



Ayr Choral Union

Instituted 1876

Scottish Charity No 02413



CAROLS AT CHRISTMAS



Conductor
GERARD DOHERTY
&
THISTLE BRASS



Ayr Town Hall
Sunday 21st December
2008



A Message From The Choir



Welcome to our 2008 Christmas Concert!

We have chosen a selection of carols that we are sure you will enjoy, and while most are old favourites, some may be new to you. As well as that, we are marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Ralph Vaughan Williams by singing the *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, with *Kevin Greenlaw* as Baritone soloist and *Michael Bawtree* as organist. We also welcome *Thistle Brass* as our final guests.

The flowers on the stage this evening were supplied by Ayr Arts Guild, and arranged by members of the Auchencruive Flower Club. We thank these two organisations for their generous support.

We are grateful to all our sponsors, without whose help it would be difficult to bring these concerts to you.

Stay in touch! We're delighted you've come to the concert, but did you know that there are some other ways you can be part of Ayr Choral Union?

- You will already have seen our notice about the Friends of Ayr Choral Union - please think about supporting us in this way
- Look at our website: <http://ayrchoralunion.mysite.orange.co.uk>
- And of course you could come and sing with us!

Our next concert is on Sunday 5th April and will be a concert of music inspired by the poetry of Robert Burns.

We hope to see you then.

Fantasia on Christmas Carols by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958)

The *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* was composed in 1912 and premiered at Hereford that year. The melodies and words come from the English folk song tradition. It is dedicated to Cecil Sharp, father of the resurgence of interest in English traditional song that began around the start of the 20th century.

The *Fantasia* opens with 'This is the Truth Sent From Above'. The wordless choral accompaniment underscores the simplicity of this opening section. The second section, 'Come all you Worthy Gentlemen' builds to proclaim 'tidings of comfort and joy' before subsiding once more at the introduction of the third section. This is a setting of the Sussex Carol ('On Christmas Night') which Vaughan Williams himself had collected. The final section interweaves the choruses of the second and third sections with references to a number of other carols. We hear 'A Virgin Most Pure', the 'Seven Joys of Mary' and even the beginning of 'The First Nowell'. Finally the tranquility of the opening returns and the voices vanish into the distance, across the snow covered fields and away into the night.

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GERARD DOHERTY - Conductor

Gerard Doherty's natural gift as a conductor first came to prominence when he conducted the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in Debussy's La Mer in the presence of Walter Weller. With Weller's highest recommendation, Gerard made his debut as a conductor and established a career which has led him to conduct the RSNO on numerous occasions, making his first Proms appearance in 2004 and returning in 2005.

Gerard is Principal Conductor of the Glasgow Sinfonia, the Edinburgh Symphony Orchestra, Strathclyde University Symphony Orchestra and the Ayr Choral Union. He has also conducted the Symphony Orchestra of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music.

His conducting has taken him to the United States, Europe and the Middle East. He has conducted an enormous range of choral and symphonic works and is much admired for his natural musicianship, clear understanding, integrity and breadth of repertoire, which spans from Baroque to Contemporary. Reviews have described his music-making as thrilling, exhilarating, vibrant and triumphant.

MICHAEL BAWTREE - Organist

Michael is Chorus Director of the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union and Music Director of both the Glasgow Chamber Choir and the RSAMD Chamber Choir. He has also worked with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, the Bury St Edmunds Festival Chorus and the Britten-Pears Chamber Choir. He is in demand as a guest conductor of choirs throughout Scotland.



Michael was born in Devon and studied music at Cambridge University. For the following five years Michael was Assistant Director of Music at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Suffolk. With the cathedral Choir he broadcast frequently on BBC Radio and made three CD recordings. He moved to Scotland in 2004 to take up a two year post-graduate conducting scholarship at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and was awarded his Master of Music degree with distinction in July 2006.

Solo organ recital engagements have taken Michael to over twenty British Cathedrals as well as to Bermuda, California and Denmark. In March 2006 he travelled to the USA for five recitals, including a performance at Washington National Cathedral. He returned to the USA this summer for recitals in Boston and San Francisco.

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THISTLE BRASS

Thistle Brass is fast making a name for itself as one of the UK's most exciting and innovative young chamber ensembles. The group has performed in a highly diverse range of settings and contexts, from the Orkney Islands to the Great Wall of China; from major music festivals to state and civic occasions.

Thistle Brass was established in 2002 by senior students at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where it won several prizes and awards, including the Mary D Adams prize for Chamber Music.

