



SCHOLA
Cantorum of Oxford

Steven Grahl
Conductor

Carols for Christmas

Rutter

Frances-Hoad

Mathias

and more

Thursday 30 November 2023, 8pm

Christ Church Cathedral

Oxford OX1 1DP

From the Chair of the Trustees



Welcome to a festive seasonal concert given by Schola Cantorum of Oxford, the University's premier chamber choir. Schola Cantorum provides an exceptional musical experience for its members, but also gives audiences in Oxford access to a wonderful range of choral repertoire – both sacred and secular. The choir sets out to challenge the best young singers from across the University to perform to the highest standards, and to provide an outstanding musical performance experience.

The choir has an enviable and unbroken 60-year history and has played a pivotal role in the development of an astonishing number of singers and choral conductors of the last six decades, building an international reputation through extensive tours and recordings.

If you would like to receive regular information about its concerts, please email us at admin@schola-cantorum.net or use the QR code below to sign up via our website at www.schola-cantorum.net.

We hope you enjoy tonight's programme.

*Dame Hilary Boulding DBE
Chair of the Trustees, Schola Cantorum of Oxford*

Schola Cantorum of Oxford acknowledges with gratitude the generous support of the Roger and Ingrid Pilkington Trust.



PROGRAMME

AUDIENCE CAROL

There is a flower

Alma Redemptoris Mater
à 8

I saw three ships
English traditional

O magnum mysterium

In the Bleak Midwinter

Sussex Carol
English traditional

AUDIENCE CAROL

A babe is born
(Op. 55)

Ave Maria
à 8

Good Day, Sir Christemas!

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

A merry Christmas
Traditional West country

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

John Rutter
(b.1945)

Tomás Luis de Victoria
(1548-1611)

arr. David Maw
(b. 1967)

* * * * *

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Harold Darke
(1888-1976)

arr. David Willcocks
(1919-2015)

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

William Mathias
(1934-1992)

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Cheryl Frances-Hoad
(b. 1980)

* * * * *

arr. Peter Gritton
(b. 1963)

arr. Arthur Warrell
(1883-1939)

PLEASE ENSURE THAT MOBILE PHONES ARE SWITCHED OFF

AUDIENCE CAROL - ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. Once in royal David's city *Solo*
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.

2. He came down to earth from heaven *Choir only*
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.

3. And through all his wondrous childhood *All*
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.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him, *All*
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.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable, *All*
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 crowned
All in white shall wait around.

HJ Gauntlett (1805-1876)
Vv. 1-5 harmonised by AH Mann (1850-1929)
V. 6 arranged by David Willcocks (1919-2015)
Words by CF Alexander (1818-1895)

*There is a flow'r sprung of a tree
The root thereof is callèd Jesse,
A flow'r of price;
There is none such in paradise.*

1. This flow'r is fair and fresh of hue,
It fadeth never, but ever is new;
The blessed branch this flow'r on grew
Was Mary mild that bare Jesu;
A flow'r of grace;
Against all sorrow it is solace.
2. The seed hereof was Goddes sand,
That God himself sowed with his hand,
In Nazareth that holy land
Amidst her arbour a maiden found;
This blessed flow'r;
Sprang never but in Mary's bower.
3. When Gabriel this maid did meet,
With 'Ave Maria' he did her greet;
Between them two this flow'r was set
And safe was kept, no man should wit,
Till on a day
In Bethlem it could spread and spray.
4. When that fair flow'r began to spread
And his sweet blossom began to bed,
Then rich and poor of ev'ry land
Marvelled how this flow'r might spread,
Till kinges three
That blessed flower came to see.
5. Angels there came from heaven's tower,
To look upon the freshele flow'r,
How fair he was in his colour
And how sweet in his savour;
And to behold;
How such a flow'r might spring in gold. *Alleluia*

Words by John Audelay (15th cent.)

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Alma Redemptoris Mater,
quae pervia caeli
porta manes,
et stella maris,
succurre cadenti surgere
qui curat populo:
Tu quae genuisti,
natura mirante,
tuum sanctum Genitorem:
Virgo prius ac posterius,
Gabrielis ab ore
sumens illud Ave,
peccatorum miserere.

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
who remains the gate by which
we mortals enter heaven,
and star of the sea,
help your fallen people
who strive to rise:
You who gave birth,
amazing nature,
to your sacred Creator:
Virgin before and after,
who from the mouth of Gabriel
received that 'Hail',
have mercy on our sins.*

I saw three ships

arr. David Maw

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day etc.

Our Saviour Christ and his Lady,
On Christmas Day etc.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day etc.

O, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day etc.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day etc.

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day etc.

And all the souls on earth shall sing.
On Christmas Day etc.

Then let us all rejoice amain!
On Christmas Day etc.

