

# christmas choral concert

featuring seasonal choral music by  
bach, handel, poulenc, mendelssohn,  
tavener, rutter, mathias

and audience carols

music director: benjamin wolf  
organ: ian shaw

saturday 13 december, 2014



Royal *f*ree  
Music Society

7.30 pm  
programme £12 / £6 (children)

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# Welcome

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Dear Audience

Welcome to our Christmas concert – and, if you attended our performance of Elijah in November or any of our other concerts, welcome back!

We've had a busy and enjoyable year, starting out at our Spring Concert with performances of Michael Haydn's Requiem in C Minor and Faure's Requiem in D Minor, along with the Hampstead Sinfonietta performing pieces from Beethoven and Mozart. For our Summer concert this year, we joined the Beckenham Concert Band with a programme marking the centenary of World War One, including works by Holst, Elgar, Sibelius, and Parry. For the Autumn Concert, we faced a new challenge in performing Mendelssohn's Elijah. For this major work, we collaborated with The Zemel Choir (which Ben Wolf also conducts), as well as being accompanied by Hampstead Sinfonietta. The growing relationship with the Zemel Choir has proved enjoyable and fruitful and will relish the opportunity to perform with them again in the future.

We are now looking forward to our programme for 2015 and our first touring engagement. Many of the choir members will be traveling to Genoa early in March to sing with two choirs there for a weekend of music and cultural exchange.

At this end of our first year as co-chairs, we would particularly like to extend thanks to our inspirational music director, Ben Wolf, and our excellent accompanist, Gill Cracknell; to Andy Rochford for his continued commitment to the orchestra; to the members of the committee who have put in a lot of time and effort in organizing and managing the choir, the concerts, the finances, the publicity, the music; the Royal Free Hospital who provide our rehearsal space; the Reverend William Gulliford and the parish of St Mark's for this wonderful concert venue; to the patrons for their continued support, and to Hampstead Wells and Campden Trust from whom we received our first grant this year.

Once again, please make a note of our concert dates for next year (on p. 9) and, if you would like to join the performers rather than the audience, you will find all necessary details on our website [www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk). We are always ready to welcome new members.

We hope you enjoy the concert and we wish you the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

*Nick Jackson and Lucinda Sturgis, Co-Chairs*

# programme

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(lyrics to audience carols on pp. 7-8)

1. Bach - Blich an, o schönes Morgenlicht (choir)
2. Scheidt - A Child is Born in Bethlehem (WB 17) (choir)
3. Wood - Once, as I remember (choir)
4. Bach - in dulci júbilo (organ solo)
5. *It Came upon the Midnight Clear (Trad arr. Sullivan/Willcocks) (choir + audience)*
6. Handel - And the glory of the Lord (choir)
7. Handel - And he shall purify (choir)
8. Handel - For unto us a child is born (choir)
9. Handel - Glory to God (choir)
10. *O Little Town of Bethlehem (Trad arr. Vaughan Williams/Armstrong) (choir + audience)*
11. Mendelssohn - There Shall a Star (choir)
12. *Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Mendelssohn / Willcocks) (choir + audience)*

## *Interval*

1. *Away in a Manger (choir + audience)*
2. Tavener - The Lamb (choir)
3. The Holly and the Ivy (choir)
4. Messiaen - Dieu parmi nous (from 'La Nativité du Seigneur') (organ solo)
5. Poulenc - Quem vidistis pastores dicite (choir)
6. Mathias - A Babe is Born (choir)
7. Mathias - Sir Christèmas (choir)
8. Rutter - Nativity Carol (choir)
9. Rutter - Child in a Manger (choir)

10. Rutter - Shepherd's Pipe Carol (choir)
11. Rutter - The Twelve Days of Christmas (choir)
12. *God Rest you Merry, Gentlemen* (Trad arr. Willcocks) (choir + audience)
13. *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (choir + audience)
14. We Wish You a Merry Christmas (Trad arr. Arthur Warrell)

## organist

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### Ian Shaw

Ian Shaw studied at Cambridge (where he was Organ Scholar of St John's College and a John Stewart of Rannoch Scholar in Sacred Music), at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam and (recently, as a mature student) at Goldsmiths College in London. Here his research interests included the value of stand-up comedy in prisons and the evolution of black theatre in the UK.

As an organist, he has been Sub-Organist at Durham Cathedral and Director of Music at St Peter's Eaton Square. As a pianist, he has worked with Opera North, Northern Ballet Theatre, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Music Theatre Wales and Scottish Opera, where he was responsible for numerous national tours.

Since returning to London, he has worked as a pianist for English National Opera and, as a coach, for the National Opera Studio and British Youth Opera. This autumn he has been involved in two world premieres: as repetiteur in Philip Glass' *The Trial* at The Royal Opera House, Linbury Studio, and as conductor in Dominique Le Gendre's *Jab Molassie* in Trinidad. He has also worked with many London choirs, including the BBC Singers and the Bach Choir.

His work has been described as 'redoubtable' by *The Scotsman* and 'sometimes amusing' by the Dean of Durham.

# music director

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## 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 Royal Free Music Society, Choirmaster of Belsize Square Synagogue and a regular conductor of the Quorum Chamber Choir. Performances with the Zemel Choir have included Holocaust memorial services for the Mayor of London, concerts at the South Bank and St John's Smith Square, a broadcast for the BBC's Songs of Praise and tours to Europe, Israel and the USA. Activities with the Wallace Ensemble have included performances at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, while the professional choir of Belsize Square Synagogue has been featured on documentaries for BBC radio and television. Recent performances have included Westminster Abbey's 'Service of Solemn Remembrance and Hope on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kristallnacht' and performances for the International Louis Lewandowski Festival in Berlin.

