

CHRISTMAS with THE SINGERS
St George's, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne

21 December 2013, 7.30 pm

The Singers

conductor Donald Halliday

Emily Hoile, harp

Donald Robinson, cello

Catherine Robson, Kathy Palmer, Nick Leeming, Louise

Woodman, Northumbrian Pipers *from*

Robson's Choice

Venetia Bigley, Lorna Wright, violins

PART ONE

1. INTRODUCTION & SAFETY INFORMATION

2. **A Ceremony of Carols**

Music: Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

1. Procession
2. Wolcum Yole!
3. There is no Rose
4. That yonge child
5. Balulalow
6. As dew in Aprille
7. This little Babe
8. Interlude
9. In Freezing Winter Night
10. Deo Gracias
11. Recession

3. **Up! Good Christen Folk, and Listen**

Melody from Piae Cantiones, 1582

Words and setting: G R Woodward (1848 – 1934)

Up! good Christen folk, and listen how the merry
church bells ring,
And from steeple bid good people
Come adore the new-born King...

4. **December Rose**

Words: Siew-Yue Killingley (1940 – 2004)

Music: Percy Lovell (1919 – 2004)

December rose without the thorns of summer,
Coming so quietly late in the year,
Surviving wintry gales, saved from blight and
frostbite,
Coming so silently to blossom here.

Mysterious rose, brighter than summer colour,
Coming, like God's own child, late in the year,

Restoring light to us, shining in the darkness,
Coming, like God's own child, to sojourn here.

5. **Cello – Suite No. 1: Prelude**

J S Bach (1685 – 1750)

6. **Quem pastores**

traditional, 14 century, harm. Michael Praetorius
(1571 – 1621)

Sung in Latin

Praised by the shepherds, whom the angels told to
lay aside their fears, He has been born the King of
Glory....

7. **Lully, Lulla, Lullay**

Words: The Coventry Carol (16th century)

Music: Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

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 do sing
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

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 morn and day,
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

8. **The Holly and the Ivy**

Music arr. H. Walford Davies (1869 – 1941)

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown:
O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir...

9. **Harp Concerto (Op. 4 No. 6 HWV 294)**

First movement

Handel (1685 – 1759)

10. **Little Baby born at Dark Midnight (Christopher's Carol)**
Appalachian tune, words and arrangement by John Bertalot (b. 1931)

Little baby born at dark midnight,
Came from God that we may walk in light
Now a star is in the heav'n and Christ on earth,
Christ over us all doth shine. Alleluia.

Loving Father standing there so tall,
Blessed mother and the babe so small,
He was made a man that I God's child might be,
Christ overwhelms my heart with love. Alleluia.

Simple shepherds leave their flocks of sheep,
For a baby who is fast asleep,
Jesus Christ became the Lamb of God for me,
And leads me in the pastures green. Alleluia.

Mighty Monarchs offer gifts so rare
To a baby in a stable bare,
Jesus Christ became the King of Kings for me,
Christ over all the world doth reign. Alleluia.

In manger made of wood he lies,
On a cross all made of wood he dies,
For the carpenter will rise and set me free,
Christ overcame the grave for me. Alleluia.

11. **El Noi de la Mare**
traditional Catalan carol
Sung in Catalan

What shall we give to the Son of the Virgin?
What can we give that the Babe will enjoy?
First, we shall give Him a tray full of raisins,
Then we shall offer sweet figs to the Boy ...

12. Carol for All: **We wish you a Merry Christmas**
West Country traditional

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

REFRAIN:
Good tidings we bring for you and your kin,
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

O bring us some figgy pudding (x3)
and bring it right here.
Good tidings we bring for you and your kin

And we won't go until we've got some (x3)
so bring some out here.
Good tidings we bring for you and your kin

INTERVAL: 20 minutes
Mulled wine and mince pies are being served in the Church Hall by the Friends of St George's.

PART TWO

13. **Bogoroditze Devo**
Rachmaninov (1873 – 1943)
Sung in Church Slavonic

Virgin mother of God, hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
For thou hast brought forth the Saviour who redeemed our souls.

14. Northumbrian pipes
Elsie's Waltz (Archie Dagg) &
Jane Robson's Hornpipe (Alastair McCrae)
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15. **Sing lullaby**
Poem: F W Harvey (1888 – 1957)
Music: Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)

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.

Sing lullaby to Jesus, while thickly snow doth fall,
sing lullaby to Jesus, the saviour of all.

16. **Cello – The Birds**
Catalonian melody arranged for solo cello by Sally Beamish (b. 1956)

Pau Casals (1876 – 1973), speaking in his native Catalan, said at the United Nations on being awarded the UN Peace Medal on 24 October 1971 at the age of 95:

I have not played the cello in public for many years, but I feel that the time has come to play again. I am going to play a melody from Catalan folklore: El cant dels ocells – The Song of the Birds. Birds sing

when they are in the sky, they sing: "Peace, Peace, Peace", and it is a melody that Bach, Beethoven and all the greats would have admired and loved. What is more, it is born in the soul of my people, Catalonia.

17. **Reading:** The Reverend Dr Nicholas Chamberlain

18. **Serenity (O magnum mysterium)**

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)
Sung in Latin

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!

