



Patron: Sir John Tavener

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Director: Sam Laughton

Organ: Mark Brafield

St Michael's and All Angels Church, Bedford Park, London
7.30 pm Wednesday 15 December 2010

PROCESSIONAL INTROIT & KYRIE ELEISON

from 'Missa Carolae' (2004)

Additional words: Anon (translated by James Whitbourn), Isaiah, & Bernard de la Monnoye (1641-1728)

Music: James Whitbourn (b. 1963)

Solo: Lois Gallagher

Processional introit

1. Guillô play your tambourin,
Robin with your flute begin,
Play your pipe and play your drum,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu!
Pa-ta-pa-ta-pan!
Play your pipe and play your drum.
Sing Nowell to all and some!

2. Man of ancient days, he sings
In praise of the King of kings,
When you hear the pipe and drum,
Tu-re-lu-re-lu!
Pa-ta-pa-ta-pan!
When you hear the pipe and drum
You will know that the Saviour's come.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The
everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

3. Dance and sing and leap with joy
At the birth of the infant boy.
Dance with pipe and dance with drum.
Tu-re-lu-re-lu!
Pa-ta-pa-ta-pan!
Dance with pipe and dance with drum
For to us is born a Son.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the
shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

DOMINUS DABIT BENIGNITATEM (2008)

Words: Psalm 84

Music: James MacMillan (b.1959)

Dominus dabit benignitatem: et terra
nostra dabit fructum suum.

*The Lord will show us his kindness, and our earth
shall yield its fruit.*

THREE MEDIEVAL CAROLS

Wexford Carol (2002)

Words: Traditional Irish

Music: Stephen McNeff (b.1951)

Good people all this Christmas time,
consider well and bear in mind
what our good God for us has done
in sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
to God with love this Christmas day;
in Bethlehem upon that morn
there was a blessed Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide
the noble Virgin and her guide
were long time seeking up and down
to find a lodging in the town.
But mark how all things came to pass;
from every door repelled alas!
As long foretold, their refuge all
was but a humble ox's stall.

There were three wise men from afar
directed by a glorious star,
and on they wandered night and day
until they came where Jesus lay,
and when they came unto that place
where our beloved Messiah was,
they humbly cast them at his feet,
with gifts of gold and incense sweet.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
the shepherds went the babe to find.
And as God's angel had foretold,
they did our saviour Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid,
and by his side the virgin maid,
attending on the Lord of life,
who came on earth to end all strife.

A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.

Reading: 'Adam lay ibounden' (15th century)

I sing of a maiden (2008)

Words: Anon. 15th century

Music: John McCabe (b. 1939)

I sing of a maiden
That is makeless;
King of all kings
To her son she ches.

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

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

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

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

A Hymn to the Virgin (2002)

Words: Anon. 13th century, adapted

Music: Francis Pott (b. 1957)

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.

[as a star of the sea]

[mother and maiden]

[thou gracious one]

Lady, flower of alle thing, <i>Rosa sine spina,</i>	[rose without thorn]
Thou bere Jesu, Hevene King, <i>Gratia divina:</i>	[by divine grace]
Of alle Thou bear'st the prize, Lady, Queen of Paradise <i>Electa;</i>	[chosen one]
Maid milde, mother es <i>Effecta.</i>	[you are fulfilled]
All this world was forlore <i>Eva peccatrice,</i>	[by sinful Eve]
Till our Lord was ibore <i>De te genetrix.</i>	[of thee, his mother]
With 'Ave' it went away, Darkest night, and cometh the day <i>Salutis.</i>	[of salvation]
The welle springeth out of thee. <i>Virtutis.</i>	[of virtue]

THE 17TH CENTURY

Remember, O thou man (2003)

Words: Thomas Ravenscroft? (c.1582-1635)

Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Remember, O thou man,
O thou man, O thou man.
Remember, O thou man,
thy time is spent:
Remember, O thou man,
how thou art dead and gone,
and I did what I can:
therefore repent.

Remember God's goodness,
O thou man, O thou man,
Remember God's goodness,
and promise made!
Remember God's goodness,
How he sent his Son, doubtless,
our sins for to redress;
be not afraid!

The angels all did sing,
O thou man, O thou man,
The angels all did sing
On heaven's high hill!
The angels all did sing,
praises to our heavenly King,
and peace to man living,
with a good will.

To Bethlem did they go,
O thou man, O thou man,
To Bethlem did they go
the shepherds three;
To Bethlem did they go
to see whether it were so,
whether Christ were born or no
to set man free.

Reading: 'The Burning Babe' by Robert Southwell (1561-1595)

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS from 'Missa Carolae'

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te.
Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te.
Glorificamus te.

*Glory to God in the highest.
And on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you.
We bless you.
We adore you.
We glorify you.*

Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam
gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater
omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei
Patris. Amen.

