



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

A Christmas concert

of choral and instrumental music with audience carols

Includes – Buxtehude: *Little Newborn Jesus Child*
Vaughan Williams: *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*

Conducted by Richard Jenkinson

WITH THE WADHURST BRASS BAND,
CELLO SOLOIST DAVID BURROWES,
BARITONE SOLOIST ROLAND MILLAR AND
ORGANIST CHRISTOPHER HARRIS

Sunday 13th December

6.30pm St Mary's Church, Goudhurst, TN17 1AN

ROYAL
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Programme: £1

RTWCS is a Registered Charity No: 273310

www.rtwcs.org.uk

Programme *(Separate audience song sheet available free)*

1. Audience and choir

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

H.J. Gauntlett, harmonised by A.H. Mann;
words by C.F. Alexander.

2. Choir

I SAW A MAIDEN

Old Basque Noël with refrain added by Edgar
Pettman; words 15th century (adapted).

ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

Bohemian traditional carol arranged by C.H.
Trevor; words adapted from Helen A. Dickinson.

ALL THIS TIME

William Walton; words 16th century.

3. Wadhurst Brass Band

CANTIQUE DE NOËL

By Adolphe Adam; arranged by Roland Kernan.

4. Audience and choir

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

English traditional tune arranged by R.
Vaughan Williams, descant by Thomas
Armstrong; words by Bishop Phillips Brooks.

5. Choir and baritone solo

FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

By R. Vaughan Williams.

6. Audience and choir

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

Tune from Piaie Cantiones, arranged by
Reginald Jacques; words by J.M. Neale.

7. Choir

SHEPHERDS PIPE CAROL

Words and music by John Rutter

8. Wadhurst Brass Band

THE SHEPHERD'S SONG

French traditional, arranged by Geoff Richards.

9. Roland Millar – baritone

THE FIRST MERCY

By Peter Warlock

THE CRADLE IN BETHLEHEM

By Roger Quilter

10. Audience and choir

AWAY IN A MANGER

Tune by W.J. Kirkpatrick, arranged by David
Willcocks; words anon.

11. Cello solo – David Burrowes

PRELUDE FROM CELLO SUITE NO.5 IN C MINOR

By J.S. Bach

12. Choir

THE LITTLE NEWBORN JESUS CHILD

By Dietrich Buxtehude.

13. Audience and choir

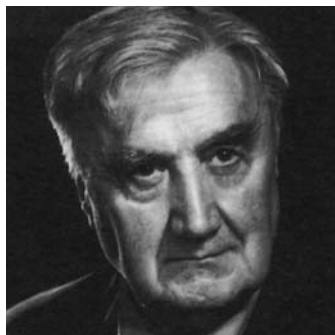
O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Composer unknown, arranged by David Willcocks

About the composer: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958) is considered by many to be the composer who most brought to his music that quintessential “Englishness” so beloved by audiences; *The Lark Ascending* and the *Fantasia on a Theme by Tallis* are good examples of this. So it is no surprise that the *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, though relatively modern (composed for the Hereford Festival, 1912) exudes an atmosphere of the “traditional” Christmas.

Vaughan Williams was well aware of the needs of choirs in concert (including practical things like performing space and available budgets); many of his works were published with versions to suit all circumstances! The *Fantasia* is no exception: it can be performed with orchestra, or just piano and ‘cello, or – as this evening – with organ and cello solo to support the baritone solo and the choir (including the “wordless chorus” role, familiar to us in many of RVW’s large-scale works).



About the composer: Dietrich Buxtehude

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637 - 1707) was one of the most famous musicians of his day; it is said that the young J. S. Bach made a journey of 200 miles on foot, in order to be acquainted with his famous concerts in the city of Lubeck!

Best known as an organist and for his organ works, there is also a huge amount of instrumental and sacred music, and *Das Neugeborne Kindelein* is just one of many Cantatas.

The piece has two main outer movements (which have a nice thematic similarity) linked together by one of the shortest slow movements ever – just eight chords!



