



**Sunday 13th December
at 6:30pm**

Carols in Concert

Royal Tunbridge Wells
**CHORAL
SOCIETY**

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@rtwChoralSoc



Programme £2



Programme

Choir: A Fanfare for Christmas, by Robin Wells

Audience carol: Once in Royal David's City

Choir: Ding Dong! Merrily on High
In Dulci Jubilo

Audience carol: While Shepherds Watched

Organ solo: Tocatta in G, by Dubois

Choir: Personent Hodie, Words from
Piae Cantiones, 1582, arr. Holst

Carols in Concert, by Donald Cashmore

Mary had a Baby – Christmas Spiritual

The Sussex Carol

Song for Christmas – Carol in popular style

Kymbayah – African Tune

Wadhurst Band: A Fantasie on Carols, by Eric Ball

Audience carol: O, Come all ye Faithful

Choir: The Christmas Silence, by Elisa Harrod
Text by Margaret Deland

Joy to the World

Shepherds' Farewell, by Berlioz

Audience carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Performance Notes

Donald Cashmore (1926 – 2013) *Carols in Concert*

Donald Cashmore was a 20th century composer, choir master and organist, born in London, who founded the Kingsway Choral Society, which later became known as the City of London Choir. He wrote and arranged several works for mixed choir, including this collection of Carols. The choir will perform four of the six pieces he arranged, which showcase a variety of styles.

Mary had a Baby – Christmas Spiritual

Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord!
De people keep a-comin' and de train done gone.

Stars keep a –shinin', Yes, Lord!
Movin' in de elements, Yes, ma' Lord!
Stood above de stable, Yes, Lord!
De people keep a-comin' and de train done gone.

Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord!
Mary had a baby, Yes ma' Lord!
Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord!
De people keep a-comin' and de train done gone.

Where did she lay Him? Yes, Lord!
Laid Him in de manger, Yes, ma' Lord!
Wrapp'd Him in de swaddlin', Yes, Lord!
De people keep a-comin' and de train done gone.

What did she name Him? Yes, Lord!
Nam'd Him King Jesus, Yes, ma' Lord!
Wonderful, Counsellor, Yes, Lord!
De people keep a-comin' and de train done gone.

The Sussex Carol

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.

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.

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.

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.

Song For Christmas – Carol in popular style

Sing a song for Christmas, sing a song of joy
and mirth;
Sing the wondrous story of the Blessed Baby's birth.
Born of Mary, Holy Mother,
Child Divine, above all other,
Sent from Heav'n above to be our Saviour upon earth.
Let us all rejoice and praise our Father for His love:
Sing a song for Christmas to the Lord of all above.

Angels in their glory brought the message from on high
To the shepherds in the fields who watch'd them
drawing nigh.
In a manger He was sleeping,
Ox and ass beside him keeping Vigil,
While his mother Mary sang her lullaby.

Let us all rejoice and praise our Father for his love:
Sing a song for Christmas to the Lord of all above.

Wise men from the East began their journey in the
night,
Travell'd through the darkness guided by the star
so bright.
Brought their gifts of adoration
To the Child in lowly station,
Gold and myrrh and incense were their tokens of
delight.
Let us all rejoice and praise our Father for His love:
Sing a song for Christmas to the Lord of all above.

Kymbayah – African Tune

Christ is born today, Kymbayah.
O Lord, Kymbayah.

Shepherds came with haste, Kymbayah.
O Lord, Kymbayah.

Jesus lies asleep, Kymbayah.
O Lord, Kymbayah.

Wise men worshipped Him, Kymbayah.
O Lord, Kymbayah.

Angels sing on high, Kymbayah.
O Lord, Kymbayah.

Alleluyah, Lord, Kymbayah.
O Lord, Kymbayah.

Elisa Harrod

Elisa Harrod began composing at a young age for female voice (SSA) choirs and over a number of years has been awarded a number of composing awards including National Young Composer of the Year. She studied composition at Kings College University under Sir Harrison Birtwhistle and Robert Keeley and currently teaches at the busy music department of Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and examines for AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance).

