

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

Christmas Concert

**Choral and instrumental music
with audience carols**

including Bach: *Christmas Oratorio (excerpts)*
Karl Jenkins: *Celebration of Christmas*
Conductor: Richard Jenkinson

WITH THE MAYFIELD BRASS BAND CONDUCTED BY ROY FULLER

Sunday 12th December

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

Royal Tunbridge Wells

**CHORAL
SOCIETY**

RTWCS is a Registered Charity No: 273310
www.rtwcs.org.uk

Programme: £1

Programme *(Separate audience song sheet available free)*

1. Audience and choir

O come all ye faithful

Words 18th century. Melody J.F. Wade, harmonised mainly by W.H. Monk; verse 3 arr. H.A. Chambers, verse 4 arr. W. Llewellyn.

2. Choir

The little road to Bethlehem

Words Margaret Rose. Composer Michael Head.

There is no rose of such virtue

Words Medieval. Composer John Joubert.

3. Mayfield Band

Joy in Bethlehem

4. Audience and choir

In the bleak midwinter

Words Christina Rossetti. Composer Gustav Holst.

5. Choir

Excerpts from *Christmas Oratorio* – J.S. Bach

Christians be joyful

Ah dearest Jesus

Symphony (organ)

Break forth

Glory to God

With all thy hosts

Hear, King of angels

6. Audience and choir

The first Nowell

Words traditional. Traditional English carol arr. John Stainer; descant and final verse arr. W. Llewellyn.

7. Choir

A Somerset Carol

Words traditional. Music traditional arr. W. Llewellyn.

Joy to the world

Words Isaac Watts based on Psalm 98. Music from Holford's *Voce di Melodia* arr. W. Llewellyn.

8. Mayfield Band

O come Emmanuel

9. Audience and choir

Once in royal David's city

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

10. Choir

Karl Jenkins: *Celebration of Christmas* –

Lullay

Son of Maria

Stille nacht

In dulci jubilo

Recorder: Maguerite Weatherseed

11. Audience and choir

Hark the herald angels sing

About the composer: J S Bach (1685– 1750)

The *Christmas Oratorio* BWV 248, is intended for performance in church during the Christmas season. It was written for the Christmas season of 1734 incorporating music from earlier compositions, including three secular cantatas written during 1733 and 1734 and a now lost church cantata, BWV 248a. The next performance was not until 17 December 1857 by the Sing-Akademie zu Berlin under Eduard Grell. The author of the text is unknown, although a likely collaborator was Christian Friedrich Henrici (Picander).

The work belongs to a group of three oratorios written towards the end of Bach's career in 1734 and 1735 for major feasts, the others being the *Ascension Oratorio* (BWV 11) and the *Easter Oratorio* (BWV 249). All include a tenor Evangelist as narrator and borrow from earlier compositions, although the *Christmas Oratorio* is by far the longest and most complex work.

The oratorio is in six parts, each part being intended for performance on one of the major feast days of the Christmas period. The piece is often presented as a whole or split into two equal parts. The total running time for the entire work is nearly three hours. Today we perform just the choral pieces from Part One!

The first part (for Christmas Day) describes the Birth of Jesus, the second (for December 26) the annunciation to the shepherds, the third (for December 27) the adoration of the shepherds, the fourth (for New Year's Day) the circumcision and naming of Jesus, the fifth (for the first Sunday after New Year) the journey of the Magi, and the sixth (for Epiphany) the adoration of the Magi.



About the composer: Karl Jenkins (b. 1944)

Measured in terms of record sales, Karl Jenkins is the most successful British classical composer: his album *Adiemus: Songs of Sanctuary* has sold over three million copies in 50 countries, and its sequels, *Adiemus: Cantata Mundi* and *Adiemus: Dances of Time*, all rapidly topped the charts. His music is widely familiar through TV advertising usage in the UK, such as the De Beers Diamond campaign (*Palladio*) and Delta Air Lines (*Adiemus*).



Among the most popular modern composers, in 2004 Jenkins entered Classic FM's Hall of Fame at No 8: the highest position for a contemporary composer. His massively successful choral compositions include *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* (performed by RTWCS in November 2009), *Requiem* and *Stabat Mater*.

Celebration of Christmas is altogether different, being a collection of carols in modern arrangements, ranging from medieval tunes through to traditional carols to original compositions.

The Performers

Richard Jenkinson – Conductor

Richard was a scholarship student at the Royal College of Music in London, where he won many prizes and awards for his work, and where Sir David Willcocks was a huge influence and guide.

He works regularly with many choral societies, chamber choirs and church choirs in and around London/Southern England, and has appeared at most of the major venues.

Richard is now enjoying the challenges of his exciting new appointment as Conductor of The London Orpheus Choir, following in the illustrious footsteps of James Gaddarn.

This season includes appearances at Winchester, Hereford and Arundel Cathedrals, with Richard conducting performances of many great works: Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, Haydn's "*Nelson*" *Mass*, Duruflé's *Requiem* and Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, plus works by Vaughan Williams, Rutter, Buxtehude, Pergolesi and many more.

Away from music, Richard continues to enjoy sport (mostly viewed from the safety of a comfy sofa!) plus good wine and local beer!



The Mayfield Band

The Mayfield Band is based in the Kent countryside in Mayfield Village. We play at many varied venues from Eastbourne bandstand to small village fetes.

We are always looking for more brass players to swell our ranks, and also teach beginners of any age. You can see that the band has members from across a wide age spectrum.

Our Musical director is Roy Fuller, and he has been with the band for 25 years, many of them as conductor. He is also a player and arranger of brass band music

Christopher Harris – organ

Christopher Harris was born in Tunbridge Wells and now lives in Crowborough where he works as a freelance musician and répétiteur. 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 2011

Sunday April 10th, 3.00pm
The Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU
Dvořák: *Stabat Mater*
With the RTWCS Orchestra.



Autumn Concert 2011

Saturday November 12th, 7.00pm
The Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU
Mendelssohn: *Elijah*
With the RTWCS Orchestra.



Summer Concert 2011

Saturday June 25th
Venue tba
An Anglo-German programme including
Rutter: *Requiem*
Mendelssohn: *Hear my prayer*



If you enjoy singing...

... why not come and join us for our next concerts. The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society aspires to choral excellence, giving a life-enhancing experience for our members and audience. 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.



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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.

