

*Viva la Musica*

Chamber Choir

*present*

**JOY TO  
THE  
WORLD**

*An evening of seasonal music*

Conductor - **Simon Lumby**

Organ played by **Peter Williams**

Sunday 11th December 2016

Programme.....£2.00





# *Viva la Musica*

is a chamber choir based in Loughborough.

It was formed in 2002 by a group of singers who enjoy singing together and welcome the challenges and experiences that being part of a small ensemble brings. It sings a wide range of music from early to modern, sacred to secular, largely in the a capella style. As well as performing locally, the choir has begun to travel further afield, with a concert weekend in Haworth in 2013, Tideswell in 2015 and Worcester in 2016.

*Viva la Musica* has been busy this year - a concert in Ashby Parva on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Choral Evensong at Derby Cathedral on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April and a weekend at Worcester Cathedral at the beginning of September. If you would like to be notified of these and other concerts, please email [info@vivalamusica.org.uk](mailto:info@vivalamusica.org.uk) to be added to our mailing list.

**soprano:**

Sue Elliot, Louise Houslip, Gail Stiven, Jeni Beasley, Sue Cooke\*, Jenny Kemp, Meg Burton

**alto:**

Clare Ward-Campbell, Eleri Bristow, Joanna Milner, Lis Muller

**tenor:**

Mike Bailey, Richard Thomas, Peter Finch, Che Gayton

**bass:**

Martin Cooke, John Thawley,\* James Ward-Campbell, Kevin Norman

*\* tonight's soloists*

If you are interested in joining *Viva*, please speak to one of the choir members, who will direct you to the Chairman.

# Programme

## Sir Christèmas - William Matthias 1934 - 1992

Nowell, nowell. Who is there that singeth so, Nowell, nowell?  
I am here, Sir Christèmas. Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas!  
Welcome to all, both more and less! Come near, come near, Nowell, nowell.  
Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring:  
A maid hath borne a child full young, which causeth you to sing:  
Nowell, nowell. Christ is now born of a pure maid; in an ox-stall he is laid,  
Wherefore sing we at abrayde: Nowell, nowell. Buvez bien, buvez bien par  
toute la compagnie. Make good cheer and be right merry,  
And sing with us now joyfully: Nowell, nowell. Nowell.



## Three Carol Anthems - 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 hold  
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.

Words by **Frances Chesterton** 1869 - 1938

**A spotless rose** is blowing, sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers  
foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit; its fairest bud unfolds to light  
amid the cold, cold winder, and in the dark midnight.

The rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said, is from its sweet root  
springing in Mary purest maid; for through our God's great love and might,  
the blessed babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.

Words Anon 16th Century

**Sing lullaby**, while snow doth gently fall, sing lullaby to Jesus  
born in an oxen stall.

Sing lullaby to Jesus Born now in Bethlehem. The naked blackthorn's growing  
to weave his diadem. Sing lullaby to Jesus while thickly snow doth fall.  
Sing lullaby to Jesus the Saviour of all. Sing lullaby.

Words by **Frederick W. Harvey** 1888 - 1957

## Audience Carol

See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on Earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn,  
hail redemption's happy dawn,  
sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits among the cherubim.

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn...*

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 blessed morn...*



## **Ave Maria** - Anton Bruckner 1824 - 1896

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Words from Saint Luke's Gospel

## **Northern Lights** - Ola Gjeilo b 1978

Thou art beautiful, O my love, sweet and comely as Jerusalem,  
terrible as an army set in array. Turn away thy eyes from me,  
for they have made me flee away.

Words from The Song of Solomon

## Two Carols - John Rutter b 1945

### Cradle Song

In Bethlehem, all in a stable lies a new-born infant mild.  
By his side a virgin mother watches o'er the holy child.  
Jesus, lying in the manger, comes to us on earth a stranger;  
lullaby, O little one sleep, angels round you watch will keep.

Saint Joseph stands beside the cradle, filled with wonder, awe and love.  
See, the infant King lies sleeping, sent by God, from heav'n above.  
Ox and ass before him kneeling, Mary's love his sorrows healing;  
lullaby, O little one sleep, angels round you watch will keep.

Hosanna in the highest heaven, peace, good will to men on earth.  
Seraphim on high in chorus, greet the saviour's joyful birth.  
Mary's voice in descant blending, joins the song unending;  
lullaby, O little one sleep, angels round you watch will keep.

