

“A Christmas Celebration”

With the

Esterházy Chamber Choir

Conducted by ***Darren Jones***

and featuring

London City Brass

Leader ***Mark Law***

With

Organist ***Colin Haywood***

Saturday 21st December 2002
St Bartholomews Church, Brighton

ST BARTHOLOMEWS CHURCH, BRIGHTON

PROGRAMME ~ (words for audience carols from page 7)

AUDIENCE CAROL ~ *Once in Royal David's City, Gauntlett ~*

1st verse solo ~ Fran du Corbier

2nd verse ~ choir only

Wood (arr.): *Ding Dong! Merrily on High (16th century French)*

Andrew Gant: *Still, Still, Still (20th century, original words German)*

Jaques (arr.): *Away in a Manger (traditional, Normandy)*

BRASS *Little Fugue in G minor ~ J S Bach*

Joubert: *There is no Rose (15th century English)*

Victoria: *O magnum mysterium (16th century Spanish)*

Scheidt: *In dulci jubilo (17th century German)*

BRASS *Christmas Carckers ~ John Iveson*

AUDIENCE CAROL ~ *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Mendelssohn*

INTERVAL ~ WINE SERVED IN THE SCHOOL

Shephard: *Song of Mary (21st century English)*

ORGAN SOLO *Processional ~ William Mathias*

Pettman(arr.): *The Angel Gabriel.. (old Basque)*

Tavener: *The Lamb (20th century English)*

Shaw (arr.) *Coventry Carol (15th & 16th century English)*

Sweelinck: *Hodie Christus natus est (16th century Dutch)*

BRASS *Bugler's Holiday ~ Leroy Anderson*

Pierpont: *Jingle Bells (20th century)*

VW (arr.) *Gloucestershire Wassail (Old English)*

Warrel (arr.): *A Merry Christmas (traditional West Country)*

AUDIENCE CAROL ~ *O come all ye faithful*

PROGRAMME NOTES

Welcome to the Esterhazy Chamber Choir's Christmas celebration. We have put together a programme of music ranging from the traditional 15th century *Coventry Carol* to the 20th

century John Tavener's *The Lamb*, and even more recent, the 21st century *Song of Mary* by Richard Shephard.

Christmas music is a genre all of its own; if a new carol captures the imagination, it will return each year to the church service, record store or concert platform to become part of the collective Christmas experience. If they survive, Christmas carols evolve and are rearranged by successive generations, and their origins are often lost in the mists of time.

Such a case is *Away in a Manger*, first published in a Lutheran Sunday school book in 1885 in the USA; two years later, it was published as *Luther's Cradle Hymn*, thus creating the misconception that Luther had written it. Although some attribute the words to Luther, they are usually considered American anonymous. The music is probably a traditional German tune.

Other works have a less obscure genesis, such as Richard Shephard's *Song of Mary*, which was commissioned by the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to celebrate Christ's two-thousandth birthday. Although first performed in May 2000 at York Minster, the subject is Mary's song of joy to God on hearing the news of Christ's naissance. It is a rousing example of the determined survival of tonal music with strong tunes and easy harmonies despite the musical upheavals of the 20th century. Perhaps Christmas, more than any other time, is an occasion to hang on to the old and familiar.

There is no room on this page to discuss every piece, neither would you have the patience to plough through it. We only hope that our offering will enhance your enjoyment of the Christmas season, and that you will leave afterwards with your ears ringing and your hearts singing.

A Merry Christmas to you and your families.

KAREN ZEFF

DARREN JONES

Darren Jones was born in the Rhondda Valley. He played in numerous orchestras and sang in many different choirs including the National Youth Choir of Wales. He read History and Music at the University of Leeds. At Leeds he conducted both the University Chorus and Symphony Orchestra.

After graduating Darren became a member of the Opera North Chorus. He then took up a place on the Post-Graduate course at the Royal Northern College of Music where he sang in numerous operatic productions and concerts throughout Britain and Europe. In 1995 and 1998 Darren was a member of the Glyndebourne Chorus and between 1996 and 1998 he was junior principal baritone at the Cologne Opera. Taking 'early retirement' from life as a professional singer, Darren qualified as a teacher in 1999 and now teaches History at Heathfield Community College.

COLIN HAYWOOD

Colin is 16 years of age and has been studying the organ for 3 years. He started to learn the organ at Lancing College where he was a music scholar and member of the choir. He is now studying with the Principal Organist at St. Andrew's Church, Bishopstone, where he Assistant Organist. Colin plans to further his organ and piano studies with a view to obtaining diplomas in due course.

