

christmas concert 2008

a selection of christmas music
also featuring
Corelli's christmas concerto
congregational carols

conductor: **Andrew Rochford**
saturday 13 december, 2008



Hampstead
Sinfonietta

Royal *f*ree '08
Music Society

7.30pm
Programme £10

welcome

Dear audience,

Welcome to the Royal Free Music Society Christmas concert.

I think for many of the members of the society and, I suspect, our regular audience, Christmas starts here, in the glow of candlelight at St. Mark's Church. Our thanks go to the Parish and the Reverend Peter Baker for welcoming us here again.

For me, the concert always coincides with putting up the Christmas tree and bringing out the decorations. I think there are many similarities in the two events. Both involve bringing out the old favourites. In my family we always hang a plastic rhinoceros on wheels on our tree which came from a cornflakes packet in 1963! It is quintessential to my Christmas experience as are the much loved familiar carols we hope you will join us in singing this evening. And then there is the sparkling new addition to the collection, a new bauble or figure to delight. Similarly we have the premiere of a new arrangement of *Away in a Manger* by Stephen Gillespie which you are certain to enjoy. It is the bringing together of all the different elements which provides the total effect and we hope you enjoy our programme.

You may recall that this year we launched our patrons scheme and we are delighted to welcome you all to the society. The 'family' of the Royal Free Music Society continues to grow and for the first time we welcome members of the Hampstead Sinfonietta at a Christmas concert.

So, on behalf of the Society I would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

With very best wishes
Katherine Hopkins
Chair of the Royal Free Music Society

become a patron

If you enjoyed tonight's concert and would like to further support the choir, please consider becoming a patron of the RFMS. A minimum donation of £100 guarantees free entry (for one) to four RFMS concerts and invitations to master classes and social events for the year of patronage. The support of named patrons is also acknowledged in concert programmes. For further information, please speak to one of the RFMS Committee.

We would like to recognise and thank Clarice Richards, David Gluckman (on behalf of Coole Swan™ Irish Cream Liqueur), Billy Elkins and Campbell McLelland as current patrons of RFMS.

programme

Deo Gratias – Byrd

Audience Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem – English Trad. Arranged Vaughan Williams

Wie soll ich dich empfangen from Christmas Oratorio BWV 248 – JS Bach

Gabriel's Message – Basque Carol arranged Willcocks

Lute-book Lullaby – Ballet arranged Shaw

Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 8 in G minor 'Christmas Concerto'

– Corelli

The Hampstead Sinfonietta – Leader Tim Miller

Quem Pastores Laudevere – German Carol Arranged Rutter

Audience Carol

Personent Hodie – German Trad. Arranged Holst

In Dulci Jubilo – German Trad. Arranged Pearsall

'Wachet auf!' Ruft uns die Stimme ('Sleepers wake') BWV 140 – JS Bach

Alleluja from Lobet den Herrn BWV 230 – Bach

Interval - Mulled wine available

I Saw Three Ships – English Trad. Arranged Willcocks

Audience Carol

Good King Wenceslas – Arranged Willcocks

Sussex Carol – Trad Arr. Willcocks

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major BWV 1048 – JS Bach

The Hampstead Sinfonietta – Leader Tim Miller

Away in a Manger – Premiere Performance – Trad. Arranged Gillespie

Joy to the World – Handel arranged Rutter

Zither Carol – Czech Trad. Arranged Sargent

Ding Dong Merrily on High – French Trad. Arranged Wood

Jingle Bells – Pierpont arranged Willcocks

Twelve Days of Christmas – English Trad. Arranged Rutter

Audience Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – Mendelssohn arranged Willcocks

Conductor: Andrew Rochford

Programme correct at time of printing – subject to change

programme notes

This year's Christmas concert has two new features: the inclusion of the Hampstead Sinfonietta and a premiere of Stephen Gillespie's arrangement of *Away in a Manger*. You will also notice that the work of J.S. Bach features throughout this evening's performance. All this acknowledges the progress that the Royal Free Music Society has made in recent years and promises an exciting future as we enter our Tenth Anniversary year. It has been many years since we performed an original, contemporary piece of music and we look forward to singing the World Premiere of Stephen's *Gloria* in our Summer concert next year. The choir is growing in strength and we now have a very accomplished group of musicians playing regularly with the Hampstead Sinfonietta.

The first half of our concert this evening begins and ends with two motets which acknowledge the importance of our link with the Parish of St. Mark's: William Byrd's *Deo Gratias*, 'Thanks be to God', first published in 1605 Gradualia I (vol. 2, no.20) and Bach's *Lobet den Herrn*, a setting of Psalm 117 written in the 1720s. The word 'motet' is derived from the French *mot* and was first seen in the 13th Century when words (usually secular) were added to the earliest forms of polyphonic Western music.

Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 8 in G minor 'Christmas Concerto' **Arcangelo Corelli**

We have chosen two well-known string pieces for this evening's concert. The *Concerto Grosso* by Arcangelo Corelli (1653–1713) is thought to date from 1690 and bears the inscription *Fatto per la notte di Natale* or 'Made for the night of Christmas'. The orchestral structure is similar to other concerto grossi with three concertante players (Tim Miller and Sharon Jennings – violin, Rebecca Miller – 'cello), *continuo* (Norman MacSween) and *Ripieno* strings (orchestra). There are six movements expanded for church performance each with a mix of tempi and modality.

