



A  
Baroque  
Christmas  
Concert

with

Christopher Harris  
*(organ)*

Ellie Lovegrove  
*(trumpet)*

The Mayfield Band  
*Bandmaster Trevor Scott*

*Conducted by*  
**Rebecca Miller**

St Mary's Parish Church, Goudhurst  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 6.30 p.m.

**Programme £2**

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## Chairman's Greeting

Many of our concerts are big and busy, but the Christmas concert at Goudhurst is different, more relaxed and enjoyable. The choir always enjoys coming to Goudhurst, and we like to think that Goudhurst enjoys our visit, for we always get a warm welcome and reception. I regard it as the start of the Christmas season.

Since our start in 1904, choral singing in England has had its ups and downs. It has become a well-established tradition, with a huge repertoire upon which we can draw, but like everything else in this modern world, it has to adapt to survive. Audiences expect far more from amateur choirs, having become used to high quality performances on the radio and recordings, causing us to have a radical rethink on our strategy and direction. One result of this is the appointment of a high-calibre Musical Director who, together with a hugely talented accompanist, ensures that the choir are performing to their full potential.

Young people learnt to sing in school and church choirs in the last century, but this is now rarely so, and it is creating a problem for choirs. You will be aware that recently there has been a new interest in choirs in the media, with new groups being formed to enjoy communal singing. They may not always perform the more traditional works, but they are to be congratulated and encouraged if they light the spark in young people for singing.

I hope that the RTWCS can benefit from this new awareness by attracting more people to our audiences and the choir. Singing can be joyful, as I hope you will believe after participating in this evening's event, and if you want to participate more fully then please do not be afraid to contact us to enquire whether we can satisfy your need. I joined the choir in 1967 to see if I would be suitable and whether it was for me, and now I look back on many years of musical fulfilment. What better, or perhaps easier, way is there of accessing and sharing the music of great composers than to sing in a choir?

Thank you for your attendance and support this evening, and I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Roy Dunstall, Chairman  
Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society*



# Programme

(Separate audience song sheet available)

## 1. Audience and Choir

Once in Royal David's City (verses 1 & 2)  
tune by H.J.Gauntlett, words by C.F.Alexander

## 2. Choir

excerpts from *Gloria*:

*Gloria*

*Et in Terra Pax*

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus*

*Cum Sancto Spiritu*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

## 3. Organ Solo

*Où S'en vont Ces gais bergers*

Claude Balbastre (1727 – 1799)

## 4. Audience and Choir

O Come all ye Faithful

Traditional – arranged by David Willcocks

## 5. Choir

*Ave Verum Corpus*

W.A Mozart (1756 –1791)

## 6. Mayfield Band

*Christmas Joy*

Erik Leidzén (1894 - 1962)

*Christmas Swingalong*

Derek Ashmore

## 7. Choir

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J.S.Bach

## 8. Audience and Choir

The Holly and the Ivy

Traditional - audience to sing refrain

Coventry Carol

arranged by Martin Shaw

## 9. Choir

excerpts from

*Christmas Oratorio*

Chorale: *Ah! Dearest Jesu*

*Pastoral Symphony (organ)*

Chorale: *With all thy hosts*

J.S. Bach

## 10. Trumpet Solo

*I'm dreaming of a white Christmas*

Irving Berlin

## 11. Choir

*Donkey Carol*

John Rutter

*Gloucestershire Wassail*

(Traditional - arranged by Vaughan-Williams)

## 12. Audience and Choir

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

(traditional—tune by Mendelssohn)



## Programme Notes

### Vivaldi's *Gloria*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741) was an Italian Baroque composer, priest, and virtuoso violinist, born in Venice. Recognized as one of the greatest Baroque composers, his influence during his lifetime was widespread over Europe. He composed his *Gloria* in Venice, probably in 1715, for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage for girls which prided itself on the quality of its musical education and the excellence of its choir and orchestra. Vivaldi composed many sacred works for the Ospedale, where he spent most of his career, as well as hundreds of instrumental concertos to be played by the girls' orchestra. This, his most famous choral piece, presents the traditional *Gloria* from the Latin Mass in twelve sections of which four will be performed tonight.



The wonderfully sunny nature of the Gloria, with its distinctive melodies and rhythms, is characteristic of all of Vivaldi's music, giving it an immediate and universal appeal. The opening *Gloria*, is a joyous chorus, *Et in terra pax* is in nearly every way a contrast to the first. It is in triple rather than duple time, in a minor key, and rather slower. Its imitative and expressive chromatic texture evokes the motets of the Renaissance. *Quoniam tu solus sanctus* takes the shape of a brief reprise of the opening movement's broken octaves.

