

Christmas Concert 2018



Presented by
**Dunsford
Singers**

Vivaldi's 'Gloria'

with carols and readings

Conductor - Tim Pithers

Accompanist - Harry George

Sunday 2nd December 2018

Dunsford Village Hall

Saturday 8th December 2018

Teign Valley Community Hall

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC AND READINGS

Introductory Reading: *Angels' Song* by Charles Causley
Helen Harding, Francis Leversedge and Ray Mallett

Gloria in D Antonio Vivaldi (1678 -1741)

Vivaldi composed this Gloria in Venice, in about 1715, for the choir of the Ospedale della Pieta, an 'orphanage' for the illegitimate daughters of Venetian noblemen. It placed special emphasis upon a specialist musical education for its girls, with an excellent choir and orchestra. Vivaldi was appointed violin master in 1703, and the performances of the amazing girls' choir helped to establish his reputation in Europe. Although sacred, the Gloria has a definite sense of theatre - probably due to Vivaldi's love of opera composition. It is a joyful hymn of praise, divided into eleven relatively brief movements, ranging from festive brilliance to profound meditation. Its distinctive melodies and rhythms create an immediate and universal appeal. The words of the *Gloria* translate as follows:

Chorus: Gloria in excelsis Deo.	Glory to God in the highest
Chorus: Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.	And on earth peace, goodwill to all men
Duet for Soprano and Mezzo-Soprano: Jan Middleton and Sarah Maybin Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.	We praise thee. We bless thee. We worship thee. We glorify thee.
Chorus: Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam.	We give thanks to thee because of thy great glory
Soprano Solo: Hazel Linney Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens	Lord God, King of Heaven, God the Father Almighty
Chorus: Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe	Only begotten son of God, Jesus Christ
Alto Solo: Julie Janota/Helen Harding and Chorus Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis	Lord God, Lamb of God, son of the Father, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Chorus: Qui tollis peccata mundi suscipe deprecationem nostram	Who takest away the sins of the world, receive our supplication
Alto Solo: Helen Beard Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis	Who sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us
Chorus: Quoniam tu solus sanctus... Dominus... altissimus, Jesu Christe	Thou alone art holy, thou alone art the Lord, the most high, Jesus Christ
Chorus: Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen	With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Interval: Refreshments will be brought to you

A word about our chosen charity Jane Inwood

Choir and Audience: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Reading: *A Christmas Truce* by Carol Ann Duffy
Liz Robin and Jo Macdonald at Dunsford
Susie Ursell and Jo Macdonald at Christow

Choir: *O Magnum Mysterium* by Morten Lauridsen
The exquisite harmonies in this beautiful piece by the modern American composer have made it a choir favourite.

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that beasts should see the newborn Lord lying in a manger. O blessed Virgin, whose body was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Allelulia.

Reading: *Innocents' Song* by Charles Causley 1917-2003
Francis Leversedge and Helen Harding

Choir and Audience: *Unto Us Is Born a Son*

Reading: *Mary's Song* by Charles Causley
Helen Beard

Choir: *A Maiden Most Gentle* arr. Carter

Choir: *While Shepherds Watched* by Bee Harley
The Shepherds' Farewell by Berlioz

Reading: *At Nine of the Night* by Charles Causley
Jan Middleton

Choir: *White Winter Hymnal* by Robin Pecknold
A happy, carefree melody and soaring harmonies are juxtaposed against unsettling words. The American band Fleet Foxes once said they didn't intend the lyrics to mean anything much (and they are definitely enigmatic!) but there's a powerful image of a child falling and his blood staining the snow - a metaphor for the loss of innocence. The words also seem to convey a fairy tale significance: children, white snow and blood as red as strawberries. Make of it what you will - it certainly casts a spell...

Choir and Audience: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

Choir: *As With Gladness* by Bee Harley

Reading: *Reindeer Report* by Una Fanthorpe
Ray Mallett

Choir: *All I Want for Christmas is You!* by Carey and Afanasieff
Solo: Sarah Maybin

*We hope you enjoyed your evening and wish you
a safe journey home and a very happy Christmas*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse! draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, thou Lord of David's Key!
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious majesty
From that high mountain clothed with awe,
Gavest thy folk the elder law.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Unto Us is Born a Son

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

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know
Becradled in the manger,
Becradled in the manger.

