The Winkleigh Singers

Honorary Patron Sir Richard Stilgoe

THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Benjamin Britten

15th December 2012 at Winkleigh
4th January 2013 at West Buckland
5th January 2013 at Bideford

Harp – Emma Spandrzyk (Winkleigh)

Organ – Andrew Downton (Winkleigh)

Organ and Keyboard – Tom Bayliss (West Buckland and Bideford)

Musical Director – Roland Smith

PROGRAMME

Joy to the world *	Holford (after Handel?) arr. William Llewelyn
Torches	John Joubert
Silent Night *	Gruber, arr. Bayliss
O little one sweet	Old German tune harm. J S Bach
Sussex Carol *	English trad., arr. David Willcocks
A Ceremony of Carols Op 28	Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) arr. Julius Harrison

Soloists: Cecily Blyther, Doreen James

Procession – Wolcum Yole! – There is no Rose – That yongë child – Balulalow – As dew in Aprille – This little Babe – Interlude – In Freezing Winter Night – Spring Carol – Deo Gracias – Recession

INTERVAL

Once in Royal David's City *	H J Gauntlett arr. Mann / David Willcocks
A Maiden Mild	Derek Healey – *First European Performance*
It came upon a midnight clear *	English trad. arr. Arthur Sullivan, descant by Brian Wilmott
The Shepherds' Cradle Song	Leuner arr. Macpherson
While shepherds watched *	from Estes Psalter, arr. David Willcocks
Sir Christèmas	William Mathias
O little town of Bethlehem *	English trad. arr. Vaughan Williams
Christmas hath a darkness	Derek Healey – *First European Performance*
Organ Solo	
Nativity Carol	Hector Berlioz
Away in a manger *	W J Kirkpatrick, arr. David Willcocks
The Shepherds' Farewell	Gordon Langford
Good King Wenceslas *	from Piae Cantiones, arr. Reginal Jacques
A New Year Carol	Christopher Williams
Harp Solo	
O come all ye faithful *	Unknown, arr. David Willcocks

*Please join in the carols marked with a *****.*
The words will be found from page 4 onwards in this programme

Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* for treble voices in three parts and harp was written in 1942, the same period as the *Hymn to St. Cecilia* and *Rejoice in the Lamb*. We are singing this evening an arrangement for four part choir by Julius Harrison which was made at the invitaion of the publisher (Boosey & Hawkes) in 1955. The texts are taken from a range of medieval and Renaissance poetry, and Britten's music also reflects the influence of earlier times. The opening and closing sections are a plainsong setting of *Hodie Christus natus est*, material which undergoes transformation during the harp interlude, and there are strong modal inflections to the music throughout.

The first two carols set 14th-century texts. The joyful cries of *Wolcum Yole!* contrast with the gentle setting of *There is no Rose*, in which the repeated C/F bass ostinato in the harp only changes briefly to a long E flat at the third statement of the word transeamus. The harp's semitone motif in *That yongë child* depicts the baby's crying, while in *Balulalow* the cross-rhythms of the accompaniment provide a continuous rocking motion for the cradle. *This little Babe*, which sets a 16th-century poem by Robert Southwell, builds gradually from the unison writing of its first verse through two-part and then three-part canons to a powerful climax. The cold minor-key opening of *In freezing winter night* (another Southwell text) contrasts with the warmer major at This stable in a Prince's court, and winter is swept aside altogether by the *Spring Carol* with its dancing accompaniment. Joyful shouts of *Deo gracias* introduce the final carol, and canonic entries of the same figure are used to create a tumultuous climax. *This programme note (with additions) was written by Cappella Novocastriensis (December 1989) and supplied through Making Music's programme note service.*

Derek Healey was born in Wargrave, Berkshire, in 1936; studied with Herbert Howells at the Royal College of Music, London and with Boris Porena and Gofredo Petrassi in Italy.

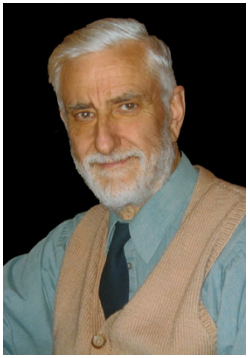
He has won prizes in the UK, Italy and the USA and has taught Theory, Composition and Ethnic Music at the Universities of Victoria, Toronto, Guelph and Oregon, finally becoming Academic Professor of Music at the RAF School of Music in Uxbridge.

His works are in most genres, having had some fifty works published in the UK, Canada and the USA.

