

Viva la Musica
Chamber Choir

Make We Joy!



*Words & Music
for Advent & Christmas
Peter Williams - Organ*

Saturday 13th December, 7.30pm
Trinity Methodist Church,
Loughborough

The first half of tonight's concert is somewhat quiet and meditative in tone, and focuses on two Advent themes. The first is that of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus, told through the parable of the ten virgins (the five wisest of whom brought enough oil to keep their lamps lit to welcome the bridegroom). Christina Rossetti bases her poem, *Advent*, on this parable, and it is also the inspiration for the text of Tallis' *Audivi Vocem de Caelo* and the hymn tune upon which Bach's Chorale Prelude for organ, *Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme*, is based.

The second Advent theme is an examination of Mary, drawing on the ancient imagery of Mary as a Rose, and ending with the most well-known of Marian texts in Biebl's popular *Ave Maria*. The introspective mood is broken with Warlock's jubilant *Benedicamus Domino*: a proclamation of Christ's birth and the wonder of the Immaculate Conception.

The second half of the concert forms a series of snapshots of the Nativity story: we hear familiar stories of the shepherds and wise men following the star (Morris' *Three Gifts the Magi Bore* and Pachelbel's Chorale Prelude, based on the hymn 'How brightly shines the morning star'), the animals in the stable and Mary singing her son to sleep. These are framed by two lively calls for celebration: Walton's setting of a 15th Century English Carol, *Make we joy now in this fest* and Mendelssohn's motet, *Frohlocket Ihr Volker Auf Erden*.

Items in **bold** are audience carols – please stand and join in!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

French, arr. Willcocks

Choir only verses 1-3

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone
Far from the face of God's dear Son.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.

3. O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

**4. O Come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.**

Reading: Advent

Christina Rossetti

Audivi Vocem de Coelo

Thomas Tallis

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Johann Sebastian Bach

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen M. Praetorius/Vulpus

I sing of a Maiden Lennox Berkeley

Reading: A Spotless Rose Catherine Winkworth

Chorale Prelude

on Es ist ein Ros entsprungen Johannes Brahms

Ave Maria Franz Biebl

Reading: Benedicamus Domino Anon.

Benedicamus Domino Peter Warlock

INTERVAL

Make we joy now in this fest William Walton

Noël bourguignon Claude-Béninge Balbastre

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The Herald Angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise.
Join the triumph of the skies.
With th' Angelic Hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the Herald Angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting lord
Late in time behold Him come,
Off-spring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate deity
Pleased as Man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His Wings.
Now He lays His Glory by,
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Rise up, shepherd, and follow

Spiritual arr. Rutter

Soloist: John Thawley

One gift the Magi bore

Sally Ann Morris

Soloist: Sue Cooke

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Johannes Pachelbel

Reading: The Oxen

Thomas Hardy

O Magnum Mysterium

Tomas Luis de Victoria

Still, still, still

German, arr. Margaret Williams

Chorale Prelude on 'Silent Night'

Samuel Barber

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.

2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the Angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels,
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Frohlocket ihr Völker auf Erden

Felix Mendelssohn

~

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Texts and translations

Audivi vocem de caelo

<i>Audivi vocem de caelo venientem:</i>	I heard a voice coming from
<i>venite omnes virgines</i>	heaven: come all wisest virgins;
<i>sapientissime;</i>	fill your vessels with oil, for the
<i>oleum recondite in vasis vestris</i>	bridegroom is coming.
<i>dum sponsus advenerit.</i>	In the middle of the night there
<i>Media nocte clamor factus est:</i>	was a cry: behold the bridegroom
<i>ecce sponsus venit.</i>	comes.

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

*Es ist ein Ros entsprungen aus
einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen, von
Jesse kam die Art
und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter, wohl zu
der halben Nacht.*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men
of old have sung.
It came, a flowerlet bright,
Amid the cold of winter, when
half spent was the night.

