



THE HYTHE SINGERS
Christmas Concert



DECEMBER
SATURDAY | 09 | AT 7:30PM
2023

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, THORPE

WWW.THEHYTHESINGERS.COM





CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Saturday December 9th, 2023
in St Mary's Church, Thorpe

Christus Natus Est

The Hythe Singers

(Patrons – Cecilia McDowall, Richard Mothersill and Ben Spencer)

Soprano

Melanie Andriesma
Kate Brady
Ann Corfield
Joan Hellyer
Jo Ive
Mary Morris
Myra Owen
Selena Ramdeen
Rebecca Scott-Saunders
Cathy Villiers
Carolyn Walters
Suzy Wood

Alto

Eileen Bruce
Alison Hatherall
Bridín Mills
Sarah Morris
Elaine Sturman
Chris Thomas
Susi Thornton
Jenni Whiteside

Tenor

Jason Crampton
Tony Dowson
David Moncur
David Scott

Bass

Daniel Brown
Kiran Chatterjee
Nigel Kenyon
Rüdiger Schack

Organist: Simon Gregory

Musical Director: Richard Harker

COME AND SING

BACH

ST. MATTHEW PASSION

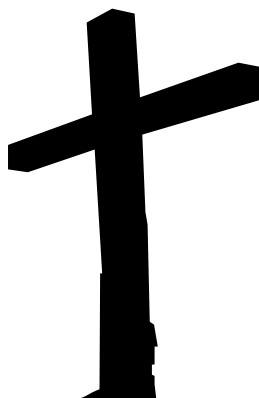
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JAN

St. Mary's Church, Thorpe. £20 (+ £5 score hire)

Come and learn to sing highlights from Bach's
St. Matthew Passion with the Hythe Singers,
and Richard Harker.

Tickets: www.thehythesingers.com



Christus Natus Est

Cecilia McDowall

Solo: Rebecca Scott-Saunders

Cecilia McDowall is one of the UK's leading composers of sacred and secular choral music and the Hythe Singers are proud to have her as one of their patrons. *Christus Natus Est* was composed in 2007 and is based on five carols - *Personent hodie*, *Entre le boeuf*, *Gaudete*, *Infant Holy*, and *Angelus ad virginem*.

Audience Carol: **Unto us is born a Son**

anon. arr. Willcocks

<p>1. (All) Unto us is born a Son, King of quires supernal: See on earth his life begun, Of lords the Lord eternal, Of lords the Lord eternal.</p> <p>2. Christ from heav'n descending low, Comes on earth a stranger Ox and ass their owner know, Be-cradled in the manger, Be-cradled in the manger.</p> <p>3. This did Herod sore affray, And grievously bewilder, So he gave the word to slay, And slew the little childer, And slew the little childer.</p>	<p>4. Of his love and mercy mild This the Christmas story; And O that Mary's gentle Child Might lead us up to glory, Might lead us up to glory.</p> <p>5. O and A, and A and O, Cum cantibus in choro, Let our merry organ go, Benedicamus Domino, Benedicamus Domino.</p>
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Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

In the Christmas motets, composed in 1952, we find Poulenc at his most relaxed as he joyfully celebrates the events of the Christmas story. The texts are those traditionally associated with the Gregorian chants set for Christmas and the Epiphany.

1.
O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepio.
Beata Virgo cujus viscera
meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

1.
O great mystery
and admirable sacrament
that animals would see the newborn Lord
lying in a manger.
Blessed Virgin, whose body
served to bear the Lord Christ.

2.
Quem vidistis pastores dicite:
annuntiate pro nobis in terris quis
apparuit. Natum vidimus,
et choros Angelorum
collaudantes Dominum.
Dicite quidnam vidistis,
et annuntiate Christi nativitatem.

3.
Videntes stellam Magi
gavisi sunt gaudio magno:
et intrantes domum
obtulerunt Domino aurum,
thus et myrrham.

4.
Hodie Christus natus est
Hodie Salvator apparuit,
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,
Laetantur archangeli,
Hodie exultant justī, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra
pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

2.
Whom did you see, shepherds,
speak, tell us: on earth, who has
appeared? The newborn child we
saw, and choirs of Angels
praising the Lord.
Tell of what you saw,
and announce Christ's nativity.

3.
Upon seeing the star, the Magi
rejoiced in great joy:
and entering the house
they offered gold,
frankincense and myrrh.

