



Chepstow Choral Society

Conducted by Graham Bull

Presents

A Christmas Celebration!

a selection of festive music & readings

with special guests

St John's-on-the-Hill School Chamber Choir

Musical Director - David Mitchell

Peter Cook – Organ

Richard Kubiak – Piano

Sunday, 8th December, 2019

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 3.00pm

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies Registered charity no. 1127098

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

TY CERDD
MUSIC CENTRE WALES

Welcome to our Christmas Celebration!

On behalf of Chepstow Choral Society may I warmly welcome you to our Christmas concert of festive music and readings. This beautiful tradition is only kept alive in Chepstow by your generous support.

Thank you. It gives me great pleasure to welcome back Peter Cook, our organist and St John's-on-the-Hill School Chamber Choir conducted by David Mitchell. Thank you for joining us in our festive celebrations. Our festive programme this afternoon promises to be a magical Christmas Celebration! Our thanks, as always, go to all at St Mary's. Their support and assistance is greatly appreciated. I also wish to thank our front of house team who work tirelessly to ensure a smooth performance.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sue Carter, Chair of Chepstow Choral Society.

St John's on-the-Hill Chamber Choir represents the very best of the vocal talent at the school. Membership of the choir is by invitation only and is made up of students in years 6, 7 and 8 with an age range of 10 to 13. The choir performs regularly at school events and has previously participated in choral festivals, competitions, music tours and recently a performance of *The Armed Man* at Tewkesbury Abbey. The Director of Music at the school, Mr David Mitchell, works weekly with the students to develop their singing technique and aural ability which is demonstrated for you today. The choir regularly performs in 3 part harmony and sometimes 4 part harmony. We are absolutely delighted to have been invited to perform again at this prestigious event and we hope that this is once again helping to establish a strong relationship between the young people of St John's and Chepstow Choral Society.

Forthcoming concerts by Chepstow Choral Society

Saturday 4th April 2020, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Chepstow
Inc. Will Todd – Mass in Blue, W Lloyd Webber – Missa Princeps Pacis.

Wednesday 24th June 2020, 7.00pm at the Arts Hall, Chepstow School
Our popular Summer concert including light refreshments.

We would kindly ask that you switch off all electronic devices during the concert, including cameras, and mobile phones. Thank you.

Programme

Choir Past Three O'Clock Trad arr Wood
Choir Rejoice and Be Merry Trad arr Jacques
Cong O Come All Ye Faithful

Reading 1 The Angel visits Mary
Choir Adam Lay y Bounden B Ord
Choir I Sing of a Maiden P Hadley
Choir Virge Jesse A Bruckner

Reading 2 Handel's Messiah A Titchmarsh
Choir And the Glory of the Lord G Handel
Choir O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings G Handel
Choir Ding Dong Merrily On High Trad arr Wood
Choir Joy To The World arr Llewellyn
Cong The Holly and the Ivy

Reading 3 From A Child's Christmas D Thomas
St John's School Chamber Choir
In Dulci Jubilo Trad
Pat-a-Pan La Monnoye
Go Tell It On The Mountain Donald Moore

Arrangements by D Mitchell
Cong O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Reading 4 The Birth of Christ
Choir For Unto Us A Child Is Born G Handel
Choir Torches J Joubert
Choir Sussex Carol D Willcocks
Cong Unto Us Is Born a Son

Reading 5 The Visit of the Shepherds
Choir Glory to God G Handel
Choir O Men From the Fields A Cooke
Choir Shepherds' Farewell H Berlioz

<i>Reading 6</i>	<i>From A Christmas Carol</i>	<i>C Dickens</i>
Choir	Gloucestershire Wassail	arr V Williams
Choir	Sir Christemas	R Kubiak
Cong	Good King Wenceslas	

Choir	Hallelujah!	G Handel
Cong	Hark the Herald Angels Sing	
Choir	We Wish You a Merry Christmas	A Warrell

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.

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.

3. See how the shepherds,
 Summoned to his cradle,
 Leaving their flocks, draw nigh
 with lowly fear;
 We too will thither
 Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him etc

4. Sing, choirs of angels,
 Sing in exultation,
 Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n
 above;
 Glory to God
 In the highest:
O come, let us adore him etc

The Holly & The Ivy

1. The Holly & the Ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the
wood

The Holly bears the crown

Refrain:

*O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

2. The Holly bears a blossom
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour

Refrain:

*O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

3. The Holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus
Christ

For to do poor sinners good
O the rising of the sun....

4. The Holly bears a prickly
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn

O the rising of the sun....

5. The Holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus
Christ

For to redeem us all
O the rising of the sun....

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 tonight

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 wond'ring love

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 today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Unto Us Is Born a Son

1. 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.

3. **(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.

5. **(All)** O and A and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro;
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino,
benedicamus Domino.

2. 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.

4. **(Ladies)** Of his love and mercy mild,
This is the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle child,
Might lead us up to glory,
Might lead us up to glory.

Good King Wenceslas

1. Good King Wenceslas look'd 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,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

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.

5. 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.

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'.

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

Hark ! The Herald Angels Sing

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 th'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 th'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 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!*

CCS welcomes new members! Choral singing lifts the spirits and gives a sense of collective pleasure, and everyone in CCS is a member because they love singing – and we welcome new singers in all voice sections. We do not have a formal audition policy and prospective members should contact Marjorie Duerden (tel. 01291 623310) or through the website link www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk . No-one is excluded on grounds of lack of previous choral experience, ability to play instruments, etc, - just come and enjoy singing!

Patrons, Supporters and Friends

CCS promotes and encourages music within the community through its concerts. We particularly foster and support young and aspiring musicians but our ticket sales rarely cover our costs of our concerts. Patrons (minimum subscription £30) receive a complimentary ticket for each concert, an invitation to our Patrons' evenings and their names are printed in each concert programme. This patronage helps us to arrange concerts confident that we can cover at least some of our costs. If you would like to join us please contact **Jean Parkes, Patrons and Membership Secretary, 13 Orchard Avenue, Chepstow NP16 5RD** or contact on 01291 620414

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