

# christmas concert

featuring music by:

francis poulenc

bob chilcott

francesco manfredini

marc-antoine charpentier

john rutter

and audience carols

conductors: benjamin wolf, andrew rochford



Hampstead  
Sinfonietta

Royal *f*ree  
Music Society

7.30 pm  
Programme £10



2A South Hill Park, Hampstead, London NW3 2SB  
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# programme

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*O Little Town of Bethlehem (audience carol)*

In Nativitatem Domini - Charpentier

Christmas Symphony in D Major - Manfredini

Three Christmas Motets - Poulenc

Bethlehem Down - Warlock

*Away in a Manger (audience carol)*

*God rest you merry, gentlemen (audience carol)*

*O Come, all ye faithful (audience carol)*

## *Interval*

A babe is born - Mathias

Jubilate - Chilcott

Suite for Strings - Rutter

Child in a Manger - Rutter (arr.)

Deck the Hall - Willcocks (arr.)

Jingle Bells - Willcocks (arr.)

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing (audience carol)*

Twelve Days of Christmas - Rutter (arr.)

Bethlehem Down will be conducted by Robert Chatley

Pianist: Gill Cracknell

Organist: Harold Lester

The Hampstead Sinfonietta is led by Tim Miller

# Welcome

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Dear Audience

Season's greetings! Another year has flown by and we are once again reflecting on a successful year for the RFMS.

We started the year with a concert of British music to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee which fitted the atmosphere of glorious celebration which filled London during this summer. In July we ventured south to join the Beckenham Concert band at St Barnabas church for a fun-filled evening of more British music. It was widely advertised by the new vicar and we performed to a packed church (standing room only) and helped to raise over £1000 for the London Pathway charity. The band and parishioners made us really welcome and we all had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Our autumn concert returned to a more traditional classical setting. The orchestra opened with a wonderful performance of Brahms' Academic Festival Overture. The choir followed with Haydn's Missa Sancti Nicolai and then, with the support of the Medici choir, we performed together Beethoven's Symphony no. 9 in D major. The large choir was a logistical challenge but the outcome was a triumph!

The Hampstead Sinfonietta have continued to support the choir and we continue to appreciate how fortunate we are to enjoy the support of such a friendly, high-quality orchestra. Through the hard work of the committee we have increased our choir membership, audience numbers and our fundraising contributions and we are very grateful to all who have supported these activities - particularly the committee members who have contributed their ideas, time and energy. We are also very fortunate to have the continued support of the Williams Church Music Trust.

We look forward to 2013 with enthusiasm. We hope to achieve charitable status in the next few months and plan to continue to swell our membership at another Come and Sing event at the Royal Free Hospital.

Please make a note of our concert dates for next year and if you feel you would like to join the performers rather than the audience, our website [www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk) holds information and details of rehearsals. New members are always welcome.

Lastly we would like to thank the Reverend William Gulliford and the Parish of St Marks for another happy year of music-making in their wonderful church. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Diana Parkinson and Sally Rochford, RFMS Co-chairs

# programme notes

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## Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704) - *In Nativitatem Domini*

Charpentier was a well-known French composer of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries who counted the French Royal Family amongst his patrons. He made several settings of Latin texts announcing the birth of Christ (each of which is entitled 'In Nativitatem Domini'). Tonight's version is a short motet which takes the form of a conversation. The opening bass section calls upon a group of shepherds to tell us what they have seen. The shepherds reply that they have seen a small boy born of a virgin and a choir of angels singing his praises.

## Francesco Manfredini (1684-1762) - *Concerto Op. 3 No. 6 in D Major*

Manfredini was a contemporary of J.S. Bach and Vivaldi and was a leading figure in the development of the *concerto grosso* style. This style of baroque music involves a melody passed between soloists (*concertino*) and the full orchestra (*ripieno*). This concerto is one of a series of 12 short works, the most famous of which is No. 12 in C Major (the Christmas concerto, which we have previously performed) which are likely to have been composed as court music for Prince Antoine of Monaco. Unfortunately, much of Manfredini's music is presumed to have been destroyed after his death; only 43 published works and a handful of manuscripts are known.

## Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) - from *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*

*Quem vidistis pastores dicite*  
*Videntes Stellam*  
*Hodie Christus Natus Est*

Francis Poulenc was known as both a composer and performer, and was an important figure in twentieth-century French music. His music combines lyricism with unusual harmonies, and often possesses a static but ethereal beauty. His four motets for Christmas are a common feature in modern-day Christmas concerts and services, though they present significant challenges for choirs. Tonight we will be singing three of those motets. The first uses the same text as the Charpentier performed earlier in the concert. The second, *Videntes Stellam*, tells of the wise men entering the house of the infant Christ and offering him gifts of gold,

frankincense and myrrh. The third is more emphatic and triumphant: *to-day Christ is born, today the Saviour has appeared.*

### **Peter Warlock (1894-1930) - *Bethlehem Down***

Bethlehem Down is a popular choral anthem or carol composed in 1927 by Peter Warlock (the pseudonym used by Philip Arnold Heseltine) and set to the words of a poem by Bruce Blunt. It is most often sung but the piece works extremely well with a string orchestra working the beautiful, yet slightly haunting melody.