*We give thanks to you for your great
glory.
Lord God, Heavenly King, God Almighty
Father.
Lord Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
You who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
You who take away the sins of the world,
hear our prayer.
You who sit at the Father's right hand,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are holy.
You alone the Most High, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.*

*** INTERVAL ***

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS
from 'Missa Carolae'

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus
Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria
tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of
hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Thy
glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

THE 18TH CENTURY

Spring in winter

Words: from *Hymn 32, The Nativity of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*, by Christopher Smart (1722-71)
Music: John Woolrich (b. 1954)

Nature's decorations glisten
Far above their usual trim;
Birds on box and laurels listen,
As so near the cherubs hymn.

Spinks and ouzles sing sublimely,
'We too have a Saviour born';
Whiter blossoms burst untimely
On the blest Mosaic thorn.

Boreas now no longer winters
On the desolated coast;
Oaks no more are riv'n in splinters
By the whirlwind and his host.

God all-bounteous, all-creative,
Whom no ills from good dissuade,
Is incarnate, and a native
Of the very world he made.

Reading: 'The Lamb' by William Blake (1757-1827)

Carol of the Birds

Words: 18th century Irish

Music: Stephen McNeff

Full many a bird did wake and fly,
Curoo, curoo, curoo,
To the manger bed with a wandering cry
On Christmas day in the morning.
Curoo, curoo, curoo.

The lark, the dove, the red bird came,
Curoo, curoo, curoo,
And they did sing in sweet Jesus' name
On Christmas day in the morning.
Curoo, curoo, curoo.

The owl was there with eyes so wide
Curoo, curoo, curoo
And he did sit at sweet Mary's side
On Christmas day in the morning.
Curoo, curoo, curoo.

The shepherds knelt upon the hay.
Curoo, curoo, curoo
And angels sang the night away
On Christmas day in the morning.
Curoo, curoo, curoo.

TWO 19TH-CENTURY CAROLS

The Angel Gabriel

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: Traditional Basque, arranged by Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

Solo: Geraldine Mynors

Cello: Deirdre Hollingsworth

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!

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!

'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!

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!

Reading: 'The Oxen' by Thomas Hardy (1840-1928)

Before the paling of the stars

Words: 'A Christmas Carol' by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music: James Lavino (b.1973)

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cock crow,
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world his hands had made
Born a stranger.

Priest and king lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem;
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem;
Saint and angel, ox and ass,
Kept a watch together
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather.

Jesus on his mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless lamb of God was he,
Shepherd of the fold:
Let us kneel with Mary maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With saint and angel, ox and ass,
To hail the King of Glory.

THE 21ST CENTURY

Bring rest, sweet dreaming child

Words: Mark Pryce

Music: Tarik O'Regan (b. 1978)

Solo: Helly Seeley

If you came at night,
Pushing your way down the long dark
Out into starlight;
Come now into our anxious, sleepless hours:
Bring rest, sweet dreaming child.

If you came at dawn,
Lifting a voice from the dumb void,
Your new song born;
Speak now into our shouting, stifled days:
Bring praise, sweet singing child.

If you came at day's
Noon, spreading out your arms to shade
From anger's fierce sun-blaze;
Reach now into our frenzied, drifting years:
Bring peace, sweet trusting child.

If you came at dusk,
Warming our chill fears with the blood
Of love's sure pulse;
Touch now the numb limbs of our fading lives:
Bring love, sweet breathing child.

**Reading: from 'Checkpoints and Chances: eyewitness accounts from an observer in Israel-Palestine'
by Katharine von Schubert**

O RADIANT DAWN

Words: Antiphon for 21 December

MUSIC: James MacMillan

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.' Amen.

AGNUS DEI

from 'Missa Carolae'

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona
nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

THE ELYSIAN SINGERS

Alice Ruffle
Andrew Cruise
Andy Chan
Anna Simpson
Anne Webster
Charlotte Dodson
Charlotte Lary
Christopher Whitehouse

Claire Valencia
Danny Whatmough
Deirdre Hollingsworth
Emily Fletcher
Geraldine Mynors
Helen Dickinson
Helly Seeley
Jo Dew-Jones

Jo Reynolds
Joe Dodson
Jonathan Glasspool
Kathryn Smale
Katie Saunders
Lois Gallagher
Lucy Budd
Mark Galtrey

Naomi McCarthy
Naveen Rajendran
Paul Kiang
Richard Warren
Soo-Lin Lui
Stephen Cviic
Tony Zacaroli

Whilst reading music at Cambridge University, **Sam Laughton** developed his instrumental, conducting, and organisational skills as organ scholar of Sidney Sussex College. He now juggles life as a father of four young children with busy careers as a barrister and musician. He is musical director of the Elysian Singers, the Craswall Players and the Chiltern Camerata. Sam is devoted to conducting and organising the music camps at Pigotts, and is in demand as a guest conductor, working with such orchestras as the Oxford Sinfonia, Kensington Chamber Orchestra, the Kew Sinfonia and the Orchestra of the City. He has also worked with the groups as varied as Oxford Philomusica, the Joyful Company of Singers and ENO Baylis.

