



Ringling in Christmas

**St Andrew's Church
Maple Road
Surbiton
KT6 4DS**

**14 December 2013
7.30 pm**

£1.50



reputation for concerts of a high standard and for performing a wide range of music. The Society enjoys singing the familiar favourites of the choral repertoire, but is not afraid of tackling ambitious projects and has, for example, performed a new commission by Peter Maxwell Davies, Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky in Russian and other pieces in Czech, Hebrew, Finnish and Swedish.

Kingston Choral Society has over 120 members drawn from southwest London and north Surrey. New members are welcome. The choir performs four concerts a year, usually in Kingston Parish Church, and two of the concerts are with a professional orchestra. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings (8-10 pm) at The Hollyfield School, Surbiton, in term-time. Kingston Choral Society also holds regular social and fund-raising events and occasional musical workshops.

If you are interested in joining, please talk to any member of the choir during the interval or at the end of the concert. You can also contact the Membership Secretary on join@kingstonchoralsociety.org.uk

ANDREW GRIFFITHS – Musical Director

A graduate of the prestigious Jette Parker Young Artist Programme at the Royal Opera, Andrew Griffiths has a growing reputation as a young conductor of considerable talent and versatility.

Particularly experienced in the theatre, Andrew has conducted productions for The Royal Opera, Opera North, Iford Festival Opera, Bampton Classical Opera, Early Opera Company and Paragon Ensemble Scotland. He has worked at Glyndebourne, English National Opera, Scottish Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Opera Theatre Company, Batignano, with the BBC Symphony and BBC Scottish Symphony orchestras, and on numerous productions at The Royal Opera, including the *Ring* and the world premiere of *The Minotaur*, under conductors including Sir Antonio Pappano, Sir Mark Elder, Sir John Eliot Gardiner and Sir Charles Mackerras. He has gained extensive experience in a wide range of Baroque repertoire as a regular assistant to Christian Curnyn, and is frequently engaged as a vocal coach at The Royal Opera and the National Opera Studio.

On the concert platform, Andrew has appeared with the Orchestra of The Royal Opera, the Orchestra of Opera North, Southbank Sinfonia, Thames Sinfonia and Orpheus Sinfonia. An experienced and sought-after choral conductor, he is regularly invited to direct the BBC Singers, with whom he has recorded a series of programmes for BBC Radio 3; other engagements include New London Chamber Choir and the choirs at Dartington International Summer School. He is Musical Director of chamber choir Lordinium and of Kingston Choral Society, with whom he recently made his Cadogan Hall debut in Bach's *St John Passion*.

A pianist, viola player and singer by training, Andrew began his musical education as a Quirister and Scholar at Winchester College, and graduated with distinction in music from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he held a Choral Exhibition. He pursued conducting studies under Martyn Brabbins at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and trained as a répétiteur at the National Opera Studio and at Scottish Opera. He is a former principal viola of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and a founder member of vocal consort Stile Antico. In 2008 he was chosen to receive the Wagner Society's Bayreuth Bursary.

Andrew's engagements in the 2012-13 season include debuts with Opera Theatre Company (*Così fan tutte*) and Mid Wales Opera (*Don Giovanni*), assistant conductor for Jonathan Harvey's *Wagner Dream* at Welsh National Opera and for Ravel's *L'heure espagnole* with the BBC SO and a profile of Hans Leo Hassler with the BBC Singers.

RICHARD HILLS - Organist

Richard Hills (b. 1980) is widely acknowledged as one of the very few musicians to have bridged and mastered the divide between the classical and theatre organ worlds. Having studied with William Whitehead at Rochester Cathedral he went on in turn to the organ scholarships of Exeter College Oxford, Portsmouth Cathedral and Westminster Abbey where his teachers included Rosemary Field and David Sanger. He now combines a freelance solo career with continuo, choir-training and teaching work and is the Organist of St Mary's, Bourne Street, a central-London church noted for its Anglo-Catholic Liturgy and fine musical tradition.