4.
Today Christ is born.
Today the Saviour appears.
Today angels sing to the earth,
Archangels rejoice.
Today the just rejoice, saying:
Gloria in the highest to God,
And on earth,
peace to people of goodwill.

Audience Carol: The first Nowell

trad. arr. Willcocks

1.
**The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

2.
**They lookèd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:
Nowell, Nowell**

3.

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:
Nowell, Nowell

4.

This star drew nigh to the north-west,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:
Nowell, Nowell

5.

Then enter'd in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon their knee;
And offer'd there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Nowell, Nowell

6.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
Nowell, Nowell

Coventry Carol

trad. arr Shaw

The *Coventry Carol* dates from the 16th century. The carol was traditionally performed in Coventry as part of a mystery play called *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*. The play depicts the Christmas story from St Matthew's Gospel: the carol itself refers to the Massacre of the Innocents, in which Herod ordered all male infants under the age of two in Bethlehem to be killed, and takes the form of a lullaby sung by mothers of the doomed children.

In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Solos: Cathy Villiers and David Moncur

This setting of Christina Rossetti's verses was made in 1909, three years after Gustav Holst's more famous version.

Jesus Christ, the apple tree

Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

Elizabeth Poston was an English composer, pianist and writer. She attended the Royal Academy of Music where both Peter Warlock and Ralph Vaughan Williams encouraged her talents. After graduating she went abroad between 1930 and 1939, where she studied architecture and collected folksongs. She returned to England at the beginning of World War II and joined the BBC, becoming Director of Music in the European Service. She composed scores for radio and television productions - over 40 for radio alone - collaborating with C.S. Lewis, Dylan Thomas, and other writers. The first known publication of the words of this carol was in London's *Spiritual Magazine* in August, 1761.

INTERVAL

Nova! Nova!

Bob Chilcott

Bob Chilcott is a British choral composer, conductor, and singer. He was a member of the King's Singers from 1985 to 1997, singing tenor. He has been a composer since 1997.

Audience Carol: See amid the winter's snow

John Goss (1800-1880) arr. Willcocks

1.
**See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below;
See the tender lamb appears,
Promis'd from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

2.
**Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn**

3.
**Say, ye holy shepherds, say
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn**

4.
**As we watch'd in dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing "Peace on earth"
Told us of the Saviour's birth.
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn**

5. (*Verse: Ladies only*)
**Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
That to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn**

6.
**Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild.
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility.
Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn**

Three Ukrainian Carols

trad. arr. Harker

1. Dobree vechir tobi (Good evening to you, dear host, rejoice!)
2. Shedreek (Carol of the bells)
3. Spee, Ĭsuse, Spee (Sleep, O Jesus, Sleep)

Workers' Carol

Paul Petrocokimo

A spotless rose

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Solo: Jason Crampton

Shepherds shake off your drowsy sleep

Simon Gregory

Sleigh Ride (Organ solo)

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) arr. Trotter

O magnum mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

Sir Christèmas

William Mathias (1934-1992)

The twelve days of Christmas

trad. arr. Rutter

Audience Carol: **O come all ye faithful** J F Wade (1711-1786) arr. Willcocks

1.
O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
2.
God of God, Light of Light
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's Womb;
Very God, begotten not created. O come ...
5.
Christ, for us sinners poor and in the manger
Fain we embrace thee with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? O come...
6.
Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest: O come...

We wish you a merry

trad. arr. Warrell



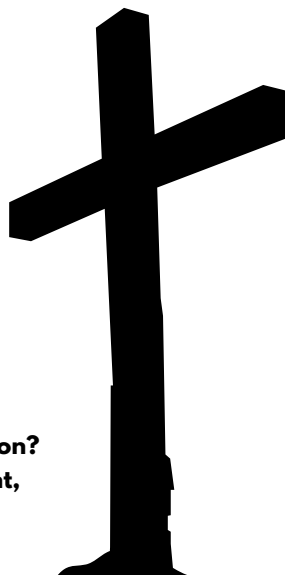
BACH

ST. MATTHEW PASSION

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MAR

Royal Holloway Chapel, Egham

Will you help us sing the St. Matthew Passion?
To sing with us, or to sponsor an instrument,
email info@thehythesingers.com



The Hythe Singers gratefully acknowledge the financial support of
the Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust



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