THE ESTERHÁZY CHAMBER CHOIR

The Lewes-based Esterházy Chamber Choir was founded in 1993 and comprises some twenty-four experienced singers. The choir aims to perform at a professional standard whilst remaining firmly rooted in the fine English tradition of amateur music making.

The choir is a warm and friendly group which welcomes approaches for audition from experienced musicians who have similar aspirations. The choir has no permanent Music Director at present and works on a project basis with a variety of conductors. The choir is open to concert project suggestions from experienced conductors and approaches from promoters who need a choir for a particular event.

As a charity the choir aims to make music more accessible to the young by offering free admission to accompanied children under 16 at its annual Christmas Concert in Lewes.

An extensive repertoire spans five centuries of sacred and secular music by composers such as Tallis, Purcell, Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Howells, Britten, Tavener and Michael Rose. As well as being noted for its *a cappella* work, the choir

has performed with the London Mozart Players, London Philharmonic Brass, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, London City Brass and Kent Sinfonia.

The choir gratefully acknowledges the support of Lewes District Council, which gave generous help for the concert in Lewes.

THE CHOIR

SOPRANOS

PIPPA BULL
SARAH BRIDGLAND
BECKY CLIFFORD
FRAN DU CORBIER
ROSALIND FULLER
DILYS GOGGINS
CAROLINE NEVITT

ALTOS

MARIA BIRCH
CLAIRE CARBERRY
SARAH JARVIS
DENISE JONES
BRIONY LAMBERT
KAREN ZEFF

TENORS

MICHAEL BULL
ROBERT CARPENTER

BASSES

JOHN ASTBURY
DEREK FROUD
DAVID GOODWIN
MATTHEW SPENCER

Rehearsal Pianist: **Sarah Jarvis**

THE FRIENDS OF ESTERHÁZY

We would like to pay especial thanks to the members of our Friends' Association who have given generous financial support. Promoting and producing concerts, with or without orchestras, is very expensive and the choir would not be able to continue without this additional help.

BENEFACTORS

MR S FFAULKES
MR & MRS H FOORD

MR D FROUD
DR J HESTER

PATRONS

MR M EVANS
MR C B D'A FEARN
MR & MRS P GILLHAM
MRS P JOHNSTONE

MR & MRS M LIPTON
MR D MILLINGTON
DR M A NORMAN
MR D J PLATT OBE

PROF A WOOD

THE WHITE STAR INN

ASSOCIATES

MR D BOTIBOL
MR A BRUCE
DR M E BUDLEIGH
K & J COLEY
MR H CORNWELL

MRS M FREEMAN
MR N HOLLINGTON
MS D M PEAT
MRS A ROBINSON
REV D W A STRIDE

MR R L VIGARS

THE ESTERHÁZY CHAMBER CHOIR
Friends Association

Associate (annual amount: anything from £5 upwards)

Associate Friends will receive advance details of all ECC concerts, priority booking (made through the ECC Friends Co-ordinator) and an acknowledgement in every concert programme booklet

Patron (annual amount: from £25 upwards)

In addition to the above benefits, Patrons receive invitations to occasional concert receptions and are entitled to a reduction of 20% when purchasing two or more tickets through the ECC Friends Co-ordinator.

Benefactor (payment of £250+ made through *Gift Aid*)

Benefactors enjoy all the benefits of Patrons and Associate Friends, for life!

For further information, or to join the Friends, please write to the Friends Co-ordinator at the following address:

Karen Zeff
6 St Annes Crescent
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1SB

The choir is managed by David Goodwin at the following address:

1 Dorset Road
Lewes
BN7 1TH
01273 471089 (phone/fax)
e-mail: esterhazy@chateau-goodwin.fsnet.co.uk
website: www.esterhazy.org.uk

WORDS FOR AUDIENCE CAROLS

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

FIRST VERSE ~ SOLO ~ FRAN DU CORBIER

SECOND VERSE ~ CHOIR ONLY

THIRD VERSE ~ ALL

And, through all His wondrous childhood,
He would honor 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 Heav'n 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.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born 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.

Refrain~

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born 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 God-head see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. **[Refrain]**

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 them second birth. **[Refrain]**

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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

Refrain~ 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:

Refrain

See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:

Refrain

Lo! Star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our hearts' oblations:

Refrain

Child for us sinners
Poor and in a manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing, in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory in the highest:

Refrain

Ye, Lord, we greet thee,
Born that happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

Programme design ~ David Goodwin
Production ~ Becky Clifford