During her time there she has written music for school choirs and a beginners piano book with Tick Tock Education, however recently she has begun to focus more on her composition work. The 'Christmas Silence' was written a year ago, inspired by the beautiful dissonances of Eric Whitacres music, the desire to write for mixed voices (SATB) and an exploration of word painting.

This is the first time 'The Christmas Silence' will be performed and will hopefully set the scene for the meaning of the season.

The words are taken from the poem of the same title by Margaret Deland (1857-1945):

The Christmas Silence

Hushed are the pigeons cooing low
On dusty rafters of the loft;
And mild-eyed oxen, breathing soft,
Sleep on the fragrant hay below.

Dim shadows in the corner hide;
The glimmering lantern's rays are shed
Where one young lamb just lifts his head,
Then huddles 'gainst his mother's side.

Strange silence tingles in the air;
Through the half-open door a bar
Of light from one low-hanging star
Touches a baby's radiant hair.

No sound: the mother, kneeling, lays
Her cheek against the little face.
Oh human love! Oh heavenly grace!
'Tis yet in silence that she prays!

Ages of silence end to-night;
Then to the long-expectant earth
Glad angels come to greet His birth
In burst of music, love, and light!

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869) *The Shepherds' Farewell*

From *The Childhood of Christ* (*L'Enfance du Christ*), Op. 25 *L'Enfance du Christ* is arguably Berlioz's most intimate and exquisitely sensitive work, but it was, in truth, sparked off by a party joke. At a card party, Berlioz was asked by a friend, the architect Louis Duc, to write some music in his autograph album. He did so, and signed it with an imaginary composer's name similar to that of his friend, "Pierre Ducre, Maitre de musique de la Sainte-Chapelle". He had written the piece deliberately in an old-fashioned style and had dated it 1679. Towards the end of 1850 this short chorus was performed in public under the title "The Shepherds' Farewell". Both audience and critics found it delightful. (Berlioz, rather cynically, maintained that they would not have done so had they known it was his!) Soon afterwards he added a 'little fugue' and a tenor solo to make up a complete cantata, "The Flight into Egypt". Two more cantatas were later added to make up the the complete oratorio of "L'Enfance du Christ" which was published in 1854.

The Performers



Conductor Rebecca Miller is acclaimed as a compelling, insightful and energetic force on the podium. Highly regarded for her sophisticated making and command of varied composers and styles, she is also praised for her ability to communicate with audiences of all ages.

Rebecca has worked repeatedly with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Royal Northern Sinfonia, BBC Concert Orchestra, London Mozart Players, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, and guest-conducted at the 2014 BBC Proms. Previously she has worked extensively through Mexico and South America - with the Orquesta Filarmónica de la UNAM, Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional and the state orchestras of Aguascalientes, Yucatan, and Sinaloa, as well as with the Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. She has guest conducted the London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Swan, and Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (Israel), and conducted extensively in the US, including with the Houston Symphony, Huntsville Symphony, Reno Philharmonic, Williamsport Symphony, Santa Cruz Symphony, Bakersfield Symphony, Musiq Houston, and at the Bard Festival in New York.

She is proud to be one of the Southbank Sinfonia's only annual guest conductors, and has recently guest conducted the renowned Salomon Orchestra in London. Rebecca's discography is growing rapidly - her CD of CPE Bach Symphonies with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment has received considerable praise - including "four-star" reviews from *The Times*, *Telegraph*, *Sunday Times*, *Financial Times*, *BBC Music Magazine*, among others. She was chosen as May 2015 Editor's Choice in *Gramophone Magazine* and was shortlisted for a 2015 *Gramophone Award*. Her October 2015 release with the Royal Northern Sinfonia of Haydn Symphonies has already garnered critical acclaim and was chosen as *ClassicFM's* album of the week in October 2015.