As composer, he has written music for the concert hall and the stage, including works using the texts and modes of Ancient Greek, a piano concerto and a cello concerto commissioned for the 70th anniversary of Belsize Square synagogue. He has written a number of pieces for the Zemel Choir and wrote new instrumental works for the Chichester Festival in 2013 and 2014. As pianist, he works as both accompanist and solo recitalist, while his singing is primarily focussed on performances with his own Jewish barbershop quartet, bOYbershop, for which he has written a number of arrangements and original compositions, including comic songs *The Only Jewish Cowgirl* and *Fifty Shades of Hay*.

Following the award of a PhD in 2010, he worked as a visiting lecturer at Royal Holloway and Senior Associate Teacher at Bristol University. In 2011 he was appointed as Lecturer in Music at Regent's University, London, where he teaches both academic courses and runs the newly formed choirs of the Regent's School of Drama, Film and Media. He has given conference papers in the UK and America, and was on the organising team for a conference at the IMR in January 2013 (focussing on music in twentieth-century Britain). He has also worked as a researcher on a Royal Holloway project investigating the use of music to accompany silent films.

# audience carols

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## It came upon the midnight clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heav'n's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they  
come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love-song which they bring:  
Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold,  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## 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 wond'ring 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.

## 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 Sun 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!

#### **Away in a manger**

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.

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.

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**

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.*

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 ...*

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 ...*

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 deface:  
*O tidings ...*

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

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.*

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...*

See how the shepherds,  
Summoned to His cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will hither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore Him...*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of Heav'n above!  
Glory in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore Him...*

# the choir

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## Soprano

Elizabeth Bowman  
Danielle Cahill  
Cathy Cale  
Linda De Montfort  
Teresa Elkins  
Maureen Ezeolisah  
Mary Goyder  
Sarah Hammond  
Sara Henley  
Mireille Levy  
Ann Lloyd  
Joanna Molloy  
Louise Morton  
Ruth Muscat  
Catherine  
Nightingale  
Roszie Omoregie  
Ute Paetzig  
Tricia Pank  
Sarah Pepperrell  
Elizabeth Elaine  
Segu

Maggie Sinclair  
Veronica Soskin  
Kat Vroobel  
Ellie Wood

## Alto

Barbara Bryant  
Emma Dunning  
Jennifer Eberle  
Catherine Haw  
Sue Henderson  
Katharine Hodgson  
Sophie Jackson  
Katy Makin  
Diana Muggleston  
Janet Paraskeva  
Diana Parkinson  
Sally Rochford  
Annie Sedley  
Wendy Stallings  
Darlene Stevens  
Jessie Twiest  
Maike Wennemer

## Tenor

Barbara Byth  
Sarah Carrier  
Barbara Foster  
Michael Grunert  
Wilder Gutterson  
Richard Haydon  
Di Howard  
John O'Shea  
Andrew Rochford  
Robert Salmon

## Bass

Laurence Grace  
Nick Jackson  
James Kennedy  
Phil Mackney  
Aled Parry  
James Ridler  
Philip Halliday

## rfms 2014-15 concert dates

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**21 March 2015:** Spring concert - Vivaldi, Parry,  
Stainer, Wesley, and others

**20 June 2015:** summer concert - Handel, Hadyn and  
more

**Autumn concert (date tbc) - Rossini - Petite Messe  
Solemnelle**

# the royal free music society

The Royal Free Music Society Choir was originally formed by a group of healthcare professionals working in the hospital and has grown into a vibrant choir with membership from the hospital, the local area and further afield. The choir meets for rehearsals on a weekly basis in the Royal Free Hospital and puts on four concerts a year. The choir's repertoire covers a wide variety of music and performances have included Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Haydn's *Creation*, *Harmoniemesse*, *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*, as well as some lighter works for the summer concert. The choir has also premiered work, such as Stephen Gillespie's *Gloria*, and has had a number of successful collaborations, most recently with the Beckenham Concert Band and the Zemel Choir.

For major works, we are joined by a local amateur orchestra, the Hampstead Sinfonietta.

Visit us at [www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk)  
and [www.HampsteadSinfonietta.org.uk](http://www.HampsteadSinfonietta.org.uk)

## the royal free music society committee

Chairs	Nick Jackson, Lucinda Sturgis
General Manager + support	Barbara Bryant, Nick Jackson, Kat Vroobel (non committee helpers: Anne Lloyd and Teresa Elkins)
Secretary / Communications	Jessie Twiest, Sarah Pepperrell
Membership officer + support	Jane Hassid, Danielle Cahill
Treasurer + support	James Kennedy, Katharine Hodgson
Publicity Officer + support	Barbara Foster, Anne Sedley
Fund-raising Officer + support	Barbara Bryant, Trish Pank, Sara Henley
Music Librarian	Nick Roberts
Orchestra administrator	Ellie Wood
Programme design/production	Ruth Muscat



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Please contact Wilder Gutterson (wgutterson@gmail.com, 020 7419 4252) for further information, or fill out the form below and give to a member of the choir this evening, or post to us:

RFMS, c/o Wilder Gutterson, 11 Croftdown Road, London NW5 1EL

Our heartfelt thanks to our loyal Patrons: Adrian Cahill, Rev. & Mrs. Devonshire-Jones, Billy Elkins, David Gluckman, Mrs Patsy Henley, Stuart Houghton, and Rev Peter Baker.

