

ASSEMBLY HALL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
**Sunday, 13<sup>TH</sup> December, 3 P.M.**

---

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
CHORAL SOCIETY

PRESENT

# CAROLS

for Choir and Audience

WITH

## OWEN BRANNIGAN

Walter Neal & Marjorie Vinall (2 PIANOFORTES)

Conductor **Dr. HAROLD MAY**

PLEASE BOOK EARLY AT ASSEMBLY HALL BOX OFFICE (T.W. 3313)

**Tickets (All Reserved) 6/-, 5/-, 4/- & 2/6**

*Special Reductions for Schools and Parties of Children*

for details and prior booking arrangements apply Cyril Wood, c/o. Ibbett,  
Mosely, Card & Co., 7, London Road, Tunbridge Wells (Tel. 446/7)

THE ASSEMBLY HALL

---

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
CHORAL SOCIETY

---

CAROLS

for

CHOIR & AUDIENCE

SUNDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 1959

at 3 p.m.

*The National Federation of Music Societies supports this Concert with  
Funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain*

PROGRAMME

PRICE 6d.

We extend a most hearty welcome to **OWEN BRANNIGAN** to-day. As is well known he is a British singer of world-wide renown and the following notes will give some idea of the versatility of this great artist.

Mr. Brannigan is able to take in his stride a week of activities which may include Mozart opera, an oratorio concert, recording sessions, a broadcast or television appearance and the odd folk song recital thrown in for good measure.

Now at the peak of his career, Brannigan is one of H.M.V.'s principal recording artists, and further records shortly to be released will include one of folk songs, and another of Christmas Carols. In addition Brannigan has sung principal bass roles in all the recordings so far made by E.M.I. of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. His recent records are of Mozart arias and of Handel arias, the latter including the only current recording of the famous "Ruddier than the Cherry". He has also taken part in a recording of Benjamin Britten's "Peter Grimes" in stereophonic sound.

It is remarkable to think that with little, or no notice, Brannigan is able to sing from memory any one of more than 400 folk songs and the bass parts of more than 100 oratorios. In addition he has sung principal roles in over 30 operas.

During the course of the year Brannigan has travelled more than 30,000 miles, mostly by road, in order to fulfil his engagements. It is fortunate that he is a keen driver for an aggregate mileage of this kind means covering over 1,000 in some weeks, perhaps singing in Yorkshire on one night, and on the South Coast on the next, and then maybe the following night in Cornwall or South Wales (last night he was in Nottingham).

Owen Brannigan played an important part in the recent Purcell-Handel celebrations, having taken part in a number of oratorio performances, including Handel's "Solomon" and the B.B.C.'s presentation of "King Arthur", in addition to singing the role of Somnus in the Sadler's Wells production of "Semele". He was honoured by an invitation to take part in the United Nations Concert, broadcast to the world from Geneva, and more recently sang the name part of Judas Maccabeus in Belgium. During the summer months he appeared on eleven occasions with the B.B.C. Concert Orchestra during its season of public summer concerts. This was the fifth consecutive year in which he had been invited to do this.

For many months Brannigan, with his accompanist Ernest Lush, had his own radio programme "Men About Music". Also he is one of the few artists in the world to have had a street named after him in his life time. "Owen Brannigan Drive" is to be found in Annitsford, the Northumberland town of his birth. Brannigan is an expert joiner, and takes great pleasure in making furniture. His other recreations include playing golf and collecting match boxes. He is married and has a son (also named Owen) aged 19, who according to father, takes more interest in rugby football than singing.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

with

OWEN BRANNIGAN

(Bass)

WALTER NEAL and MARJORIE VINALL

(Two Pianofortes)

Conductor :

Dr. HAROLD MAY

---

*We want you to sing!*

---

PROGRAMME

---

1. CHOIR & AUDIENCE: "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

*All*

O COME, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,

*Anon. 75th Cent*

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.

*All*

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, &c.

*All* Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing with exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n above:  
"Glory to God  
In the highest";  
O come, let us adore Him, &c.

*All* Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him, &c.

2. CHOIR:

(a) "DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH" *Trad. 1588*

(b) "PAST THREE O'CLOCK" *Trad.*

3. CHOIR & AUDIENCE: "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"

*All* 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.

*Boys' Voices only* 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.

*Girls' Voices only* 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.

*Boys' and Girls' Voices* 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.

- All*                      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.
- All*                      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;  
                               When like stars His children crown'd  
                               All in white shall wait around.