Rebecca's disc with the BBC Concert Orchestra of Henry Hadley (*Dutton Epoch*) was released in July, while her second CD with the Royal Northern Sinfonia of George Frederick Bristow was released in November. Her CD of piano concertos by Amy Beach, Dorothy Howell, and Cecil Chaminade with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra will be released by Hyperion Records in 2016. From 2007 to 2010 Rebecca Miller was Resident Conductor of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra in New Orleans, and from 2005- 2007 was Conducting Fellow of the Houston Symphony in Texas.

In 1999, Rebecca founded the London-based The New Professionals Orchestra, an orchestra comprised of some of London's foremost classical musicians. As Artistic Director, she led The New Professionals in guest performances at London's South Bank Centre, the BAC Battersea Opera Festival, and at various music societies and festivals around the UK. The orchestra's debut CD, entitled, "Lou Harrison: For Strings" was released by Mode Records in 2004, contained the world premiere recording of Harrison's Pipa Concerto played by world renowned Pipa player Wu Man and was chosen to feature on the soundtrack of Martin Scorsese's film 'Shutter Island'. Born in California, Rebecca Miller completed her studies in piano at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

She studied conducting at Northwestern University and at the Aspen Music Festival, and was the Paul Woodhouse Junior Fellow in Conducting for two years at London's Royal College of Music. She is currently Director of Orchestras at Royal Holloway University of London, Conductor and Teacher at the Royal Academy of Music's Junior Department, and Music Director of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society.

The Wadhurst Brass Band:

The present band owes its life to Algy Hoare, a local school teacher who formed a school band in 1957 and he and his players became great ambassadors for the school. Success led naturally into the "Youth Band" that evolved in 1974 into the "Wadhurst Brass Band" that we know today. Algy was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for his "services to music". The band developed a friendly and welcoming style in which players both young and old were able to develop their musicianship. The Wadhurst Brass Band is a group of friends, from all walks of life, who share a love of music-making and entertaining local communities. They continue to attract talented players and welcome players of all abilities. They are particularly proud of our growing training band "L-Plate" Brass. Anyone interested in joining the band should visit the website www.wadhurstbrassband.co.uk.

Jeffrey Gray was an Academical Clerk (Choral Scholar) at Magdalen College, Oxford where he read Music. After leaving Oxford, he sang in Worcester Cathedral Choir and held teaching posts in Worcestershire and then in York. From 1994 to 2002 he was Director of Music at Monmouth School in South Wales, where he directed the school's celebrated Choral Society, which performed in Cardiff with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Welsh National Opera and toured widely throughout Europe and the United States. From 2002 to 2005 he was Director of Music at Caterham School. At present he teaches at The King's School, Rochester, The Junior King's School, Canterbury and Marlborough House School. He also sings in Rochester Cathedral Choir and is an examiner for the ABRSM.



Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a vibrant community of people from all walks of life who share a passion for classical, mixed voice choral singing. We welcome everyone who shares our love of singing and wishes to listen to, learn about or perform beautiful live music. Our aim is to inspire both members and audiences alike through public performances and engagement of high quality professionals to assist us.

Interested in singing with RTWCS? – Why not give us a try! We welcome enquiries from potential new members of the society, whether experienced or not. We do not hold auditions, and we always give newcomers the opportunity to join one or two rehearsals before deciding whether they wish to become a member. We are singing Vaughan-Williams' Sea Symphony in the spring of 2016. Anyone wishing to take advantage of the opportunity of participating in this amazing work or any other future concerts, please telephone our registrar (Jane Walters) on **01892 543158** or the general secretary (Trevor Hurrell) on **07770 823104**. Alternatively please visit the membership section of our website: www.rtwcs.org.uk

Forthcoming RTWCS events:

Saturday 23th April 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Assembly Hall Theatre
Spring Concert

- dedicated to the memory of Roy Douglas (1907-2015) late RTWCS President

Vaughan-Williams - Sea Symphony
plus **William Alwyn - Elizabethan Dances**

RTWCS Chorus with The Salomon Orchestra
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113th Season

Sunday 13th November 2016 at 3pm in the Assembly Hall Theatre

Brahms Requiem

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