

Esterhazy Chamber Choir

Christmas concert 2007

Westgate Chapel, Lewes

15 December, 6.30 p m

Ding, dong, merrily on high	arr Charles Wood
In dulci jubilo	arr Pearsall/Westbrook
Troc-a-tron	arr Petr Eben
Long the night	arr Roy Massey
The little road to Bethlehem	Michael Head
O little town of Bethlehem	Audience, vv 1 and 3 Choir unaccompanied, v 2
Brass Quintet	

INTERVAL

The Holy Birth – sequence of five carols	Herbert Sumsion
Away in a manger	Children and sopranos, v 1 All, vv 2 and 3
In excelsis gloria	Clive Osgood
Deck the hall	arr David Willcocks
The first Noel Mary's child	Audience Choir unaccompanied
Jingle bells	James Pierpoint

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O little town of Bethlehem

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 to-night.

Choir only:

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

All:

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.

Away in a manger

Children: 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 in the hay.

All: 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.

The first Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought: