O Holy Night

Choral Music for Christmas sung by

Viva la Musica

Chamber Choir

at

Conducted by Simon Lumby

Sunday 15th December at 7.30pm



Trinity Methodist Church Centre, Loughborough



Viva la Musica Registered Charity no. 1180705

is a chamber choir based in Loughborough.

Viva la Musica 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, together with Viva's first Music Director, David Necklen. 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 concert weekends in Haworth in 2013, Tideswell in 2015, Worcester in 2016 and Wadebridge in 2018.

During the last busy 12 months, Viva la Musica presented its 2018 Christmas concert at Saint Aidan's in Leicester and sang the Candlemas Eucharist at Lichfield Cathedral. In May the choir performed a programme of 20thC music at Trinity Methodist Church in Loughborough and, in great contrast, October's concert in Leicester featured great works from the classical era, including Mozart's Requiem.

The next year's exciting projects are all detailed at the back of this programme.

soprano: Christine Cooke, Sue Elliot, Louise Houslip, Gail Stiven Jeni Beasley, Patti Garlick, Jenny Kemp, Jeanne Simpson

alto: Eleri Bristow, Meg Burton, Clare Ward-Campbell, Joanna Milner, Lis Muller

tenor: Richard Thomas, Al Wardle, Peter Finch, Simon Nicholls

bass: Simon Collins, John Thawley, Kevin Norman, James Ward-Campbell

Viva la Musica is very grateful to Leighton Mead who is playing both the guitar and drums for us tonight. This is not his first appearance with us as he played the organ for us when we sang at Derby Cathedral in 2017.

If you would like to be notified of these and other concerts, please email **info@vivalamusica.org.uk** to be added to our mailing list.

Carols and carol singing are steeped in tradition, and a number of tonight's carols have words dating from the 15th century or earlier.

The concert opens with Wishart's Alleluya, like bells ringing out across the town. Similarly, Bennett encourages us to 'arise and wake' from our sleep.

Howells then takes us to Bethlehem, on a 'cold winter's night', the humble door opening onto a scene with Mary, the spotless rose, singing a lullaby to Jesus. The next set of carols celebrate Mary.

After Lauridsen's atmospheric O Magnum Mysterium, the focus turns to Jesus, and what his birth means for the Christian, with allusion to his death and the salvation of mankind.

The second half opens with Sweelinck's rousing

Hodie Christus Natus Est. Rathbone's The Oxen and Fisher's Silent Night
take us back to Bethlehem, whilst Rutter's Star Carol openly invites us
to go to the manger and see the babe for ourselves.

The final two carols return to the theme of the meaning of Christ's birth, the last celebratory carol being from Jesus' perspective, where he invites us to join the dance with him.

Through the music and readings this evening, we are sharing in the tradition of Christmas and sensing the anticipation of what is to come.

Programme

Alleluya, a new work is come on hand - Peter Wishart 1821 - 1924

Words Anon. 15th century

Alleluya, a new work is come on hand, through the might and grace of God's son to save the lost of every land, Alleluya. For now is free that erst was bound; we may well sing, Alleluya. Now is fulfilled the prophecy of David and of Jeremy and also of Isaiah, Alleluya. Sing we therefore both loud and high both loud and high, Alleluya. This sweeté song out of a green branch it sprung. God send us the life that lasteth long, Alleluya. Now joy and bliss be him among that thus can sing, Alleluya.

Adam lay ybounden - Boris Ord 1897 - 1961

Words Anon. 14th century

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond.
Four thousand winters 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 lady
Abeen heavené queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias, deo gracias!

Out of your sleep - Richard Rodney Bennett 1936 - 2012

Words Anon. 14th century

Out of your sleep arise and wake, for God mankind now hath ytake.

All of a maid without any make: of all women she beareth the bell.

And through a maidè fair and wise, now man is made of full great price:

Now angels knelen to man's service, and at this time all this befell.