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

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

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

As with Gladness, Men of Old

As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious God, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

MD: Tim Pithers

Tim began conducting in his teens and went on to read Music and French at the University of Exeter. He studied violin with Mary Eade, composition with Joe Duddell and specialised in Musical Direction with Ian Mitchell. Subsequent to his graduation with a double first-class degree, he has conducted a wide variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles. Tim particularly enjoys working with ensembles of varying degrees of experience and is a firm believer that classical music should be made as accessible as possible to both performers and the wider audience. Tim is delighted to have been the Dunsford Singers' Musical director for very nearly two years. During this time the choir has tackled a diverse programme of works from Rutter's *Requiem* to Gjeilo's *Northern Lights* to Vivaldi's *Gloria* to Claude Schoeneberg's *Miss Saigon* and *Les Miserables*. In addition to the Dunsford Singers, Tim is Musical Director of the Exeter University Symphony Orchestra, the Dartmouth Orchestra, Chagford Singers, orchestra+, the South West's first LGBT symphony orchestra, and the EX4 Chamber Orchestra, which he founded in August 2014.

Recent podium highlights have included performances of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*; Schubert's *Mass in G*; Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis*; Chopin's *1st and 2nd Piano Concertos*; Brahms' *1st and 2nd Symphonies* and Beethoven's *5th and 6th Symphonies*. Upcoming engagements this winter include: Exeter University Symphony Orchestra's performance of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and works by Smetana and Copeland on 8th December; Dartmouth Orchestra performing Rachmaninoff's *2nd Piano Concerto* and other Russian works on 10th December, and Chagford Singers performing Vaughan-Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and Schubert's *Mass in G* on 15th December.

Accompanist: Harry George

We are delighted to welcome Harry George as our new accompanist. Harry is a graduate of Exeter University. As a student he was principal pianist with the university Jazz Orchestra and has performed in venues ranging from the Northcott Theatre to Ronnie Scott's! Recently, he was hired by the Royal Opera House as an accompanist. Harry teaches piano in Exeter, offering training in a wide variety of genres including classical, jazz, funk and pop. He also plays with the jazz/soul band *Orlata*. Harry combines youthful energy and fun with consummate expertise and professionalism. He's quite a find!

Looking ahead: Summer 2019: A Selection of European Sacred Songs; medleys from Mama Mia and The Greatest Showman, plus Carly Simon's 'Let the River Run' and Toto's 'Africa'

December 2019: Christmas Concert

Summer 2020: Carmina Burana (a major collaboration with Dartmouth Orchestra and Chagford Singers)

If you would like to join us, please contact the Membership Secretary Jane Inwood on 01647 252519. The ability to read music is helpful but not essential.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors

Proceeds from these concerts will support Conservation Farming in Thungururu, Kenya, via the Exeter Diocese Companion Link with Thika

The Dunsford Singers:

The Dunsford Singers was formed over a quarter of a century ago, out of a WI initiative. Over the years the choir became an established part of life in the village of Dunsford, with various enthusiastic local conductors who worked hard to develop our skills. Since Tim Pithers became our MD in January 2017, our membership has expanded to around fifty keen singers from villages throughout the Teign Valley and beyond. We are a true community choir: non-auditioning and aiming to encourage singing excellence within the spirit of friendship and tolerance. We try to create community concerts of high repute, offering a wide and varied repertoire. Where possible we like to offer our own talented singers the chance to perform a solo or two. It comes as no surprise that singing is now officially recognised as an important health benefit! It improves your heart rate, helps your lung capacity and releases feel-good endorphins. It makes you think about posture; helps to build confidence and self esteem, and even helps you sleep more soundly!

CONSERVATION FARMING PROJECT IN THUNGURURU, KENYA

Supported via Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Registered Charity No 249798

This semi-arid area in our Link Diocese of Thika, Kenya, has no permanent rivers and formerly people had to rely on food aid for 8 months of the year. The project has been running for two years and farmers have learned how to care for the soil and make use of every drop of rain that falls. It is now helping people grow food to feed their families while coping with the changing climate and erratic rainfall. This has reduced the 'hunger gap' from 8 months to 2 months as farmers have been able to harvest something even when the rains failed. Having visited the project last October, Exeter/Thika Diocesan Link would like to enable it to continue for another two years so that the progress made can be embedded in the community in a way that will bring lasting change.

PREMIER BARTON FARM



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