

CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS

St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

13 December 2025, 7 pm

PROGRAMME

The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

with special guests

James Clark border pipes

Drew Cantrill-Fenwick organ

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. Gaelic Air: O' Luaidh

(O my dearest darling)
played by James Clark

4. O Radiant Dawn

Words: Antiphon for 21 December

Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959)

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun
of Justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in
darkness and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied, the people who walked in
darkness have seen the great light, upon those
who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.
Amen.

5. There is a flower

Words & music John Rutter (b. 1945)

There is a flow'r sprung of a tree, The root thereof
is called 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 bore Jesu;
A flow'r of grace; Against all sorrow it is solace.

The seed hereof was Goddes sand,
That God himself sowed with his hand,
In Nazareth that holy land,
Amidst her arbour a maiden found;
This blessed flow'r Sprang never but in Mary's
bower.

When Gabriel this maid did meet,
With 'Ave Maria' he did her greet;
Between them two this flow'r was set
And safe was kept, no man should wit,
Till on a day in Bethlem it could spread and spray.

When that fair flow'r began to spread
And his sweet blossom began to bed,
Then rich and poor of ev'ry land
Marvelled how this flow'r might spread,
Till kinges three That blessed flower came to see.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Angels there came from heaven's tower
To look upon this freshele flow'r,
How fair he was in his colour and how sweet in his
savour;
And to behold How such a flow'r might spring in
gold.

There is a flow'r sprung of a tree,
The root thereof is called Jesse,
A flow'r of price; There is none such in paradise.

6. Then shall a star from Jacob come forth

Words: Numbers 24:17 + chorale

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem, in
the land of Judea; behold, from the east to the city
of Jerusalem there came wise men and said:

Say, where is he born, the king of Judea?
For we have seen his star, and are come to adore
him.

There shall a star from Jacob come forth
and a Sceptre from Israel rise up and
dash in pieces princes and nations.
How brightly beams the morning star!

With sudden radiance from afar
With light and comfort glowing!
Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing.

7. **Instrumental set**

played by James Clark

'Jacky Lattin'

8. **The Holly and the Ivy**

Words: trad. English

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 ...

The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower ..
The holly bears a berry as red as any blood ..
The holly bears a prickles as sharp as any thorn ..
The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall ..

9. **O magnum mysterium**

Words from the Latin Breviary

Music John Trotta (b. 1978)

Sung in Latin

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger!
O blessed virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

10. Carol for All

Carol of the beasts

Latin tune: Orientis Partibus.

Words by Robert Davis (1881-1950)
on separate sheet

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

11. Carol for all

The Sans Day carol

Traditional Cornish, words on separate sheet

12. **Salvation is created**

Words: late 15th century

Music: Pavel Chesnokov (1877 - 1944)

*Salvation is created, in the midst of the earth,
O God, O our God. Alleluia. (Psalm 74)*

13. **O Nata Lux**

Words: anonymous 10th century hymn

Music: Anna Lapwood (b. 1995)

O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the
world, Mercifully deign to accept the praises and
prayers of your suppliants.

O you who once deigned to be hidden in flesh on
behalf of the lost, grant us to be made members
of your blessed body.

14. **In the bleak mid-winter**

Harold Darke (1888 - 1976)

Words: traditional

Music Harold Darke (1888 - 1976)

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk
And a manger full of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

What can I give him
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wide Man
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give him
Give my heart.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger.
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His Holy name!
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

15. **Stille nacht**

Words: J F Mohr, translated: John Freeman Young
Music: F Gruber arr. Heather Harrison
Sung in German

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
Heavenly 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 at thy birth, Lord, Jesus Lord, at thy birth

16. **O Holy Night**

Adolphe Adam, arr. John Rutter

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;

17. Carol for All

On Christmas Night

The Sussex Carol, English traditional
Words on separate sheet

END

Thank you so much for supporting this concert. All The Singers wish you a joyous Christmas and a very happy 2025.

Many thanks to Drew and James who have enriched tonight with their musical talent.

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 was born in County Durham. His playing has been highly influenced by the pipers he has met and by border pipe manuscripts from the 18th century. He is now a professional pipe maker.

DREW CANTRILL-FENWICK

Drew is one of the UK's most experienced and versatile church musicians. He is a Fellow, prize winner, and former councillor of the Royal College of Organists, tutor for the RCO Academy, and examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He is currently Director of Music here at St George's Church.

THE SINGERS (singers.org.uk)

The Singers is a chamber choir of around twenty-four mixed voices based in Newcastle. Singers come mainly from Newcastle and Northumberland but others travel considerable distances to participate. The choir rehearses on a Friday and Saturday weekend each month in Newcastle.

Many thanks to Lisa McMaster and Steve Locks for the arrangements of the communal carols.

Many thanks to The Friends of St Georges for their continuing support for this concert.

The Singers

Sopranos

Helen Barber, Fiona Constantine, Miriam Cummins, Suzanne Longley, Rachel Lyons, Lindsey Nicholls, Jane Noble, Charlotte Treglown

Altos

Addison Bartlett-Shore, Robyn Bartlett-Shore, Pamela Cummins, Ann Hill, Lisa McMaster, Alison Rudd, Alice Ward

Tenors

Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Philip Mountain

Basses

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

Conductor

Donald Halliday

Some Future Local Events

Durham Cathedral

High Mass for the Epiphany

Tuesday 6 January 2026 **5.30pm**

Service: Communion Service in G and B flat *Stanford*

Anthem: Epiphany *Judith Bingham*

Please note the earlier time this year.

Jesmond Festival 2025

Music for a Jesmond Spring

Saturday 9 May 2026 4pm

St George's Jesmond

Programme to be announced