Now man is brighter than the sun: now man in heav'n on high shall won:

Blessèd be God this game is begun and his mother the Empress of hell.

That ever was thrall now is he free: that ever was small now great is she:

Now shall God deem both thee and me unto His bliss if we do well.

Now man he may to heaven wend: now heav'n and earth to him they bend.

He that was foe now is our friend. This is no nay that I you tell.

Now blessèd Brother grant us grace, at doomès day to see thy face,

And in thy court to have a place, that we may there sing thee Nowell.

Three Carol Anthems- Herbert Howells 1892 - 1983

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 winter, 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. 14th century

Sing lullaby,

While snow doth gently fall,
Sing Iullaby To Jesus
Born in an oxen stall.
Sing Iullaby to Jesus
Born now in Bethlehem.
The naked blackthorn's growing
To weave his diadem.
Sing Iullaby to Jesus
While thickly snow doth fall.
Sing Iullaby to Jesus
The Saviour of all.
Sing Iullaby.

Words by F.W. Harvey 1888 - 1957

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 nor 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 holds 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.

There is no rose - John Joubert 1927 - 2019

Words Anon 15th Century

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia. For in this rose contained was heav'n and earth in little space: Res miranda. By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three: Pares forma. Then leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus.

A Hymn to the Virgin - Benjamin Britten 1913-1976

Words Anon

1. Of one that is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella, [Like a star of the sea]
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella: [Both mother and maiden]
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia, [so pure]
That I may come to thee.
Maria!

2. All this world was forlorn,
Eva peccatrice, [because of Eve, a sinner]
Till our Lord was y-born,
De te genetrice. [through you, his mother]
With ave it went away,
Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis; [of salvation]
The well springeth out of thee.
Virtutis. [of virtue]

3. Lady, flow'r of everything,
Rosa sine spina, [Rose without thorn]
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King,
Gratia divina: [by divine grace]
Of all thou bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa: [chosen]
Maid mild, mother
es effecta. [you are made]

Ave Regina Caelorum - David Fisher born 1952

Words Anon 12th century

Ave, Regina caelorum, Ave, Domina Angelorum: Salve, radix, salve, porta Ex qua mundo lux est orta:

Hail, O Queen of Heaven. Hail, O Lady of Angels

Hail! thou root, hail! thou gate

From whom unto the world a light has arisen:

Gaude, Virgo gloriosa, Super omnes speciosa, Vale, o valde decora, Et pro nobis Christum exora.

Rejoice, O glorious Virgin, Lovely beyond all others, Farewell, most beautiful maiden,

And pray for us to Christ.

The Sans Day Carol - arranged by John Rutter born 1945

Words Anon. 19th century Cornish Carol

- 1. Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk, And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly. Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!
- 2. Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross, And Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly. Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!
- 3. Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all, And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly. Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!
- 4. Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red,
 Then trust we our Saviour who rose from the dead,
 And Mary bore Jesus
 our Saviour for to be,
 And the first tree in the greenwood,
 it was the holly. Holly! Holly!
 And the first tree in the greenwood,
 it was the holly!

O Magnum Mysterium - Morten Lauridsen born 1943

Words responsorial chant from Matins of Christmas.

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

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that beasts should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger.
O blessed virgin, whose body was worthy to bear the Lord Christ.
Alleluia.

Jesus Christ the apple tree - Elizabeth Poston 1920 - 2010

Words from 'Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs', 1784

- 1. The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.
- 2. His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.
- 3. For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all, but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.
- 4. I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Coventry Carol - Kenneth Leighton 1929 - 1988

Words from The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 16th Century.

- 1. Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, Bye bye, lully, lullay. Thou little tiny child, Bye bye, lully, lullay.
- O sisters too, how may we do
 For to preserve this day
 This poor youngling for whom we sing,
 "Bye bye, lully, lullay"?
- 3. Herod the king, in his raging, Charg'd he hath this day His men of might in his own sight All young children to slay.
- 4. That woe is me, poor child, for thee And ever mourn and day For thy parting nor say nor sing, "Bye bye, lully, lullay."