4. CHOIR:

"THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" *arr. Leon Young*

5. OWEN BRANNIGAN

FOUR NEGRO CAROLS

- (a) "A New Christmas Morning, Hallelujah!" *arr. MacGimsey*  
 (b) "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" *arr. MacGimsey*  
 (c) "De Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy" *arr. Evans*  
 (d) "Mary had a Baby" *arr. Evans*

6. CHOIR:

- (a) "IN DULCI JUBILO"  
*Harm.: Bartholomew Gesius, 1601.      Last verse harm.: J. S. Bach*
- (b) "PUER NOBIS" (Nativity) *Geoffrey Shaw*

7. CHOIR & AUDIENCE: "GOOD KING WENCESLAS"

- All*                      **G**OOD King Wenceslas look'd out *Music from the*  
                               On the Feast of Stephen, *Spring-tide Carol,*  
                               When the snow lay round about, *Tempus adest*  
                               Deep and crisp and even; *floridum in 'Piae*  
                               Brightly shone the moon that night, *Cantiones'*  
                               Though the frost was cruel, *Words:*  
                               When a poor man came in sight, *J. M. Neale, 1818-66*  
                               Gath'ring winter fuel.



Men's  
Voices "Hither, page, and stand by me,  
If thou know'st it telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?"

Women's  
Voices "Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
Underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence,  
By Saint Agnes fountain."

Men's  
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.

Women's  
Voices "Sire, the night is darker now,  
And the wind blows stronger;  
Fails my heart, I know not how,  
I can go no longer."

Men's  
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.

8. CHOIR:

- (a) "KING JESUS HATH A GARDEN" (Old Dutch Carol)  
(b) "SILENT NIGHT" (German) *arr. Malcolm Sargent*

9. CHOIR & AUDIENCE: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

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

*All* 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 wondering love.

*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.

*Children  
only* Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessèd Child,  
Where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the mother mild;  
Where charity stands watching  
And faith holds wide the door,  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
And Christmas comes once more.

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

---

INTERVAL

---

10. CHOIR:

- (a) "RING OUT WILD BELLS" *Percy Fletcher*  
from "In Memoriam" (*Tennyson*)
- (b) "ZITHER CAROL" (Czech Folk Tune) *arr. Sargent*



# 11. CHOIR & AUDIENCE: "THE FIRST NOWELL"

*(The Audience is requested to join in the Chorus to each verse, in Unison)*

*All* Traditional  
c. XVIIIth Cent.  
*(Harmony or Unison)* 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!*

*All* They lookèd up, and saw a star  
 Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
 And to the earth it gave great light,  
 And so it continued both day and night:

*Choir only* 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:

*All* This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
 O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
 And there it did both stop and stay  
 Right over the place where Jesus lay:

*All* Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
 Full reverently upon their knee,  
 And offered there in his presènce  
 Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

*All* Then let us all with one accord  
 Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
 And with his blood mankind hath bought:  
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
 Born is the King of Israel!*

## 12. OWEN BRANNIGAN

### FOUR TRADITIONAL CAROLS

- (a) "A Ballad of Jesus Christ" (Old French)  
*arr. Northcote*
- (b) "The Shepherd Boy's Song" (West Country)  
*arr. Grayson*
- (c) "Dame get up and bake your pies" (Northumbrian)  
*arr. John Russell*
- (d) "The Souling Song" (Cheshire)  
*arr. Brannigan*

13. CHOIR:

(a) "HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID"  
(Six Part XVIIth Century Carol) *Orlando Gibbons*

(b) "WHEN AN ANGEL HOST ENTUNED"  
*Reginald Jacques*

14. CHOIR & AUDIENCE:

"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING" *Mendelssohn*

*All*        **H**ARK! 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 the Angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
              Hark! the herald angels sing  
              Glory to the new-born King.

*All*        Christ, by highest Heav'n adored,  
              Christ the Everlasting Lord,  
              Late in time behold Him come,  
              Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
              Veil'd in flesh the Godhead see!  
              Hail, the incarnate Deity  
              Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
              Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
              Hark! the herald angels sing  
              Glory to the new-born King.

*All*        Hail, the heaven-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.  
              Hark! the herald angels sing  
              Glory to the new-born King.

15. MALE VOICES OF THE CHOIR:

(a) "SONG TO THE VIRGIN" *Leslie Woodgate*

(b) "BOAR'S HEAD CAROL" *Trad.*

(Conducted by WALTER NEAL)

16. FINALE (by request):

"THE COWBOY CAROL" *arr. Sargent*

(The words are printed hereunder, and the Audience may be asked to sing a Verse themselves)

THERE'LL be a new world beginnin' from t'night,  
There'll be a new world beginnin' from t'night,  
When I climb up to my saddle  
Gonna take Him to my heart!  
There'll be a new world beginnin' from t'night.

