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Ayr Choral Union

Instituted 1876

presents



MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

with
The Dunedin Consort
&
City of Glasgow Symphony Orchestra
Conductor - Gerard Doherty

Ayr Town Hall
Sunday 20th December 2009

7:30pm



A Christmas Message From The President

Welcome to our Christmas concert! Christmas preparations seem to get earlier every year but, for me, the spirit of Christmas begins with our concert.

This year we have a formal and an informal half to the concert. In the first half we will sing Parts 4-6 of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, one of his best-loved works.

I'm sure you will all enjoy hearing the popular carols in the second half and joining in with some of them. We are delighted to welcome soloists from the Dunedin Consort, as well as the City of Glasgow Symphony Orchestra.

On behalf of everyone in Ayr Choral Union, let me wish you a very happy Christmas and a good New Year!

Sam Craig, President

GERARD DOHERTY - Conductor



Gerard Doherty's natural gift as a conductor first came to prominence when he conducted the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) 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.

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THE DUNEDIN CONSORT

Winners of the 2008 Midem Baroque Award and the 2007 Classic FM Gramophone Award for Best Baroque Vocal Album for their recording of Handel's 'Dublin' *Messiah*, the Dunedin Consort, under the combined Artistic Direction of John Butt, Susan Hamilton and Philip Hobbs, perform throughout Scotland and Europe.

John Butt is musical director for all larger projects and under him, the group has consolidated its existing strength in the Baroque repertoire, together with the development of the Dunedin Players as an ensemble dedicated to performance with period instruments. The group also continues to commission new pieces to complement the old: William Sweeney, Errollyn Wallen, Peter Nelson and Sally Beamish have recently written or arranged works to complement the era of George Buchanan and *Song of Songs* settings of Heinrich Schütz, the motets of Bach and the tercentenary of Buxtehude's death.

The Consort has appeared at festivals in Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands as well as at Edinburgh International Festival. It has worked in collaboration with ensembles including the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia 21, Scottish Ensemble, Mr McFall's Chamber, Paragon Ensemble, Florilegium, La Serenissima and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, has appeared on the major BBC television channels, and been broadcast on Radio 3 and BBC Scotland.

Tonight we are delighted to welcome **Susan Hamilton** (Soprano), **Carole Clarke** (Alto), **Christopher Hann** (Tenor) and **James Birchall** (Bass) to sing with us in Ayr.



**Ayr Choral Union would like to thank the
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Programme



JS Bach Christmas Oratorio

BWV 248

The Christmas Oratorio was written for Christmas 1734, and it seems to have been written down in a few weeks towards the end of the year. It is made up of six individual cantatas, but together they form a carefully thought out unit. Like every composer of his day, Bach took music he had already written and used it again for a different purpose. So much good music could not afford to be lost, so why not give it new words and adapt it for a church service? The text of the Christmas Oratorio comes from three sources: the Bible itself, poems of traditional chorales, and from an unknown author, possibly Picander. The planned first performance extended to the first, second and third Sundays of Christmas, then New Year's Day, the Sunday after, and Epiphany.

Having performed parts 1-3 in 2007, tonight we complete our singing of this great work with parts 4-6, titled '*For the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ*', '*For the Sunday After the Feast of the Circumcision*', and '*For Epiphany*'.

Part 4: The Feast of the Circumcision

Chorus: Bow ye, thankful, kneel and praise ye
Evangelist: And when the eight days were accomplished (Tenor)
Recitative: Immanuel, O word so sweet (Soprano and Bass)
Recitative: Behold, Thou, Jesus, Thou alone (Soprano and Bass)
Aria: Thy Name I live to praise and honour (Tenor)
Chorale: Jesus, be my firm foundation