Mary laid her child - David Fisher born 1952

Words - Norman Nicholson 1914 - 1987

Mary laid her child among the bracken fronds of night, and by the glimmer round His head, all the barn was lit. Mary held her child above the miry frozen farm and by the fire within His limbs the resting roots were warm. Mary hid her child between the hillocks of hard sand, by singing water in His veins grass sprang from the ground. Mary nursed her child beside the gardens of a grave and by the death within His bones the dead became alive.

O Holy Night - Adolphe Adam 1803 – 1856 arranged by John Rutter

Words – Cantique de Noël by Placide Cappeau 1808 - 1877

- 1. O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'Til He appeared and the Soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born, O night, O night, O night divine!
- 2. Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand; So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here come the Wise Men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend; He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger Behold your King; before Him lowly bend! Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!



3. Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord; Then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

The Interval

during which, seasonal refreshments will be available in the Hall.

Hodie Chrtistus natus est - Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck 1562 – 1621

Words - paraphrase of Luke 2:11, 13-14.

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia.

Today Christ is born:
Today the Saviour appears:
Today the angels sing on earth,
and the Archangels rejoice.
Today the just exult, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia.

Two 'Swingle Singers' carol arrangements - Jonathan Rathbone born 1957

The Oxen Words by Thomas Hardy

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock. "Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where They dwelt in their strawy pen, Nor did it occur to one of us there To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave In these years! Yet, I feel, If someone said on Christmas Eve, "Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb Our childhood used to know," I should go with him in the gloom, Hoping it might be so.

Gabriel's Message

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, Gloria.

"For known 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, 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, 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, Gloria!

Words by S. Baring-Gould

Silent Night - David Fisher born 1952

Words by Joseph Mohr

- 1. Silent night, holy night.
 All is calm, all is bright.
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
 Holy infant so tender and mild.
 Sleep in heavenly peace.
 Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. Silent night, holy night.
 Shepherds quake at the sight.
 Glories stream from heaven afar.
 Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.
 Christ the Saviour is born.
 Christ the Saviour is born.
- 3. Silent Night, Holy Night
 Holy Babe, smiles alight,
 Shines the love in thy holy face,
 With the dawn of truth and grace,
 Christ our Lord at thy birth,
 Christ our Lord at thy birth.

Star Carol - John Rutter born 1945

Words by John Rutter

- Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
 Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!
- See his star shining bright In the sky this Christmas night! Follow me joyfully; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!
- 2. Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, Bear the news with its message of good cheer: "Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us, Hurry to Bethlehem to see the son of Mary!"

See his star....

- 3. See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep. Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.
- See his star shining bright In the sky this Christmas night! Follow me joyfully; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!
- 4. Let us all pay our homage at the manger, Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night; Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star.....

Infant Holy - traditional Polish Carol arranged by David Wilcocks

English translation by Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed

- 1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
 For His bed a cattle stall;
 Oxen lowing, little knowing
 Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
 Swift are winging angels singing,
 Noels ringing, tidings bringing,
 Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
- 2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new; Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you!

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

Words – traditional English Carol

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, O my love, O 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, O my love, O 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, O my love, O 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, O my love, O my love...



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Have you thought about becoming a 'friend' of a choir?

Get priority invites and complimentary tickets to all Viva events.

Complimentary refreshments at all concerts.

Come and meet the choir over the annual choir and friends dinner.

Invitations to other special events

Help *Viva la Musica* fulfil its desire to bring wonderful choral music to an ever increasing audience.