Richard's career in the theatre organ world has been equally prestigious. He has numerous prizes and awards to his credit, both in this country and in the USA, where he was named 'Organist of the Year' in 2010 by the American Theatre Organ Society. He has appeared many times as a soloist on national and international TV and Radio in programmes as diverse as BBC Radio 3's 'Choral Evensong' and BBC Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night', and he made his solo début at the BBC Proms in 2013. His many recording credits include, most recently, a disc of British music made on the magnificent dual-purpose Compton organ of Southampton's Guildhall, which earned a five-star review in *Choir and Organ* magazine.

Richard is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and a strong supporter of the work of the UK's *Cinema Organ Society*, to whom he serves as Musical Adviser.

ST MARY TEDDINGTON BELLS

St Mary Teddington Bells (SMTB) is a handbell team based at St Mary with St Alban Church in Teddington. It is affiliated to the National Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB).

The team has been running as an adult group since 2003 when the junior handbell team closed down. At that time, they used borrowed bells but with much fund raising and assistance from the Church, they were able to purchase 3 octaves of American Malmk Bell in 2006.

The team membership has varied over the years although there are still three of the original members. The current team membership is: Jean Blanc, Doreen Clifton, Emily d'Silva, Sheila Insley (Group Leader), Anne Johnson, Grant O'Sullivan (conductor), Alan Sharps, Marion Sharps, Lesley Wallis and Jane Wilson. Tonight we are grateful to Nancy Almeida, an ex-member, who is standing in for an absent member.

SMTB has members from outside Teddington as far afield as Ashford and Walton. It meets every Monday evening in the Parish Hall, Langham Road, Teddington. It performs at church functions, but it mainly takes entertainment out into the community such as local societies and care homes. Handbell ringing is easy for anyone to learn whatever their musical training, or none, and is an enjoyable way for people to make music together. As part of HRGB there are rallies and other activities in the SE region to take part in and to meet other handbell ringers and learn new skills.

Our Conductor Grant O'Sullivan has been with us just over 1 and a half years. Before joining, Grant was involved in leading St Mary's Singers, a choir associated with St. Mary with St. Alban Church as well as being involved in various projects after completing his Music Degree at Roehampton University in 2009.

If you would like more information about St Mary Teddington Bells, please speak to any of the handbell team tonight or contact Sheila Insley (01932 247079 or insley6@hotmail.co.uk), or you can visit: <http://www.stmarywithstalban.org/content/groups/adults/music/handbell-ringing>

RINGING IN CHRISTMAS

What could be more evocative of the festive season than carols and bells? For tonight's concert we are joined by St. Mary Teddington Bells to perform a concert that combines both elements in sound and words, with carols from 14th century Sweden to 20th century America, all mentioning or evoking bells in some way.

The history of handbell ringing is relatively recent. Two brothers from Wiltshire, Robert and William Cor, are credited with developing small tuned bells around the beginning of the 1700s. The bells were first used by church bell ringers, to allow them to practise change ringing without annoying the neighbours. With the introduction of handbells to America, in around 1900, the bell choir, or bell ensemble, in which recognisable tunes with melodies are played, started to become common.

Handbells are constructed so that the clapper is rigid and only moves in one direction, and springs back from the bell once it has struck. This means that a bell ringer can hold two bells in each hand and play them independently of each other. The skills required for bell ringing are subtly different from those required for other instruments, as with an orchestral instrument, or when singing, each individual is responsible for one melodic line. However, with bell ringing each ringer is responsible for their own individual notes in the harmony.

Tonight's programme starts with an old carol. The tune for *Up Good Christen Folk* comes from a Swedish collection of tunes published in 1582, the *Piae Cantiones* (Devout Songs). In 1853 that John Mason Neale (1818-1866), an Anglican priest, scholar and hymn-writer, was presented with a copy, from which he took several tunes and published them with English words.

The words to *Sussex Carol* first appear in a book published in 1684, but the carol we are familiar with was published in 1919, to a tune that Ralph Vaughan Williams collected from Harriet Verrall of Monk's Gate, near Horsham, Sussex.



