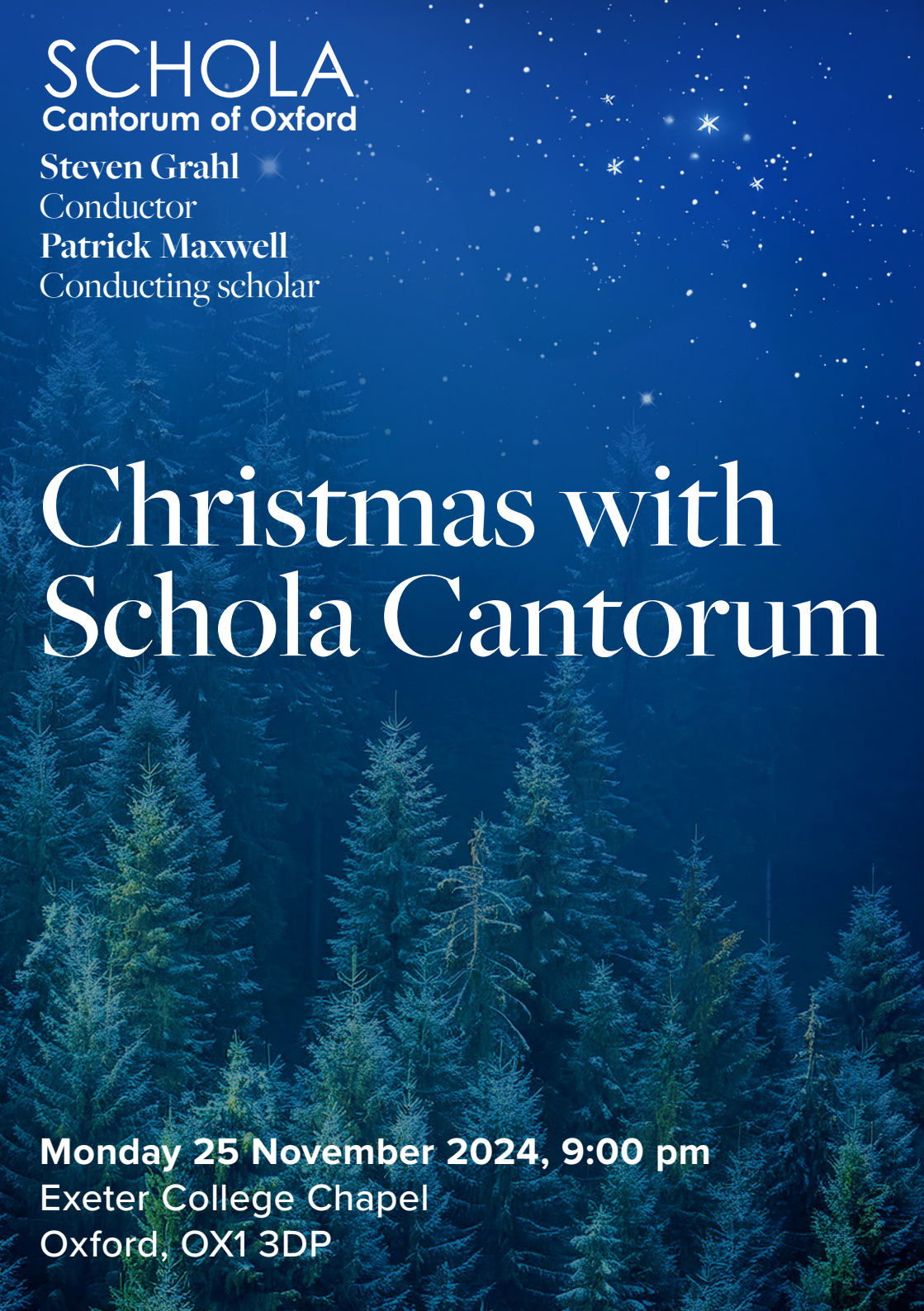




SCHOLA
Cantorum of Oxford

Steven Grahl

Conductor

Patrick Maxwell

Conducting scholar

Christmas with Schola Cantorum

Monday 25 November 2024, 9:00 pm
Exeter College Chapel
Oxford, OX1 3DP

From the Chairman of the Trustees



Schola Cantorum of Oxford, the University's premier chamber choir, is delighted to be presenting this late evening concert of music for Advent and Christmas. Schola Cantorum provides a great 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.

*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

Orlando di Lasso	Alma redemptoris mater
trad arr. Vaughan Williams	This is the truth sent from above
Cheryl Frances-Hoad	Good Day, Sir Christemas!
AUDIENCE CAROL	Once in Royal David's City
Herbert Howells	Long, long ago

READING

Trad. arr. David Willcocks	Quelle est cette odeur agréable
Trad. arr. Willcocks	Sussex Carol

READING

Peter Gritton	Follow that star
AUDIENCE CAROL	O little town of Bethlehem
Trad. arr. Adrian Wall	Gaudete

READING

Trad. arr. Willcocks	Il est né le divin enfant
AUDIENCE CAROL	Good King Wenceslas

READING

arr. Gritton	Have yourself a merry little Christmas
arr. Warrell	We wish you a merry Christmas

Please switch off mobile phones
Photography is not permitted during the performance

WORDS FOR AUDIENCE CAROLS

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

CHOIR ONLY:

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.

ALL:

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 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.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)

Music: H J Gauntlett (1805–76), arr. A H Mann (1850–1929)

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by,
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in the world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: traditional arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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.
LOWER VOICES	"Hither, page, and stand by me, If thou know'st it, telling, Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
HIGHER VOICES	"Sire, he lives a good league hence, Underneath the mountain, Right against the forest fence, By Saint Agnes' fountain."
LOWER VOICES	"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.
HIGHER VOICES	"Sire, the night is darker now, And the wind blows stronger; Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."
LOWER VOICES	"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.