Right across the prairie,  
Clear across the valley,  
Straight across the heart of ev'ry man,  
There'll be a right new brand of living  
That'll sweep like lightnin' fire  
And take away the hate from ev'ry land.

There'll be a new world beginnin' from t'night,  
There'll be a new world beginnin' from t'night,  
When I climb up to my saddle  
Gonna take Him to my heart!  
There'll be a new world beginnin' from t'night.

Yoi, Yippee! We're gonna ride the trail!  
Yoi, Yippee! We're gonna ride today!  
When I climb up to my saddle,  
Gonna take Him to my heart!  
There'll be a new world beginnin' from t'night!

---

---

A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year  
to you all.

# Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

CHRIST CHURCH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

WEDNESDAY, 2nd MARCH, 1960, at 7.30 p.m.

## MASS in B MINOR

(J. S. Bach)

ADRIENNE COLE (Soprano)

SYLVIA ROWLANDS (Contralto)

STEPHEN MANTON (Tenor)

BRYAN DRAKE (Bass)

Organ : WALTER NEAL

*ORCHESTRA*

Conductor : DR. HAROLD MAY

---

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

WEDNESDAY, 6th APRIL, 1960, at 7.30 p.m.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

(Mendelssohn)

## STABAT MATER

(Rossini)

IRIS KELLS (Soprano)

PATRICIA CRACKNELL (Mezzo-Soprano)

JOHN STODDART (Tenor)

NORMAN TATTERSALL (Baritone)

Organ : WALTER NEAL

*ORCHESTRA*

Conductor : DR. HAROLD MAY

---

All further information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Cyril Wood, c/o Ibbett, Mosely, Card & Co., 7, London Road, Tunbridge Wells

# Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

(56th Season)

*President : SIR GEORGE DYSON*

*Vice-Presidents :*

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor Norman Glanfield, J.P.)

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Alderman S. H. Muffett)

Mrs. P. M. Austen	Lady Helen Green	Mrs. Pelmore
Mrs. Dorothy Berry	Mr. N. D. Grundy	Mr. L. C. Pickering
Mrs. R. A. Bird	Mrs. Gunn	Mr. G. B. Richards
Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Brown	Mrs. B. C. Hamilton	Mrs. A. M. Robinson
Mrs. M. A. Bye	Mr. J. A. Henderson	Miss K. Robson
Mr. J. Campbell	Miss M. Heriz-Smith	Mr. W. N. Saunders
Mr. R. W. Card	Mr. Peter Hesse	Miss M. G. Scott
Mr. C. V. Coates	Mrs. C. Jones	Mr. A. D. Short
Hon. Daphne Courthope	Mrs. Louis Kentner	Mr. Noel V. Snell
Miss D. M. Crawford	Mrs. E. H. Lambert	Mrs. G. Stanislas
Mrs. F. T. M. Day	Mrs. G. Langer	Mrs. E. F. Steward
Mr. Roy Douglas	Mr. S. E. Lawrence	Mrs. G. Stewart
Mrs. J. M. Dunlop	Mr. A. E. LeGrys	Miss G. Tilley
Mrs. Edwardes-Jones	Miss D. K. Mason	Miss E. M. Veysey
Miss G. C. Everard	Mrs. M. May	Mrs. C. J. L. Wagstaff
Miss H. M. Fawcett	Mr. N. J. Manwaring	Mr. H. S. Whiting
Mrs. D. A. Ferrier	Mr. J. A. McNab	Mrs. Cyril Wood
Mr. A. H. Ford	Mr. J. W. Murphy	Mr. Cyril Wood
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Fuller	Miss E. M. Parker	Mr. G. A. Wright
Miss M. C. Gordon	Mr. J. F. W. Passmore	

Singing membership of the Society is open to all who sing. **New members are welcomed** (subject to a private audition by the Conductor). Those who would like to join may come to any rehearsal or write to the Hon. Secretary: Mr. CYRIL WOOD, c/o. Ibbett, Mosely, Card & Co., 7, London Road, Tunbridge Wells. (Tel. 446/7).

**Rehearsals:** Christ Church Hall, High Street on Mondays, at 7 p.m. from September to May.

**Annual Subscription:** £1 1s. (reduction for those under 21).

The Society is greatly indebted to its Vice-Presidents for their support, which helps to bridge the serious gap between income and expenditure which nearly always arises in giving choral concerts. It is hoped that all those interested in the performance of choral music will become Vice-Presidents by contributing at least one guinea a year.