



ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

Directed by Gavin Williams

with

**Christine Hubbard (Soprano)
Kerne Clemence (Accompanist)**

Introduced by Adrian Lacey



**DICKENS FESTIVAL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Saturday 1st December 2012, 7.30 pm

Corn Exchange, Rochester



**making
music**

ALL: 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.

Chorus: 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.

Chorus: Rejoice...

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright! Pour on our souls thy
healing light; Dispel the long night's ling'ring gloom and pierce
the shadows of the tomb.

Chorus: Rejoice...

O come, thou Lord of David's Key! The royal door fling wide and
free, Safeguard for us the heav'nward road, and bar the way to
death's abode.

Chorus: Rejoice...

O come, O come Adonai, who in thy glorious majesty. From that
high mountain clothed with awe gavest thy folk the elder law.

Chorus: Rejoice...

CHOIR:

Sans day carol (trad. arr. Rutter)

We've been awhile a-wandering (trad. arr. Vaughan Williams)

I sing of a maiden (Patrick Hadley)

ALL: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the
ground,

The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

'Fear not', said he (for mighty dread had seized their troubled
mind);

'Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.

'To you in David's town this day is born of David's line

A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:

‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view
displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid’.

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song.

‘All glory be to God on high, and on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never
cease’.

CHOIR:

And the glory of the Lord; For unto us a Child is born
(from *Messiah* by Handel)

ALL: GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan’s power when we were gone astray:

Chorus: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings
of comfort and joy.

From God our heav’nly 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:

Chorus: O tidings...

The shepherds at those tidings rejoicèd much in mind;
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway this blessèd babe to find;

Chorus: O tidings...

But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:

Chorus: O tidings...

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:

Chorus: O tidings...

CHOIR:

Rejoice and be merry (trad. arr. Jacques)
A virgin most pure (Rodney Wilhelm)

SOLOIST: Christine Hubbard

O holy night (Adam)

ALL: 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, be-cradled in the manger; be-
cradled in the manger.

MEN 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.

LADIES

Of his love and mercy mild this the Christmas story;
And 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*.

INTERVAL AND RAFFLE

(Bar open)

ALL: 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:

Chorus: 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:

Chorus: O come...

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Chorus: O come...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God in the highest:

Chorus: O come...

CHOIR:

The Shepherds' farewell (Berlioz)

Ding dong! Merrily on high (French arr. David Willcocks)

ALL: THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me
A partridge in a pear tree.

On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Two turtle doves.....

On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Three French hens.....

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Four calling birds.....

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Five gold rings.....

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Six geese a-laying.....

On the sev'nth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Sev'n swans a-swimming.....

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Eight maids a-milking.....

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Nine ladies dancing.....

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Ten lords a-leaping.....

On th'elev'nth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
'lev'n pipers piping.....

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Twelve drummers drumming.....

CHOIR:

Shepherd's pipe carol (Rutter)

Lute book lullaby (W. Ballet)

Sussex carol (trad. arr. Willcocks)

ALL: HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled;
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the new born King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the new born King.

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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.

READING: Malcolm Moulton

History repeats itself

CHOIR:

We wish you a merry Christmas! (arr. Warrell)



The Society wishes to thank Medway Council for the use of the
Corn Exchange
and to its staff for their help



We hope you enjoyed the concert. Do you enjoy singing? If so, why not join us? We have vacancies in all parts, but especially tenors and basses. Further details on: www.rochesterchoral.co.uk or contact Paul Simpson (01634 844467).

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

Saturday 11th April 2013 at 7 pm

Rochester Cathedral

Berlioz: Te Deum

Rheinberger: Organ Concerto no. 2

Saturday 6th July 2013 at 7 pm

St George's Centre, Chatham Maritime

Verdi: Requiem

(with guest singers)