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Music: from Piaae Cantiones arr. Reginald Jacques (1894-1969)

FRENCH AND LATIN TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Alma Redemptoris Mater

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.

Quelle est cette odeur agréable

Quelle est cette odeur agréable,
Bergers, qui ravit tous nos sens?
S'exhale-t-il rien de semblable
Au milieu des fleurs du printemps?
Quelle est cette odeur agréable,
Bergers, qui ravit tous nos sens?

Mais quelle éclatante lumière
Dans la nuit vient frapper nos yeux!
L'astre de jour, dans sa carrière,
Fût-il jamais si radieux?
Mais quelle éclatante lumière
Dans la nuit vient frapper nos yeux!

Loving Mother of the Redeemer

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, taking from the mouth of Gabriel
that Hail! have mercy on our sins.

Whence is that goodly fragrance?

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing
Stealing our senses all away?
Never the like did come ablowing
Shepherds, in flow'ry fields in May?
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing
Stealing our senses all away?

What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright, the daystar waking,
Started to climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant, breaking
Here in the night across our eyes?

A Bethléem, dans une crèche,
Il vient de vous naître un Sauveur;
Allons, que rien ne vous empêche
D'adorer votre Rédempteur.
A Bethléem, dans une crèche,
Il vient de vous naître un Sauveur.

Dieu tout puissant, gloire éternelle
Vous soit rendue jusqu'aux cieux;
Que la paix soit universelle,
Que la grâce a bonde en tous lieux.
Dieu tout puissant, gloire éternelle
Vous soit rendue jusqu'aux cieux.

Gaudete

*Gaudete! gaudete! Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine: gaudete!*

Tempus adest gratiae,
Hoc quod optabamus;
Carmina laetitiae Devote reddamus.

Deus homo factus est, Natura mirante;
Mundus renovatus est
A Christo regnante.

Ezechielis porta Clausa pertransitor;
Unde Lux est orta, Salus invenitor.

Ergo nostra contio Psallat jam in lustris;
Benedicat domino: salus Regi nostro.

Il est né le divin enfant

*Il est né le divin enfant,
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes
Il est né le divin enfant
Chantons tous son avènement.*

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans
Nous le promettaient les prophètes
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans
Nous attendions cet heureux temps

Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing!
Worship the Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying,
Find your Redeemer, haste away.

Praise to the Lord of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace;
May peace abide in ev'ry nation,
Goodwill in men of ev'ry race.
Praise to the Lord of all creation,
Glory to God the fount of grace.

*Rejoice! rejoice! Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary: rejoice!*

The time of grace has come
For which we have prayed;
Let us devoutly sing songs of joy.

God is made man, while nature wonders;
the world is renewed
By Christ the King

Ezekiel's closed gate has been passed;
whence light is risen, salvation is found.

Therefore let our assembly sing praises;
bless the Lord, salvation to our King.

He is born the divine Christ-child

*He is born the divine Christ-child,
Sound forth the oboes with pipes replying;
He is born the divine Christ-child,
Sing we praise to the infant mild.*

More than four thousand years on earth,
Seers his advent were prophesying;
More than four thousand years on earth,
Man awaited this joyous birth.

Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Ah, que ses grâces sont parfaites!
Ah, qu'il est beau, qu'il est charmant,
Qu'il est doux, ce divin enfant!

Une étable est son logement,
Un peu de paille est sa couchette,
Une étable est son logement,
Pour un Dieu quel abaissement!

Ô Jésus, roi tout puissant,
Sit petit enfant que vous êtes;
Ô Jésus, roi tout puissant,
Régnez sur nous entièrement

O what beauty and charm are thine,
Heav'nly grace to our hearts supplying;
O what beauty and charm are thine,
O what sweetness thou Child divine!

In a manger thou deignst to be,
Straw the bed whereon thou art lying;
In a manger thou deignst to be,
For a God, what humility!

Jesu, King, whom we bow before,
Yet and infant all power denying;
Jesu, King, whom we bow before,
Rule our hearts now and evermore.

* * * * *

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. Since January 2024, he has also been Director of Music at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Steven served as Organist and Tutor in Music at Christ Church, Oxford, and Associate Professor of Music at Oxford University from 2018 to 2023. He was also Musical Director of Benson Choral Society. From 2014 to 2018 he was Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral, 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.

Patrick Maxwell (Conducting Scholar)



Patrick Maxwell is currently an academical clerk in the Choir of New College, Oxford, where he reads History. Having enjoyed international choral experience as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, he started conducting under Neville Creed at St Edward's School, Oxford, and has continued to conduct choral and orchestral groups in Oxford and in London. Highlights include Handel's *Messiah* in London and a concert performance of Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* in New College Chapel in November this year. He sings as a tenor

in the Choir at New College, where he is taught by Bronwen Mills.

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. Recent concerts include Brahms - *Liebeslieder Walzer* in the de Jager Auditorium at Trinity College, Schönberg - *Friede auf Erden*, Ginastera - *Lamentations of Jeremiah* and Bach - *Komm, Jesu, komm* in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford and St Margaret Pattens, London, and a concert in The New Space auditorium with baritone Patrick Keefe featuring Frank Martin - *Songs of Ariel* and a selection of English song.

Schola Cantorum of Oxford

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Rebekah Devlin
Jenny Frost
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Jemima Price
Ekaterina Rahr-Bohr
Holly Smith

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Zach Roberts
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Olivia Smith

Tenor Daniel Atkinson
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