The group has built a reputation for concerts presented in its own inimitable and entertaining style. It has an extensive and diverse repertoire; it is equally at home performing classical and jazz, serious and light-hearted, new works from contemporary composers and lighter repertoire.

KEVIN GREENLAW - Baritone

Kevin Greenlaw is establishing himself at the forefront of America's new generation of young baritones. Recent triumphs have included Mercutio in *Romeo et Juliette* for the Spoleto Festival, Charleston, USA, Guglielmo in *Così fan Tutte* for the Festival de Sédières in France, and Orest in *Iphigénie en Tauride* for Opéra de Nancy and the Komische Oper, Berlin.



Born in Missouri, he studied at the Eastman School of Music and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, before winning the Prix d'Association pour le Rayonnement at the Opéra National de Paris, Bastille. He went on to sing the role of Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia* at the Britten-Pears School at Aldeburgh, before being catapulted to international attention when he took over, at short notice, the roles of Pelléas in *Pelléas et Mélisande* and Harlequin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Metropolitan Opera.

Among future projects in the UK, he will be appearing with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*.

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CHOIR

- Joy to the World Words by Isaac Watts
Angel Tidings John Rutter

CHOIR and AUDIENCE

- Hark the Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn
Adapted by W H Cummings

- 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 hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
- 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.*

- 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.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

CHOIR

- Crown of Roses P I Tchaikowsky
I Saw Three Ships English Traditional
Arr: John Rutter

THISTLE BRASS

CHOIR

Kings of the Orient J H Hopkins
Arr. David Willcocks

Birthday Carol David Willcocks

CHOIR and AUDIENCE

In the Bleak Midwinter

- 1 In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.
- 2 Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air:
Only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.
- 3 What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him;
Give my heart.

CHOIR and SOLOIST

Fantasia on Christmas Carols Ralph Vaughan Williams



Wine organised by Paul Wilson
(Any profit from sale of wine goes to Ayr Choral Union)

CHOIR

Tomorrow Shall be My Dancing Day English Traditional
Arr: Gardner

CHOIR and SOLOIST

What Child is This? English Traditional
Arr: David Willcocks

CHOIR

O Magnum Mysterium Morten Lauridsen

CHOIR, AUDIENCE and BRASS

Deck the Hall Welsh Traditional
Arr: David Willcocks

1 Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

'Tis the season to be jolly,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

Troll the ancient Christmas carol,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

2 See the flowing bowl before us,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

Follow me in merry measure,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

While I sing of beauty's treasure,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

3 Fast away the old year passes,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

Laughing, quaffing all together ,

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

Heedless of the wind and weather

Fa la la la la, fa la la la.



BARITONE SOLOS

CHOIR

Stille Nacht Franz Gruber
Arr: Donald Cashmore

Jesus Child John Rutter

THISTLE BRASS

CHOIR

The Very Best Time of Year John Rutter

CHOIR, AUDIENCE, BRASS and ORGAN

O Come All Ye Faithful J F Wade

- 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,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*
- 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,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*





MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR



Sopranos

Margot Bell
 Carol Boston
 Lorna Buchan
 Dorothy Cree
 Kathleen Dauthieu
 Norma Duncan
 Margaret Forsyth
 Ann Gilmour
 Lorna Gourlay

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 Sue Gregson
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 Phia Allison
 Marion Andrews
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 Jennifer Clow
 Fiona Cormie
 Margaret Crankshaw

Jane Day
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 Pamela Martin
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 Shona Mitchell
 Nan Newall
 Clare Patterson
 Margo Reader

Valerie Smith
 Jean Stewart
 Sheila Stewart
 Margaret Vance
 Morag Walton

Tenors

Michael Clark

Colin Duncan

Jim Dunlop

Axel Winkler

Basses

Robert Cairns
 Brian Clark
 Norman Clark

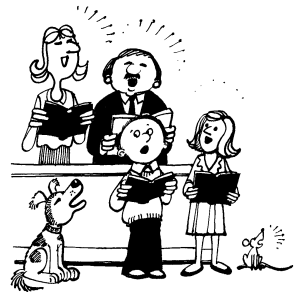
Sam Craig
 Tony Kerrigan

Malcolm Lamb
 Frank McCarthy

Allan McMillan
 Allan Prime
 Joe Sutcliffe

COME AND SING WITH US

If you can sing, whether or not you can read music, come and join us. If you have sung in a choir before, or if you would like to have a go, we would be happy to welcome you. Everyone is welcome. Our rehearsals are on a Tuesday evening at Ayr Auld Kirk halls from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm with our conductor, Gerry Doherty. If you want to know more, ask any of the choir members, or phone our Secretary, Nan Newall, on (01292) 221 958



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