Words from a traditional Flemish carol



### Jesus Child

Have you heard the story that they're telling 'bout Bethlehem,  
Have you heard the story of the Jesus child?  
How he came from heaven and was born in a manger bed?  
Mary was his virgin mother pure and mild.  
*Sing Alleluia, brothers, sing Alleluia, sisters,*  
*Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.*  
*'Glory to God' the angel hosts are singing:*  
*Listen to the story of the Jesus child.*

Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem,  
Sleeping safe at Mary's knee,  
Save my soul and bring me to paradise,  
Let me join the angels singing glory to thee.

Have you hard the story of the kings from the orient,  
Following the star that's shining over his head?  
Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense,  
Kneeling with the ox and ass before his bed?

Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus child,  
Sisters, come and welcome him, the new-born King;  
Praise the Lord who sent him down form heaven at Christmas time;  
Young and old and rich and poor, his praises sing.

Words by John Rutter

## Audience Carol

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as 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.*

They looked 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...*

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...*

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Nowell...*

Then entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Nowell...*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought. *Nowell...*



### **Hodie Christus Natus Est** - Jan Sweelink 1562 - 1621

Today Christ is born: today the Saviour appeared:  
today on Earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice:  
today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

### **O Magnum Mysterium** - Morten Lauridsen b 1943

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!

## Audience Carol

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 the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'  
Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild 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.  
Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.



## Tomorrow shall be my dancing day - John Gardiner 1917 - 2011

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance  
to see the legend of my play,  
to call my true love to my dance;

*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,  
this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
of her I took fleshly substance  
thus was I knit to man's nature  
to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh! my love...*

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was  
so very poor, this was my chance  
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass  
to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh! my love...*

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
my Father's voice heard from above,  
to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh! my love*



### **Peter Williams, organ**

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 now enjoys a busy freelance career.



Peter's association with *Viva la Musica* goes back quite a few years now and the choir is very glad to have him at the console for this evening's concert.



**Simon Lumby** was born in Birmingham in 1970 and studied organ principally with Andrew Fletcher before taking up a place on the Opera Course at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, to study with Robert Alderson.

As a singer, Simon has performed with many of the leading orchestras in this country including Handel's *Messiah* for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and Finzi's *Dies Natalis* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

As an organist, Simon has given recitals at the Cathedrals of Hereford, Coventry, and Liverpool.

Other organ concerts of note have included a recital of British organ music at the De Montfort Hall in Leicester and several *Battles of the Organs* with the flamboyant American virtuoso, the late Carlo Curley. In more recent times, Simon has been very involved with the organisation of music for some of the larger church events – such as 'Stand up for Jesus' that featured Simon playing the mighty Father Willis organ at the Royal Albert Hall. Other festivals that have seen Simon playing the organ have included York Minster, Lincoln Cathedral and Norwich Cathedral and he is currently organising festivals for the Northern Province at the Cathedrals of Wakefield and Ripon.

Simon is now more or less retired from professional music making and in June 2003 was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood of the Church of England. He is currently serving as Parish Priest at the Church of Saint Aidan in New Parks. The last 10 years have been an exciting time for Saint Aidan's and in 2009 they were celebrating their 50th birthday, the highpoint of which was the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, who officially opened six months of celebrations on 22nd March of that year.

Simon has released two solo recordings, which have both been met with popular and critical acclaim. 'Loud Organs His Glory Forttell in Deep Tone' was the first recording to be made on the new organ that was installed in Saint Aidan's, New Parks, in 2007 and features a programme of popular organ masterworks. 'A Grateful Heart' is a collection of English Song that Simon recorded with pianist Helen Davies and features works by Ivor Gurney, Michael Head and a complete recording of Vaughan Williams Songs of Travel. Both are being sold in aid of the Saint Aidan's Hall Renovation Appeal.

Simon's next releases include a recording of British organ music, including the First Organ Sonata of Basil Harwood, played on the organ at Saint Aidan's, and an album of lyrical song by composers including Haydn, Brahms, Richard Strauss and the great love of his musical life, Gabriel Fauré.

Simon has been conducting *Viva* for a little over a year and has been very excited to be with such a talented ensemble of such capable singers. He is very much looking forward to more musical adventures with *Viva* in the coming months and years.

Saturday 6th May 2017

at Fraser Noble Hall, University Road, LE5 1RA at 7.30pm

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Saturday 30th September 2017

at Trinity Methodist Church Centre, Royland Rd, Loughborough LE11 2EH  
at 7.30pm

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If you have enjoyed this evening, why not put this in your diary right now?

# LOVE *Came Down*

Sunday 10th December 2017

at Saint Aidan's Church at 7.00pm

*followed by dinner in the Church Hall*



For more details and reservation of concert tickets,  
please ring **01530 231502**  
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 wishing you  
a very merry  
**christmas**

from



*Viva la Musica*