

Nantwich Choral Society

FAMILY CAROL CONCERT



Nantwich Young Voices / Sandbach Young Voices

Victoria Palethorpe - Conductor

David Mayson - Accompanist

John Naylor - Conductor

Simon Russell - Accompanist

St Mary's Church, Nantwich

Saturday 16th December 2017 at 6:30 pm

On behalf of the Nantwich Choral Society I would like to welcome you to our Family Carol Concert. The choir, now in its 44th season, began its life as an evening class but rapidly took on a life of its own and has become one of the most accomplished and well-regarded choirs in the North West of England. For the last eleven years we have been fortunate to have the inspirational John Naylor as our Music Director and we are also blessed with a fine accompanist, Simon Russell.

Christmas is a time for new discoveries as well as old favourites – after all, old favourites were themselves new discoveries once upon a time. Earlier this year we decided to run a competition for new Christmas carols, which was advertised nationally and gave composers a choice of four texts to set. We received 22 entries from all over the UK, competing for a performance at our concert tonight, as well as a modest cash prize. The entries were judged by a panel without knowing the identity of the composers, so you may imagine our surprise when we discovered we had awarded both first and second prize to the same person, John Madden. The third prize went to Justin Evans, and both are here tonight to hear their carols performed and receive their prizes.

We also awarded a special fourth prize to a carol by Peter Foster, the son of two long-standing members of our choir. It wasn't possible to include his carol in our programme tonight so that is a pleasure deferred to next year.

It is a privilege to give the first performance of the three winning carols tonight, but also a responsibility. We hope that the composers will find our performances pleasing and that you, the audience, will enjoy listening to the new carols as much as we have enjoyed learning them.

It is always a pleasure to welcome Victoria Palethorpe and the young people of the Nantwich Young Voices and Sandbach Young Voices, who are such an important part of this evening's concert. They will be singing some pieces on their own but also joining the adult choir in several carols, including the three new ones. The composers entering our competition were asked to include a part for children's voices, because it is important to look to the future of choral singing, both in providing new music and enthusing new singers.

Music and singers are the basic requirements of a choral concert, but there are also many costs involved in putting on concerts such as ours tonight. We wish to acknowledge our gratitude for the legacies, sponsorships, gifts, grants and donations which help us maintain and develop our musical standards. Recently we have received grants from The Arts Council, Cheshire East and Nantwich Town Council, and we are very grateful for ongoing support from the Harding Trust. Without the generosity of these bodies and others it would not be possible for our choral society to put on concerts of a high standard, using professional soloists and orchestral players as required. I hope you, the audience, will enjoy tonight's concert as much as we will enjoy performing it for you here in St Mary's.

Kay Foster

Acknowledgements

Nantwich Choral Society gratefully acknowledges the support during the recent past from The Arts Council, The Harding Trust, Cheshire East Council, Nantwich Town Council, the advertisers in our programmes and other sponsors and donors.



Carol Competition Winners

First Prize: *Past Three O'Clock* - John Madden
Second Prize: *A Nantwich Carol* - John Madden
Third Prize: *Past Three O'Clock* - Justin Evans



John Madden hails from Liverpool, where he was a chorister at the Anglican cathedral, and read music at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He is a composer, conductor and keyboard player and was Director of Music for over thirty years in a number of schools, including Hutcheson's Grammar School in Glasgow, Radley College and the Dragon, Oxford. He regularly runs music workshops in schools, works as an adjudicator and examines for the ABRSM. He is also the Artistic Director of the National Schools Symphony Orchestra.



For his day job, **Justin Evans** is a senior lecturer in physics at the University of Manchester, specialising in particle physics. But in his spare time he is a keen pianist, singer, and occasional composer. He sings with the Manchester Chorale, an accomplished amateur choir in Manchester that regularly appears at the Bridgewater Hall, and has often been heard on the Radio 4 Daily Service. He also sings for Capriccio, a Cheshire-based choir that put on regular concerts for charitable causes, and who have previously included Justin's compositions in their repertoire.

Carol Competition Texts

Past three o'clock (Trad. English carol)

A Nantwich Carol

Kay Foster

Refrain:

Past three o'clock,

And a cold, frosty morning:

Past three o'clock:

Good morrow masters all!

