

CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS
St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

19 December 2015, 7 pm

PROGRAMME

The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

Northumbrian Pipers *from Robson's Choice*
Our Band of Fiddlers

PART ONE

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

2. **Joseph and the Angel**

Music: Hafliði Hallgrímsson (b. 1941)

As Joseph was a-walking, he heard an angel
sing, This night shall be born our heavenly king.
He neither shall be born, in housen nor in hall,
Nor in the place of Paradise
but in an ox's stall
Noe, Noe, Noe.

... He neither shall be clothed, in purple nor in
pall, but all in fair linen, as wear babies all.

... He neither shall be rocked, in silver nor in
gold, but in a wooden cradle, that rocks on the
mould.

... He neither shall be christened in white wine
nor in red, but in the fair spring water as we
were christened.

3. **Up! Good Christen Folk, and Listen**

Melody from Piae Cantiones 1582

Words and harmonisation: G R Woodward
(1848 – 1934)

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

4. **Adam lay ybounden**

Music: Paul Hillier (b. 1949)

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 clerkës finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
Ne had never Our Lady a-been hevne queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken been.
Therefor we moun singen: Deo gratias!

5. **Northumbrian pipes from Robson's Choice**

The Pheasant's Dance (trad. arr. Barbara
Mooney), Corn Riggs (trad. arr. Myrna Luff) and
Mount your Baggage (trad. arr. Myrna Luff)

6. **Twinkle, twinkle little star**

Words: Jane Taylor (1783 – 1824)
arr. Daniel Elder (b. 1986)

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.

In the dark blue sky you keep,
Often through my curtains peep,
For you never shut your eye,
Till the sun is in the sky.

Though I know not what you are,
Twinkle, twinkle, little star

7. **Stars**

Words: Sara Teasdale (1884 – 1933)
Music: Eriks Esenwalds (b. 1977)

Alone in the night on a dark hill
With pines around me, spicy and still,
And a heaven full of stars over my head
White and topaz and misty red;

Myriads with beating hearts of fire
Oh the aeons cannot vex or tire;
The dome of heaven like a great hill,
And myriads with beating hearts of fire

Heaven full of stars.
I am honoured to be witness of so much
majesty

8. **Fiddle music**

Cradle song (J Scott Skinner, 1843 – 1927),
Hector Macdonald (Skinner), The Glendaruel
Highlanders (trad.)

9. **Remember O thou man**

Tune from Silesia, arr. Paul Hillier

Remember, O thou man, thy time is spent.
Now thou art dead and gone
And I did what I can, therefore repent.

The Angels all did sing on the shepherds' hill
Praises to our heavenly King
Peace to man living and with a right good will.

In to Bethlem now they go, the shepherds
three.
To see where it were so, whether Christ were
born or no, to set man free.

As angels once did say, so it came to pass.
They found the babe lay in a manger wrapt in
hay, so poor he was.

In Bethlem he was born for mankind sake;
For us that were forlorn, and therefore took no
scorn our flesh to take.

Give thanks to God alway, most joyfully
For this our happy day, let all men sing and say
Holy, Holy, Holy.

11. **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.

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 for you and your kin,
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year.*

O bring us some figgy pudding (x3)
and bring it right here.

REFRAIN

And we won't go until we've got some (x3)
so bring some out here.

REFRAIN

INTERVAL: 20 minutes

PART TWO

13. **Welcome, Yule!**

Music: C. Hubert Parry (1848 – 1918)

Welcome be Thou, heavenly King
Welcome, born on this morning
Welcome, for whom we shall sing
Welcome Yule!

Welcome be ye, Stephen and John,
Welcome, Innocents ev'ry one,
Welcome, Thomas, Martyr one.

Welcome be ye, good New Year,
Welcome, Twelfth-day, both in fere,
Welcome, Saints loved and dear.

Welcome be ye, Candlemas,
Welcome be ye, Queen of Bliss,
Welcome, both to more and less.

Welcome be ye that are here,
Welcome all, and make good cheer,
Welcome all, another year.
Welcome, welcome Yule!

14. **Here is the Little Door**

Words: Frances Chesterton (1869 – 1938)

Music: Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more, but enter with our
gift; Our gift of finest gold.
Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;
Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed, For each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake,
Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red,
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
Touched by such tiny hands,
And Oh such tiny feet.

15. **Rocking**

Czech, trans. Percy Dreamer (1867 – 1936)
arr. David Valentine Willcocks (1919 – 2015)

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir
We will lend a coat of fur. We will rock you
See the fur to keep you warm
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby sleep, sweetly sleep
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep We will rock you
We will serve you all we can,
Darling little man

16. **Northumbrian pipes from Robson's Choice**

Joe Hutton's March (Archie Dagg, arr. Myrna Luff) Dinnington Rant (Tom Murray, arr. Seattle, Sessoms and Robb), and Rusty Gulley (trad.)

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

17. **Balulalow**

Words: James, John and Robert Wedderburn

Music: Richard Allain (b. 1965)

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweit,
Prepare thy credil in my spreit,
And I sall rock thee in my hert
And never mair from thee depart.

But I sall praise thee evermoir
With sangis sweit unto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow,
And sing that richt Balulalow!

18. **Ding Dong Merrily on High**

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!

19. **Fiddles**

Pastorale *from* Christmas Concerto
Music: Arcangelo Corelli (1653 – 1713)

20. **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? ...

21. **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 ...

22. **In dulci jubilo**

arr. Hieronymus Praetorius (1560 – 1629)
Sung in German and Latin

In dulci jubilo now sing with happy hearts
Our heart's wonder lies *in praesepio*
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!

23. **Stille nacht**

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792 – 1848)
Music: Franz Xaver Gruber (1787 – 1863)
arr. Sarah Robinson
Sung in German
English words by John Freeman Young, 1863

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

24. 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

Venetia Bigley, Charlotte Clarke, Rachel Elliott,
Rebecca Jahn*, Suzanne Longley, Lindsey Nicholls**,
Hannah White

Altos

Rose Haslam, Ann Hill, Alison Rudd, Elena
Teichmann, Gaby Wright

Tenors

Andrew Elliott, Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Philip
Mountain, Jonathan Shaw

Basses

Chris Davies, Matthew Dunford, Tom Holden,
Richard Kerr, Steve Locks ***, Chris Tradgett, Ian
Wainwright

Conductor Donald Halliday

* solo 15, ** solo 23, *** tuned glasses technician 7

Robson's Choice

Marian Downs, Nick Leeming, Catherine Robson,
Louise Woodman

Our Band of Fiddlers

Venetia Bigley, Andrew Elliot, Chris Hunwick, Amy
Locks, Wendy Locks

Thank you so much for supporting this concert. All
The Singers wish you a joyous Christmas and a very
happy 2016.