

saintceciliasingers
gloucester

conductor: Jonathan Hope
organ: James Mitchell

Merry & Bright

Christmas with the Saint Cecilia
Singers in Gloucester Cathedral

Saturday 17 December 7pm

www.saintceciliasingers.org



Programme

arranged Charles Wood	Ding dong! merrily on high
Audience carol	O come, all ye faithful
arranged Stephen Cleobury	Joys seven
Benjamin Britten	A Hymn to the Virgin
Audience carol	God rest you merry, gentlemen
John Tavener	The Lamb
Charles Wood	O Thou the Central Orb
arranged Roy Massey	Long the night
Lennox Berkeley	I sing of a maiden
Audience carol	Joy to the world
Peter Cornelius	The Kings
Bob Chilcott	The Shepherd's Carol
arranged Philip Ledger	Sussex Carol
Charlotte Baskerville	Coventry Carol
arranged James Mitchell	Organ Solo – Lux Aurumque
Charles Wood	Hail, gladdening light
Morten Lauridsen	O magnum mysterium
Audience carol	Hark! the herald angels sing

Image source; Liber Usualis Solesmes

Resp.
3.

O magnum * mysté- ri- um, et admi-
rá- bi- le sa- cra- mén- tum, ut a- nimá- li- a
vi- dé- rent Dó- minum na- tum, ja- céntem in

The image shows three staves of musical notation in square neumes on a four-line red staff. The first staff begins with a large 'O' and the text 'magnum * mysté- ri- um, et admi-'. The second staff continues with 'rá- bi- le sa- cra- mén- tum, ut a- nimá- li- a'. The third staff continues with 'vi- dé- rent Dó- minum na- tum, ja- céntem in'. The notation includes various note values, rests, and bar lines.

Please ensure that all mobile phones, pagers, watch alarms etc. are switched off.

Texts and translations

Ding dong! merrily on high

arranged Charles Wood (1866 – 1926) text G R Woodward

Ding dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers:
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

Audience Carol – O come, all ye faithful arranged David Willcocks

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, in the highest:
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Descant by David Hill

Joys seven

arranged Stephen Cleobury (1948 – 2019) text anonymous

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one;
To see the blessed Jesus Christ when he was first her son:
When he was first her son, good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go:
to make the lame to go, good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see;
To make the blind to see, good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to read the bible o'er;
To read the bible o'er, good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive;
To bring the dead alive, good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, upon the crucifix;
Upon the crucifix, good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of sev'n;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of heav'n;
To wear the crown of heav'n, good man, and blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

A Hymn to the Virgin

Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976) text anonymous circa 1300

Of one that is so fair and bright

velut maris stella,

Brighter than the day is light,

parens et puella.

I cry to thee, thou see to me,

Lady, pray thy Son for me,

Tam pia,

That I may come to thee,

Maria!

like a star of the sea

mother and maiden

thou holy one

Mary

All this world was forlorn

Eva peccatrice,

Till our Lord was y-born

De te genetrice

With ave it went away

Darkest night, and comes the day

Salutis;

The well springeth out of thee,

Virtutis.

through Eve the sinner

of thee the mother

of salvation

of virtue

Lady, flow'r of ev'rything,

Rosa sine spina,

Thou bare Jesu, heaven's King,

Gratia divina;

Of all thou bear'st the prize,

Lady, queen of paradise

Electa

Maid mild, mother

es effecta

rose without a thorn

by divine grace

chosen one

thou art proved

Audience Carol – God rest you merry, gentlemen arranged David Hill

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,

For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day,

To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,

And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,

How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway this blessed babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy

But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy

The Lamb

John Tavener (1944 – 2013) text William Blake

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!

O Thou the Central Orb

Charles Wood (1866 – 1926) text H R Bramley

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light of this our wintry world,
Thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne,
Set in the height of God's ordaining counsel,
as thy sight gives measur'd grace to each, thy power to prove.
Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee,
Transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within.

