heart, myn own deir darling

I saw a fair maiden sitten and sing
She lulled a little child, a sweete lording
....

11. **O magnum mysterium**

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)

Sung in Latin

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in a manger!

O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy
to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

12. **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, 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?

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

13. **Quem vidistis pastores**

6 part, sung in Latin

Music by Richard Dering (1580 – 1630)

Whom did you see, shepherds, say, tell us: who
has appeared on earth? We saw the new-born and
choirs of angels praising the Lord, alleluia!

14. 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

15. **The Holly and the Ivy**

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 ..

16. **Away in a manger**

Normandy tune, arr. Reginald Jacques

Away in a manger no crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky look 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 Thee, Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my side 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven to live with Thee there

17. **Ding dong merrily on high**

Words: G R Woodward (1848 – 1934)

Music: 16th cent. France, 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!

....

18. **Northumbrian pipes set**

Played by James Clark

Jockey stays long at the fair (trad. Northumbrian)

19. **Go to the Child**

Words by Imtiaz Dharker

Music by Steve Locks

First performance

Rise and go on a bitter night
when hope lies frozen in the ground,
hushed and hidden out of sight,
no living thing for miles around.

Even though the tears of the earth
have turned to crystal, rise.
Take the road that leads to a birth.
An infant calls and the heart replies.

See in the eyes a blazing star,
a spark of something newly born,
feet already walking on air,
holding a lifeline in the palm....

Full poem at: <https://bbc.in/2Pnp84w>

20. **Stille Nacht**

Sung in German

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792 – 1848)

Music Franz Gruber (1787 – 1863)

arr. Heather Harrison

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.

21. **In dulci jubilo**

8 part setting by Hieronymus Praetorius (1560 – 1629)

Sung in German and Latin

In dulci jubilo [*In quiet joy*]
Now sing with hearts aglow!
Our delight and pleasure lies
in praesepio; [*in a manger*]
Like sunshine is our treasure
matris in gremio. [*in the mother's lap*]
Alpha es et O [*Thou art Alpha and Omega*]

....

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

Thank you so much for supporting this concert. All The Singers wish you a joyous Christmas and a very happy 2020.

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 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. His playing has been highly influenced by the pipers he has met 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 learned from pipe makers and is now a professional pipe maker.

THE SINGERS (singers.org.uk)

The Singers is a chamber choir of around twenty two 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.

Last year The Singers premiered Edmund Hunt's *Vita Hominum* here in St George's, and this was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 last January. The choir sings regularly in Cologne Cathedral and hopes to perform, in time, in all twelve, beautiful Romanesque churches in Cologne (still five to go!). In the past year the choir has sung for concerts and services in Durham Cathedral, St Giles Cathedral, Holy Trinity Church in Coventry and Coventry Cathedral.

Sopranos

Helen Barber, Rachel Elliot, Heather Harrison, Suzanne Longley, Lindsey Nicholls, Charlotte Treglown

Altos

Pamela Cummins, Lisa McMaster, Alison Rudd, Ann Tarn, Gabriele Wright

Tenors

Aidan Campbell, Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Philip Mountain

Basses

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

Conductor

Donald Halliday