

# CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS

St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

Saturday, 20 December 2014, 7 pm

## The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

## Armstrong Quartet

Jonathan Trevor and Paul Robert Amos, violins, Tony Webb, viola and Katie Hall, cello

## Northumbrian Pipers *from Robson's Choice*

Marian Downs, Nick Leeming, Catherine Robson, and Louise Woodman

Alison Rudd flute  
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## DEDICATION

Tonight's performance is dedicated to the memory of

**MURRAY SMAIL**  
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## SPONSORS

The Singers would like to extend grateful thanks to the following who have kindly provided sponsorship towards tonight's concert.

**Initial Security (Newcastle upon Tyne)**

**Eldon Associates (Newcastle upon Tyne)**  
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## PROGRAMME: PART ONE

### 1. INTRODUCTION & SAFETY INFORMATION

### 2. **When Christ was born of Mary free**

Words: anon. 15th century

Music: John Gardner (1917 – 2011)

When Christ was born of Mary free,  
In Bethlem in that fair city,  
Angels sung e'er with mirth and glee,  
*In excelsis gloria*

Herdmen beheld these angels bright,  
To them appeared with great light,  
And said 'God's Son is born this night'.

This king is come to save his kind,  
In the scripture as we find,  
Therefore this song have we in mind.

Thee, dear Lord, for thy great grace,  
Grant us the bliss to see thy face,  
Where we may sing to thy solace.

### 3. **Away in a manger**

Words: anon.

Music: trad. Normandy, arr. Reginald Jacques (1894 – 1969)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where  
he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in 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 until 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.

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### 4. **Christmas Concerto**

**(Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op.6, No. 8)**

Arcangelo Corelli (1653 – 1713)

Vivace  
Allegro  
Adagio  
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### 5. **Hodie Christus natus est**

Music: Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562 – 1621)

Sung in Latin

Christ is born today. Noe!  
A Saviour is come today. Alleluia!  
Today on Earth the Angels sing,  
Archangels are praising. Noe!  
Today, the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Noe!

### 6. **Lully, Lulla, thou little tiny child**

Words: The Coventry Carol (15th century)

Music: Kenneth Leighton (1929 – 1988)

Soprano solo: Lindsey Nicholls

Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do,  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we do sing  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,  
Charged he hath this day

His men of might, in his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee!  
And ever mourn and say,  
For thy parting nor say nor sing,  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

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7. **Northumbrian pipes**

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

Horo Horo (trad. Czech, arr. Neil Smith)

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8. **Omnes de Saba**

Music: Jacob Handl (1550 – 1591)  
Sung in Latin

All they from Saba shall come,  
bringing gold and frankincense:  
and praising the Lord.

9. **Lullaby**

Words: Siew-Yue Killingley (1940 – 2004)  
Music: Percy Lovell (1919 – 2004)

Sleep, my little treasure  
Sleep, and cry no more,  
The wide world knows no measure  
The wideness of my love.  
I was weak and footsore  
Cold and damp my heart;  
Now in you my darling,  
Sleeps my melted heart.

Sleep, my little precious,  
While these Kings obey  
The wild world's call to travel here,  
and their rare gifts display  
Kingly gifts and grim gifts  
Are what they have to offer;  
But sleep now, my precious,  
It's long ere you must proffer.

Suck my pure woman's treasure,  
My sweet white milk, my store;  
For you one day it will turn to gall,  
Mixed with man's bitter red gore.  
But I'll sing no more my treasure,  
Of sorrows born of his pleasure:  
For though you'll be my son no more,  
To your father, you I'll proffer.

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10. Carol for all: **The Boar's Head Carol**

15c. English traditional  
Fiddle players: Paul Robert Amos, Venetia Bigley,  
Andrew Elliott, Chris Hunwick, Jonathan Trevor,  
Lorna Wright

The boar's head in hand bear I  
Bedeck'd with bays and rosemary.  
And I pray you, my masters, be merry  
*Quod estis in convivio*

REFRAIN  
*Caput apri defero,  
Reddens laudes Domino*

The boar's head, as I understand,  
Is the bravest dish in all the land,  
When thus bedeck'd with a gay garland  
Let us *servire cantico*.

REFRAIN

Our steward hath provided this  
In honor of the King of Bliss;  
Which on this day to be served is  
*In Reginensi Atrio*.

REFRAIN

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**INTERVAL:** 20 minutes

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served at the back  
of the church by the Friends of St George's.

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**PROGRAMME: PART TWO**

11. Carol for all: **Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly**  
19c English words, 16c Welsh tune *Nos Galan*

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,

*Fa la la la la ...*

'Tis the season to be jolly,

*Fa la la la la ...*

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.