Long the night

arranged Roy Massey text Alick Rowe

Long the night but kind the dawn in Bethlehem when her son was born.
She touched his side and stroked his head as she gently laid him to bed.
She held his hands, she kissed his feet, she sang to see a sight so sweet.
In excelsis gloria

In the hills the iron lay that men would beat into nails one day,
where the thorn tree roots go down that men would twist to a crown.
In the wood where an axe would ring to cut a cross that would bear a king,
Mary's voice rose from afar.
In excelsis gloria

I sing of a maiden

Lennox Berkeley (1903 – 1989) text anonymous 1400

I sing of a maiden That is makèless [*matchless*]:
King of all kinges To her son she ches [*chose*].

He came all so stillè There his mother was,
As dew in April That falleth on the grass.

He came all so stillè To his mother's bower,
As dew in April That falleth on the flower.

He came all so stillè There his mother lay,
As dew in April That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady Godes mother be.

Audience Carol – Joy to the world arranged John Rutter

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

The Kings

Peter Cornelius (1824 – 1874) chorale melody Philipp Nicolai

Solo

Three kings had journeyed from lands afar,
To Jordan led by a guiding star,
In David's city they ask men to tell
Where the newborn King whom they seek doth dwell.
Fine gold and myrrh and incense they bring,
An off'ring to the promised newborn King.

The guiding star shining on before,
The kings then led to the lowly door,
They see the Child in a manger bare,
And fall before him in worship there.
Fine gold and myrrh and incense they bring,
An off'ring to the promised newborn King.

And still the star, shining bright and clear
To those who seek it doth yet appear;
The star of mercy in peace will bring
The pilgrim who seeketh the heav'nly King;
And failing incense, myrrh and gold,
Bring thou thy heart to the Saviour's fold,
Give Him thy heart!

The Shepherd's Carol

Bob Chilcott text Clive Sansom

We stood on the hills, Lady, our day's work done,
Watching the frosted meadows that winter had won.

The evening was calm, Lady, the air so still,
Silence more lovely than music folded the hill.

There was a star, Lady, shone in the night,
Larger than Venus it was and bright.

Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then
Telling of God being born in the world of men.

And so we have come, Lady, our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves we give to your son.

Chorale

How brightly shines the morning star

With mercy, beaming from afar;
The host of heav'n rejoices:

O Righteous Branch,
O Jesse's Rod!
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!

We, too, will lift our voices:

Jesus,
Jesus!
Holy, holy,
Yet most lowly,
Draw thou near us;
Great Emmanuel,
Come and hear us!

Sussex Carol

arranged Philip Ledger (1937 – 2012) text 17th century

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 newborn 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'.

Coventry Carol

Charlotte Baskerville text anonymous 16th century **World Premiere**

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, Bye bye, lully, lulley.
O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we do sing, "Bye bye, lully, lulley"?
Herod the king, in his raging charged he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight all young children to slay.
That woe is me, poor child for thee, and ever mourn and may.
For thy parting neither say nor sing, "Bye bye, lully, lulley".

Organ solo – Lux Aurumque

arranged for organ by James Mitchell

James plays his own arrangement of Eric Whitacre's choral work, which Whitacre himself arranged for wind ensemble.

Light, warm and heavy as pure gold and angels sing softly to the newborn babe

Hail, gladdening light

Charles Wood (1866 – 1926) text from the Greek by John Keble

Hail, gladdening light, of His pure glory poured,
Who is th'immortal Father, Heavenly, Blest,
Holiest of Holies Jesu Christ, our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine,
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Divine.

Worthiest art Thou, at all times to be sung
With undefiled, undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, Giver of life alone;
Therefore in all the world Thy glories Lord, they own.

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen text Christmas Matins responsory

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
iacentem in praeseptio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia!