His earlier neo-classic style gave way to atonal and aleatoric influences in the 1960s, and from Healey's arrival in North America in 1969, ethnic music became increasingly important.

Works for large ensembles have been played by many orchestras and wind ensembles, and the opera *Seabird Island* was the first contemporary opera to be taken on a cross-Canada tour.

The works most often performed include the suite for orchestra: *Arctic Images*, and *In Flanders' Fields* and two sets of Canadian folk songs for choir.



Healey's most recent extended work, '*A Mass for San Corrado*', recently received its first performance in Noto Cathedral, Italy.

Healey is now retired from teaching and spends his time with composition and research, living in the Cobble Hill district of Brooklyn, New York.

A Maiden Mild

This carol was completed in Eugene, Oregon on Christmas day, 1985 and revised in Brooklyn, New York on December 18, 1997. This is original music, not an arrangement of a traditional melody. The late medieval English text is by James Ryman; the spelling is modernized. Each verse is essentially in 5/8 with meter changes at cadence points. There are eight verses in all, the text telling of the appearance of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary.

Christmas hath a darkness

This is one of *Two Christina Rossrtti Carols* which were completed in the early spring of 2009. The composer added the harp part (the original being piano) especially for this performance.



Emma Spandrzyk
Originally from Church Stretton, Shropshire, Emma is currently studying at the Royal College of Music in London. During the last few years she has played at various events from the Welsh Food Fayre, supporting the tranquil All Angels at the Girl Guide Centenary celebrations to local private functions and weddings.

Andrew Downton is an organist, pianist, keyboard player and music tutor with interests in a wide range of music.

He began his education at the Royal School in Windsor Great Park, was a chorister at the Royal Chapel, where he received his first organ lessons, and was subsequently a chorister in the choir of St. George's chapel, Windsor.



Having moved with his family to Devon, at the age of eight, and whilst a music scholar at Exeter Cathedral School, he studied the organ at the cathedral with Stephen Tanner. He later attended Exeter School as a music scholar and was subsequently offered a place to read music at Oxford University. There, he was a college exhibitioner with an instrumental award, was appointed assistant organ scholar of Corpus Christi College and continued his organ studies with internationally renowned performer-teachers, David Sanger and David Goode.

Having completed his music degree, PGCE and three years as a Primary class teacher, Andrew currently combines his work teaching music in primary schools with private piano, organ and keyboard tuition. In his capacity as Assistant Musical Director of the Exeter Cathedral Singing Outreach Programme, Andrew also leads singing workshops in schools across the county, part of the government's Sing Up campaign. Having been a principal church organist for fifteen years, he is frequently in demand as a recitalist and accompanist on piano and organ for services with Exeter Cathedral Choir, workshops, examinations and concerts; he enjoys performing regularly on piano and keyboards in a variety of musical styles. He is also a member of the Devon-based international tribute band, Dire Traits.

He now lives in Bovey Tracey, Devon, with his wife Vickie, and her daughters, Ashleigh and Emily.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every 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 all 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.
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

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.

Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing "Allelujah";
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, Holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiance from thy holy face;
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Sussex Carol

High voices
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
Low voices
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the new the angels bring –
High voices
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Low voices
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
High voices
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
All
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;
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,
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.'

Choir only

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle-shed
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All
And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through his own redeeming love.
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.



While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there



O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And Peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may his his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

All **Good King Wenceslas looked out**,
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep, and crisp, and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

Low voices
'Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'
High voices
'Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By St Agnes' fountain'.

Low voices
'Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine-logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.'
All
Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

High voices
'Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.'
Low voices
'Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

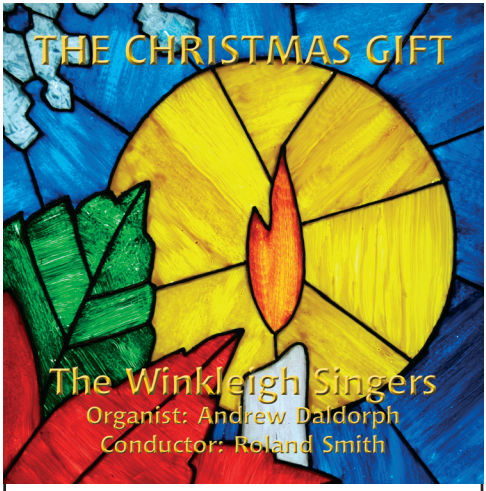
All In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

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…

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…

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him…



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Acknowledgements

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