1. Vivace – Grave. Arcate, sostenuto e come stà
2. Allegro
3. Adagio – Allegro – Adagio
4. Vivace
5. Allegro
6. Largo. Pastorale ad libitum

programme notes

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major BWV 1048

J.S. Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) needs no introduction. The six Brandenburg concerti (BWV 1046–1051) were presented to Christian Ludwig, margrave of Brandenburg-Schwedt, in 1721 and are widely believed to be the finest examples of music from the Baroque era. The third concerto in G major is a variation of the *concerto grosso* style. It is scored for 3 violins, 3 violas, and 3 'cellos with bass and continuo. The relationship between the instruments is subjective to the listener; as the positioning of the parts fluctuates, it may appear that there are no soloists, that the players are all soloists, or that the violins, violas, and cellos occupy their own solo groups. The concerto is in three movements:

1. Allegro
2. Adagio
3. Allegro

The second movement consists of a single measure with the two chords that make up a so-called 'Phrygian cadence' and – although there is no direct evidence to support it – it was likely that these chords are meant to surround or follow a cadenza improvised by a harpsichord or violin player.

Christmas carols

There's no doubt about it: Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without carols. Even people who never go to church still enjoy them. For some, they can bring back all those memories of childhood, while for others they bring home the message and the spirit of Christmas as nothing else can.

The earliest use of the word 'carol' in English referred to a round dance. But later it came to mean a joyful hymn, particularly one associated with the Nativity. We will be singing a selection of predominantly European carols and we hope that you will join with us in celebrating Christmas by singing our some of the selected carols (*words are included within this programme*).

Rector Phillips Brooks (1835–1903) of Philadelphia wrote the words to *O Little Town of Bethlehem* in 1868, following a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He was inspired by the view of Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine, especially at night time: hence the lyrics. The tune is thought to be an English Traditional melody which was collected and arranged for the carol by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

programme notes

The words to the carol *Good King Wenceslas* were written by John Mason Neale and published in 1853; the music originates in Finland 300 years earlier. This Christmas carol is unusual as there is no reference in the lyrics to the nativity. Good King Wenceslas was the king of Bohemia in the 10th century. He was a Catholic and was martyred following his assassination by his brother Boleslaw and his supporters. His Saint's Day is September 28th, and he is the Patron Saint of the Czech Republic. St. Stephen's feast day was celebrated on 26th December which is why this song is sung as a Christmas carol.

Away in a Manger is often the first carol that children are taught. It was originally published in 1885 in a Lutheran Sunday school book and this created the misconception that the lyrics of *Away in a Manger* were actually written by Martin Luther himself. The author is unknown. The music to *Away in a Manger* was composed by William J. Kirkpatrick in 1895 but has been rearranged this evening by Stephen Gillespie.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing was written by Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley the founder of the Methodist church, in 1739. A sombre man, he requested slow and solemn music for his lyrics and thus *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* was sung to a different tune initially. Over a hundred years later Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) composed a cantata in 1840 to commemorate Johann Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. English musician William H. Cummings adapted Mendelssohn's music to fit the lyrics.

the royal free music society committee

Chair	Katherine Hopkins
Secretary	Poornima Kumar
Membership Secretary	Sally Rochford
Treasurer	Penelope Smith
Publicity & Advertising	Barbara Byth
Events Organiser	Louise Morton
Fund-raising	Neil McLelland
Music Librarian	Nick Roberts
Musical Director	Andrew Rochford

audience carols

O little town of Bethlehem

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 given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may his 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 to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:

O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Personent Hodie

Voces puerulae,
Laudantes jucunde
Qui nobis est natus,
Summo Deo datus,
Et de vir-, vir-, vir-, et de vir-, vir-,
vir-,
Et de virgineo ventre proceatus.

In mundo nascitur,
Panis involvitur,
Praesepe ponitur
Stabulo brutorum,
Rector supernorum.
Perdidit, -dit, -dit, perdidit, -dit, -dit,
Perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.

Magi tres venerunt,
Parvulum inquirunt,
Bethlehem adeunt,
Stellulam sequendo,
Ipsam adorando,
Aurum, thus, thus, thus, Aurum,
thus, thus, thus,
Aurum, thus, et myrrham ei
offerendo.

Omnes clericuli,
Partier pueri,
Catent ut angeli:
Advenisti mundo,
Laudes tibi fundo.
Ideo, -o, -o, ideo, -o, -o,
Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!

audience carols

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,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"

"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine
Bring me pine logs hither.,
Thou and I will see him dine
When we bear him thither."
Page and monarch forth they went,
Forth they went together:
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

"Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer."

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

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.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!