*Das Röslein, das ich meine, davon
Jesaia sagt,
hat uns gebracht alleine Marie,
die reine Magd.
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren wohl zu
der halben Nacht.*

The rosebud that I'm thinking of,
which Isaiah spoke of,
is Mary, the innocent,
which brought us that blossom.
Out of God's eternal counsel
She bore us a child
and remained a pure virgin.

I Sing of a Maiden

I sing of a maiden that is makëless¹: (1matchless, unmatched)
King of all kingës to her son she ches². (2chose)
He came also stillë there³ his mother was, (3where)
As dew in Aprillë that falleth on the grass.
He came also stillë to his mother's bow'r,
As dew in Aprillë that falleth on the flow'r.
He came also stillë there his mother lay
As dew in Aprillë that falleth on the spray.
Mother and maiden was never none but she:
Well may such a lady Goddës mother be.

Ave Maria

<i>Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;</i>	Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
<i>benedicta tu in mulieribus,</i>	blessed art thou among women,
<i>et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.</i>	and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
<i>Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,</i>	Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray
<i>ora pro nobis peccatoribus,</i>	for us sinners,
<i>nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.</i>	now and at the hour of our
<i>Amen.</i>	death. Amen.

Make we joy now in this fest

Make we joy now in this fest,
in quo Christus natus est. Eya! (On which Christ was born)

A Patre unigenitus, (The father's only begotten)
Is through a maiden come to us,
Sing we to her and say, 'Welcome',
Veni Redemptor gentium. (O come redeemer of the nations)

Agnoscat omne seculum, (Let the whole world acknowledge)
A bright star made three kings to come,
Him for to seek with their presents,
Verbum supernum prodiens. (The heavenly word proceeding)

O Lux, beata Trinitas, (O Light, blessed Trinity)
He lay between an ox and an ass,
Beside his mother-maiden free,
Gloria tibi, Domine. (Glory to you, O Lord)

O Magnum Mysterium

*O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum
natum
jacentem in praesepio.
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare Dominum
Jesum Christum.
Alleluia!*

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!

Still, still, still

*Still, still, still,
weil's Kindlein schlafen will!
Maria tut es niedersingen,
Ihre keusche Brust darbringen.*

Still, still, still,
The baby wants to rest.
His mother Mary softly sings,
And holds Him gently at her
breast.

*Schlaf, schlaf, schlaf
Mein liebes Kindlein schlaf!
Die Engel tun schön musizieren,
Vor dem Kindlein jubilieren.*

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
My darling Baby, sleep.
Angels make beautiful music
To celebrate the birth of the boy.

*Gross, gross, gross,
Die Lieb' ist übergross.
Gott hat den Himmelsthron
verlassen
Und muss reisen auf der Strassen.*

Joy, joy, joy,
my heart o'erflows with joy,
God leaves his throne in heav'n,
to fill our lowly streets with love.

Frohlocket ihr Völker auf Erden

*Frohlocket, ihr Völker auf Erden,
und preiset Gott!*

*Der Heiland ist erschienen, den
der Herr verheißen.*

*Er hat seine Gerechtigkeit der
Welt offenbaret.*

Halleluja!

Rejoice, ye people of the earth,
and praise God!

The redeemer is come, whom the
Lord has promised.

He has revealed his justice to the
world.

Hallelujah!

~

Viva La Musica

Soprano: Jeni Beasley, Sue Cooke, Jenny Kemp, Gail Stiven

Alto: Jo Milner, Lis Muller, Clare Ward-Campbell

Tenor: Mike Bailey, Peter Finch, Richard Thomas

Bass: Colin Butler, Martin Cooke, Kevin Norman, John Thawley

Peter Williams

Peter is an organist and piano accompanist having given many recitals both here and abroad. He began his career at St. George's Chapel, Windsor then moved to York Minster where he was assistant organist to Dr. Francis Jackson. After a long career in education his final teaching post was at Repton School where he was also Chapel Organist. He has played the organ in concerts and recitals in Britain, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Estonia and Finland and is now busy as a freelance organist and piano accompanist.