

Christmas with Cantorum

Discover the mystery of Christmas through music and readings
spanning nearly two thousand years



20th December 2025 • Holy Trinity Church
www.cantorumchoir.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1136210



PROGRAMME

Jesus Refulsit Omnium – Saint Hilary of Poitiers (c.310-c.367)

In The Beginning – John Wycliffe (c.1328-1384)

In Principio Erat Verbum – Josquin des Prez (c.1450-1521)

An Extract from Lyric V from the Advent Lyrics (Exeter Book, c. 980)

O come, O come Emmanuel – arr Carter

Alma Redemptoris Mater – Palestrina (c.1525-1594)

The Christmas Proclamation (from the Roman Martyrology, 1583)

O Magnum Mysterium – Gabrieli (c.1554-1612)

Our Lady of the Rosary – Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

There is no Rose – anon

Es ist ein Ros' Entsprungen – arr Praetorius (1571-1621)

Our Lady bare her Child – John Wycliffe

Nesciens Mater – Mouton (c.1459-1522)

And When the Angels Wenten From Them – John Wycliffe

The Angel Gabriel – Basque Carol

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Extract from Ælfric's Sermon on the Birth of Christ

Hodie Christus Natus Est – Sweelinck (1562-1621)

INTERVAL

Sir Christémas – William Mathias (1934-1992)

The First Nowell – arr Willcocks

On Christmas Night – Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

This is the truth

Adam lay ybounden

A spotless Rose

The Cherry Tree Carol

O little town

Sweet was the song

Rejoice and be merry

This is the Truth

See amid the Winter's Snow – arr Paul Ledington Wright

I Saw Three Ships - Will Todd (b.1970)

Away in a Manger – Will Todd

Deck the Hall – arr Rutter

In memory of Rosalind Hazeldine, a much-loved Cantorum supporter,
front-of-house and party-organiser extraordinaire.

O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Men Only

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Women Only

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Choir Only

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang Creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth!
Come and worship Christ the newborn King!
Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night:
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship Christ the newborn King!
Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations:
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the Great Desire of Nations:
Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship Christ the newborn King!
Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear:
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship Christ the newborn King!
Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down.
Come and worship Christ the newborn King!
Come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

The First Nowell

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!

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,
Born is the King of Israel!

Choir Only

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,
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of
naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!

See amid the winter's snow

See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below;
see the tender Lamb appears,
promis'd from eternal years:
Hail, thou ever blessèd morn,

hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim:
Hail, thou ever blessèd morn,
hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?
Hail, thou ever blessèd morn,
hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Choir only

Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this!
Hail, thou ever blessèd morn,
hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

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 blessèd morn,
hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

PATRON: Ralph Allwood MBE

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Oliver Gooch

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR: Robert Jones



Cantorum Choir is a dedicated and talented choir of approximately forty voices, based in Cookham, Berkshire. The ensemble boasts a wide-ranging repertoire and performs professional-quality concerts throughout the year. Under the directorship of Oliver Gooch, it has continued to earn itself a reputation as one of the leading chamber choirs in the area.

SOPRANOS

Alex Cope*
Kate Cromar***
Louise Evans
Kirsty Janusz*
Jenny Knight*
Hilary Monaghan
Rebekah Morton*
Joy Strzelecki
Marilyn Rogers
Deborah Templing
Pippa Wallace*

ALTOS

Celia Armstrong
Sally Brookes
Jill Burton
Sarah Evans
Catherine Formstone
Anne Glover
Sandy Johnstone
Angela Plant
Chiu Sung
Lorna Sykes
Gill Tucker

TENORS

Philip Martineau*
Richard Palfrey*
Malcolm Stork*

BASSES

John Buck
Arthur Creswell
Ed Millard**
Nick Plant
Paul Seddon
Ben Styles
James Simpson
Paul Reid
Julian Yolland

*Soloist *There is no rose*

**Soloist *O little town*

***Soloist *Away in a manger*

****Soloist *Sweet was the song*

YOUNG VOICES: Hope Briggs, Ciara Delaney, Daisy Foster, Zander Gooch, Molly Knight, Monty Knight, Evie Shotton, Beth Styles****

READERS: Julian Yolland, Paul Seddon, Sandy Johnstone, Marilyn Rogers, Sarah Evans, James Simpson, Paul Reid

ORGAN/PIANO: Robert Jones



OLIVER GOOCH has enjoyed collaborations in recent seasons with the LSO, Philharmonia, BBC Symphony, Hallé, London Philharmonic, Queensland Symphony, Tasmanian Symphony, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, New York Sinfonietta, Orchestra I Pomeriggi Milano and a debut recording with the RTÉ NSO. He balances orchestral engagements with extensive work in opera, formerly as assistant to Sir Charles Mackerras (Glyndebourne) and Sir Antonio Pappano (ROH).

As Associate Conductor (JPYAP) at the Royal Opera House he conducted their debut tour of Australia, winning a Helpmann Award. As a regular guest conductor with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, his recent engagements in the Royal Albert Hall include *Madama Butterfly*, *La bohème* and *Carmen*. He was Founding Artistic Director of Opera East, most recently premiering O'Regan's *Heart of Darkness* at the Linbury Theatre; and Artistic Director of Iford Arts since 2005. Oliver received his training at Cambridge University, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the National Opera Studio. He studied conducting at Tanglewood with Seiji Ozawa and was nominated for a South Bank award and a Creative Scotland award. In 2012, he was elected a Clore Leadership Fellow by the Clore Foundation, elected Fellow of the Royal Society in Arts in 2014; and in 2018, he was appointed Director of the Blyth Centre for Music and Visual Arts at Imperial College London and, closer to home, Cantorum Choir!



ROBERT JONES was born and educated in Croydon – he was a member of the renowned Trinity Boys Choir and gained the FRCO diploma while still at school, when he also ran his own parish church choir and studied the piano as a Junior Exhibitioner at the Royal College of Music.

He then became a Music Scholar at Christ Church, Oxford, graduating in Music from Oxford University. During this period, he sang in the choir of Christ Church Cathedral under Simon Preston, while studying the organ with Nicholas Danby and singing with David Johnston.

Subsequently he was a Lay Clerk in the choir of St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, then at Westminster Roman Catholic Cathedral, before embarking on a career as one of Britain's leading consort singers, featuring on award-winning recordings with the Tallis Scholars, the Orlando Consort and the Gabrieli Consort.

In recent years he has returned to his origins as a keyboard player and choral director – he has been Director of Music at the Wren church of St. Bride's, Fleet Street in London since 1988 and is also active as a pianist, organist, teacher, conductor of amateur choirs and examiner for ABRSM, working in the Far East as well as the UK. He is married to Eleanor, a music teacher whom he met at Oxford, and they have four sons who have all sung professionally.





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Cantorum Choir



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