

The Cherwell Singers

Directed by Julia Craig-McFeely

Organist Tansy Castledine

Candlelit Carols

*In aid of the Stroke
Association*

Saturday 11 Dec 1999 6.00pm

Exeter College Chapel

By kind permission of the Rector and Fellows

*Would you like to dedicate
one of tonight's carols to
someone special?*

For a small donation to the Stroke
Association we will read your dedication
before we perform 'your' carol.

We would like to invite you to join us in singing some of tonight's carols.
If you feel cold and would like to warm your hands, please feel free to applaud!

29

God Rest you, merry gentlemen

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy!
2. From God our heavenly 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:

3. 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 other doth efface:

Silent Night
A spotless rose

JCM
Howells

Hark the Herald angels sing

39

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 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 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.*

The virgin stills the crying 2
Sleep Holy Babe 13 ~~70~~ P/T

Barnby
anon

59

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 earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they
come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its Bable sounds
The blessed angels sing.
3. For lo! the days are hastening 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 splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

The holly and the ivy 17 P/T
Lully Lulla

JCM
Leighton

Good king Wenceslas

34

1. Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep, and crisp and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gathering winter fuel.
2. (MEN) 'Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'
(LADIES) 'Sire he lives a good league
hence,
Underneath the mountain;
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

3. (MEN) 'Bring me flesh, and bring me
wine,

Bring me pine-logs hither;
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.'

(ALL) Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament;
And the bitter weather.

4. (LADIES) 'Sire, the night is darker
now,

And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer.'

(MEN) 'Mark my footsteps, my good
page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

5. (ALL) In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

In the bleak midwinter
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Darke
Gardner

O little town of Bethlehem

92

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 tonight.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

2. 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.

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

Lift thine eyes
Balulalow
The Virgin Mary

Mendelssohn
Warlock
Sargeant

O Come all ye faithful

1. 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,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

3. Sing choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above:
"Glory to God,
In the highest":
*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

2. 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,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

4. Yea Lord we greet Thee,
Born that happy morning;
Jesu, to Thee be glory given,
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Several of the Carols heard in tonight's concert are recorded on our CD *The Twelve Days of Christmas* available from members of the choir after the concert.

THE CHERWELL SINGERS

Musical Director Julia Craig-McFeely

SOPRANO – Claire Appleton, Sue Bignal, Kipper Chipperfield,
Sarah Franks, Caroline Higginbottom, Louise Locock

ALTO – Virginia Allport, Stella Holman, Rosemary Keavy,
Helen Maidlow, Beryl Pratley, Joanna Tucker

TENOR – Derek Fowler, Rob Harnish,
Guy Peskett, David Sutton, John Tucker

BASS – Richard Coleridge, Christopher Franks, Paul Lewis,
Paul Mayhook

The Cherwell Singers was founded 21 years ago by a group of singers who wished to perform the vocal chamber music repertory to a high standard, and many of the original singers are still part of the choir. Our repertory covers sacred and secular music from the late Medieval period to 20th-century works (some written especially for the choir), and includes not only the central compositions of the main choral repertory but many lesser-known pieces. The choir accepts bookings for weddings, dinners and other events, formal and informal, and we welcome enquiries from prospective new members. The choir has recently released two CDs: *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and *Oxford Conference* can be purchased from members of the choir. *The Twelve Days of Christmas* is also available from Past Times

Please feel free to applaud during the concert if you wish.

Contact numbers

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Julia Craig-McFeely (01865) 241323

Forthcoming concerts:

J S Bach *Magnificat*, G F Handel *Dixit Dominus* with Oxford Sinfonia,
Merton College Chapel, Saturday 1 April 2000 at 8.30 pm