**Please remember to turn
off your mobile phone**



Das Geläut zu Speyer (*The peal of Speyer*) by Ludwig Senfl (c. 1486 – c. 1542) is a wonderful evocation of the bells of the Cathedral in Speyer, a small Bavarian town on the Rhine. In it the bell-ringers encourage their boys to ring the bells to call the people to church. The bells are cleverly evoked through the use of onomatopoeic words, constantly shifting rhythms and a limited harmonic palette of three chords.

Resonemus laudibus is an arrangement of a carol which was widely known in medieval Europe. It first appears in the *Moosburg Gradual* of 1360. Its popularity is attested by its appearance in many printed collections and songbooks. There are versions by Orlande de Lassus (1532-1594), Jacobus Gallus (1550-1591), Georg Wicel and two by John Mason Neale (1818-1866). This arrangement is by David Willcocks (b. 1919).

Carillon de Westminster is the sixth of a set of 24 *pièces de fantaisie*, Op. 54, composed in 1927 by Louis Vierne (1870-1937). The tune is based on the Westminster chimes, played from the Clock Tower, Palace of Westminster, since 1858. It was hummed to Vierne by his friend Henry Willis, and it is maybe that Willis got it wrong, or Vierne misheard it, because the second phrase of the chimes is not correct.

The little road to Bethlehem was written in 1946 and immediately became a best seller for Michael Head (1900-1976). The words by Margaret Rose evoke a pastoral scene of sheep and shepherds to lull Mary's baby to sleep to a simple, folk-like tune.

~ ~ NEXT KCS CONCERT ~ ~

29th March 2014 at 7.30 pm

Monteverdi - Vespers of 1610

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Andrew Griffiths - Conductor

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For further details contact the Box Office on 020 8977 4801

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please phone 020 8942 2275 or email
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~ ~ PROGRAMME ~ ~

Up Good Cristen Folk (KCS)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (All)

Sussex Carol (KCS)

The Bells of St Mary's (Bells)

Senfl – Das Geläut zu Speyer (KCS)

arr Willcocks - Resonemus Laudibus (KCS)

As With Gladness (All)

Vierne – Carillon de Westminster (Organ)

Head – The Road to Bethlehem (KCS)

Belfry Praise (Bells)

O Come All Ye Faithful (All)

~ ~ INTERVAL ~ ~

Mathias - Bell Carol (KCS)

Unto us is born a son (All)

Torches (KCS)

All The Bells on Earth Shall Ring (Bells)

arr Willcocks - I saw three ships (KCS)

Holst - Personent Hodie (KCS)

It Came upon the midnight clear (All)

arr Willcocks - Ding Dong Merrily (KCS)

Ring Out, Wild Bells (Bells)

Renato Carosone - Icicle Wing Ding (Organ)

The One Horse Open Sleigh (KCS)

Hark the Herald (All)

The Bell Carol by William Mathias (1934-1992) was composed in 1989 for the 70th birthday celebrations for his good friend David Willcocks (1919). The words were written by the composer, and contains a part for glockenspiel, which tonight will be played by the bells.

Torches was written in 1951 by John Joubert (1927) for his wife's pupils, and is based on a Galician Carol. It was not published until 1961, and became instantly popular.

I saw three ships come sailing in probably dates from the 17th century, probably originating from Derbyshire. It first appears in print in 1833. Since the nearest body of water to Bethlehem is the Dead Sea, some twenty miles away, it is believed that the song might refer to the three ships that brought relics of the Magi to Cologne Cathedral in the 12th century.

Personent hodie (*On this day*) is another carol from the *Piae Cantiones*. It is in Latin, and the repeated phrases in the fourth line serve to suggest the ringing of bells.

Ding, Dong! Merrily on high started life as a secular dance in France in the 16th century, appearing in the dance book *Orchésographie* published by Jehan Tabourot (1519-1593). The text by the composer George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934) is macaronic, which means it is a combination of English and Latin.

Renato Carosone (1920-2001) was an important figure in the Italian music scene in the second half of the 20th century, being particularly known for his interpretations of canzone napoletana, Naples songs. In the 1960s, at the height of his fame, he announced his retirement, saying that "I'd rather retire now on the crest of the wave, than being tormented later by the doubt that yè-yè fashion and new armies wearing blue-jeans may wipe away all that I have achieved in so many years of work and worries".

