



‘For unto us a child is born...’

Music for the Festive Season
sung by

Viva la Musica

Conductor - **Simon Lumby**
Organ played by **Michael Overbury**

Sunday 9th December 2018 at 7.00pm

Saint Aidan's Church, Leicester

Programme.....£2.00



Viva la Musica

[Registered Charity no. 1180705]

is a chamber choir based in Loughborough.

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. In September this year, Viva enjoyed a most successful weekend in Cornwall.

Viva la Musica's first concert this year was in Leicester's Guildhall in March when it sang a programme of madrigals and part-songs to a large and appreciative audience. Its second concert was a sell-out Handel programme as one of three concerts in the St. Aidan's Music Festival in June. Our reviewer wrote "... an enthusiastic capacity audience was treated to the most exciting and polished performance by an amateur choir that I have heard for a while".

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.

soprano:

Louise Houslip, Sue Elliott*, Gail Stiven
Jeni Beasley, Meg Burton, Jenny Kemp*, Jeanne Simpson

alto:

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

tenor:

Richard Thomas*, Peter Finch, Simon Nicholls

bass:

Simon Collins*, John Thawley*, Kevin Norman, James Ward-Campbell*

* tonight's soloists

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The Sussex Carol

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 forever more, Amen.”

Words – traditional 17th century Irish carol

Two Carols

Jonathan Rathbone *born 1959*

The Oxen

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.

Words by Tomas Hardy 1840 - 1928

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 - Basque carol, paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924

Poem **I sing of a maiden** - Anonymous (1400)

Three Marian Carols:

Ave Maris Stella

Edvard Grieg 1843 - 1907

Hail, star of the sea, nourishing mother of God,
ever a virgin, joyous gate of heaven.
Release the chains of the guilty, bring light to the blind,
take away our wrong-doing, demand all that is good.
Display a pure life, prepare your path,
so that we may see Jesus and rejoice together always.
Let praise be to God the Father, glory to Christ the great,
to the Holy Spirit, one honour in three. Amen.

Words - liturgical hymn of unknown origin

Ave Maria

Philip Stopford born 1977

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 - Saint Luke's Gospel and the Council of Chalcedon

Hymne à la Vierge

Pierre Villette 1926 - 1998

O fairest Virgin Mary, your soul finds in the Lord perfect love;
He clothes you in dresses of grace like a bride attired with jewels.
Alleluia. I will sing thy praise,
O Lord, for thou hast looked after me,
and covered me with the veil of innocence.

You are born before the hills, O wisdom of the Lord,
The Gate of Redemption, your heart walks in your steps
and your heart to the counsels of your voice. Alleluia.
Alleluia. I will sing thy praise, O Lord, for thou hast made me, before dawn,
For thou made me precede the gushing forth of springs.

Before the stars, mother of the Creator,
In the highest Heaven;
When God was setting the limits of the world
you shared his love as you laboured with him.
Alleluia. O fairest Virgin Mary.

Words - Roland Bouhéret 1930 - 1995

Poem

The First Mercy - Bruce Blunt 1899-1957

The Nativity Carol

John Rutter *born 1945*

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago.
Born 'neath light of star, he who loved us so.
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby.
Over her son so dear, angel hosts fill the sky.
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills.
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow.
Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.
Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.

Words - John Rutter

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, and he is mild,
He became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name,
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Words - William Blake 1757 - 1827

A babe is born

William Matthias 1934 - 1992

A Babe is born all of a may
To bring salvation unto us
To Him we sing both night and day
Veni Creator Spiritus.

At Bethlehem that blessed place,
The child of bliss now born he was;
Him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas

There came three kings out of the East,
To worship the King that is so free,
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortus cardine.

The angels came down with one cry,
A fair song that night sung they
In worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine

A Babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us,
To Him we sing both night and day.
Veni Creator Spiritus,
O lux beata Trinitas,
A solis ortus cardine,
Gloria tibi Domine,
Noel!

Poem

from The Virgin Mary to the Child Jesus - Elizabeth Barrett Browning
1806–1861

Rocking

David Willcocks 1919 - 2015

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling little man.

Words - traditional Czech Carol

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.

Words - Peter Cornelius and H. Morgenstern translated by Philipp Nicolai

Poem Candlelight Carol - Mary Chapin Carpenter born 1958

Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum
From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
Whereof I now will say and sing:
I softly sing: *Gloria in excelsis*
I can sing: *Laudet Dominum*

To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen mother mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all your earth.
And I can sing: *Laudet Dominum*

'Tis Christ our God who far on high
Hath heard your sad and bitter cry;
Himself will your Salvation be,
Himself from sin will make you free.
And I shall sing: *Laudet Dominum*

Sing *Gloria in excelsis*
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all your earth.