12. **O magnum mysterium**

Kjell Mørk Karlsen (b. 1947)  
Sung in Latin

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

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13. **Ave Maria – Bach/Gounod**  
Alison Rudd *flute*

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14. **Balulalow**

Words: James, John and Robert Wedderburn (16c.  
Scotland)  
Music: Louis Halsey (b. 1929)

O my deir hert, young Jesus sweit,  
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,  
And I sall rock thee in my hert  
And never mair from thee depart.

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

15. **Jesus Christ the Apple Tree**

Elizabeth Poston (1905 – 1987)

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  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought  
And pleasure dearly I have bought  
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  
Under the shadow I will be  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit does 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.

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16. **The Snowman Suite**

Howard Blake (b. 1938)

Music Box Dance  
Walking in the Air  
Dance of the Snowmen

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17. **Beata viscera**

William Byrd (1540 – 1623)  
Sung in Latin

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary,  
that bore the son of the eternal Father. Alleluia.

18. **The Lamb**

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 ...

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19. **Northumbrian pipes**

Bagpipers' Carol (trad. Italian)  
Anton's Muneira (trad. Spanish)

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

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20. **Riu, riu, chiu**

Spanish villancico attr. Mateo Flecha the elder  
(1481 – 1553)  
Sung in Spanish

Crying Ríu, ríu, chíu, the kingfisher, God, drove the  
wolf away from Our Lamb.

The raging wolf sought to bite her, but God  
Almighty defended her; He chose to make her so  
that she could not sin.

This one that is born is the Great King, Christ the  
Patriarch clothed in flesh. He redeemed us when He  
made himself small, though He was Infinite He  
would make himself finite.

I saw a thousand angels singing, making a thousand voices while flying, telling the shepherds of glory in the heavens, and peace to the world since Jesus has been born.

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21. Carol for all: **On Christmas Night**  
The Sussex Carol, English traditional

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
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 (x2)  
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 forevermore. Amen."

**END OF PROGRAMME**

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**Armstrong Quartet**

The Armstrong Quartet is a professional String Quartet based in the North-East specializing in weddings and corporate events. The quartet has an extensive repertoire covering a wide variety of musical genres. With over ten years experience the players have built a reputation as a reliable and professional ensemble. As well as playing with the quartet, its members regularly perform with local orchestras and ensembles such as Orchestra North East, New Tyneside Orchestra and Newcastle Sinfonietta.

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**Robson's Choice**

Robson's Choice was founded 14 years ago at Jane Robson's Northumbrian piping class. Since then they have gained a number of new members, including a guitarist and a fiddler, making a full group of 15 musicians. The band specialises in playing traditional music, performing everything from lyrical slow airs to foot-tapping jigs.

The group is dedicated to raising money for St Oswald's Hospice. Louise Woodman, a founder member of the group, from Stannington, said "We get together to play mainly because we enjoy making music together, but

knowing that we are raising money for such a well respected and well known cause gives us a focus and brings an extra meaning to our music."

Robson's Choice has recorded a CD *St Oswald's Chapel* to raise funds for St Oswald's. The album is available to buy at St Oswald's shops around the region and from St Oswald's online shop – and also here tonight!

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**The Singers**

**Sopranos**

Venetia Bigley, Charlotte Clarke, Rachel Elliott, Micaela Haslam, Lindsey Nicholls, Hannah White

**Altos**

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

**Tenors**

Andrew Elliott, Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay

**Basses**

Matthew Dunford, Richard Kerr, Steve Locks, Chris Tradgett

**Conductor**

Donald Halliday

Thank you all for your support of this evening's concert. Very special thanks to Rev. Nick Chamberlain, Andrea Cheek and all at St George's for their help and support, especially The Friends of St George's.

You can find out more about the work of The Singers at [singers.org.uk](http://singers.org.uk).

**A very merry Christmas to you all,  
and a joyous and peaceful 2015.**

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**Some future events**

**DURHAM CATHEDRAL**

**Tuesday 6 January 2015 Epiphany**

The Singers will be singing for the 7.30 pm Choral Eucharist.

**ST GILES CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH**

**Sunday 19 July 2015**

The Singers will be singing for the 10 am and 11.30 am services at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile. The Singers will be taking the place of The St Giles Singers who will be on an overseas tour.

**LIVERPOOL ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL**

**Sunday 6 September 2015**

The Singers sing the 10:30 am Choral Eucharist and the 3 pm Choral Evensong.

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