

PROGRAMME

INTERVAL Refreshments will be served in the church hall

Midnight Mass on Christmas Themes

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

This mass, written in 1694 for the Jesuit Église Saint-Louis in Paris, where Charpentier was music director, is based on ten French Christmas carols.

In today's performance we include the Kyrie (3 carols), Gloria (2 carols), Sanctus and Agnus Dei (1 carol each). Some of these tunes were secular in origin; in theory the use of secular material in church music had been forbidden by the Council of Trent, but those based on long tradition were tolerated.

Kyrie: Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy

Gloria: On earth, peace to all men.
We praise, adore and glorify thee
Father God, king of Heaven, who takes away the sins of the world,
Who sits at the right hand of the father, have pity on us.
You alone are the most high, with the holy spirit,
In the glory of God the father.

In place of the Credo the organist will play a Noel by Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772).

Daquin was a child prodigy, performing for the court of Louis XIV at the age of six. At 12 he became organist at the Sainte-Chapelle, and in the following year took a similar post at the Church of Petit Saint Antoine. In 1727 he was appointed organist at the Church of Saint Paul in Paris in preference to Rameau, who was also a candidate. In 1755 he was made organist at Notre-Dame Cathedral.

Sanctus: Holy, holy, holy
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; have mercy on us; give us peace.

Soloists: Romy Gwinnett, Judy King, Liz Mattocks, Robert Girvan, Phil Rowe
Organist: Clifton Hughes

Hymn 128: Once in Royal David's City

arr. Willcocks

First verse solo: Judy King

Noel Nouvelet

trad, arranged Rutter

Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth

arr. Willcocks

Soloists: Clare Fleck, Helen Martin, Chris Blackman, Brian Holmes.

Solo: To the Queen of Heaven

Dunhill

Soloist: Helen Martin. Pianist: Rowena Eames

'Queen of Heaven, blest may thou be
That Godes son born he was of thee.
For to make us free
Gloria Tibi Domine'

Words anon Old English 16th Century poem

Away in a Manger

Murray, arr. Chilcott

Verse 1 solo: Clare Fleck

A Little Child there is Yborn

Archer

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Goss, arr. Leddington Wright

Solo: He Shall Feed His Flock

from Messiah by Handel

Soloist: Judy King

Organ solo: Dance Variations on Rudolph

Clifton Hughes

Tango – Waltz – Hornpipe – Rock 'n Roll

Hymn 127: O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. Vaughan Williams

The Shepherds' Farewell

Berlioz

Hymn 159: O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Willcocks

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

arr. Warrell

Anne-Marie Hetherington studied at Birmingham University and the Royal Academy of Music. She went on to the International Opera Studio in Zurich before being engaged at the Stadtoper in Lubeck, Germany as Principal Lyric Soprano. On returning to the UK Anne-Marie continued her freelance career, singing, among others, the roles of Mimi: *La Boheme*, Fiordiligi: *Così Fan Tutte*, Lucia: *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Countess: *Figaro*. She has performed widely in concert and has broadcast for BBC radio and television and for Classic FM.

She has worked as a conductor with youth choirs and adult singing groups in the UK and in Germany, and has an interest in a wide variety of music. Anne-Marie is Assistant Head Teacher at Hitchin Boys' School.

The Orpheus Choir was founded in 1969 by John Railton. Its repertoire includes music in many styles, from Renaissance and Baroque to new works such as *The triumph of harmony* by Harvey Brough, written to celebrate the centenary of Letchworth Garden City. It performs mostly in the North Herts area, with occasional excursions further afield, so that we have enjoyed singing in such wonderful places as Gloucester and Rochester Cathedrals, the Lake District and Ashburton, Devon.

A lively and adventurous chamber choir with a wide age range, the Orpheus Choir is based in Hitchin.

Please contact us, or keep in touch with Orpheus Choir events, through our website at orpheusnorthherts.com or 'like' Orpheus Choir of North Herts on Facebook for regular updates.

The choir currently has vacancies in the Tenor section.

Future Concerts:

March 16th Holy Saviour Hitchin

Special note: Saturday Jan 13th 4pm. Tilehouse Street Chapel.
Today's organist, Clifton Hughes, will accompany Harold Lloyd's classic silent film "Safely Last" on the 1,434 pipes of the mighty Wurlitzer (Hill/Walker) organ.

The Orpheus Choir of North Hertfordshire is registered charity number 298213



Sat 9th December 2023

**Our Lady's Church
Nightingale Road, Hitchin**

Tickets £5

includes refreshments

Profits to support
Asylum Seeker needs