19. **Harp –Variations Pastorales sur un Vieux Noël**

Marcel Samuel-Rousseau (1882 – 1955)

20. **Ding Dong Merrily on High**

arr. Malcolm Williamson (1931 – 2003)

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! ...

21. **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 ...

22. **Riu, riu, chiu**

Spanish villancico attr. Mateo Flecha the elder
(1481 – 1553)
Sung in Spanish

Crying Ríu, ríu, chíu, the kingfisher, God, drove the
wolf away from Our Lamb.

The raging wolf sought to bite her, but God
Almighty defended her; He chose to make her so
that she could not sin.

This one that is born is the Great King, Christ the
Patriarch clothed in flesh. He redeemed us when He
made himself small, though He was Infinite He
would make himself finite.

I saw a thousand angels singing, making a thousand
voices while flying, telling the shepherds of glory in
the heavens, and peace to the world since Jesus has
been born.

23. Northumbrian pipes

St Oswald's Chapel

24. **Myn Lyking**

Music: R R Terry (1865 – 1938)

I saw a fair mayden sytten and sing
She lulled a little childe, a sweete Lording.
Lullay mye lyking, my dere sonne, my sweeting.
Lully my dere herte, myn own dere derling...

There was mickle melody at that chylde's birth
All that were in heav'nly bliss, they made mickle
myrth...

25. **Bogoroditze Devo**

Music: Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Words: as for Rachmaninov above

26. Carol for All: **On Christmas Night**

The Sussex Carol, English traditional

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring.
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 sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad (x2)
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.

All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night (x2)
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen."

END

Emily Hoile

A harpist with 'breathtaking skills' (BBC Radio 2), Emily Hoile, a native of the North East, is currently studying at The Juilliard School, New York, with principal harpist of the New York Philharmonic, Nancy Allen. Previously she studied at St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh with Catriona McKay and Helen MacLeod.

Recently, Emily was the 2nd prize winner at the Cité des Arts International Harp Competition, Paris, as well as being the Young Artist in Residence at the Lammermuir Festival 2011. Other festival appearances include the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International Harp Festival, Juilliard 'Focus' Festival, Carnegie Hall's 'JapanNYC', and she was selected to represent Britain to perform in the Tenth World Harp Congress in Amsterdam. She has won numerous awards, including the Edinburgh Competition Festival's Concerto Competition, Traves Trophy for her Half Hour Recital, as well as St Mary's Music School's Directors' Recital Prize and Mozart Concerto Competition.

Emily has performed with many ensembles including the Juilliard Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain with whom she was principal harp, and the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Highlights include performing in Carnegie Hall, New York, conducted by John Adams, as well as performing in the Royal Festival Hall, London, in their production of Bernstein's Mass with Marin Alsop. As a passionate performer of new music, Emily has played with both of Juilliard's contemporary music groups, the New Juilliard Ensemble and AXIOM with whom she toured to Finland in August 2013.

Donald Robinson

Donald Robinson was born in Glasgow in 1996 and started playing the cello and piano at the age of nine. In 2009 he gained a place at the Music School of Douglas Academy where he studied cello with Rudi de Groote.

In 2012 Donald won all the major string/cello prizes at the Glasgow Music Festival and received the Ailie Cullen Memorial Prize for the most outstanding performance of the Festival. He is a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland.

In July this year he made his concerto debut with NYOS Juniors at Perth Concert Hall with a performance of the Saint Saens Cello Concerto Number 1 in A minor. He has attended master classes at the Kronberg Academy and courses with cellists Alexander Baillie and Karine Georgian.

Donald has a keen interest in composition and has written the story and music for a short ballet, The Nightingale That Never Sang. Donald currently studies with Professor Alexander Baillie at the Hochschule für Kunst, Bremen.

Robson's Choice

Robson's Choice was founded 13 years ago at Jane Robson's Northumbrian piping class. Since then they have gained a number of new members, including a guitarist and a fiddler, making a full group of 15 musicians. The band specialises in playing traditional music, performing everything from lyrical slow airs to foot-tapping jigs.

The group is dedicated to raising money for St Oswald's Hospice. Louise Woodman, a founder member of the group, from Stannington, said "We get together to play mainly because we enjoy making music together, but knowing that we are raising money for such a well respected and well known cause gives us a focus and brings an extra meaning to our music."

Robson's Choice has recorded a CD *St Oswald's Chapel* to raise funds for St Oswald's. The album is available to buy at St Oswald's shops around the region and from St Oswald's online shop – and also here tonight!

The Singers

Sopranos

Venetia Bigley, Charlotte Clarke, Rachel Elliott, Suzanne Longley, Lindsey Nicholls, Hannah White

Altos

Rose Haslam, Ann Hill, Alison Rudd, Laura Tindall, Gaby Wright, Lorna Wright

Tenors

Andrew Elliott, Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Nick Warner

Basses

Matthew Dunford, Richard Kerr, Steve Locks, Chris Tradgett, Ian Wainwright

Conductor

Donald Halliday

Thank you all for your support of this evening's concert. Very special thanks to Rev. Nick Chamberlain, Andrea Cheek and all at St George's for their help and support, especially The Friends of St George's. You can find out more about the work of The Singers at singers.org.uk.

A very merry Christmas to you all, and a joyous and peaceful 2014.