1. Born is a baby,
Gentle as may be,
Son of the th'eternal
Father supernal.
2. Seraph choir singeth,
Angel bell ringeth:
Hark how they rime it,
Time it and chime it!
3. Mid earth rejoices
Hearing such voices
Ne'ertofores so well
Carolling 'Nowell'.
4. Hinds o'er the pearly,
Dewy lawn early
Seek the high stranger
Laid in the manger.
5. Cheese from the dairy
Bring they for Mary,
And, not for money,
Butter and honey.
6. Light out of star-land
Leadeth from far land
Princes to meet him,
Worship and greet him.
7. Myrrh from full coffer,
Incense they offer;
Nor is the golden
Nugget withholden.
8. Thus they: I pray you,
Up, sirs, nor stay you
Till ye confess him
Likewise, and bless him!

1. In Nantwich town in the dead of winter,
Cold and dark was the night.
Welsh Row lay silent under a new moon;
The evening star was bright.
2. In Pillory Street the wind was howling
As they passed on their way.
No room in the town for the travellers,
But a barn full of hay.
3. Shepherds watched their flocks on the Barony,
Cursing the frozen earth.
An angel called to them out of the sky
With news of a birth.
4. A host of angels sang in the heavens,
"Glory to God on high".
Light streamed down on Beam Street and
Pepper Street
As if the dawn were nigh.
5. From the east, riding down Hospital Street
Three wise men braved the cold,
In their saddlebags, myrrh and frankincense,
And a crown of bright gold.
6. Here in our church the people of Nantwich
Remember the story.
In winter's dark night our voices we raise
To sing to your glory.

Programme

Choir	Ding dong! merrily on high	16th century French melody, arr. Charles Wood
All	Once in royal David's City Once in royal David's City Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her 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.	H J Gauntlett, arr. A H Mann and D. Willcocks
Choir	And through all his wondrous 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 and good as he.	
All	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; When like stars his children crowned All in white shall wait around.	
Choir	Adam lay ybounden	Boris Ord
	The angel Gabriel	Basque trad., arr. Edgar Pettman
Young Voices	Starlight	Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse
	It's Snowing	Jay Stannard

All	See, amid the winter's snow	John Goss, arr. Richard Lloyd
Low voices	See, amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below, See, the tender Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years!	
Refrain	Hail thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem: 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'	
Choir	Lo! Within the manger lies He who built the starry skies, He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the Cherubim. Hail thou ever blessed morn!...	
High voices	Say, ye holy shepherds, say: What your joyful news today? Wherefore have ye left your sheep On the lonely mountain steep? Hail thou ever blessed morn!...	
Low voices	'As we watched at dead of night, Lo! We saw a wondrous light; Angels, singing "Peace on earth", Told us of the Saviour's birth.' Hail thou ever blessed morn!...	
Choir	Sacred Infant, all-divine, What a tender love was thine Thus to come from higher bliss Down to such a world as this! Hail thou ever blessed morn!...	
All	Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild, Teach us to resemble thee In thy sweet humility! Hail thou ever blessed morn!...	
Choir	Tomorrow shall be my dancing day	John Gardner

All	Silent night, holy night!	Franz Gruber
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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.

Choirs	Past 3 o'clock (3 rd prize)	Justin Evans
	Nantwich Carol (2 nd Prize)	John Madden
	Past 3 o'clock (1 st Prize)	John Madden

All	O little town of Bethlehem	Traditional, arr. R Vaughan Williams descant: David Hill
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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 hearts
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.

INTERVAL 15 mins

The Christmas Raffle 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.

All	God rest ye merry, gentlemen	Trad, arr. David Hill
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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 efface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Young Voices	Love Shone Down	Chaz de Whalley and Andy Piercy
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	Reindeer Rock	Sally Albrecht
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Choir	No small wonder	Paul Edwards
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All	Good King Wenceslas	Piae Cantiones, arr. David Willcocks
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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 know'st 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.

Choirs	Away in a manger	William Kirkpatrick, arr. David Hill
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Choir	Balulalow	Peter Warlock
	Jingle Bells	J. Pierpoint, arr. Ralph Allwood

All	Hark the Herald Angels Sing	Mendelssohn, arr. David Hill
	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.
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 Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
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!