The concluding *Cum Sancto Spiritu* is written in "*stile antico*" (literally "ancient style"), which is associated with composers of the high Baroque, and is a powerful double fugue; in this arrangement, a solo trumpet is employed to dramatic effect.



## **Organ Solo - *Où S'en vont Ces gais bergers* by Claude Balbastre**

The organ piece *Où S'en vont Ces gais bergers* is based on a French carol. It was written by Claude Balbastre who was born in Dijon in 1724. Balbastre received his first music lessons from his father who was an organist, then was a pupil of Claude Rameau, the younger brother of Jean-Philippe Rameau, the most famous French musician at the time and also a native of Dijon. Balbastre settled in Paris in 1750 and became organist of Notre-Dame and of the *Chapelle Royale*. He achieved high popularity in French society of the time.

## **Johan Sebastian Bach**



No "Baroque" styled concert would be complete without a contribution from the German composer J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750), surely the greatest composer of the Baroque Period. Tonight we offer 4 pieces, the first is from the much-loved Cantata BWV 147 *Jesus bleibet meine Freude* translated as *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* which will be familiar to most listeners.



His *Christmas Oratorio* was composed for performance in church during the Christmas season. It was written for the season of 1734 incorporating music from earlier compositions, including three secular cantatas. The complete 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 rarely performed as a whole as the total running time for the entire work is nearly

three hours. Tonight we shall hear two of the beautifully structured chorales sung by the choir, and the Pastoral Symphony played on the organ.



## ***I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* - by Irving Berlin**

Irving Berlin (1888 – 1989) was a Russian-born American composer and lyricist, widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in American history.



"White Christmas" is one of his best-known songs about an old-fashioned Christmas setting. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the version sung by Bing Crosby is the best-selling single of all time, with estimated sales in excess of 50 million copies worldwide. Tonight we will hear it played on the flugelhorn with piano accompaniment; it is one of many arrangements written for this enduringly popular song.

# The performers

## Rebecca Miller - Conductor

Acclaimed by press and audiences as a compelling, insightful and energetic force on the podium, American conductor Rebecca Miller is at home in both the orchestral and choral worlds. Winner First Prize in the Eduardo Mata International Conducting Competition, she has guest conducted extensively in Mexico, including the National Symphony of Mexico, the Orquesta Filarmónica del UNAM, and the state symphonies of Yucatan, Sinaloa and Aguascalientes. Rebecca recently served as Resident Conductor of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, where she directed the 'Casual Classics' series, classical, community, education and cross-cultural and cross-genre performances, and where she was particularly admired for her ability to communicate with audiences of all ages. Previously she was Conducting Fellow with the Houston Symphony.



As guest conductor, Rebecca has performed with the Southbank Sinfonia, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Swan, Fibonacci Sequence, Manson Ensemble, the 'Sounds New' festival in Canterbury, and a composer portrait of Anthony Payne at the BBC Proms. In the US, she has guest conducted the Reno Philharmonic, Chicago College of the Performing Arts, Musiq Houston, the Huntsville Symphony, the Bard Festival in New York, the New Asiana Ensemble in Korea and the Jerusalem Symphony in Israel. This year, Rebecca made a highly acclaimed debut with the Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, and is currently a finalist for Music Director of the Santa Cruz Symphony in California.

Previously, Rebecca worked as assistant conductor of the Jerusalem Symphony, Music Director of the Kingston University Orchestra and Chorus, and Music Director of the Sine Nomine Singers. She has released two CDs of world premiere recordings with The New Professionals Orchestra – the first, *Lou Harrison: For Strings*, features on the soundtrack of Martin Scorsese's film *Shutter Island*; the second, with Mary King (narrator), contains music by Pulitzer-prizewinner Aaron Jay Kernis, and received an 'Outstanding Recording' award from International Record Review, and 'Recording of the Year' by MusicWeb International.

Rebecca trained as a pianist and soprano at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Ohio), as a conductor at Northwestern University (Chicago), and was the Junior Fellow in Conducting at the Royal College of Music for two years. She is currently based in London with her two children and her husband, British pianist Danny Driver.



## Christopher Harris - Organ

Christopher Harris was born in Tunbridge Wells and now lives in Crowborough. Having retired from teaching, Christopher is now a freelance musician, performing wherever and whenever the opportunities arise.

