



Joyful Company of Singers

Peter Broadbent *Conductor*

Gavin Roberts *Organ*

A Choral Christmas

**Monday 18th December 2023
at 7pm**

**St Gabriel's Church Pimlico
London SW1V 2AD**



JOYFUL COMPANY OF SINGERS

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The Friends of JCS



Friends support us both with donations and as audience members. Friends also support our Youth Fund which has provided bursaries for young conductors to work with us and be coached by our founder-director, Peter Broadbent, one of Britain's leading choral conductors, and Friends' donations have enabled us to engage our Composer-in-Association, Zoe Dixon.

We warmly invite new Friends to enjoy the Scheme's benefits for all who donate regularly a minimum £5 monthly/£60 annually – larger amounts are most welcome!

Friends' benefits include:

- 10% discount on unlimited tickets to JCS own-promotion events
- Pre-concert 'Meet the Musicians' talks and complimentary Friends' receptions at all JCS own-promotion concerts
- Participation in JCS 'Come and Sing' days at discounted rates
- A password-protected Friends page on the JCS website offering choir news and free downloads of JCS copyright audio recordings.
- A free copy of our 'Sing Joyfully' CD
- Discounts on new JCS recordings and archive CDs from our stocks

Join the Friends via the contact form on www.jcos.co.uk or email friends@jcos.co.uk.

Our current Friends

Amanda Abbitt, Kevin Bailey, Hannah Bale, Jenny Ball, Celia Bangham, Carrie Beaumont, Anne Broadbent, Christine Broadbent, Francesca Caine, Philip Caine, Cathryn Caunt, Alicia Cropley, Carolynne Cox, Peter da Costa, Andrew Davison, Jonathan Earl, Philippa Gardner, Elaine Gould, Neville Hargreaves, Dawn Herbert, Sally Irvine, Debbie Johnstone, Mark Johnstone, Rachael Jones, Jonathan Lane, Alexandra Loewe, Andy Mackinder, Yvette Miller, Helen Morton, Peter Murphy, Isabel Nisbet, Bruce O'Brien, Robin Osterley, Tom Pike, Nigel Richards, Louisa Roberts, Steve Sanders, Howard Simmons, Janet Stephen, Joanna Thompson, Christopher Williams, Sally Zimmermann and others who prefer to remain anonymous.

PROGRAMME

<i>Hodie Christus natus est</i>	J P Sweelinck
O Come, All Ye Faithful	Anon. arr. David Willcocks
<i>O Magnum Mysterium</i>	Tomás Luis de Victoria
<i>Resonet in laudibus</i>	Jacob Handl (Gallus)
Unto us is born a son	<i>Piae Cantiones</i> arr. David Willcocks
<i>Frohlocket, ihr Völker auf Erden</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
<i>Virga Jesse floruit</i>	Anton Bruckner
<i>Maria Wiegenlied</i>	Max Reger
Cathryn Caunt & Carrie Beaumont (Sopranos)	
<i>On this Day Earth shall Ring</i>	H C Stewart
God rest you merry, Gentlemen	Trad. arr. David Willcocks

INTERVAL

While shepherds watched	Este's Psalter arr. David Willcocks
<i>I syng of a mayden</i>	Zoe Dixon
<i>There is no Rose of such Virtue</i>	Jonathan Lane
Cathryn Caunt (Soprano) Debbie Johnstone (Alto)	
Stephen Mason (Tenor) Andy Mackinder (Baritone)	
<i>Ding Dong! Merrily on high</i>	Trad. arr. William Llewellyn
My guardian Angel	Judith Weir
<i>Geburts-Nacht</i>	Damijan Močnik
Jenny Ball (Soprano) Stephen Mason (Tenor)	
<i>Sleep holy Babe</i>	Alexander Campkin
Hark! The herald angels sing	Mendelssohn arr. David Willcocks

AUDIENCE CAROLS

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:

*O come let us adore him, (x 3)
Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come etc.

3. See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come etc.

UNTO US IS BORN A SON

1 *All*

Unto us is born a son,
King of choirs supernal :
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

2 *Choir only*

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their Owner know
E'en cradled in a manger.

Trad. arr Willcocks

4. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come etc.

5. Yea, Lord we greet Thee
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing
O come etc.

From *Piae Cantiones* arr. Willcocks

3. *Men's voices*

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

4. *Women & children*

Of his love and mercy mild
Hear the Christmas story:
O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory!

5. *All*

O and A and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

3. The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessèd babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around

2. 'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.'

3. 'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign:'

Trad. arr. Willcocks

(Choir only)

4. But when to Bethlehem they came
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray:
(All) *O tidings of comfort and joy.*

5. Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Este's Psalter arr. Willcocks

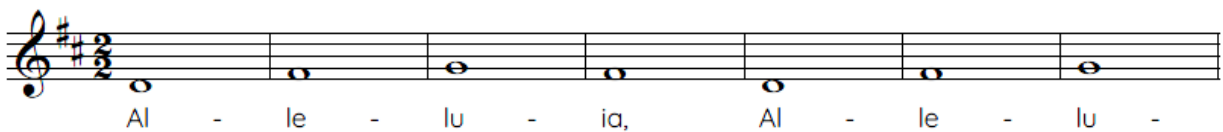
4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease.'