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 God-head see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity!

audience carols

Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of
Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n 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 newborn King!

performers

Stephen Gillespie

Stephen H. Gillespie is Professor of Medical Microbiology at University College London and Consultant Microbiologist at the Royal Free Hospital. He qualified in Medicine from the Queen's University of Belfast in 1980. His early musical education was at the City of Belfast School of Music and the Ulster School of Music. After the interruption of a medical career, he completed a Diploma in Music at Birkbeck College studying under the conductor Matilda Hofman and the composers David Sutton-Anderson and Paul Sarcich.

Andrew Rochford

After leaving school in Canterbury, Andrew completed degrees in Medical Biochemistry at King's College, London, and Medicine at the Royal Free & University College Medical School. He was a founding member of the choir in 1995. Andrew has a variety of musical interests. He studied singing with Geraldine Hackett-Jones whilst at school. With her encouragement he started playing the bassoon at the age of 10 and studied continuously with Charles Cracknell, OBE. He has since had tuition from Gareth Newman (London Mozart Players & Royal Academy of Music, and an old pupil of Charles Cracknell). Andrew has recently joined the London Charity Orchestra and previously played for the Lawyers Music Symphony Orchestra and a variety of other amateur orchestras. He has performed solo concerti with Lawyers Music and the Abbots Langley Symphony Orchestra. When time permits he sings with the London Philharmonic Choir.

Andrew has taken time out from his job as a specialist registrar in gastroenterology and general medicine in North East Thames to take a position as Honorary Lecturer & Darzi Fellow at Newham University Hospital, East London.

the choir

Barbara Beyer	Wilder Gutterson	Claire Murray
Barbara Bryant	Philip Halliday	Tricia Pank
Maria Bryden	Jane Hassid	Diana Parkinson
Barbara Byth	Catherine Haw	Niamh Quillinan
Danielle Cahill	Katherine Hopkins	Judith Regan
Cathy Cale	Stuart Houghton	James Ridler
Sarah Carrier	Di Howard	Nick Roberts
John Carrier	Lisa Jaques	Andrew Rochford
Gill Cracknell	Poomima Kumar	Penny Smith
Sarah Crawford	Ann Lloyd	Lucinda Sturgis
Sally Dootson	Philip Mackney	Emma Thompson
Teresa Elkins	Neil McLelland	Ellie Wood
Barbara Foster	Louise Morton	
Stephen Gillespie	Manuela Mura	

the hampstead sinfonietta

Violin

Tim Miller*
Stuart Poyser
Johanna Saarinen
Sarah Johnson
Eva Gawkowska
David Giles
Nick Roberts
Varuni Paranavitane
Jeannie Okikiolu
Sharon Philbey*
Diana Muggleston
Robert Chatley

Tracy Hyman
Karen Wells
Dan Perry
Sophie Evans
Charlotte Cawthorne

Viola

Helen Dodd
Sarah Nichols
Shino Arisawa
Zami Jalil
David Wallace
Rowena Tozer

Carlos Fu
Jon Denbigh

Cello

Rebecca Miller*
Jenny Choi
Alex Jameson
Paul McLoughlin
Ed Tricklebank
Kay Drage
Pam Shorney
Harpichord
Norman MacSween
* Solo part

acknowledgments

The choir and conductor are grateful to our accompanist, **Gillian Cracknell**, who makes an enormous contribution to the weekly rehearsals. A professional performer and piano teacher, Gillian is also actively involved on the committees of the Friends of the Musicians' Chapel and the Royal Academy of Music Club. Gill has recently been appointed as a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and is a Governor of the Royal Society of Musicians of Great Britain.

We would like to thank **The Williams Church Music Trust** for their generous support of the Royal Free Music Society.

Royal *f*ree
Music Society

2009

10th anniversary
season

thursday 29th january

annual general meeting

peter samuel hall, royal free hospital

saturday 7th march

choral masterclass with Gerry Cornelius
and Gillian Cracknell

saturday 4th april

Mozart *clarinet concerto in A major* K.622

"this is Mozart's greatest wind concerto"

soloist: Kelvin Giles

Mozart *Requiem in D minor* K.626

*"when they reached the Lacrimosa [Mozart]
wept and put the music aside"*

saturday 27th june

Gloria by Stephen Gillespie

world premiere

remaining programme to be confirmed

Hampstead
Sinfonietta

cut out and keep

the royal free music society

The Royal Free Music Society is a group of mainly healthcare professionals and their friends who meet on a weekly basis in the Royal Free Hospital to stage four concerts a year.

We sing a wide variety of music. Performances have included Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Haydn's *Creation* and *Harmoniemesse*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Faure's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *Grand Mass in C Minor* and *Coronation Mass*, Brahms's *German Requiem*, Elgar's *The Music Makers*, Dvorak's *Mass in D Major*, Rutter's *Magnificat*, Stainer's *Crucifixion*, Gounod's *St Cecilia Mass*, Handel's *Coronation Anthems* and *Chandos Anthems*, and many concerts of light music. We have been invited to sing in the chapels of several London Hospitals and have sung services in the Royal Free Hospital chapel.

For the major works, an orchestra of hospital members and their friends are formed: the Hampstead Sinfonietta.

Visit us at www.rfms.org and www.HampsteadSinfonietta.org.uk