The Performers

The Wadhurst Brass Band

A brass band has thrived in Wadhurst since the 1800's. It continues to attract talented players and is proud of a growing training band. The present band owes its' life to Algy Hoare who has taken up the baton again this year. He formed a school band in 1957 which evolved into the Wadhurst Brass Band that is known today.

As well as heard locally throughout the year, Wadhurst Brass Band has made highly acclaimed concert tours in Germany, Belgium and France. It has good links with Wadhurst's twin French village Aubers and will be performing there again in May 2010.

Roland Millar – baritone

Roland has been active locally as a singer, conductor and accompanist for 20 years. He sings with choirs in Kent and in London, regularly performing as a soloist with them as well as appearing as guest soloist with others. Roland has conducted various choirs and orchestras in the South East, both as music director and as guest conductor, and has been the music director of the Forest Row Orchestra for over 15 years.

David Burrowes – cello

David Burrowes sang as a chorister at Canterbury Cathedral, and was a choral scholar at Caius College, Cambridge reading Music.

He is Principal Cello of English Classical Players, Guildford Philharmonic and Worthing Symphony Orchestras, and since September 1998 he has held the post of Principal Cello in the London production of Phantom of the Opera. He has played as guest principal with the London Mozart Players and City of the London Sinfonia, as well as performing extensively with the Philharmonia and RPO.

He is cellist and Artistic Director of Cirrus, and as a member of Primavera, he has performed at the Wigmore Hall, QEH and Purcell Room. Both groups have recorded extensively.

David teaches cello at the University of Surrey, and is Head of Strings at The Kent Music Academy. He is married to a cellist, Anita Strevens. Anita grew up in Goudhurst, and her parents still live in the village.

Christopher Harris – organ

Christopher Harris was born in Tunbridge Wells and now lives in Crowborough where he works as a freelance musician and repetiteur. He studied music at Jesus College, Oxford, as organ scholar specialising in the medieval music of Britain and Europe.

Before going to university, he gained the FRCO diploma studying with Alan Wicks at Canterbury Cathedral. Christopher has given organ recitals in venues such as Westminster Abbey, Chichester Cathedral, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Queens College, Oxford and has accompanied services in many of the cathedrals of southern and eastern England. He is continuo player for Crowborough Baroque and the Corelli Ensemble, accompanist to The Sackville Singers and Tonbridge Philharmonic Society and conductor of the Chancel Singers, a group which sings at various cathedrals around the country and recently sang in Canterbury and St Paul's Cathedrals. He is also conductor of the Hartfield Singers.

Forthcoming concerts to be given by the choir

Spring Concert 2010

Sunday April 18th, 3pm
The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Beethoven Spectacular

Coriolanus Overture
Choral Fantasia
Mass in C

With the RTWCS Orchestra.
Piano soloist: Anthony Zerpa-Falcon



Summer Sing 2010

Saturday July 3rd, 7pm
St Johns Church, Tunbridge Wells
Rossini: *Petite Messe Solonelle*



The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is one of the leading choirs in Southern England. Major concerts are given regularly with a chorus of a hundred or more voices, joined by professional orchestras and soloists. Performances have included Mozart's *Requiem*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, Verdi's hugely powerful *Requiem*, and most recently, Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* – all given to large, enthusiastic audiences and great critical acclaim.

Their professional Musical Director, Richard Jenkinson, now in his sixth season with RTWCS, is enjoying leading the choir "from strength to strength!".

If you enjoy singing...

... why not come and join us for our next concerts. Rehearsals are held on Mondays at 7.30pm, normally at St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells. We welcome singers of all levels of experience. Prospective members are not required to audition and can come to several rehearsals before committing to joining.

To find out more contact Trevor Hurrell on 07770 3104 (email hurrellt@googlemail.com) or visit our website at www.rtwcs.org.uk.



ROYAL
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
CHORAL
SOCIETY

For further information about the Society visit our website:
www.rtwcs.org.uk

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a member of NFMS ("Making Music") and is a Registered Charity No 273310.

