



**Wareham
Choral Society
Christmas Concert**

“The Renaissance Revisited”

Britten's Ceremony of Carols

Directed by Dr Jane Oakland

With Courtlye Musick

Lady St. Mary Church Wareham

Saturday December 14th 2013 7:30pm

Registered Charity No 1103625

www.freewebs.com/warehamcs/

Wolcum!

We are delighted to welcome family, friends and members of the Wareham community to our festival of Christmas music.

We hope that you will experience some magic in this beautiful place tonight as we use music to tell the age-old story of transcendent love and hope for mankind.

In this centenary year of the birth of Benjamin Britten we will perform his beautiful early composition 'The **Ceremony of Carols**'. This work, originally arranged for boys voices, sets Old-English texts to music and expertly re-creates an early Renaissance sound. This mediaeval theme is continued and further embellished by the group Courtlye Musick who will accompany us dressed in mediaeval costumes as they perform on a variety of period instruments.

There will be some traditional carols and a less well known setting of four Old English carols by Gustav Holst. In addition we will invite you to raise your voices with ours in some familiar favourites so that together we will make the rafters ring!

WCS is growing in numbers, in vocal expertise, and in ambition, and we are happy to accept new members in all parts. We rehearse in the United Reform Church in Wareham on Monday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. For further details contact: Judith Price (Chairman) 01929 552272 or Bob Newnham (Secretary) 01929 459319.

In the spring we will join the Dorset Guild of Singers to sing Mendelsohn's Elijah, at the Lighthouse in Poole. In June we will perform a special summer concert to commemorate the beginning of WW1. We have some interesting ideas for this event which will involve other sections of the community and, hopefully, a specially commissioned work with a section involving young people. Do complete the form on your seat to become a 'Friend of WCS' so that we can keep you informed.

Judith Price - Chairman of Wareham Choral Society.

We are, as ever, grateful for the use of Lady St Mary church for our concert.

Thanks also to Joys Outfitters of Wareham for once again assisting us in the sale of tickets.

A donation will be made to the Mayor's nominated charities from the proceeds of this concert.

Programme

1 Choir - Hodie (from Ceremony of Carols - Britten)

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

2 Choir Wolcum Yole (Ceremony of Carols - Benjamin Britten)

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

Introduction and Welcome

3 Choir There is no rose (Ceremony of Carols - Britten)

*There is no rose of such vertu As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
For in this rose containèd 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 Deo.
Gaudeamus, Gaudeamus.
Leave we all this werdly mirth, And follow we this joyful mirth.
Transeamus, Transeamus.*

4 Choir Balulalow (from Ceremony of Carols - Benjamin Britten)

*O my deare hert, young Je su sweit 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 sweit unto thy glour;
The knees of my hert sall I bow And sing that richt Balulalow!*

5 Audience Carol – Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet
head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from
the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

6 Courtlye Musick

7 Choir Sussex Carol

8 Festive Reading – Lydia Farrow

9 Choir Dew in Aprille (from Ceremony of Carols - Benjamin Britten)

*I sing of a maiden that is makelès: King of all kings to her son she ches.
He came al so 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 mayden was never none but she: Well such a lady Goddes moder be.*

10 Choir This Little Babe (from Ceremony of Carols - Benjamin Britten)

*This little Babe so few days old Is come to rifle Satan's fold.
All hell doth at his presence quake, Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmèd wise The gates of hell he will surprize.
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 pitchèd 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.*

11 Audience Carol – It came upon the midnight clear

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heav'n's all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still thru the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long
Beneath the angel strain has rolled
Two thousand years of wrong
And man at war with man hears not
The love-song which they bring.
O hush the noise ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing

4 For lo, the days are hast'ning on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient spendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Interval

12 Choir – In dulci jubilo

13 Audience Carol – O little town of Bethlehem

1 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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

3 How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

14 Choir Freezing Winter Night (Ceremony of Carols - Britten)

*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 heav'n, this pomp is prized there.
With joy approach, O Christian wight, Do homage to thy King
And highly praise his humble pomp which He from heav'n doth bring*

15 Choir Yonge Child (from Ceremony of Carols - Britten) (solo)

That yongè child when it gan weep With song she lulled him asleep

That was so sweet a melody It passéd alle minstrelly.