O magnum mysterium

O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio.
O beata virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia.

Tomás Luis de Victoria

*O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see
the newborn Lord,
lying in a manger.
O blessed virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
the Lord, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia.*

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.
2. Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stableplace sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.

Harold Darke

3. Enough for him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.
4. What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

Words by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Sussex Carol

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.
2. Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?.

arr. David Willcocks

3. When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

4. All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.

English traditional carol

AUDIENCE CAROL - GOOD KING WENCESLAS

1. **Good King Wenceslas look'd out** *All*
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.

2. **Hither, page, and stand by me,** *Lower voices*
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'
Upper voices
Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes fountain.'

3. **'Bring me flesh and bring me wine,** *Lower voices*
Bring me pine logs hither.
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.'
Choir only
Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

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

**'Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shall find the winters rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'**

Lower voices

5. **In his masters step 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.**

All

Tune from 'Piee Cantiones' arranged by Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

Words by JM Neale (1818-1866)

A babe is born

William Mathias

1. A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni, Creator Spiritus.
2. At Bethlehem, that blessed place,
The child of bliss now born he was;
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas.
3. There came three kings out of the East,
To worship the King that is so free.
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortu cardine.
4. The angels came down with one cry,
A fair song that night sung they
In worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine.
5. A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni, Creator.../O lux beata.../A solis ortu.../Gloria tibi Domine. Noel!

Words 15th century

Ave Maria

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Ave Maria gratia plena
Dominus tecum:
benedicta tu in mulieribus
et benedictus
fructus ventris tui, Iesus.
Sancta Maria Regina caeli,
dulcis et pia
O Mater Dei:
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
ut cum electis te videamus,

*Hail Mary full of grace
The Lord is with you:
Blessed are you among women
and blessed
the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Queen of heaven,
sweet and merciful
O Mother of God:
pray for us sinners
that with the elect we may see you.*

Good Day, Sir Christemas!

Cheryl Frances-Hoad

*Good day, good day,
My lord Sir Christemas, good day!*

Good day, Sir Christemas, our king,
For every man, both old and young,
Is glad and blithe for your coming;
Good day!

God's son so great of might
From heaven to earth down is alight
And born is of a maid so bright;
Good day!

Heaven and earth and also hell,
And all that ever in them dwell,
Of your coming they are full snelle; [*glad, excited*]
Good day!

Of your coming the clerks find:
Ye come to save all mankind
And of their sorrows them unbind;
Good day!

All manner of mirths we make
And solace to our hearts take,
My noble lord, for your sake;
Good day!

*From the Selden Carol Book, 15th Century English
modernised version by Eleanor Parker*

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

arr. Peter Gritton

Have yourself a merry little Christmas,
let your heart be light
Next year all our troubles will be out of sight.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas,
make the Yuletide gay,
Next year all our troubles will be miles away.

Once again, as in olden days,
happy golden days of yore,
Faithful friends who are dear to us
will be near to us once more.

Someday soon we all will be together,
if the fates allow,
Until then, we'll have to muddle through somehow,
So have yourself a merry little Christmas now

Words and music by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane

A merry Christmas

arr. Arthur Warrell

We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas And a happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Now bring us some figgy pudding, Now bring us some figgy pudding,
Now bring us some figgy pudding, And bring some out here.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

For we all like figgy pudding, We all like figgy pudding,
For we all like figgy pudding, So bring some out here.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

And we won't go til we've got some, we won't go til we've got some,
We won't go til we've got some, So bring some out here.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Traditional West country carol

BIOGRAPHIES

Steven Grahl (Conductor)



Steven Grahl is a sought-after conductor and keyboard player, and has been Conductor of Schola Cantorum of Oxford since 2017. He is also Organist and Tutor in Music at Christ Church, Oxford, an Associate Professor of Music at Oxford University, and Musical Director of Benson Choral Society.

Steven served as Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral from 2014 to 2018, where he was responsible for training the Cathedral Choir, and for the re-pitching of the Hill Organ, on which instrument he has recorded a solo CD. Peterborough Cathedral Choir's recording of Cheryl Frances-Hoad's EvenYouSong, made under Steven's direction, was released to critical acclaim in December 2017. He also held positions as Assistant Organist at New College, Oxford, and as Organist and Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church, London.

Steven was an interpretation finalist in the International Organ Competitions at St Albans (UK) in 2011, and in Dudelange (Luxembourg) in 2013, and completed his term as President of the Incorporated Association of Organists in 2019. He is a prize-winning graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, and the Royal Academy of Music. He gained the top prizes in the FRCO examination, and is also a holder of the Worshipful Company of Musicians' Silver Medallion. In 2010, he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

Simon Hogan (Organ)

Simon Hogan is the Sub-Organist and Assistant Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral, a post which he combines with being Organist to the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and a portfolio of freelance work in and around London.