Mark Brafield has studied the organ with Robert Munns, David Sanger and Stephen Farr. He held an Organ Scholarship together with an Open Scholarship in English Literature at Trinity College, Oxford, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Mark now combines a legal profession as a solicitor and judge with a career as a concert organist. Recent recitals in this country have included St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Westminster, Coventry and Winchester Cathedrals, whilst overseas engagements have taken Mark to France, Holland and Germany. Earlier this year Mark made his American debut at St Thomas', Fifth Avenue, New York, whilst highlights for 2011 will include recitals at Blenheim Palace and Notre Dame de Paris.

The Elysian Singers of London, under musical director Sam Laughton, is one of the UK's leading chamber choirs. Known for its adventurous programming and imaginative repertoire, the choir gives concerts in and around London, and has recorded a number of widely acclaimed CDs. The Elysians pride themselves on maintaining consistently high performance standards, and entry requirements are rigorous, but a friendly and relaxed atmosphere has always been regarded as essential to attracting and keeping good singers. Founded in 1986 by Matthew Greenall, the group quickly developed a special, though not exclusive, interest in contemporary music, giving the world premieres of works by John Woolrich, Howard Skempton and Sir John Tavener who, since 2002, has been the choir's patron. Matthew was succeeded as musical director by Sam Laughton in 2000, since when the choir has, if anything, subjected itself to even more rigorous musical demands. Examples of the sort of challenging programmes undertaken include, in 2005, 'Twentieth Century Masterworks' (ten pieces, among them Schoenberg's *Friede Auf Erden* and Ligeti's *Lux Aeterna*) and, in 2006, 'Journeys without Silence' which contained part of Orlando Gough and Richard Chew's masterpiece, *Tall Stories*, and Jonathan Harvey's *How Could the Soul not Take Flight?* Recent world premieres include John Habron's *Salve Regina* and, in 2009, *Exile Lamentations*, a new commission from the Australian composer Paul Stanhope. London premieres during the past four years include works by Peter Maxwell Davies, James MacMillan and James Whitbourn. The choir is just as comfortable singing less contemporary repertoire. Concerts of Baroque music at St John's, Smith Square in 2005 and 2007 drew enthusiastic receptions from large audiences. Unjustly neglected repertoire from the last century is another niche, and a CD of music by Granville Bantock was released in 2009 on Meridian, with one of the tracks having already been previewed on Classic FM. In 2003, the Elysians won the formidably strong British heat of the BBC 'Let the Peoples Sing' competition, as a result of which, for the second time in succession, they were chosen to represent the UK in this prestigious pan-European choral event. The following year they released a CD of music by James MacMillan on the Signum label – *Cantos Sagrados* – which received outstanding reviews and a 5-star rating from BBC Music Magazine. Reviewing *Songs of the Isles*, the choir's recent Bantock release, the same publication spoke of the Elysians' 'young, fresh-toned voices, brightly attentive to text without becoming over-punctilious.' There have been several radio and television broadcasts in the UK and the USA, including the first broadcast performances of Gorecki's *Miserere* and *Three Lullabies* on BBC Radio 3, in the composer's presence, the televised finals of the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition at the Albert Hall, and BBC2's Lesley Garrett Easter Special. The choir has performed at numerous festivals around the country, including Spitalfields, Corsham, and the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music. In 2007-8, during Sam Laughton's sabbatical, the choir attracted several highly regarded guest conductors, including Jeremy Summerly, Stephen Jackson and James Weeks. The 2008/9 season included a performance of Elizabeth Maconchy's rarely-heard masterpiece, *Heloise and Abelard*, at LSO St Luke's, and the choir's debut at St-Martin-in-the-Fields. Already in 2010, the choir has appeared in the York Late Music concert series, and at the English Music Festival.

Thanks to the choir's friends and benefactors. The Elysian Singers of London also gratefully acknowledges financial support from the PRS foundation. The Elysian Singers are members of Making Music, The National Federation of Music Societies.



CONCERTS BY THE ELYSIAN SINGERS IN 2011

Timepieces

Tuesday 1 March 2011, 7.30 pm, St. Peter's, Eaton Square, London SW1: Settings of the poetry of W.H.Auden, featuring the world premiere of 'Timepieces', commissioned from Ian Stephens, with works by Britten, Escher, Vogt, Lavino, Tucapsky and Walton

Seven Last Words

Saturday 16 April 2011, 7.30 pm, Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, London SW1
James MacMillan's towering setting of the last words of Jesus from the cross, interleaved into the work of the same name by Schütz

Glories of Vienna

Tuesday 5 July 2011, St Martin in the Fields, London WC2
Mozart: Serenade for 13 wind instruments, Bruckner: Mass in E minor for choir, wind and brass

If you would like to join the Elysian Singers' mailing list, please write to Richard Warren, 20 Downs Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 5JY or send an e-mail to richardwarren10@hotmail.com.

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