Part 5: Sunday after New Year

Chorus: Glory be to God Almighty
Evangelist: When Jesus our Lord was born in Bethlehem (Tenor)
Chorus and alto: O where is he that is born King of Judea?
Chorale: Thy splendour drives the night away
Aria: Enlighten Thou my blinded senses (Bass)
Evangelist: Now when King Herod had heard these things (Tenor)
Recitative: And why are you thus shaken? (Alto)
Evangelist: And when the king had gathered all the scribes of the people (Tenor)
Recitative: Where does my Saviour dwell? (Alto)
Chorale: In my heart of hearts the chamber

Part 6: Feast of the Epiphany

Chorus: Lord, when our haughty foes assail us
Evangelist: When the King had privily called the Wise Men (Tenor and Bass)
Recitative: Thou Serpent, thou but seek our Lord to slay Him (Soprano)
Aria: He whom God has not befriended (Soprano)
Evangelist: When the Wise Men heard what the king had said (Tenor)
Chorale: I stand beside Thy cradle here
Evangelist: And being warned of God in a dream (Tenor)
Aria: With fear the braggart foes are shaken (Tenor)
Recitative: The evil sinful world is past (Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass)
Chorale: The triumph is completed



INTERVAL

Interval drinks have been organised by the Kiama Trust.
This is a local charity set up in 1999 which seeks to help anyone who has experienced breast cancer.
For more information visit www.kiamatrust.org

Carols

The carols that we are going to sing in the second half of this evening's concert have been chosen from 'Carols for Choirs, Book 1' – also known as 'The Green Book'. This collection of carols was first published in 1961 and quickly established itself as a favourite for concerts. Many of the carols are traditional ones that have been arranged for choirs, a few were written specially, and several are ideal for audience participation. We look forward to having you join in.

Choir and audience

See amid the winter's snow John Goss, arr Willcocks
Words: E Caswell

- 1 See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below;
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years;
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

2 Lo, within a manger lies
 He who built the starry skies;
 He who, throned in height sublime,
 Sits amid the cherubim:
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn



3 (Women)
 Say, ye holy shepherds, say
 What your joyful news today;
 Wherefore have ye left your sheep
 On the lonely mountain steep?
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn

4 (Men)
 As we watch'd at dead of night,
 Lo, we saw a wondrous light:
 Angels singing 'Peace on Earth'
 Told us of the Saviour's birth.
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn ...

5 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-blessed morn ...

Choir

Good King Wenceslas Tune from *Piae Cantiones* arr Jacques
 Words: JM Neale

In the Bleak Midwinter Harold Darke
 Words Christina Rossetti

The Holly and the Ivy Traditional arr Jacques

Choir and Audience

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn, arr Willcocks
 Words: C Wesley et al

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.*

Choir

Oh Holy Night Adolphe Adam
Words: J S Dwight

In Dulci Jubilo German, arr Pearsall, edited Jacques

Zither Carol Czech arr Sargent

Choir and audience

O Come, All Ye Faithful 18th century, arr Willcocks
Words: F Oakeley et al

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.

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:

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 ...

Choir

We Wish You a Merry Christmas Trad arr Warrell



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 Margaret Forsyth
 Mhairi Gibson

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 Sue Gregson
 Rita Harrison
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 Alison Holliday
 Patricia Hope
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Mair Kirkwood
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 Rosetta Pirie
 Dorothy Spence
 Gladys Sprout

Edith Straiton
 Caroline Walker
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 Helen Wilkinson
 Helen Wilson
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Altos

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 Phia Allison
 Marion Andrews
 Kathleen Bates
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Tenors

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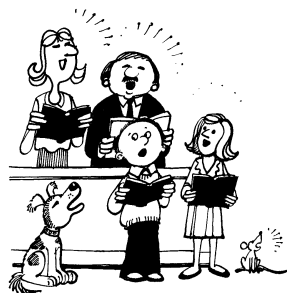
Sam Craig
 Tony Kerrigan
 Malcolm Lamb
 Frank McCarthy

Allan McMillan
 Douglas Paton
 Hans Pieper
 Alan Prime

George Spankie
 Joe Sutcliffe
 Lindsay Tolland

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 just come along to a rehearsal.



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