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
lying in their manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Audience carol – Hark! the herald angels sing arranged David Hill

**Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn 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 host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.**

**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;
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give those second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.**

Artistic Director - Jonathan Hope



As a popular and talented organist, Jonathan performs throughout the UK, as well as France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, the USA and Australia. You may have attended some of his improvisations to silent movies, which have recently included Lon Chaney's *The Phantom of the Opera* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2016 Three Choirs Festival), Harold Lloyd's *Safety Last* and Cecil B. DeMille's *The King of Kings*. He is also a gifted arranger for both choir and organ. Organ arrangements include Brahms' overtures and Elgar's *In the South* and the choir loved performing his arrangements of WWI songs in our celebration of the armistice concert 'All Clear!' In 2015 he released *Gloucester Experience* (Willowhayne Records),

featuring works by Elgar, John Hosking, John Sanders and Reubke. In 2016 he released a DVD, *The Grand Organ of Gloucester Cathedral*, with Priory Records, which featured his transcription of Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Both are available in the cathedral shop. In 2019, he released *Redcliffe Experience* (Willowhayne Records) on the organ of St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. Through his work in the Three Choirs Festival, he has played with the Philharmonia Orchestra and worked with guest conductors Simon Halsey, Martyn Brabbins, Sir Andrew Davis and Edward Gardner. He frequently plays with the BBC National Chorus and Orchestra of Wales, and often broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and 4.

James Mitchell

James Mitchell is Sub-Organist at Gloucester Cathedral, where he accompanies several services each week, and is accompanist to the Cathedral Youth and Junior Choirs. James is also Director of the Cathedral Middle Choir. Hailing from Crediton in Devon, he has just completed an MPhil in Musicology at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, having graduated with a Double First from Girton College, Cambridge. As organ scholar at Girton, he accompanied the choir on tours to Israel, Singapore and Italy alongside various UK cathedrals, as well as for two CD recordings and broadcasts on BBC Radio 4 and Cam FM. He has previously held organ scholarships at Ely and Manchester cathedrals.

Saint Cecilia Singers

We are a friendly group of around 25 accomplished amateur and semi-professional singers who love to sing challenging repertoire to a high standard.

We are the chamber choir of Gloucester Cathedral, having been founded in 1949 by Donald Hunt, the Assistant Organist. For most of our 70 year history, our choir has been conducted by the Assistant Director of Music of Gloucester Cathedral, currently Jonathan Hope. We have the privilege of performing at least twice a year in Gloucester Cathedral. Our Christmas concert is for many people the start of their Christmas celebrations. We also sing Evensong in the Cathedral at least once a year, often followed by a free concert.

Singers

Sopranos: Charlotte Baskerville, Heather Dehnel-Wild, Hilary Evans, Kathryn Jeffree, Katherine Lawson, Bairbre Lloyd, Natasha Mulley, Naomi Nettleton, Hayley Oliver

Altos: Sian Brown, Debbie Day, Tim Ingold, Catherine Lewen, Sarah McKee, Vicki Ponsford

Tenors: Mags Adamson, Seth Aycock, Michael Garland, Martin Graham, Iain Rhodes

Basses: Bill Armiger, Chris Reed, Martin Riley, Elvin Young

Future Dates 2023:

Timeless Refections: 18th March Gloucester Cathedral

At last, we can perform the world premiere of Requiem Canticles, specially commissioned from composer Neil Cox for our 70th anniversary season in 2020 but postponed due to the lockdown. Tickets on sale in the new year.

Elgar Festival: 1st June Worcester

We will be joining with the Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir and the English Symphony Orchestra to perform Ian Venables Requiem.

Three Choirs Festival: July

Many of the Singers make up the Gloucester contingent of the Festival Chorus but look out for the programme announcement in March. There might just be an additional treat for our fans...

Find out more at www.saintceciliasingers.org,
follow us on Facebook or find us on Twitter (@SCSGlos)

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