Simon's musical life began as a chorister at St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. Following organ scholarships at Bristol and Salisbury Cathedrals, he moved to London in 2008 to study organ performance at the Royal College of Music, where he subsequently graduated with first class honours. In his final year he held the Organ Scholarship at St Paul's Cathedral, before becoming Assistant Director of Music at Southwell Minster, a post he held for seven years.

As a soloist Simon has given recitals in venues across the UK, including the cathedrals of Durham, Hereford and Westminster, The Albert Hall, Nottingham, and Rochdale Town Hall. He is also the principal organist for JAM, an organisation which commissions and performs new music for brass, organ and choir by leading contemporary composers.

Schola Cantorum of Oxford

Schola Cantorum of Oxford is the University of Oxford's premier chamber choir. Schola's mission is to share the joy of choral music with our singers, our community of alumni and supporters, and with audiences in Oxford and around the world. We challenge ourselves to perform to the highest standards, providing outstanding musical training for young singers and conductors.

The choir was founded by László Heltay in 1960 at a point when there were few opportunities for men and women to sing together to a high standard. Times have changed and Schola's role has changed too. We've now built a reputation as Oxford's premier concert choir – engaging deeply with complex repertoire, and providing a space for performance outside religious services.

Schola has worked with many of the foremost musicians of the last six decades and has built an international reputation through extensive tours and recordings. We are proud of our alumni who have gone on to lead successful musical careers such as John Mark Ainsley, Emma Kirkby, Christine Rice, Susan Gritton, Ian Bostridge and Roderick Williams – many came to Oxford to study other subjects but developed their musical talents during their time in Schola.

In April 2022 the choir joined with c.100 alumni, including several founder members, for a belated 60th anniversary celebration culminating in an outstanding performance of Bach's *B Minor Mass* with Instruments of Time & Truth in Oxford Town Hall. Since then the choir has given a number of concerts in Oxford and London, the most recent of which was an uplifting performance of Brahms' *Liebeslieder Walzer* with partsongs by Robert and Clara Schumann in the de Jager Auditorium at Trinity College, Oxford.



Schola Cantorum of Oxford

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Joanna Barrett	Pete Dockrill	Jerric Chong	Luke Barron
Maddy Bellotti	Georgia Dunn	Håvard Damm-Johnsen	Nathaniel Best
Phoebe Smith	Rosanna Farthing	Jack Edis	Christopher Churcher
Anna Sutton	Beth 'Fitz' Fitzpatrick	Quinton Lee	Andrew Hannaford
	Thomas Galea	Patrick Maxwell	Madeleine Lay
	Sòlas McDonald		Raphaël Maurin
			Iris Oliver

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Dame Emma Kirkby DBE,
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Christine Rice, Roderick Williams OBE

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Anna Sutton

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Andrew Hannaford

Acknowledgements

Schola Cantorum is pleased to acknowledge the support of the
Roger and Ingrid Pilkington Trust

Registered Charity No. 272382

To become a Friend of Schola Cantorum or to make a donation, please contact
admin@schola-cantorum.net.

Securing Schola's future

Schola is a registered charity and relies entirely on the generosity of our patrons, donors, and friends. Many of our alumni generously support the choir so that current members can access the same opportunities they had in the past.

We are proud of our 60-year history but we're always looking ahead. To secure the choir's long-term future we need an annual income of around £20,000. This supports:

- Our professional conductor
- Our conducting scholarship
- Regular tours to share our wonderful choral tradition around the world
- Singing masterclasses and training opportunities
- Running costs, including music, venues, collaborations, and professional admin

We're not content to stand still. To mark six decades of Schola we are setting out to raise an additional £60,000 over the next 2 years – doubling our endowment. This would allow us to:

- Commission new music and set up a composer in association scheme
- Establish an annual tour and recording fund

“The conducting scholarship honed in on my musical integrity and forced me to interrogate why I was standing in front of a choir and why I was conducting the piece in a certain way.”

Gabriella Noble,
conducting scholar
2016-17

“Schola sings a wide-ranging repertoire, designed to enrich the musical education of choir members. We focus on secular works and newly composed pieces that aren't often tackled by other choirs.”

Stephen Grahl,
conductor



For more information or to sign up to our mailing list visit schola-cantorum.net.

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Forthcoming Schola Concerts

Tuesday 12 December 2023, 7pm

All Saint's Church, 1 The Bury, Odiham, Hook RG29 1ND

Carol concert in aid of St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke

Thursday 11 April 2024, 7.30pm

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad St, Oxford OX1 3AZ

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Schola Cantorum of Oxford

Mozart *Requiem*

Tickets available at oxfordphil.com