Given the piece's overall beauty it seems somewhat disappointing to learn that it was written for (and won) the Daily Telegraph's Christmas Carol competition to fund a drinking session for the composer and lyricist!

### **William Mathias (1934-1992) - *A babe is born***

With the exception of Alun Hoddinott, Mathias was probably the most successful Welsh composer of the twentieth century. He wrote a number of carols which are both rhythmically complex and highly accessible. This setting of 'A babe is born' combines English and Latin texts, employing unexpected harmonic twists and a driving rhythmic structure.

### **Bob Chilcott (1955 - ) - *Jubilate***

*Jubilate*

*Song (Solo Louise Morton)*

*Be ye sure*

*O go your way*

*Be thankful*

*For the Lord is gracious*

Bob Chilcott is one of Britain's most successful choral conductors and composers. His compositions are accessible and melodic, and are influenced by the worlds of popular music and close harmony singing, as well as by the techniques of earlier choral composers such as Mathias and Benjamin Britten. This *Jubilate* was composed at the end of the last century for the University of Kansas Department of Music and Dance. It contains six movements and lasts for about 15 minutes. Although it is not strictly a Christmas piece, the spirit of joy and reflection that infuses its movements makes it suitable for tonight's concert.

## **John Rutter (1945 - ) - *Suite for Strings***

- 1. *A-roving***
- 2. *I have a bonnet trimmed with blue***
- 3. *O, waly waly***
- 4. *Dashing away with the smoothing iron***

John Rutter is local to Primrose Hill. He was educated in Highgate and was Director of Music for a time at St Mary's, Primrose Hill. He is arguably the most famous living composer and conductor of choral music and lovers of Radio 4's *Front Row* will have listened to a recent interview where it was claimed that his music was synonymous with Christmas. The suite for strings is a collection of 4 popular and traditional English folk songs which we hope will be recognisable to many of you who have heard us sing them in previous concerts.

## **John Rutter (1945 - ) (arr.) - *Child in a Manger***

Like Bob Chilcott, John Rutter is one of the foremost figures in modern British choral music. He has also been influenced by popular music and jazz, and some of these influences are evident in his carols. This carol is a simple melody (a traditional Celtic carol) arranged for four-part choir.

## **David Willcocks (1919 - ) (arr.) - *Deck the Hall***

A simple yet effective arrangement of an old favourite. Willcocks was formerly conductor of the choir of King's College, Cambridge, and has produced many well-known carol arrangements.

## **David Willcocks (1919 - ) (arr.) - *Jingle Bells***

Another Willcocks arrangement of a favourite Christmas song.

## **John Rutter (1945 - ) - *The Twelve Days of Christmas***

You will certainly know the words. Rutter's arrangement is wonderfully inventive and a fun way to round off this evening's concert.

# audience carols

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## O little town of Bethlehem

1. 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.

2. 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 wondering love.

3. 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.

4. 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.

## Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger,  
No crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus

Laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky  
Looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing,  
The Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus  
No crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side  
Until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus;  
I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever,  
And love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
In Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven,  
To live with Thee there.

## God rest you merry, gentlemen

1. 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,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

2. From God our heavenly 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 ...*

3. The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway,  
This blessed Babe to find:  
*O tidings ...*

4. But when to Bethlehem they  
came,  
Whereat this Infant lay,  
They found Him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling,  
Unto the Lord did pray:  
*O tidings ...*

5. 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 other doth deface:1  
*O tidings ...*

### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

1. O Come All Ye Faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*O come, let us adore Him,*  
*Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore Him...*

3. Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the Highest;  
*O come, let us adore Him...*

### **Hark the herald angels sing**

1. 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!"

2. 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!"

3. 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

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## **Andrew Rochford**

Andrew has a variety of musical interests. At school he studied singing with Geraldine Hackett-Jones and started playing the bassoon at the age of 10 under the tutelage of Charles Cracknell, OBE. He has since had tuition from Gareth Newman (London Mozart Players & Royal Academy of Music, and an old pupil of Charles). Andrew has performed solo concerti with Lawyers Music and the Abbots Langley Symphony Orchestra; and when time permits, he plays with the London Charity Orchestra. After leaving school in Canterbury, Andrew completed a degree in Medical Biochemistry at King's College, London. He then studied Medicine at the Royal Free where he was a founding member of the choir in 1995. Andrew has recently been appointed to a consultant post at Barts Health NHS Trust and has a special interest in Intestinal Failure and Clinical Leadership.

