



Billericay Choral Society
presents:

A Ceremony Of Carols
..and other festive pieces

Conductor: Ed Sutton

Harp: Louise O'Connor

Accompanist: Tom Rodgers

Programme

Programme

Fantasia on "Adeste Fideles" performed by Ed Sutton	Thomas Merritt
O Come, All Ye Faithful ...please join us in singing this carol...	
<u>Ceremony Of Carols</u>	
1. Processional	2. Wolcum Yole!
3. There Is No Rose	4. Bulalow
5. As Dew In Aprille	6. This Little Babe
7. Interlude performed by Louise O'Connor	
8. In Freezing Winter Night	9. Spring Carol
10. Deo Gracias	11. Recessional
<i>INTERVAL</i>	
Once In Royal David's City ...please join us in singing this carol...	
<i>Away In A Manger</i>	Arr. Bob Chilcott
<i>Christmas Lullaby</i>	John Rutter
<i>Silent Night</i>	Arr. Alan Bullard
O Little Town Of Bethlehem ...please join us in singing this carol...	
<i>Still, still, still</i>	Arr. Mack Wilberg
<i>Silver Bells</i> performed by Tom Rodgers	Jay Livingston & Ray Evans
<i>Come And Worship!</i>	Alan Bullard
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ...please join us in singing this carol...	

Lyrics for the audience carols can be found further on in this programme.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Billericay Choral Society's Christmas Concert, featuring Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony Of Carols" and other festive pieces. Please make sure that you turn your 'phones off or put them on "silent" to help everyone fully enjoy the concert this evening. Thank you.

Musical Director: Ed Sutton

Ed Sutton first worked with choirs as Diocesan Organ Scholar in Norwich. He was simultaneously major music scholar at the King's School, Ely. He read music at the University of Edinburgh, and continued his studies at the University of Exeter, where he was Ouseley Senior Organ Scholar, researching the choral music of Giovanni Paolo Cima. Since then Ed has held various organist and choir director positions.

Ed left the music world many years ago and took a better paid career in financial services. He currently works in underwriting and product development in the city and lives in Chelmsford with his miniature schnauzer. He enjoys quizzes and gin, often in combination.

Harp: Louise O'Connor

Louise O'Connor started playing the harp when she was 8 and soon joined the local youth orchestras and later the Essex Youth Orchestra. She then studied a music degree and Secondary music teaching qualification in Leeds. Louise has been teaching individual and whole class lessons for over 2 decades and the Music on Sea Harp ensemble is flourishing with her talented young pupils. In 2023 Louise is reducing her teaching and intends to return to more practicing and performances on the harp. Her 3 teenage daughters are very musical and enjoy performing too.

Accompanist: Tom Rodgers

Tom Rodgers is a professional conductor, accompanist, tutor and composer/arranger; he has been working with the Billericay Choral Society since January 2022 and is very pleased to be in this important supporting role within the choir. As well as accompanying the BCS, Tom also plays for the Ingatestone Choral Society and directs the Hornchurch "Can't" Sing Choir, the United Singers and The New Essex Choir. He is the organist for All Saint's Parish in Cranham and MD for Lennox Productions, a theatre company that fundraises for the Lennox Childrens' Cancer Fund. He runs a successful tuition business in the Billericay, Brentwood and Basildon area.

Britten: A Ceremony Of Carols

In 1942, Britten, while sailing from the United States back to England, wrote to a friend that composed a number of pieces, including '7 Christmas Carols' as 'one had to alleviate the boredom!'. Britten uses texts from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, edited by Gerald Bullett. It is written mainly in Middle English, with some Latin and Early and Modern English (lyrics below). Originally Britten wrote them as series of unrelated songs, and later draw them together in a collection and added the framing processional and recessional chant based on the plainsong antiphon *Hodie Christus natus est* (Today, Christ is born). The harp solo in the middle is also based on this chant.

Britten originally wrote his *Ceremony of Carols* for three-part treble voice chorus, soloists and harp. It became so popular that Julius Harrison was invited to arrange it for the more conventional 4-part mixed voices (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) as early as 1955. The solo parts today are sung by small groups within the choir and we are delighted to welcome Louise O'Connor to accompany us on the harp.

- Ed Sutton, MD

1. Processional

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt angeli:
Laetantur archangeli:
Hodie exsultant justi dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Translation:

Today Christ is born: Today the Saviour has appeared: Today angels sing on earth: Archangels rejoice: Today the righteous exult, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

2. Wolcum Yole! (Anon. 14th Century)

Wolcum, Wolcum, Wolcum be thou hevenē king,
Wolcum Yole! Wolcum, born in one morning,
Wolcum for whom we sall sing!
Wolcum be ye, Stevene and Jon,
Wolcum, Innocentes every one,
Wolcum, Thomas marter one,
Wolcum be ye, good Newe Yere,
Wolcum, Twelfth Day both in fere,
Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere,
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!
Candelmesse, Quene of bliss,
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.
Wolcum, Wolcum, Wolcum be ye that are here,
Wolcum Yole, Wolcum alle and make good cheer,
Wolcum alle another yere, Wolcum Yole, Wolcum!

