



Christmas Round the World



7:30pm

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022

St. Mary's Church,  
High Street,  
Gillingham

Musical Director : Geoff Allan

Accompanist : David Grierson



# The Programme

## The Annunciation

|                |                               |   |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Choir          | The Angel Gabriel             | <b>France</b> Basque Carol arr. David Willcocks |
|                | Ave Maria                     | <b>Italy</b> Gioacchino Rossini                 |
| Audience Carol | Come thou long expected Jesus | <b>England</b> Sir John Stainer                 |

## Advent

|                |                              |  |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| Choir          | Adam lay yBounden            | <b>England</b> Peter Warlock                                   |
|                | Un Astro Nuovo               | <b>Italy/Germany</b> Ludvig van Beethoven arr. Simone Olivieri |
|                | The Cherry Tree Carol        | <b>England</b> Trad. Arr. David Willcocks                      |
| Audience Carol | Hark! the Herald Angels Sing | <b>Germany</b> Felix Mendelssohn arr. David Willcocks          |

## Christmas Eve

|                |                                 |  |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Choir          | Quelle est cette odeur agreable | <b>France</b> Trad. Arr. David Willcocks   |
|                | Jesus Christ the Apple Tree     | <b>USA/England</b> Elizabeth Poston        |
|                | It came upon a midnight clear   | <b>Ireland/England</b> Sir Arthur Sullivan |
| Audience Carol | The First Nowell                | <b>England</b> Trad. Arr. David Willcocks  |

## Christmas Day

|  |                            |   |
|--|----------------------------|---|
|  | Es ist ein Ros             | <b>Germany</b> Melchior Vulpius/ Michael Praetorius |
|  | Rocking                    | <b>Czechia</b> arr. David Willcocks                 |
|  | Still still still          | <b>Germany</b> arr. Philip Ledger                   |
|  | King Jesus hath a garden   | <b>Netherlands</b> trad. arr. Charles Wood          |
|  | O Little Town of Bethlehem | <b>England</b> H Walford Davies                     |

## Epiphany

|                |                              |  |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|
|                | The Shepherds Farewell       | <b>France</b> Hector Berlioz                                     |
|                | December Rose                | <b>England</b> Text: Siew Yue Killingley<br>Music: Percy Lovell  |
|                | Go to the Child              | <b>Pakistan/England</b> Text: Imtiaz Dharker, Music: Geoff Allan |
| Audience Carol | We Three Kings of Orient Are | <b>England</b> J H Hopkins arr. David Willcocks                  |

## Passiontide

|                |                         |   |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|
|                | I Wonder as I wander    | <b>USA</b> Appalachian Carol arr. John Rutter     |
|                | The Crown of Roses      | <b>Russian/Ukrainian</b> Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky |
| Audience Carol | O Come, All ye Faithful | <b>England</b> JF Wade arr. David Willcocks       |

# Notes

Welcome to the Gillingham Singers Christmas Concert 2022.

We have chosen a programme of carols and seasonal music from England, Europe and further afield. Some of the carols will be well known to you and others will be new. Do sing along with us in the carols marked for audience participation.

Refreshments will be served after the concert.

We hope you enjoy the programme.

Geoff Allan, Musical Director

## **1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,**

born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **2. 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 angelic host proclaim  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen 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"

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"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
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## **3. The first Nowell the Angel did say**

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
And with his blood our life hath bought.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

#### **4. 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.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this 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 Immanuel!

#### **5. We three kings of Orient are;**

Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worship him God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Heav'n sings Alleluya,  
Alleluya the earth replies.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,

Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

#### **6. 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,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God, Begotten not created: [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, in the highest: [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born that happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O  
come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!



## **Sopranos**

Hilary Drake

Janet Howard

Daphne Jones

Joyce Mitchell

Jill Randall

Deborah Sharp

## **Contraltos**

Maggie Chubb

Audrey Cross

Margaret Derrett

Tess Hebditch

Alanna Ivin

Sue Vincent

## **Tenors**

Janet Botterill

Marga Miller

Mike Turnbull

Christopher Williams

## **Basses**

David Botterill

Tony Jones

Doug Musgrove

## **Gillingham Singers Committee**

**Chairperson** : Hilary Drake

**Publicity** : Daphne Jones

**Treasurer** : Margaret Chubb

Anne Nalty

**Secretary** : Carole Brooks

**Librarian** : Jill Randall

**Webmaster** : Geoff Allan

Tony Jones

**Thanks to Mr Ed Birkett, Lia Amery, and the staff of Wyke Primary School for our rehearsal space and to St. Mary's Church for allowing us to present this concert.**

**Next Concert** : The Gillingham Singers will present a concert for Earth Day Date : 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 in Christ Church, East Stour.

**New Members** in all voice parts are extremely welcome. For more information see <http://www.gillinghamsingers.org>