He studied music at Jesus College, Oxford, as organ scholar and at University College, Cardiff, where he specialised in the medieval music of Britain and Europe. Before going to university, he gained the FRCO diploma studying with Allan 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 accompanist to The Sackville Singers and Tonbridge Philharmonic Society as well as conductor of the Chancel Singers.



## Ellie Lovegrove - Trumpet



Ellie is a graduate of the Royal College of Music, London: in 2007 her quintet was awarded the RCM Brass Ensemble prize. Ellie has performed with the RCM and many national orchestras throughout the UK both as an orchestral player and soloist, and given recitals across the country for music clubs and lunchtime concert series.

She has also toured with pop-soul artist Seal, worked with the Bootleg Beatles, and has deputised on the UK tours of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' and 'Chicago the Musical'. TV appearances have included Channel 4's 'The Friday Night Project', BBC's 'Maestro', and the BBC News. She has performed with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, and her own projects have led to performances at the 100 Club, London, and jazz venues in Athens. She has performed for HM The Queen, and enjoys a varied freelance career.



## The Mayfield Band



The Mayfield Band is a traditional brass band, based in the heart of the Sussex High Weald, with roots going back over 150 years. In addition to three or four formal concerts a year, including a regular "Last Night of the Proms" concert, they play at fêtes and fairs throughout the region, and perform regularly on Eastbourne Bandstand. They also participate in band contests, and have enjoyed many successes in recent years. The band works hard to offer a musical education to all local children through its youth

section, and training is also offered to adults.

Brass bands are almost unique in offering an activity in which the whole family can take part, and Mayfield is no exception. Sixteen of their players come from just five families. If you would like to hear more of them, their Christmas Concert is on 22nd December in Mayfield. See [www.mayfieldband.com](http://www.mayfieldband.com) for more details.

Bandmaster, Trevor Scott, is a third generation brass band player and started playing at the age of seven. Both his father and grandfather were Bandmasters of Salvation Army Bands and his siblings, children and grandchildren are all brass band players. When all together they can form a complete family Brass Band of 30 players. Trevor has played the whole range of brass instruments, except Trombone, and he has played Euphonium in Mayfield Band for the last 14 years, as well as Tuba when required.



## The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society (RTWCS)

RTWCS is a long established and very friendly choir made up of about 100 mixed voices drawn from Kent and East Sussex. We sing a whole range of Choral and Operatic pieces and usually perform two major concerts a year in the Spring and the Autumn; plus a Christmas concert, and a summer performance in June or July. Performances of works with a full orchestral accompaniment are usually held in the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall Theatre.

When the choir's new American music director, Rebecca Miller, was asked about her plans for the society, she said: "I intend to perform a balance of well loved choral pieces, my particular love is doing works that have not been performed for a while... I don't want to go off the deep end, but I want to gain the trust of the community so they know the concerts are going to be of high quality, then they begin to trust me and say 'She's got taste!'"

## ***Forthcoming concerts to be given by the choir***

### **Spring Concert 2013**

Sunday 7th April 2013, 3pm  
The Assembly Hall Theatre,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU

**Beethoven: 9th Symphony** (*The Choral*)  
with the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony  
Orchestra



### **Summer Concert 2013**

Sunday 16th June 2013, 3pm  
The Assembly Hall Theatre,  
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU

**Haydn: The Creation**



## ***Other forthcoming local concerts***

### **Tonbridge Music Club**

Saturday 19 January 2013 at 8pm in Big School,  
Tonbridge School.

#### **Nash Ensemble:**

Mozart – Flute Quartet in D K285  
Debussy – Sonata for flute, viola and harp  
Françaix – Quintet for flute, string trio and harp  
Ravel – Introduction and Allegro for flute, clarinet,  
harp and string quartet  
Mozart – Clarinet Quintet in A K581

[www.tmc.org.uk](http://www.tmc.org.uk)

### **Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013 at 3pm  
in the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

Roderick Dunk - conductor  
Leonard Elschenbroich - cello

Wagner - Overture, Die Meistersinger  
Shostakovich - Cello Concerto No 1  
Dvořák - Symphony No 6

[www.rtwso.org](http://www.rtwso.org)



## **If you enjoy singing...**

... why not come and join us for one of 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 823104 (email [hurrellt@googlemail.com](mailto:hurrellt@googlemail.com)) or visit our website at [www.rtwcs.org.uk](http://www.rtwcs.org.uk).



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For further information about the Society visit our website

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