The evening finishes with the original version of *Jingle Bells*. In 1857 James Lord Pierpont (1822-1893) published a song for Thanksgiving entitled *One horse open sleigh*. It proved instantly popular, and has now become one of the staples of the Christmas repertoire.

Programme notes courtesy of Paul Chambers

Con brio

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Up! Good Christian Folk, and Listen

Ding-dong, ding:
Ding-a-dong-a-ding:
Ding-dong, ding-dong:
Ding-a-dong-ding.

Up! good Christen folk, and listen
How the merry church bells ring,
And from steeple bid good people
Come adore the new-born King:

Tell the story how from glory
God came down at Christmastide,
Bringing gladness, chasing sadness,
Show'ring blessings far and wide.

Born of mother, blest o'er other,
Ex Maria Virgine,
In a stable ('tis no fable),
Christus natus hodie.

Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear what news those angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear what news those angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore, Amen!"

Das Geläut zu Speyer The Peal of Speyer

[Cantus]

Gling, glang...
More must be done, you must help me.
Gling, glang...
With our bells let us call our people together,
pull the ropes without fear.
Gling, glang...
Although ours is merely devotion, the church
service is great, is more important than the bells
at the church day today.
Gling, glang...
The schoolchildren are already coming, the bells
are murmuring, there will be much singing, we
must ring properly for the occasion so that the
priest gets up and goes toward the sacrament.

[Quintus]

Now come here, one and all, and help me once
again in this hall. Whoever likes to ring and
starts soon, doesn't ring too loudly. Gling,
glang...
Don't fool me, otherwise I shall stop, hurry, hurry
up!
Gling, glang...
I don't like to ring long,
Gling, glang...
Please tell me what kind of day we have today,
that there is so much ringing,
Gling, glang... S
uch ringing makes me confused, I don't like to
hear myself, so I just look up and pull on the
rope,
Gling, glang...
Now ring in God's name. Whoever wants to
come doesn't need much ringing to prompt
them; let them come unbidden to the matin.

[Altus]

Come here, one and all, come and help me, the sexton. Start to pull, start to pull, whoever likes to and can. For the feast do your best. Therefore I beg, spare yourself not, every one ought to come. Let the bells ring, do not complain, don't flee yet, pull, pull, stretch your arm, work till you're warm.

Gling, glang...

So, Hans and Paul, don't be lazy, why are you panting so?

Gling, glang...

Don't pull so fast, then it will sound more clearly, that's fine, put yourself into it!

Gling, glang... mar mir maun, bom...

Now ring together in God's name. Whoever wants to come has heard it. For the feast we have run a long time.

Mur maun.

[Tenor]

Mur, maun...

Now come, all you boys, go to work and ring so that the bells will ring out.

Mar mir mur maun...

Stretch, stretch, every one, with all your might.

Mar mer mur maun, gling, glang...

Watch with us and ring with us.

Mur maun, gling glang...

Ring boldly so that it sounds well. Bend your muscles to the task, bring the sacrament because they are singing the mass.

Mar mer mur maun.

[Sextus]

Mir, mur, maun...

Start to pull, dear fellows, who want to ring with me.

Mir, mur, maun.

Now for this festival, all of you do your best.

Take your ropes and pull quickly.

Mur maun...

So stand together, let it ring out as if there were two.

Gling glang...

Hans, start also. Now it sounds find and just right. There, there, my boy.

Mur maun... Hui!

Now ring together in God's name. Whoever is coming will come. Hans, work hard so the bell will boom, and see to it that the rope does not break.

Mur maun...

Resonemus laudibus Let us resound

Let us resound

with praise and rejoicing

faithful to the Church.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

The Lord created man

in His own image

and likeness.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

The Lord created everything:

Heaven, earth, the sea,

and everything that was born.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

Therefore, our conscience

with heart and organ

shall praise the Lord.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

And to the Lord, who came

and also gave us gladness

let us offer thanks to him.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

The Little Road to Bethlehem

As I walked down the road at set of sun,

The lambs were coming homewards, one by one,

I heard a sheepbell softly calling them

Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew nigh,

I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.

