

## CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS

St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

17 December 2022, 7 pm

### PROGRAMME

#### The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

with special guests

Ray Tsai violin

James Clark Scottish smallpipes

### 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. **Noel: Verbum Caro factum est**

Tamsin Jones

Noel!

This night there is a child yborn  
That sprang out of Jesse's thorn  
We must sing and say therefor:  
*Verbum caro factum est.*

Jesus is the childes name  
And Mary mild is his dame.  
All sorrow is turned to game:

It fell upon the high midnight,  
The angels sang with all their might.

Now kneel we down upon our knee

And pray we to the Trinity.

Our help, our succour for to be

*Verbum caro factum est. Noel!*

#### 5. **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!

#### 6. **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 ..

#### 7. **Instrumental set**

Jock Broon's 70th

Afternoon at the green monster.

played by James Clark

#### 8. **In dulci jubilo**

German, arr. Robert Pearsall (1795 – 1856)

Sung in English and Latin

*In dulci jubilo* let us our homage shew:  
Our heart's joy reclineth *in praesepio*;  
And like a bright star shineth *matris in gremio*,  
*Alpha es et O!*

*O Jesu parvule*, my heart is sore for Thee!  
Hear me, I beseech Thee, *O puer optime*;

My praying let it reach Thee, *O princeps gloriae.*  
*Trahe me post te.*

*O patris caritas! O Nati lenitas!*  
Deeply were we stained. *per nostra crimina:*  
But Thou for us hast gained *coelorum gaudia,*  
*O that we were there!*

*Ubi sunt gaudia,* if that they be not there?  
There are Angels singing *nova cantica;*  
And there the bells are ringing *in regis curia.*  
O that we were there!

9. **Adam lay ybounden**

Nicholas O'Neill  
*First performance*

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 ladie abeen heav'ne queen  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen Deo gratias

10. **Violin solo**

Prelude from Partita in E major, BWV 1006  
for solo violin  
J S Bach  
played by Ray Tsai

11. **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.

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 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**

13. Carol for all

**Gloucestershire Wassail**

14. **Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child**

*Words: 15 Century, Pageant of the Shearmen and  
Taylors, Coventry*

*Music: Kenneth Leighton (1929 – 1988)*

Soloist: Lindsey Nicholls

Lully lulla thou little tiny child,  
By by lully lullay  
Oh sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day?

This poor youngling for whom we sing  
By by lully lullay

Herod the king, in his raging  
Charg'd he hath this day  
His men of might in his own sight  
All children young to slay

That woe is me, poor child for thee  
And ever mourn and say  
For thy parting, neither say nor sing  
By by lully lullay....

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15. **Instrumental set**

Highland laddie  
Elsie Marley  
played by James Clark

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16. **Long, long ago**

*Words by John Buxton (1912 – 1989)*  
*Music by Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)*

Long, long ago, Oh! so long ago Christ was born in Bethlehem to heal the world's woe. His mother in the stable watched him where he lay and knew for all his frailty he was the world's stay.

Long, long ago, Oh! so long ago Christ was born in Bethlehem. While he lay there sleeping in the quiet night she listened to his breathing and oh! her heart was light.

Long, long ago, Oh! so long ago Christ was born to heal the world's woe. She tended him and nursed him, giving him her breast, and knew that it was God's son in her crook'd arm at rest.

Long, long ago, Oh! so long ago Christ was born in Bethlehem to heal the world's woe. Shepherds at the sheepfolds knew him for their King; and gold and myrrh and frankincense three wise men did bring.

Long, long ago, Oh! so long ago Christ was born to heal the world's woe. For he should be the Saviour, making wars to cease, who gives joy to all men, and brings to them peace.

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17. **Violin solo**

Gigue from Partita in E major, BWV 1006  
for solo violin  
J S Bach  
played by Ray Tsai

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18. **Away in a manger**

William Kirkpatrick (1838 – 1921)  
Arr. David Willcocks

Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid 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

19. **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 ...

E'en so, here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen ...

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, you ringers ...

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20. 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 2023.

Many thanks to all at St George’s for their generous help and support, and, in particular, to the Friends of St George’s.

### **RAY TSAI**

An active violinist and pianist, Ray has been involved with music performances and teaching in the UK since 2010. Born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1992, he started to learn the piano at the age of 4 and the violin a year after. Showing his outstanding skills in playing classical music, Ray entered the musically gifted class in Taipei Municipal Dun-Hua Elementary School in Taipei when he turned 8. He then gained admission to studying at The High School of National Taiwan Normal University, where he spent 6 years receiving intensive music training as a student member in the school’s musically gifted department. There he studied the violin under Prof. Chun-Ying Lee and studied the piano under Dr. Jie-Zhen Wang.

In 2010, Ray graduated from the school and embarked on his journey to study in the UK to pursue a different path – the humanities – due to his eagerness to broaden his horizons on European history and culture. He graduated with a BA in Geography from UCL in 2015 and is currently a Geography Teacher at Haughton Academy after completing a PGCE with Durham University earlier this year. Despite teaching full-time, Ray has committed himself to music including music tuition and taking part in the music scene in North East England by being an active member of Northumbrian Strings, Gilded Thieves and Northern Camerata.

### **JAMES CLARK**

James, who makes and plays small pipes, grew up in County Durham. He started playing the pipes 9 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 by 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 learned from pipe makers and is now a professional pipe maker himself.

### **THE SINGERS ([singers.org.uk](http://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 one weekend a month in Newcastle.

In 2018 The Singers premiered Edmund Hunt’s *Vita Hominum* here in St George’s, and this was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 the following 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 in Newcastle and services in Durham Cathedral and Carlisle Cathedral.

#### **Sopranos**

Helen Barber, Suzanne Longley, Rachel Lyons, Sarah Matthews, Lindsey Nicholls, Frances Skinner, Charlotte Treglown

#### **Altos**

Pamela Cummins, Edmund Hunt, Lisa McMaster, Alison Rudd, Ann Hill, Alice Ward, Gaby Wright

#### **Tenors**

Jonny Clarkson, Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Philip Mountain

#### **Basses**

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

#### **Conductor**

Donald Halliday

### **OUR NEXT EVENT**

#### **Eucharist for the Epiphany**

Durham Cathedral, 6 January 2023, 7pm.

Malcolm *Missa ad Praesepe*; Howells *Long, long ago*