

*Viva la Musica*  
Chamber Choir

# Hodie Christus Natus Est!

*An evening of seasonal music*



Conductor - **Simon Lumby**

*Organ played by* **Timothy Lees**

Sunday 13th December 2015 at 7.00pm

Programme.....£1.00



## *Viva la Musica*

is chamber choir based in Loughborough. It was formed in 2002 as a group of singers who enjoy singing together and welcome the challenges and experiences that being part of a small ensemble brings. They sing a wide range of music from early to modern, sacred to secular; and 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* was delighted to appoint Simon Lumby as its Music Director in August 2015. He has great plans for the choir and bookings have already been made for 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 e-mail [info@vivalamusica.org.uk](mailto:info@vivalamusica.org.uk) to be added to our mailing list.

The chamber choir is currently looking to recruit a new member into each voice part owing to existing vacancies and the need to replace two members who are, sadly, soon to leave the area. If you are interested, please speak to one of the choir members, who will direct you to the Chairman.

### *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\*.

*\* tonight's soloists*

# Programme

**Mohrentanz** (*Christmas Dance*) - Tylman Susato 1500-c1561  
*played by Timothy Lees, organ*

**The Sussex Carol** - trad arr Philip Ledger 1937 - 2012

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 so sad since our Redeemer made us glad.  
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place.  
Angels and men with joy may sing all for to see the new born King.  
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night  
Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore, Amen.

**Little Donkey** - Eric Boswell arr Andrew Fletcher b 1950

Little donkey, little donkey on a dusty road.  
Got to keep on plodding onwards with the precious load.  
Been a long time little donkey through the winter's night.  
Don't give up now little donkey Bethlehem's in sight.  
Ring out those bells tonight Bethlehem, Bethlehem.  
Follow the star tonight Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Little donkey, little donkey Journey's end is near  
There are wisemen waiting for a sign to bring them here.  
Do not falter, little donkey there's a star ahead.  
It will guide you, little donkey to a cattle shed.  
Ring out those bells tonight Bethlehem, Bethlehem.  
Follow the star tonight Bethlehem, Bethlehem.  
Little donkey carry Mary safely on her way.

**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!  
Little Lamb who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb I'll tell thee, little Lamb I'll tell thee!  
He is called by thy name, for he calls himself a Lamb:  
he is meek & he is mild, he became a little child:  
I a child & thou a lamb, we are called by his name.  
Little Lamb God bless thee. Little Lamb God bless thee.

## 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...*

## Two Chorale Preludes - Johann Sebastian Bach 1685 - 1750 *played by Timothy Lees, organ*

Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme (BWV 645)  
Schafe können sicher weiden (from BWV 208)

## Gabriel's Message - trad arr Willcocks 1919 - 2015

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favoured lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say--  
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

## **Ave Maria - Franz Biebl 1906 - 2001**

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:  
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

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.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:  
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

*Hail Mary . . .*

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.

*Hail Mary . . .*

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,  
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

## **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.

# Interval

## **Riu Riu Chiu** - traditional Spanish Carol

Riu, riu, chiu, the river bank protects it.  
God kept our lamb (Our Lady) from the wolf (the Devil)  
God kept our lamb (Our Lady) from the wolf.

The rabid wolf wanted to bite her  
But Almighty God knew how to defend her.  
He decided to make her impervious to sin.  
Even original sin this Virgin did not have. *Riu, riu, chiu...*

This One who is born is the Grand Monarch.  
The Patriarch Christ dressed in human flesh.  
He has redeemed us by making Himself small.  
Although He is infinite he made himself finite. *Riu, riu, chiu ...*

He comes to give life to those who were dead  
and to repair the fall of all.  
This Child is the light of the day  
He is the Lamb of whom St. John the Baptist spoke. *Riu, riu, chiu ...*

I saw thousands of Angels that were singing.  
Flying around, making much music.  
Telling the shepherds, glory in the Heavens  
and Peace on earth for Jesus is born. *Riu, riu, chiu ...*

Now we have what we desired.  
Let us go together to present Him gifts.  
Let each give his will to Him  
Because He became equal to us. *Riu, riu, chiu ...*

## Theme and 5 variations on 'King Jesus hath a garden'

- Flor Peeters 1903-1986

*played by Timothy Lees, organ*

### Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar - Peter Cornelius 1824 - 1874

Three Kings from Persian lands afar  
to Jordan follow the pointing star:  
and this the quest of the travellers three,  
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*How brightly shines the morning star!  
with grace and truth from heaven afar  
our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
and there in worship they bend the knee,  
as Mary's child in her lap they see;  
their royal gifts they show to the King;  
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,  
my soul with love o'erfloweth.*

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
the Kings are travelling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
offer thy heart to the infant King.

*Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,  
rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

### Coventry Carol - traditional 16th Century English Carol

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by by, lully, lulla thou little tiny child,  
by by, lully, lullay!

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day.  
This pore yongling for whom we do singe. By by, lully, lullay?

Herod, the king, in his raging, chargid he hath this day  
his men of might in his owne sight all yonge children to slay.

That wo is me, pore child, for thee, and ever morne and may  
For thy parting nether say nor singe, by by, lully, lullay.

**Fiat Lux** (Let there be light) - Théodore Dubois 1837-1924  
*played by Timothy Lees, organ*

**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*



**Timothy Lees**, organ, was born in Dudley and from an early age took an interest in playing organ and piano. He studied organ and voice at the Royal Manchester College of Music, piano privately with the Birmingham concert pianist, Lilian Niblet, as well as further organ studies in Haarlem, Holland and Salamanca, (Spain).

For many years, Timothy Lees pursued a joint career of music education and church music. In 1990 following 12 years as Director of Music at St James the Greater, Leicester and Stoneygate Preparatory School, he moved to the Middle East to take the unique role as Royal Organist to the Sultan of Oman – unusual in that a ruling Muslim monarch should have a passion for the pipe organ and classical music. During these years, he gave many short organ concerts for royal visitors, state presidents and ambassadors, and one for Nelson Mandela.



Returning to the UK in 2001, Timothy Lees resumed his teaching and choral career. Within 6 months of forming a new choir in September 2004, this young choir of 50 voices became BBC Songs of Praise Junior Choir of the Year, 2005, which culminated in a Royal Albert Hall performance with the famous Italian tenor, Andre Bocelli, recorded for TV broadcast on Christmas Day in the same year.

From 2009 - 12, he was Organist and Director of Music at St Mary's Anglican Cathedral, Port Elizabeth, South Africa - a truly memorable time. Within weeks of returning home to Leicester in 2012, he became organist at yet another St Mary's, this time much closer to home - Humberstone, Leicester!



**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 8 years have been an exciting time for Saint Aidan's as 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 Forthtell 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.

Tonight marks Simon's first appearance as Conductor of *Viva la Musica* since his appointment in August of this year. He is very excited to have inherited such a well trained and committed ensemble of singers. He is looking forward to many further musical adventures with this talented ensemble.

 wishing you  
a very merry  
**christmas**

from

*Viva La Musica*