So I shall sing: *Gloria in excelsis*
From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Sing *Gloria in excelsis*
Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
Whereof I now will say and sing:
Sing *Gloria in excelsis*

Words by Martin Luther 1483-1546

English translation by Catherine Winkworth 1827-1878



The composer writes:

"The words of this carol anthem, receiving its world première performance this evening in the mixed voice version, are taken from the first three verses of Martin Luther's fifteen-stanza "Vom Himmel hoch", a hymn text of 1534 relating to the Nativity of Jesus. They were translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in 1855 and they are integrated with a verse from Psalm 150:6 - "Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum" [Let all that hath breath praise the Lord]] and another Latin phrase "Gloria in excelsis" [Glory in the highest]. The first three verses feature the melody in the sopranos and altos in the first verse and the tenors and basses in the second before they come together in the third. There is a brief respite for the choir in hushed utterances before a joyful section in which the Latin words and phrases from the poem are intermingled accompanied by a spirited organ part".

Viva la Musica is looking for friends!

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

Get priority invites and complimentary
tickets to all Viva events.

Complimentary refreshments at all concerts.

Come and meet the choir over the annual
Repertoire Day 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

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 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, 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 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 five 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 recently appeared on Radio Three's Eighteenth-Century season on **In Tune** live from Kedleston Hall as well as a concert of Handel's Music for a Royal Occasion with *Viva la Musica* in June of this year.

Michael is also harpsichordist for the chamber trio Continuum, with whom he has performed twice 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 and he has mainly liturgical compositions published.





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 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 three 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.

Forthcoming *Viva* Events

Solemn Eucharist at Lichfield

The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD

sung by

Viva la Musica

Saturday 2nd February at 5.30pm

Music includes

Four Part Mass - **William Byrd**

When to the Temple Mary went - **Johannes Eccard**

Nunc Dimittis - **Orlando Gibbons**

Entry to this is free as it marks the daily worship of the Cathedral - however retiring collections are encouraged and welcomed.

‘Rejoice in the Lamb’

Masterworks of the 20th Century British Choral Tradition

sung by

Viva la Musica

on Saturday 11th May at 7.30pm

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

Music includes

Take him earth for cherishing - **Herbert Howells**

Five Mystical Songs - **Ralph Vaughan Williams**

‘Rejoice in the Lamb’ & ‘Hymn to Saint Cecilia’ - **Benjamin Britten**

Tickets - £10

Available in advance from www.vivalamusica.org.uk



Mozart Requiem

and other choral favourites from the Classical Era

Saturday 5th October 2019 at 7.30pm

at Stoneygate Baptist Church,
315, London Road, Leicester, LE2 3ND.

Music also includes:

Insanae et vanae curae - **Haydn**
Te Deum in C - **Haydn**
Quia quem meruisti portare - **Mozart**

sung by

Viva la Musica

featuring

Nicky Bouckley - soprano
Catherine Griffiths - alto
Robin Morton - tenor
Andrew Randall - baritone

Michael Overbury - piano and organ
Philip Robinson - piano

Conducted by **Simon Lumby**

Tickets - £12.50 (£10 concessions)

Available in advance from www.vivalamusica.org.uk



**Saturday
11th May 2019
at 7.30pm**

Viva la Musica

Chamber Choir



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

‘Rejoice in the Lamb’ **A Concert of 20th Century British Choral Music**

including

Five Mystical Songs - **Ralph Vaughan Williams**
Take him earth for cherishing - **Herbert Howells**
Hymn to Saint Cecilia - **Benjamin Britten**
Rejoice in the Lamb - **Benjamin Britten**

sung by

Viva la Musica

Chamber Choir

with **Michael Overbury**, organ

Conducted by **Simon Lumby**

Tickets - £10 (£8 student, under 16s free)

available in advance from **www.vivalamusica.org.uk**

A detailed oil painting of a young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, showing his face and upper torso. He has light brown hair, blue eyes, and a slight smile. He is wearing a red jacket with gold embroidery. The background of the painting is dark and textured.

Mozart Requiem

and other choral masterworks from
the Classical era

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Conductor - Simon Lumby

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at 7.30pm

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with

Nicky Bouckley, soprano

Catherine Griffiths, alto

Robin Morton, tenor

Andrew Randall, baritone

Michael Overbury, piano & organ

Philip Robinson, piano

Tickets - £12.50

(£10 concessions, under 16s free)

Available on the door or in advance
from **www.vivalamusica.org.uk**

please ring **01530 231502** for further details