
SURBITON ORATORIO SOCIETY

President: ALDERMAN W. E. DOMMETT, C.C.



Christmas Music

CHRIST CHURCH

KING CHARLES ROAD, SURBITON

Saturday, 20th December, 1952

at 7.30 p.m.

Soprano:

ELIZABETH DAVIES

Contralto:

DELIA WOOLFORD

Tenor:

KENNETH McKELLAR

Baritone:

RANKEN BUSHBY

Organ:

GERALD WHEELER

String Orchestra Leader:

LESLEY WHITE

Conductor:

JOHN WILKINSON

Programme 2/6

CAROL FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

"See amid the Winter's Snow"

Goss (1800-1880)

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|--|---|
| 1 See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years. | 2 Lo, within a manger lies
He Who built the starry skies;
He, Who throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim! |
|--|---|

Chorus:

Hail, thou ever blessèd morn!
Hail, Redemption's happy dawn!
Sing thro' all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

- 3 "As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing peace on earth,
Told us of a Saviour's birth."

- 4 Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee,
In Thy sweet humility.

E. Caswell

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO (PART II) Bach (1685-1750)

On the Second Day of the Festival of Christmas

PASTORAL SYMPHONY

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| RECIT.—Tenor | ... | And there were shepherds in the same country. |
| CHORAL.— | ... | Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light. |
| RECIT.—Soprano and Tenor | ... | And the angel said to them. |
| RECIT.—Bass | ... | What God to Abraham revealed. |
| ARIA.—Tenor | ... | Haste, ye shepherds. |
| RECIT.—Soprano | ... | And this is the sign to you. |
| CHORAL.— | ... | Within yon gloomy manger. |
| RECIT.—Bass | ... | O haste ye then. |
| ARIA.—Contralto | ... | Slumber, beloved. |
| RECIT.—Tenor | ... | And suddenly. |
| CHORUS.— | ... | Glory to God in the highest. |
| RECIT.—Bass | ... | 'Tis right that Angels thus should sing. |
| CHORAL.— | ... | With all Thy hosts. |

(PART III)

On the Third Day of the Festival of Christmas

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| CHORUS.— | ... | Hear King of Angels. |
| RECIT.—Tenor | ... | And when the Angels. |
| CHORUS.— | ... | Let us even now go to Bethlehem. |
| RECIT.—Bass | ... | He bids us comfort take. |
| CHORAL.— | ... | The Lord hath all these wonders wrought. |
| ARIA.—Soprano | ... | Ah! my Saviour. |
| RECIT.—Tenor | ... | And they came with haste. |
| ARIA.—Contralto | ... | Keep, O my spirit. |
| RECIT.—Contralto | ... | Yes, Yes, my heart. |
| CHORAL.— | ... | Thee with tender care. |
| RECIT.—Tenor | ... | And the shepherds returned. |
| CHORAL.— | ... | Rejoice and sing. |
| CHORUS.— | ... | Hear King of Angels. |

CAROL FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

"The First Nowell"

Traditional Carol, probably 17th century

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| 1 The first Nowell the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields
as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their
sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel! | 4 This Star drew nigh to the north-west,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. |
| 2 They looked up and saw a Star
Shining in the East, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night. | 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there, in His Presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. |
| 3 And by the light of that same Star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent.
And to follow the Star wherever it went. | 6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our Heavenly Lord,
That hath made Heaven and earth of
naught
And with His Blood mankind hath bought.
<i>Ibid.</i> |

—INTERVAL—

CAROL FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

"In the bleak mid-winter"

Holst (1874-1935)

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| 1 In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago. | 3 Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Belovèd
With a kiss. |
| 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain:
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ. | 4 What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him—
Give my heart. |

Christina Rossetti, 1830-94

CAROL

"Shepherds, in the field abiding"

French Melody, arr. Charles Wood

FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS

... .. Vaughan Williams (1872)
For Baritone Solo, Chorus, Orchestra and Organ.

CAROL

"In dulci jubilo"

Pearsall (1795-1856)

SOPRANO SOLOS

"A little road to Bethlehem"

Michael Head (1900)

"In nightly stillness"

Arnold Bax (1883)

CAROL FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

"It came upon the midnight clear"

Traditional English Melody, arr. Dunhill

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| <p>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, goodwill to men
From Heaven's all-gracious King:
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the Angels sing.</p> | <p>3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the Angels' strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man at war with man hears not
The song of love they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the Angels sing!</p> |
| <p>2 Still through the cloven skies they come 4
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still the 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 Babel sounds
The blessed Angels sing.</p> | <p>And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the Angels sing.</p> |
| <p>5 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 send back the song
Which now the Angels sing.
<i>E. H. Sears, 1810-76</i></p> | |

CAROL ... "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" ... arr. Charles Wood

HYMN FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

"While Shepherds watch'd their flocks"

Este's Psalter, arr. Geoffrey Shaw

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| <p>1 While Shepherds watch'd their flocks
by night,
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.</p> | <p>4 The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view display'd,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."</p> |
| <p>2 "Fear not," said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.</p> | <p>5 Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
Appear'd a shining throng
Of Angels praising God, who thus
Address'd their joyful song:</p> |
| <p>3 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:</p> | <p>6 "All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease."
<i>Nahum Tate, 1652-1715</i></p> |

BLESSING

This Society meets for rehearsals at "Braemar," Lamberts Road, Surbiton,
on Thursday evenings at 8.0 p.m. New members will be welcome.

There will be a performance of Handel's "Messiah" at St. Andrew's Church,
Surbiton on Saturday, March 28th, 1953.

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