3. There is no Rose (Anon. 14th Century)

There is no rose of such vertu
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia, alleluia.
For in this rose containēd was heaven
And earth in litel space,
Res miranda, res miranda.
By that rose we may well see there
Be one God in persons three,
Pares forma, pares forma,
The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus, gaudeamus.
Leave we all this werldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus.
Alleluia, res miranda, pares forma, gaudeamus,
Transeamus, transeamus, transeamus

4b. Bulalow (James, John & Robert Wedderburn, 16th Century).
(Bulalow means lullaby)

O my deare hert, young Jesu sweet,
Prepare thy creddil in my spreit,
And I sall rock thee to my hert,
And never mair from thee depart.
But I sall praise thee evermoir
With sanges sweet unto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow,
And sing that richt Babulalow.

6. This Little Babe (Robert Southwell, d. 1595)

This little Babe so few days old, is come to rife Satan's fold; All hell doth at his presence quake, though he himself for cold do shake; For in this weak unarmed wise the gates of hell he will surprise.
With tears he fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield; His battering shot are babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes, His martial ensigns Cold and Need, and feeble Flesh his warrior's steed. His camp is pitched in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall; The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes; of shepherds he his muster makes; And thus, as sure his foe to wound, the angels' trumps alarum sound.
My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; stick to the tents that he hath pight. Within his crib is surest ward; this little Babe will be thy guard. If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, then flit not from this heavenly Boy

8. In Freezing Winter Night (Robert Southwell, d. 1595)

Behold, a silly tender babe, in freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies.
Alas, a piteous sight! The inns are full;
No man will yield this little pilgrim bed.
But forced he is with silly beasts in crib to shroud his head.
This stable is a Prince's court, this crib his chair of State;
The beasts are parcel of his pomp, the wooden dish his plate.
The persons in that poor attire his royal liveries wear;
The Prince himself is come from heaven; this pomp is prized there.
With joy approach, O Christian wight, do homage to thy King,
And highly praise his humble pomp, wih he from Heaven doth bring.

10. Deo Gracias (Anon. 15th Century)

Deo gracias! Deo gracias! Adam lay ibounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not to long.
Deo gracias! Deo gracias! And all was for an appil, an appil that he tok,
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Deo gracias! Deo gracias!

Ne had the appil take ben, the appil take ben,
Ne hadde never our lady a ben hevene quene.
Blessed be the time that appil take was.
Therefore we moun singen.
Deo gracias! Deo gracias! Deo gracias! Deo gracias!

5. As Dew in Aprille (Anon. c. 1400)

I sing of a maiden that is makèles:
King of all kings to her son she ches.
He came also stille there his moder was
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the grass.
He came also stille to his moder's bour
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the flour.
He came also stille there his moder lay
As dew in Aprille that falleth on the spray.
Moder and maiden was never none but she:
Well may such a lady Goddes moder be.

9. Spring Carol (William Cornish, d. 1523)

Pleasure it is to hear iwis, the Birdes sing,
The deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale,
The corn springing.
God's purveyance for sustenance,
It is for man, it is for man.
Then we always to give him praise,
And thank him than.

11. Recessional

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt angeli:
Laetantur archangeli:
Hodie exultant justi dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Carol Lyrics

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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 (x3) 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 (x3) Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!

"Glory to God, glory in the highest!":

O come, let us adore him (x3) Christ the Lord!

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 (x3) Christ the Lord!

Once In Royal David's City

1. Once, in royal David's city (first verse solo)

2. He came down to earth... (choir only)

And, through all his wondrous childhood he would honour and obey,

Love and watch the lowly maiden 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 heaven above.

And he leads his children onto 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.

Where, like stars, his children crowned all in white, shall wait around.

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.

Choir only: *How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given,
So on our silent night with its still stars and moon,
How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given,
No ear may hear His coming, but His world will know,
Where mockers mock Him, and the babe is born.*

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.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald-angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald-angels sing "Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man, with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald-angels sing "Glory to the newborn 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!"

Billericay Choral Society

... has been singing in Billericay for many years and currently has around 40 singers rehearsing and performing with us. With our new leadership team, we are very much looking forward to some exciting musical plans over the next couple of years. Now would be a great time to come and join us - no need to read music, no auditions: just come along and sing!

Contact Lorraine Douglas (01277 633131) or visit our website/Facebook page to get in touch. www.billericaychoral.co.uk

Our Next Concert

Mendelssohn *Elijah*

Saturday, 1st April, 2023

Christ Church, Chelmsford

with Maldon and Witham Choral Societies

Save the date in your diaries!

Our Thanks:

.... go to the United Reformed Church for allowing us to perform here; to Louise O'Connor for her huge contribution with her harp in tonight's performance; to our two professionals, Ed & Tom, who guide us so well and make our rehearsals enjoyable; to Keith Miller (Marks Miller & Co. Solicitors) for the printing of the programme, to Rodgers Music for the design of the concert posters and programme; finally, thanks to you for coming along to hear us perform today.