

Nantwich Choral Society

Conductor: John Naylor
Accompanist: Simon Russell

Nantwich Young Voices
Conductor: Victoria Palethorpe
Accompanist: Rita Davies

FAMILY CAROL CONCERT



St Mary's Church, Nantwich
Saturday 17th December 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome to our Annual Family Carol Concert. We hope that you will enjoy not only listening to new and traditional carols but also joining with us in singing well-known seasonal favourites.

Once again, 2011 has proved to be a musically successful and enjoyable year for Nantwich Choral Society. We especially enjoyed the premiere in March of Andrew Mildinhall's '*Even Such is Time*' which was performed alongside Fauré's '*Requiem*' in its original version with lower strings accompaniment. Our distinguished soloists and The Northern Concordia Orchestra were in excellent form and the result was a fine performance which will be long remembered by all who took part.

We installed two concert grand pianos and a historic harmonium here in St Mary's for our summer performance of Rossini's '*Petite Messe Solonelle*'. Once again, Rossini's late work proved neither small in scale nor particularly solemn. Our fine team of accompanists and soloists inspired a performance of great panache and enthusiasm coupled with splendid accuracy and musicality. Most recently in November, a truly exciting performance of Haydn's '*Creation*' delighted a large audience here in St Mary's: many of us found new insights into a work which is familiar to many.

In 2012 we plan some special concerts to celebrate Nantwich Choral Society's 40th Anniversary Year.

We will begin with an invitation to all singers to join us on January 14th for our annual 'Come and Sing' event – an afternoon rehearsal and an evening performance with audience. On this occasion the work will be Mozart's '*Requiem*' with young soloists from The Royal Northern College of Music accompanied by the young virtuoso organist William Nicholson. On Sunday March 18th in the afternoon in Nantwich Civic Hall we will present a landmark concert in NCS history – an all Vaughan Williams programme. This will include '*The lark ascending*' played by Andy Long, Associate Leader of the Orchestra of Opera North, and the Symphony No 1, (*A Sea Symphony*) in which we will be joined by The Northern Concordia Orchestra, our fully professional associate orchestra and by Market Drayton Choral Society as our guests to perform one of the greatest choral works in the repertoire.

In May, we will visit Mâcon for a performance of Mozart's '*Coronation Mass*' with *L'Ensemble Vocal Arpège de Mâcon*. They in turn will visit us when the programme will also include Mozart's '*Vespers*' on July 14th. Given the significance of the date, there may even be a special rendering of *La Marseillaise*! Lastly, on November 10th we will commemorate the repertoire of the Society's first ever concert with '*Messiah*', on this occasion with the period instruments of The 18th Century Sinfonia.

Nantwich Choral Society continues to flourish (we now have grown to a membership of 100), and we really appreciate the contributions of all who work so hard on its behalf. We especially acknowledge the receipt of legacies, sponsorships, grants and donations which help us to maintain and develop our musical standards, especially in these financially straightened times.

Above all, we thank our audiences for their support and we look forward to more enjoyable music making in 2012.

Please join our 200 Club for a chance to win a monthly cash prize and help us to keep on performing adventurous concerts!

**For an application form, contact tonight's Front of House team or visit
www.nantwichchoral.org.uk**

The costs of this evening's performance are funded entirely by Nantwich Choral Society. The Society gratefully acknowledges help and support during the recent past from The Harding Trust, Grassroots Cheshire, Barclays Bank plc, our auditors Hall Livesey Brown, Chartered Accountants, Tarporley, GT webMarque and Michael Vernon Photography.

Choir **Sussex Carol:** English traditional carol arranged by David Willcocks

All **Once in Royal David's City**

Stood a lowly cattle shed
Where a mother laid a baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable
And his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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 on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lonely stable
With the oxen standing by
We shall see him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Choir **Adam lay y-bounden:** Peter Warlock

The Cherry Tree Carol: arr. David Willcocks

Nantwich Young Voices **Hope of Heaven:** Mark and Helen Johnson

Dear Santa: Niki Davies

Choir **A babe is born:** William Mathias

All **Good King Wenceslas**

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.

Low voices Hither page and stand by me, if thou knowst it, telling,

Yonder peasant who is he, where and what his dwelling?

High voices Sire he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain.

Right against the forest fence, by St Agnes Fountain.

Low voices 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.

High voices Sire the night is darker now and the wind blows stronger
 Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer.
 Low voices Mark my footsteps, good my page: tread thou in them boldly
 Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly.

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.

Choir **I sing of a maiden:** Patrick Hadley

Up good Christen folk and listen!: Trad arr Charles Wood

All **Away in a manger:** W J Kikpatrick

(All children are invited to come and join the choirs for this carol)

Away in a manger,
 No crib for His 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

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.

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.

Choir **A maiden most gentle:** Andrew Carter

Ding dong merrily on high!: French melody arranged by Charles Wood

All

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the saviour is born.
Christ the saviour is born

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth
Jesus Lord, at thy birth

Choir

Shepherds Pipe Carol: John Rutter

All

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.*

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,

Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
We to the Christ child bring our hearts oblations:

O come let us adore him,

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,

INTERVAL

Refreshments will be served by the Scouts in the Parish Hall.

*There is an opportunity to support the activities of Nantwich Choral Society by buying tickets for a chance to win the excellent prizes in our **Christmas Raffle** which will be drawn in the Parish Hall during the interval. The names of winners will be announced during the concert and they are invited to collect their prizes at the end of the evening.*

Choir **Personent Hodie:** arr. Gustav Holst

All **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.

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.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human heart 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.

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.

Choirs **Star Carol:** John Rutter

The Three Kings: Peter Cornelius Guest soloist – Michael Wright

Past three a'clock: arr. Charles Wood

All **Unto us is born a Son,**
King of choirs supernal
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Choir only Christ, from heaven descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger
Ox and ass their owner know
Be-cradled in the manger.

Low voices This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

High voices Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story,
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory.

All O and A and A and O,
 Cum cantibus in choro,
 Let our merry organ go,
 Benedicamus Domino.

Choir **Coventry Carol:** arr Martin Shaw

Once as I remember:

All **The twelve days of Christmas:** arr. John Rutter

Choir **The shepherds' farewell:** Hector Berlioz

All **God rest ye 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
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
O tidings of comfort and joy

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:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Choir **We wish you a merry Christmas** – English traditional, arr. Arthur Warrell

***The members of Nantwich Choral Society wish all their
Friends and Supporters a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas!***