

THE
DUNSFORD
SINGERS

Christmas Concert 2021

Musical Director: Tim Pithers
Accompanist: Leonie Anderson



CHOIR: *Another Openin', Another Show* by Cole Porter is taken from the 1948 Broadway musical *Kiss Me Kate*. The lyrics sum up every choir's trials and tribulations

...
Four weeks, you rehearse and rehearse,
Three weeks, and it couldn't be worse,
One week, will it ever be right?
Then out of the hat it's that big first night!

... but we also hope it sums up our delight in singing together again.

Audience Participation Carol: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Reading: *Christmas* by John Betjeman (with a few alterations!)
Jo Macdonald and Giles Frampton

CHOIR: *Nativity Carol* by John Rutter: Written in 1963, when he was only 18, this is one of Rutter's earliest pieces. Its grace and simplicity make it an established favourite with choirs and audiences alike.

Audience Participation Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Reading: *Village Carol Singing* (From *The Magic Apple Tree* by Susan Hill) Jan Middleton

CHOIR: *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* by Elizabeth Poston: The words are from an 18th century poem. Jesus is presented through the metaphors of a fruitful, shady apple tree and a tree of life, ideas found in the Song of Solomon and the gospel of Luke. This exquisite version was written in 1967 by the English composer Elizabeth Poston (1905 - 1987).

Reading: *The Oxen* by Thomas Hardy
Francis Leversedge

CHOIR: *Magnum Mysterium* by Morten Lauridsen 1994

The image of animals next to the crib is a lovely part of the Nativity scene, reproduced in art, poetry and music. The modern American composer Morten Lauridsen said he wanted his music "to resonate immediately and deeply into the core of the listener". He included a certain dissonant note to comment on the sorrow that the Virgin Mary would face as her son was killed. We adore singing this ethereal, powerful and moving piece.

O Magnum mysterium
Et admirabile sacramentum

O great Mystery
And wonderful sacrament

Ut animalia viderent
Dominum natum
Jacentem in praeseptio!
Beata virgo, cujus viscera
Meruerunt portare
Dominum Jesum Christum
Alleluia!

That animals should see
The newborn Lord
Lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose
Womb was worthy to bear
The Lord Jesus Christ
Alleluia!

INTERVAL 20 mins

We hope you remembered your refreshments!

CHOIR: *Star Carol* by John Rutter

A CHRISTMAS ROUND FOR AUDIENCE AND CHOIR:

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat,
Please put a penny in the old man's hat;
If you haven't got a penny a ha'penny will do,
If you haven't got a ha'penny then God bless you!

**Reading: *Talkin' Turkeys* by Benjamin Zephaniah
Ray Mallett**

The media would have us believe that our Christmas turkeys may be in short supply
this year ...

Audience Carol: *Unto Us is Born a Son*

**Reading: *A Nativity Mini-Story* by Gervase Phinn
Liz Robin**

Audience Carol: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

CHOIR: *Lean on Me* by Bill Withers

When this song was released in 1972, Bill Withers could hardly have known how its
lyrics would resonate so profoundly with audiences nearly fifty years later!

**CHOIR: Two Choruses from *Messiah* by Frederic Handel
And the Glory of the Lord
*For Unto Us A Child is Born***

Musical Director: Tim Pithers

Tim is passionate about community and student music-making and firmly believes that classical music should be made as accessible as possible to performers and audiences alike. He undertook his degree in Music and French at Exeter where he studied violin with Mary Eade, composition with Joe Duddell and specialised in musical direction. Recently, Tim has studied with Denise Ham, Dominic Grier and Rodolfo Saglimbeni at the George Hurst course at Sherborne Summer School and at the newly established Girtton Conducting Course. He really enjoys working with ensembles of varying degrees of experience and developing ambitious objectives for amateur groups. Tim is currently Music Director of the Dartmouth Orchestra, the Exeter University Symphony Orchestra, the Exeter University Symphonic Wind Orchestra and two occasional groups - orchestra+ (the South West's first LGBT symphony orchestra) and EX4 Chamber Orchestra.

We are delighted to have had Tim as our Musical Director since January 2017. During this time the choir has tackled a diverse programme of classical and modern works. His great sense of humour and unfailing support for the choir help to make all our rehearsals enjoyable and stimulating.

Accompanist: Leonie Anderson

Leonie studied Music at Bristol University then completed a post-graduate diploma at the Guildhall school of Music, London. She is a professional freelance viola player and teacher; upper strings specialist; piano accompanist; director; chamber music coach and director of a community choir.

Leonie is the owner of Barkham (www.barkham-exmoor.co.uk), a stunning, purpose-built performance space, with holiday accommodation, set in thirteen acres of Exmoor National Park and perfect for residencies, retreats etc.

The Choir: The Dunsford Singers hail from all the valley villages, and beyond. Our aim is to sing beautiful music, as best we can, in a spirit of friendship. We are a non-auditioning choir, and not everyone can read music. If you would like to join us in 2022 we should be delighted to welcome you. We'll be performing the beautiful Fauré Requiem with the Dartmouth Orchestra next June. Rehearsals start on 17th January. Contact Secretary Jan Middleton janmiddleton29@gmail.com
www.dunsfordsingers.co.uk

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