

THE ASSEMBLY HALL

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
CHORAL SOCIETY

CAROLS

for

CHOIR & AUDIENCE

Sunday, 18th December, 1966

at 3 p.m.

*The National Federation of Music Societies, to which this Society is affiliated, gives support to this Concert with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.
It is also supported by the Royal Tunbridge Wells Corporation.*

PROGRAMME & WORDS 1/-

STRING ORCHESTRA

Led by Nina Bentley

MARJORIE VINALL and ROY DOUGLAS

Two Pianos

TREVOR HARVEY

Conductor

PROGRAMME

1. CHOIR AND AUDIENCE: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Anon, 18th Cent.

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;
O come, let us adore Him, &c.

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing with exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n above:
"Glorify to God
In the highest";
O come, let us adore Him, &c.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
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.

2. CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA: A Suite of Carols

Peter Cork

3. AUDIENCE: Once in Royal David's City

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.

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, through all His wondrous Childhood,
He would honour and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly Maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay;
In whose gentle arms He lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our LORD in Heav'n 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;
When like stars His children crown'd
All in white shall wait around.

4. ORCHESTRA: Concerto Grosso No. 4 in A Minor *Handel*

Soloists: Nina Bentley, Margaret Syme, Marguerite Swan

5. CHOIR AND AUDIENCE: Puer Nobis

UNTO us a boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came He to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
All the little boys he killed
At Bethlehem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.

6. 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 to-night.

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 this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

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

7. Marjorie Vinall and Roy Douglas

8. CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA: Excerpts from "Gloria" *Vivaldi*

*Gloria: Et in terra pax: Laudamus te: Gratias: Propter Magnam:
Domine Deus: Quoniam: Cum Sancto Spiritu.*

Soloists: Patricia Parker and Stella Ellis

INTERVAL

9. CHOIR AND AUDIENCE : God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

GOD rest you merry, gentlemen.
 Let nothing you dismay,
 Remember 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,
 Comfort and joy,
 O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly 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, &c.

The shepherds at those tidings
 Rejoiced much in mind,
 And left their flocks a-feeding,
 In tempest, storm and wind,
 And went to Bethlehem straightway,
 The Son of God to find.
 O tidings, &c.

And when they came to Bethlehem
 Where our dear Saviour lay,
 They found him in a manger,
 Where oxen fed on hay;
 His mother Mary kneeling down,
 Unto the Lord did pray.
 O tidings, &c.

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, &c.

10. CHOIR :

All Men draw near, Christmas is here
Hungarian tune arr. Zoltan Kodaly
 In Dulci Jubilo
German tune arr. R. L. Pearsall
 Blessed be that Maid Mary
English arr. David Willcocks

11. CHOR AND AUDIENCE : Here we come a-wassailing

Here we come-a wassailing,
 Among the leaves so green,
 Here we come a-wandering,
 So fair to be seen:
 Chorus:
 Love and joy come to you
 And to you your wassail too,
 And God bless you, and send you
 A happy new year.

We are not daily beggars
 That beg from door to door,
 But we are neighbours' children
 Whom you have seen before. Chorus:

We have got a little purse
 Of stretching leather skin;
 We want a little of your money
 To line it well within: Chorus:

God bless the master of this house,
 Likewise the mistress too;
 And all the little children
 That round the table go; Chorus:

Good Master and good Mistress,
 While you're sitting by the fire,
 Pray think of us poor children
 Who are wandering in the mire: Chorus:

12. Marjorie Vinall and Roy Douglas

13. CHOIR AND AUDIENCE: I saw Three Ships

1. 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.
2. And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, etc.
3. Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day,
4. Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day,
5. O, they sailed into Bethlehem.
On Christmas Day,
6. And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day,
7. And all the angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day,
8. And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day,
9. Then let us all rejoice again!
On Christmas Day.

14. The First Nowell

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:

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:

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

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

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

15. Zion Hears Her Watchman's Voices

J. S. Bach

16. CHOIR: Tell Out The News

Anthony Curry

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

President: John H. Johnson, Esq.

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The Society is greatly indebted to its Vice-Presidents for their support, which helps to bridge the serious gap between income and expenditure which nearly always arises in giving choral concerts. It is hoped that all those interested in the performance of choral music will become Vice-Presidents by contributing at least two guineas a year.

Singing membership of the Society is open to all who sing (subject to voice test). **New members are welcomed.** Those who would like to join may come to any rehearsal or write to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. CYRIL WOOD, 45 High Street, Tunbridge Wells. (Tel. 23264/5)

Rehearsals: Christ Church Hall, High Street, on Mondays, at 7 p.m., from September to April.

Annual Subscription: £2 2s. (reduction for those under 21).

The Society is indebted to many members of the ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA for kindly playing in this concert; their assistance is always appreciated.

SUNDAY, 9th APRIL, 1967 at 3 p.m.

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

(Elgar)

JEAN ALLISTER (Contralto)

RONALD DOWD (Tenor)

GEOFFREY SHAW (Bass)

FULL ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Trevor Harvey