## **Benjamin Wolf**

Benjamin Wolf works as a conductor, pianist, composer, singer and academic. He is Musical Director of the Zemel Choir, the Wallace Ensemble and the Rushmoor Choir, and has recently been appointed conductor of the Royal Free Music Society. He is also Choirmaster of Belsize Square Synagogue and a regular conductor of the Quorum Chamber Choir. He has broadcast on Radio 3 and for the BBC's Songs of Praise, has performed at London venues including the South Bank and St John's, Smith Square, and has toured to Europe and Israel. He is founder of the bOYbershop quartet, and has written works for the concert hall and the theatre. These include works based on Ancient Greek texts and modes and works based on Jewish themes, including a number of choral works, a piano concerto and a cello concerto. He has played for many singers and instrumentalists, including both classical performers and cantors. He initially studied classics at University College Oxford, following this with study at Trinity College of Music and the music department of King's College, London. He was awarded a PhD at Royal Holloway (University of London) in 2010, and is now working as Senior Associate Teacher in the music department of Bristol University, and as Music Lecturer at Regent's College, London. He is also working on a Royal Holloway project investigating the use of music to accompany silent films.

# performers

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## Robert Chatley

A keen amateur musician, Robert first learned the violin with Mark Levy while at school near Oxford. More recently he continued violin studies with Clare Duckworth. In addition to Hampstead Sinfonietta, Robert plays regularly with a number of amateur orchestras in London including the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra and Corinthian Chamber Orchestra. Robert has recently developed an interest in conducting. He studied with Rodolfo Saglimbeni at Canford summer school of music and hopes to continue learning more about the mysterious art of conducting in the future.

## the choir

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Marc-Olivier Andrez  
Silja Andrez  
Elizabeth Bowman  
Barbara Bryant  
Lynn Bryden  
Barbara Byth  
Danielle Cahill  
Cathy Cale  
Sarah Carrier  
Richard Chatto  
Ruth Chatto  
Gill Cracknell  
Hilary Cullen  
VictoriaDublon  
Teresa Elkins  
Barbara Foster  
Adriana Garcia-Warren  
Wilder Gutterson  
Sarah Hammond  
Jane Hassid  
Catherine Haw

Edward Haynes  
Sue Henderson  
Sara Henley  
Katharine Hodgson  
Stuart Houghton  
Di Howard  
Nick Jackson  
Sophie Jackson  
James Kennedy  
Sally Kirkpatrick  
Ann Lloyd  
Phil Mackney  
Andy Miller  
Louise Morton  
Diana Muggleston  
Ruth Muscat  
Roszie Omoregie  
Adriana Pacheco  
Tricia Pank  
Diana Parkinson  
Allyson Pascoe

Roger Pascoe  
Sarah Pepperrell  
James Ridler  
Nick Roberts  
Andrew Rochford  
Sally Rochford  
Bernadette Rodriguez  
Robert Salmon  
Christine Scarsbrooke  
Annie Sedley  
Maggie Sinclair  
Darlene Stevens  
Lucinda Sturgis  
Gillian Sutherland  
Jessie Twiest  
Caryl Vytelingum  
Ellie Wood  
Robert Young

# the hampstead sinfonietta

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## Violin I

Tim Miller (orchestra leader)  
Sarah Carter  
Ewa Gowkowska  
James Perry  
Alice Ruffle  
Laura Spratling

Gavin Topham  
Nick Roberts

## Viola

Helen Dodd  
Sarah Nichols  
Charlotte Cawthorne

## Violin II

Sharon Philbey  
Robert Chatley  
Johanna Saarinen  
Emily Taylor

## Cello

Hannah Booth  
Angie Laycock  
Caroline Taylor  
Ed Tricklebank

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# the royal free music society committee

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Music Librarian	Nick Roberts
Musical Director	Benjamin Wolf
Orchestra Administrator	Ellie Wood
Choir Committee Members	Lynn Bryden, Teresa Elkins, Jane Hassid, Anne Lloyd, Tricia Pank, Hermione White

# the royal free music society

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The Royal Free Music Society is a group of healthcare professionals, local residents 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*, *Harmoniemasse*, *Heiligmesse* and *Paukenmesse*, 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 also premiered work, such as Stephen Gillespie's *Gloria*. For the major works, we are joined by an orchestra of hospital members and their friends: the Hampstead Sinfonietta.

Visit us at [www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk)  
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\* RFMS, c/o Wilder Gutterson, 11 Croftdown Road, London NW5 1EL

Our heartfelt thanks to our Patrons: Neil McLelland, David Gluckman & Barbara Bryant, Adrian Cahill, Rev & Mrs. Devonshire-Jones, Rev Peter Baker, Liz Joyce.