For more information, or if you would like to join our mailing list, please contact info@vivalamusica.org.uk

Michael Overbury, organ | piano



Organist and harpsichordist Michael Overbury's early musical influences centred on Farnham and London. At his local Parish Church, St Andrew's, he was introduced as boy chorister and Assistant Organist, to the glories of the English liturgical tradition, and it was here also that his organ teacher Stephen Thomson inspired in him a love of the harpsichord. Also during these years at Farnham Grammar School, the nationally acclaimed Farnham Festivals provided opportunity for Michael to give a number of first performances on solo piano, recorded by the BBC, including works by Richard Rodney Bennett, and Leonard Bernstein. These exciting and formative experiences were complemented by Saturday mornings at Trinity College of Music, London, where he held a Junior Exhibition, being awarded a diploma in piano-playing whilst still at school.

Horizons broadened with an Organ Scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he read music and studied the organ with Gillian Weir. Harpsichord tuition continued with Kenneth Gilbert. After graduating he was successively, an assisting organ scholar at King's College, Cambridge, Assistant Organist at New College, Oxford, a deputy organist and choir master at the Cathedral and Abbey Church at St Alban's, Director of Music at Eagle House Preparatory School for Boys, and Master of the Song School at Newark, Nottinghamshire. He was for 25 years Director of Music of Nottingham Boys Choir.

After winning First Prize in the 1982 Manchester International Organ Competition, he appeared twice as soloist at the Royal Festival Hall, and in countless other cathedrals and concert venues, and has continued to play with numerous choirs and orchestras, including Sinfonia Viva (formerly the East of England Orchestra), the Wren Orchestra, the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square, the Milton Keynes Chamber orchestra, and English Sinfonia, and has featured on several recordings, including six solo discs.

Michael was for 15 years Director of Music of the Priory Church of Our Lady and St Cuthbert, Worksop, currently remains a founder member of Mvsica Donvm Dei, playing on period instruments mainly in the East Midlands, with whom he appeared on Radio Three's Eighteenth-Century season on In Tune live from Kedleston Hall. Michael is also harpsichordist for the chamber trio Continuum, with whom he has performed several times at the Handel House Museum in London. He has been accompanist to Nottingham Harmonic Society, and for many years has written reviews for the Organists' Review. He is currently accompanist to Ruddington and District Choral Society, and to Sinfonia Chorale in Nottingham. He has a number of mainly liturgical compositions published, which have been warmly received. He lives in Newark. He will have some of his recordings available for inspection and purchase.



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 semi-retired from professional music making in June 2003 and was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood of the Church of England. Since January 2003, Simon has been serving as Parish Priest at the Church of Saint Aidan in New Parks. The last 13 years have been an exciting time - a large increase in congregation numbers and many important milestones to celebrate. In 2009 they celebrated 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. 2019 saw the Diamond Jubilee with a welcome return of Rowan Williams in July as well as many other events to mark the occasion.

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 being released in July next year and an album of lyrical song by composers including Haydn, Brahms, Richard Strauss and the great love of his musical life, Gabriel Fauré. Simon also recorded a series of videos for the Eminent Organ Company - some of which are now widely available on the internet.

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



SACREDE

A Concert of a capella choral music

sung by Viva la Musica Chamber Choir Registered Charity no. 1180705

Conducted by Simon Lumby

Saturday 21st March 2020 at 7.30pm at **The Guildhall**, Leicester LE1 5FQ

Tickets £12.50 (£10.00 students)

Tickets available from www.vivalamusica.org.uk

or the Guildhall Box Office on 0116 253 2569

Programme includes works by Stanford, Debussy, Britten, Purcell, Pearsall & Whitacre

'Fairest Isle...

A Concert of music by Henry Purcell

sung by

Viva la Musica Chamber Choir

Registered Charity no. 1180705

with Musica Donum Dei Chamber Orchestra

Conducted by Simon Lumby

Saturday 16th May 2020 at 7.30pm

Loughborough Parish Church Steeple Row, Loughborough LE11 1EE

Music includes:

'Welcome to all the Pleasures' | 'My heart is inditing' The Bell Anthem | 'My beloved spake'

Tickets £15.00

(£12.50 students | under 16s free)

available from: www.vivalamusica.org.uk For more details please ring: 01530 231502