

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



at

St Mary's Church, Goudhurst

Sunday 15th December 2002 at 6.30 pm

Admission by Programme

Adults £5 Students and Children £2.50

CHOIR AND AUDIENCE: Once in Royal David's City

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.

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.

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.

CHOIR CAROLS:

Past Three A Clock
Away in a Manger
Zither Carol
The Shepherds' Farewell

Trad. arr. Charles Wood
Trad. arr. Reginald Jacques
Czech arr. Malcolm Sargent
Berlioz (*L'Enfance du Christ*)

CHRISTMAS POEM: Helen McNab

CHOIR AND AUDIENCE: It came upon the midnight clear

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, goodwill 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.

SOPRANO SOLO: **Suzanne Barrett**

CHOIR AND AUDIENCE: **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.
*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
Off-spring 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.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

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.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

CHOIR: Cantique de Jean Racine Gabriel Fauré

THE MAYFIELD BAND: A Christmas Miscellany

HARPSICHORD AND SOPRANO SOLOS:

Steven Devine (harpsichord) and Suzanne Barrett (soprano)

CHOIR AND AUDIENCE: Good King Wenceslas

All Good King Wenceslas look'd 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.

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

Ladies 'Sire, he lives a good league hence,
 Undemeath the mountain,
 Right against the forest fence,
 By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

Men '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.

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

Men '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.

CHOIR AND SOLO SOPRANO:

**Wolcum Yole
 There is no Rose
 Balulalow
 As dew in Aprille
 Deo Gracias**

Benjamin Britten
(A Ceremony of Carols)

CHOIR AND AUDIENCE: 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:
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, etc.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
O come, etc.

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

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

President

Roy Douglas

Vice President

Geoff Stredder

Musical Director and Conductor

Derek Watmough

Accompanist

Wilmarc Ellman

Honorary Life Members

Joyce Stredder, Len Lee

Patrons

Miss B Benson

Mr and Mrs B Phillips

Mr R R Douglas

Mr I Short

Miss D Goodwin

Mr & Mrs G D Stredder

Mrs H MacNab

Mrs R Wakefield

Mrs M Norton

Mr M Webb

Mr R Page

We are very grateful to our Patrons for their valuable support. If you would like to become a Patron and support the Society in this way, please contact:

**the Treasurer, Roy Dunstall on 01580 211814 or
the General Secretary, Olivia Seaman on 01892 863760**

FORTHCOMING CONCERT

Sunday 13th April 2003 at 3 pm

Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells

Fauré's Requiem and John Rutter's Magnificat

If you enjoy singing - why not come and join us?

Rehearsals are held on Mondays at 7.30pm

in St John's Church Hall, Tunbridge Wells

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a member of 'Making Music' (The National Federation of Music Societies) and is a Registered Charity No. 273310

www.rtwcs.org.uk