She sang about the lambs at close of day

And rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheepbell rang,
"The lambs are coming home," sweet Mary sang,
"Your Star of gold, your Star of gold is shining in the sky,
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby."

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
The lambs were coming homewards, one by one.
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Bell Carol

Born, is Jesus Christ the King,

Alleluia, alleluia.

Joy and peace to us he'll bring,

Alleluia, alleluia.

Upon this day all people sing

To hear the news the angels bring

To free mankind from fear and sin,

And all the bells on earth do ring.

Shepherds saw the angels bright,

Alleluia, alleluia.

Shining through the dark of night,

Alleluia, alleluia.

Upon this day all people sing

To hear the news the angels bring

To free mankind from fear and sin,

And all the bells on earth do ring.

Kings there came, and gifts they bare,

Alleluia, alleluia.

To worship Christ that child so rare,

Alleluia, alleluia.

To hear the news the angels bring

To free mankind from fear and sin,

Upon this day all people sing

Noel! noel noel,

Noel, noel, noel,

Noel, noel, noel, noel, noel, noel,

Blessed be that holy child,

Alleluia, alleluia.

And his mother Mary mild,

Alleluia, alleluia.

On this day all people sing

To hear the news the angels bring

To free mankind from fear and sin,

And all the bells on earth do ring.

Blessed be the Trinity,

Alleluia, alleluia.

Mankind is forever free,

Alleluia, alleluia.

Upon this day all people sing

To hear the news the angels bring

To free mankind from fear and sin,

And all the bells on earth,

And all the bells on earth do ring!

Ring, ring, ring, ring

Ring, ring, ring, ring,

Ring, ring, ring, ring

Ring, ring, ring, ring,

Ring, ring, ring, ring, ring.

Torches

Torches, torches, run with torches

All the way to Bethlehem!

Christ is born and now lies sleeping;

Come and sing your song to him!

Torches, torches, run with torches

All the way to Bethlehem!

Christ is born and now lies sleeping;

Come and sing your song to him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby,

Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;

Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,

While we sing you our Roro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,

Joy and mirth and joy again;

Lo, he lives, the King of heaven,

Now and evermore. Amen.

Lo, he lives, the King of heaven.

Now and evermore. Amen.

I saw three ships come sailing in

I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day in the morning.

Our Saviour Christ and his lady
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas day in the morning.
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice, amain!
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Then let us all rejoice, amain!
On Christmas day in the morning.

Personent hodie On This Day

This day resounds
With the voices of children
Pleasantly praising
He who was born and given to us,
The Lord most high
Born of the Virgin womb.

Born in the world,
Wrapped in swaddling garments
Placed in the manger,
In the stall of beasts
Lord of above
Destroyed the spoils of the prince of hell.

The three Magi came
In search of a little child,
They go to Bethlehem
Following the little stars
Worshiping him,
Offering him gold, frankincense and myrrh.
All the clergy,
Children as well
Sing like the angels:
You come to the world
Praise to thee.
Glory to God in the Highest.

Ding dong! Merrily on high

Ding dong! merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sung.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

The One Horse Open Sleigh

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bob tails ring
Making spirits bright
Oh what sport to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what joy it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what joy it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh

A day or two ago
I tho't I'd take a ride
And soon Miss Fannie Bright
Was seated by my side
The horse was lean and lank
Misfortune seemed his lot
He got into a drifted bank
And we got upstot

Jingle bells, jingle bells...

A day or two ago
The story I must tell
I went out in the snow
And on my back I fell;
A gent was riding by
In a one horse open sleigh
He laught as there I sprawling lie,
But quickly drove away.

Jingle bells, jingle bells...

Now the ground is white
Go in while you're young,
Take the girls tonight
And sing this sleighing song;
Just get a bon tailed bay
Two forty as his speed
Hitch him to an open sleigh

KINGSTON CHORAL SOCIETY



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Kingston Choral Society needs your support.

It takes lots of resources – talent, volunteers and financial support – to allow the Society to continue to perform and maintain high quality performances.
Any donations or legacies would be used to purchase and hire music, to rent performance facilities or to pay the day-to-day operational expenses of the organisation.

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