The nightingale sang also: Her song is hoarse and nought therto:

Whoso attendeth to her song And leaveth the first then doth he wrong

16 Festive Reading – read by Lydia Farrow

17 Choir Four Old English Carols –Gustav Holst

18 Courtlye Musick

19 Choir What Cheer – William Walton

20 Choir Spring Carol (from Ceremony of Carols - Britten) (duet)

*Pleasure it is to hear iwis, the birdès sing. The deer in the dale, the sheep in the vale,
The corn springing.*

God's purvayance for sustenance, It is for man, it is for man.

Then we always to give him praise, And thank him than.

21 Choir Deo Gracias (from Ceremony of Carols - Britten)

Deo Gracias! Deo Gracias!

Adam lay ibunden, bound in a bond, For thousand winter thought he not too long.

And all was for an appil, An appil that he tok, As clerkès finden written in their book.

Ne had the appil takè been, The appil takè been,

Ne haddè never our lady A ben hevenè queen.

Blessed be the time That appil takè was.

Therefore we moun singen, Deo Gracias! Deo Gracias!

22 Audience Carol – Hark the Herald

1 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 the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!*

2 Christ, by highest heav'n 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 new-born King!*

3 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!*

Encore – We wish you a Merry Christmas

Benjamin Britten (1913 –1976) was a central figure of 20th-century British classical music, with a range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. His best-known works include the opera *Peter Grimes* (1945), the *War Requiem* (1962) and the orchestral showpiece *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (1945).

Over the next 28 years, he wrote 14 more operas, establishing himself as one of the leading 20th-century composers in the genre. Recurring themes in the operas are the struggle of an outsider against a hostile society, and the corruption of innocence.

Britten's other works range from orchestral to choral, solo vocal, chamber and instrumental as well as film music. He took a great interest in writing music for children and amateur performers, including the opera *Noye's Fludde*, a *Missa Brevis*, and the song collection *Friday Afternoons*.

Together with Peter Pears and the librettist and producer Eric Crozier, Britten founded the annual Aldeburgh Festival in 1948, and he was responsible for the creation of Snape Maltings concert hall in 1967. He was the first composer to be given a life peerage.

A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28 was originally scored for three-part treble chorus, solo voices, and harp, but later arranged for 4 parts. We sing it tonight accompanied on piano. It sets text (in Middle English) from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, which Britten had bought in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on his way back to England from America by sea. The piece was written on board the cargo ship because “one had to alleviate the boredom”.

Gustav Holst (1874 –1934) is best known for his orchestral suite *The Planets*. He composed a large number of works across a range of genres, although none achieved comparable success. His distinctive compositional style was the product of many influences, including the English folksong revival of the early 20th century, and he was a significant influence on a number of younger English composers, including Edmund Rubbra, Michael Tippett and Benjamin Britten.

Music Director Dr Jane Oakland's professional singing career started with



Scottish Opera, singing in the chorus as well as undertaking several small roles. In 1990 Jane moved to Holland where she sang primarily with De Nederlandse Opera, but also with Nationale Reis Opera, Groot Omroep Koor and Vlaamse Opera in Antwerp.

Jane returned to the UK in 2009 and has since completed a PhD researching career stress for professional musicians. She has published several articles and has presented papers at conferences world-wide.

In addition to Wareham Choral Society, Jane is also Musical Director of the Dorset Police Male Voice Choir.

www.janeoakland.co.uk

Courtlye Musick – Anita and Martin Felton, Anne Gray and Gareth Jones –



specialise in the authentic presentation of Renaissance and Medieval music.

They aim to charm you with recorders from tiny garklein to towering great bass; startle you with reeds including shawms, rauschpfeifen, sordunes and crumhorns; or stir you with the sound of cornetto, sackbut and curtal; and sooth you with strings such as viols, rebec, lute and harp.

They have worked nationwide at festivals, historic events, weddings and banquets and are experienced on-stage musicians for Shakespeare's plays.

<http://www.courtlyemusick.co.uk/>

Pianist Dr Richard Hall *has lived in Dorset since the age of six. He trained at Dartington and Durham University and then joined the staff of the Dorset Rural Music School of which he is now Director. He has enjoyed a varied career as teacher, lecturer, choral conductor and chamber player and has been for many years a member of the examining panel of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.*

Organist Maurice Turner has been involved with music making in schools and churches for most of his life. He has a particular interest in church music and in training and accompanying choristers, choirs and soloists of all ages.

He has been 'resident musician' for Wareham's Rex Players for the last 13 years.

Maurice is the Organist at Lady St Mary Parish Church, Wareham.