MY GUARDIAN ANGEL - Judith Weir

Audience part:



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Mendelssohn arr. Willcocks

2. Christ by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Peter Broadbent - Conductor

Peter is one of Britain's leading choral conductors and whose experience ranges from brass bands to large-scale choral works, opera and musicals. In addition to his work with the Joyful Company of Singers since our creation, he has conducted the London Mozart Players, Divertimenti Chamber Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the City of London Sinfonia, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Southern Sinfonia, the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra, Apollo Voices and the BBC Singers, broadcasting frequently on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

Engagements outside the UK include concerts with the Debrecen Philharmonic Orchestra & Kodály Chorus in Hungary, a broadcast with the National Chamber Choir in Dublin and a European tour with the World Youth Choir in 2006. He gives workshops and master classes throughout Europe, and as the first Director of Training for the Association of British Choral Directors he helped to instigate and develop choral conducting courses.

In 2007 he was presented with the Pro Cultura Hungarica Award by the Hungarian Ministry of Education & Culture for his services to Anglo-Hungarian relations and in 2017 was presented with the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit.

Peter was awarded an MBE in the 2022 New Year's Honours for his service to music.

Gavin Roberts - Organist

Gavin enjoys a varied career as a piano accompanist. He has partnered singers in recital at Wigmore Hall, the Barbican Hall and the Royal Festival Hall, and is Artistic Director of the recital series Song in the City. He has appeared at The Cheltenham Festival, Dartington International Festival, The Ludlow Weekend of English Song, The Ryedale Festival and The Oxford Lieder Festival. He works regularly with soprano Lucy Hall, with whom he was the winner of the Oxford Lieder Young Artist Platform, and actor Rosamund Shelley, with whom he performs her one-woman shows *Novello & Son* and *War Songs*.

He has played for The BBC Singers, The Joyful Company of Singers, Constanza Chorus, The Hanover Band, Tiffin Boys' Choir, and as a repetiteur for Sir Roger Norrington and the late Richard Hickox. Gavin has appeared regularly on BBC Radio broadcasts as a soloist and accompanist, often giving premiere performances of new works. He has played on numerous recordings for the BBC, ASV, Guild and Priory Records. His most recent project is a CD recording of London-themed song commissions for Song in the City.

Gavin studied piano with Andrew West and Eugene Asti at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where he is now a Professor. He previously read Music at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he also held the organ scholarship. Following this, Gavin gained a Master's degree from King's College London. From 2014-22 Gavin was Organist and Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church.

Joyful Company Of Singers

One of the UK's leading amateur chamber choirs, the Joyful Company of Singers is known for its virtuosity and intensity of spirit, as well as for an astoundingly wide repertoire, ranging from the 16th Century to the present day, including many first performances.

Formed in 1988 by conductor Peter Broadbent, the choir first came to prominence when it won the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition in 1990. Since then, it has maintained its profile in the music world, winning an impressive list of national and international competitions leading to many invitations to perform. Concert appearances include most of the leading UK festivals and regular concert tours in Europe, broadcasting in many countries as well as on BBC and Classic FM. A discography of over 25 CDs includes Rachmaninov's *All-night Vigil* on Nimbus: 'beautifully characterized and shaped by Peter Broadbent' (International Record Review).

The JCS has also instituted a Youth Fund to encourage the development of young choral conductors, singers and composers and this season we have continued to support our first-ever Composer-in-Association, Zoe Dixon.



SOPRANOS

Amanda Abbitt, Jenny Ball, Felicitas Biskup, Cathryn Caunt, Jane Metcalfe, Kathryn Salter-Kay, Carrie Beaumont, Amy Finegan, Margaret Green, Rachael Jones, Fiz Markham, Clare Vincent-Silk.

ALTOS

Bernice Arthur, Francesca Caine, Alicia Cropley, Debbie Johnstone, Denise Fabb, Wendy Norman.

TENORS

Nick King, Stephen Mason, Mark Johnstone, Ian Kay, Peter Murphy.

BASSES

Tim Bull, Neville Hargreaves, Andy Mackinder, Tom Spanyol, Peter da Costa, Jonathan Lane, David Lowe, Robin Osterley, Christopher Williams.

Our next performances

Friday 22nd March 2024 at 7pm - 'Salut Printemps!'
St. Gabriel's Church, Pimlico.

An all-French programme, with pieces by Debussy, Fauré, Ravel and Poulenc plus a mélange of music ranging from early madrigals and drinking songs of the 16th century to cabaret songs of the 20th.

May 2024 – North Northumberland Tour – 'Transitions'
Saturday 4th May - St Mary's Church, Wooler
Sunday 5th May - St Paul's RC Church, Alnwick

The two concerts' programmes are related but different, with themes that feature life's transitions and voyages of all kinds. Our Alnwick performance will also feature readings by poet Katrina Porteous.

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www.jcos.co.uk

The Joyful Company of Singers, regd. charity no. 105725