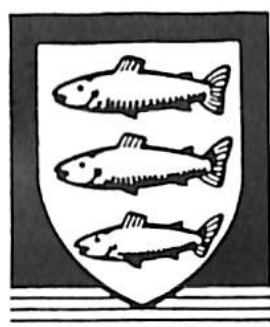


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Kingston Choral Society



BRITTEN: ST NICOLAS
CANTATA & CAROLS



KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1992

PATRON The Worshipful the Mayor of the
Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames

PRESIDENT W James Daly KCHS FICE

VICE PRESIDENT Richard Tracey MP, JP

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Robin Page MA Hons (Cantab), LRAM

CHAIRMAN Rod Pearson

HONORARY MEMBERS Mrs A Johnson, Miss D Lofts

Kingston Choral Society is grant-aided by the Royal Borough of
Kingston-upon-Thames.

Society members particularly wish to record their gratitude to
Mary Fuller who is giving up the work she has done over many
years as our rehearsal pianist.

The cover for this programme was designed by Maurice Moeri of
Design Services (081-643 3595).

*Wine is available at the interval in exchange for tickets
which must be bought before the Concert starts.*

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY.....Our Next Concert

Saturday, May 8 1993

Kingston Parish Church

Glagolitic Mass

Janacek

Psalmus Hungaricus

Kodaly

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

KINGSTON PARISH CHURCH

Saturday December 12 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 1992

Soloists:

Soprano: Debbie Cottrell
Tenor: Bruce Evans

Boys' Voices:

Stephen Johnson
William King
Chris Tiffin

Organist: Martin Hall
Pianist Christopher Cox
Timpanist Adrian Bending

PROGRAMME

Choir and Audience - Once in Royal David's City

Gauntlett, arr Willcocks

(Verse 1 - Choir only)

1 Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattleshed
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little child

2 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.

3 And through all His wond'rous
childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient good as He.

4 For He is our childhood's pattern
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

5 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.

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

Choir - Torches

Joubert

Solo - The Advent

Ireland

(Soloist: Debbie Cottrell)

Choir - Good King Wenceslas

from *Piae Cantiones* - arr Jacques

Choir and Audience - The First Nowell

Trad arr Willcocks

1 The first Nowell the angel 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, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

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

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, etc

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.

*Nowell, 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.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, etc

5 Then enter'd in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offer'd there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, etc

6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, etc

Choir - The Coventry Carol

(From the Pageant of the Shearmen and
Tailors - 1591)

Chorale (Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices)

from Cantata 140 (English words by John Rutter) Bach

Choir (With Audience in sections 5 and 9)

Saint Nicolas - A Cantata

Britten

1 Introduction

2 The Birth of Nicolas

3 Nicolas devotes himself to God

4 He journeys to Palestine

5 He comes to Myra and is chosen Bishop

All people that on Earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice!
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto,
Praise, laud and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all time firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure. Amen.

6 Nicolas from Prison

7 Nicolas and the Pickled Boys

8 His Piety and Marvellous Works

9 The Death of Nicolas

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head. Amen.

INTERVAL

Choir and Audience - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn 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.

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.*

Hark! the herald angels sing etc

3 Hail the heav'n-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 etc

Choir - Nativity Carol

Rutter

The Infant King

Basque, arr Willcocks

Zither Carol

Czech, arr Sargent

Choir and Audience - Away in a Manger

Kirkpatrick

1 Away in 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 for ever, 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 - Ding Dong! Merrily on High

16c French

Solo - The First Mercy

Warlock

(Soloist: Debbie Cottrell)

Choir - Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Trad arr Willcocks

Deck the Hall

Welsh arr Willcocks

Choir and Audience - 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:

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!*

O come, let us adore him, etc

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

4 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 etc

O come, let us adore him etc

5 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens in heav'n above
Glory to God
In the highest

O come, let us adore him etc

Choir and Conductor - A Merry Christmas -

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1992

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913 - 1976) composed the Saint Nicolas Cantata for the centenary of Lancing College in 1948. It contains nine sections which trace the life of St Nicolas who lived in the late third and early fourth centuries in Asia Minor and who was noted for his generous nature in the care of the poor and the oppressed. Nicolas, as patron saint of travellers, children and sailors, has his own saint-day on December 6, but without doubt he is better remembered, particularly by children, on December 25, in his later guise of Santa Claus.

Possibly the most famous of Nicolas' exploits, featured in the cantata, is that in which he saves the lives of three boys chosen by a rascally innkeeper to be preserved in brine to serve as food in a period of famine. By gifts of money he also saved three girls of noble birth from prostitution, a deed which is symbolised in the iconography by the association with the saint of three gold balls, representing purses.

The cantata is set for two choirs, soloists and congregation as well as keyboard instruments and percussion. It illustrates Britten's preference for working with small groups of musicians. The piece displays a wide variety of styles, some melodic, some discordant and may be seen as an affirmation of the creative and the humane over the destructive forces of evil and barbarism. The audience will be are invited to stand and join in singing two well-known church hymns, 'All people that on earth do dwell' (Section 5) and 'God moves in a mysterious way' (Section 9).

DEBBIE COTTRELL

Debbie Cottrell was born in Sheffield and educated at London University, where she studied singing with Sandra Wilkes. She then went on to post-graduate studies with Marion Studholme at the Royal College of Music.

Since then she has sung a wide range of roles in opera, performed in oratorios and given various solo recitals in music and arts festivals around the country. Recently she joined Court Opera and is enjoying preparing performances in Amahl and the Night Visitors, Carmen and Lucia di Lammermoor.

Debbie, who is a schoolteacher, has recently moved to the Kingston area with her husband and young family, and, as a member of Kingston Choral Society, she is delighted to be asked to perform in their Christmas concert.

BRUCE EVANS

Born in Bristol, Bruce sang for West Country Choral Societies for several years (while qualifying as an electrician) before moving to London and studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where with Laura Sarti and now William McAlpine he has performed many operas and oratorios. Recently he has worked with De Vlamme Opera of Antwerp in Parsifal and next January will sing 'Rudolfo' with Opera Inside Out of Marlborough.

ROBIN PAGE

Robin Page was born in Ipswich and was educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford and Cambridge University. He then studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London and continued there as a Professor until 1990. In addition to his work with Kingston Choral Society, Robin is also Musical Director of the Purcell Orchestra, the Thames Symphony Orchestra and the Thames Sinfonia as well as the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra. He is Principal Conductor of the West Sussex Philharmonic Choir. In addition to engagements all over Britain, Robin has had a highly successful visit to Estonia where he conducted the Estonian State Symphony Orchestra for the first concert performance and recording there of Elgar's Enigma Variations.

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY evolved from Surbiton Oratorio Society, itself descended from an *ad hoc* choir formed in 1951 to mark the Festival of Britain with a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. We include in our concerts not only items of the standard repertoire but also lesser known pieces by composers from most musical eras, including the late 20th century.

Details of our current concert season can be found in our 1992-93 brochure. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join us please have a word with any of the choir members tonight or contact our Membership Secretary, Val Moeri on 081-643 3595.

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