Choir

We wish you a merry Christmas

English trad, arr. Arthur Warrell



NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY

Honorary Members: Joy Roberts, Andrew Mildinhall, Jean Atkin, Eileen Robertson

Music Director: John Naylor

Accompanist: Simon Russell

Soprano

Anne Barnard
Jan Brown
Jenny Brown
Tracey Coleman
Glenda Colemere
Gail Corfield
Rita Davies
Hazel Dunleavy
Ann Ferguson
Marlene Flannery
Kay Foster
Mary Harris
Margaret Harvey
Rosemary Jones
Tina Jones
Bronwyn Kelly
Helen Kerr
Sheila Luke
Maire Pedder
Rachel Pentecost
Rachael Reeves
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Grace Johnston
Elizabeth McCrone
Jenny Naylor
Steph Percy
Eileen Robertson
Tracey Robertson
Barbara Shone
Wendy Wren

Alto

Susan Cooke
Alison Davies
Frances Durkin
Linda Evans
Penny Evans
Lizzy Goodger
Gillian Handford
Susie Heap
Lena Hogben
Elizabeth Lea

Geraldine Leighton

Katie Meacock
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Barbara Schultz
Joanna Simmons
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Ros Wells
Diane Wheatley
Sarah Worth

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Mary Hands
Ester Harries
Catherine Hughes
Val Kennett
Brenda Midgley
Janet Miller
Gwyneth Rollins
Joan Shaddick
Elizabeth Tilston
Margaret Whitehurst
Linda Wyatt

Tenor

Susanne Brierley
Martyn Colley
Graham Harbage
Patrick Hay
Wal Kaye
Richard Percival
Philip Trinder
Bill Vallance
Joe Watson
John Whittingham

Bass

Roger Boulton
Paul Durant
Christopher Findlay
David Foster
Glyn Griffiths
Douglas Hollinshead
Samuel Jamison
David Johnston
David Jones
Martin Jones
Adrian Percy
Tony Powell
Bob Pugh
Laird Ryan
Simon Stubington
Ian Wells

NANTWICH and SANDBACH YOUNG VOICES

Conductor: Victoria Palethorpe

Sophie Barton	Victoria Lloyd
Emilia Buggie	Rebecca Marshall
Grace Carter	Hester Molyneux
Lucie Carter	Lily Owen
Jonathan Collett	Evie Palethorpe
Aoife Darbyshire	Matilda Palethorpe
Caitlin Day	Emily Roberts
Savannah Dutton	Kate Schillinger
Finley Gilding	Phoebe Shenton
Gabriel Gilding	Matthew Skidmore
Chloe Glendenning	Jessica Taylor
Hannah Glendenning	Alice White
Darcie Higginson	Alice Woodfine
Madison Horrocks	Donna Yates

Nantwich and Sandbach Young Voices are non-auditioned choirs, which attract members from many surrounding schools in Cheshire East. Both choirs represent the Love Music Trust, who is the lead partner in the Cheshire East music hub. The choirs work hard in their local communities, performing at care homes, church services, remembrance services, Christmas markets and 'light switch-ons' and have sung at many and varied events this year including the Victoria Hall for the Massed Cheshire East schools' choir event, 'Singfest' and with the North-West Choirs Association in Salford in March. Next year we are planning a choir residential at Stanley Head in May! We are delighted to be performing once again with the esteemed Nantwich Choral Society and this delightful event, and are particularly looking forward to the newly composed carols.





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Programme of events 2018

Saturday 3 February 2018
St Mary's Church Nantwich
Come and Sing
Hiawatha's Wedding Feast - Coleridge Taylor

Saturday 24th March, 7.30 pm
St Mary's Church Nantwich
Dvorak - Stabat Mater
Vaughan Williams - Benedicite
Poulenc - Organ Concerto
with
The Nantwich Sinfonia

Saturday 23 June 2018, 7.30 pm
St Mary's Church Nantwich
Gala Concert with Richard Suart
Gilbert and Sullivan

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY

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 email

ncs200club@gmail.com