



WHITEHALL CHOIR



Conductor: Paul Spicer Organist: James Longford

Tuesday, 11 December 2007, 7.30 pm

A Concert of Christmas Music and Readings

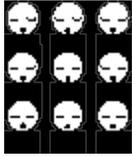


*Entry by Programme: £10 (£5 children under 16)
Proceeds in aid of St. Stephen's Church*

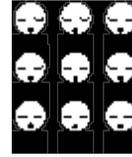
ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, ROCHESTER ROW, LONDON SW1

Whitehall Choir would like to dedicate this Carol Concert to the memory of Kate Ashbridge, one of the Choir's sopranos, who died suddenly earlier this year, aged only 25.

She was a talented musician as well as a delightful colleague, and is very much missed. Kate loved to sing, so please join the Choir and Kate's family and friends this evening in making this a celebration of the music she loved.



WHITEHALL CHOIR



WELCOME *Revd. Philip Welsh*

CHOIR: **A great and mighty wonder** *harmonized by M. Praetorius*

1. A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honour pure.
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!'
2. The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high!
And cherubim sings anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again! etc.
3. Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The Infant born in Bethl'em
The Saviour and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again! etc.
4. And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his sceptre,
Our Lord and God for ay.
Repeat the hymn again! etc.

CHOIR: **I saw three ships** *Trad., arr. David Willcocks*

1. I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.
2. And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.
3. Our Saviour Christ and his lady
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Our Saviour Christ and his lady
On Christmas Day in the morning.
4. Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.
5. O, they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
O, they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day in the morning.
6. And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day in the morning.
7. And all the angels in heav'n shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning.
8. And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning.
9. Then let us all rejoice a-main
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Then let us all rejoice a-main
On Christmas Day in the morning.

READING: *Emily Coates, Friend of Kate Ashbridge*

AUDIENCE: **Lo, he comes with clouds descending**

*Words by C Wesley and J Cennick; 18th century English melody – verse 4 arr.
David Willcocks*

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.</p> <p>2. Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing (x3)
Shall the true Messiah see.</p> | <p>3. Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture (x3)
Gaze we on those glorious scars!</p> <p>4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly (x3),
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come.</p> |
|---|--|

CHOIR: **De Virgin Mary had a baby boy** *arr. Malcolm Sargent*

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|--|--|
| <p>1. De Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And dey say dat his name was Jesus.
He come from de glory,
He come from de glorious kingdom,
Oh yes! Believer,
He come from de glorious kingdom.</p> <p>2. De angels sang when de baby born,
An' proclaim him de Saviour Jesus.
He come from de glory, etc.</p> | <p>3. De wise men saw where baby born,
An' dey say dat his name was Jesus.
He come from de glory, etc.</p> |
|--|--|

CHOIR: **O little one sweet**

J. S. Bach

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|--|---|
| <p>1. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
Thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
Thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken,
Equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.</p> <p>2. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
With joy thou hast the whole world filled;
Thou camest here from heav'n's domain,
To bring men comfort in their pain,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.</p> | <p>3. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
In thee love's beauties are all distilled;
Then light in us thy love's bright flame,
That we may give thee back the same,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.</p> |
|--|---|

READING: *Sir Brian Bender, Choir President*

CHOIR: **A spotless rose** *Herbert Howells*
Solo: Jonathan Williams

1. A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.
2. The Rose which I am singing
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

CHOIR: **A maiden most gentle** *arr. Andrew Carter*

1. A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.
Ave, ave, ave Maria
Ave, ave, ave Maria.
2. How bless'd is the birth of her heavenly child,
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.
Ave, ave, ave Maria
Ave, ave, ave Maria.
3. The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call
The Lord of creation, and Saviour of all.
Ave, ave, ave Maria
Ave, ave, ave Maria.
4. Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.
Ave, ave, ave Maria
Ave, ave, ave Maria.
5. Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'.
Ave, ave, ave Maria
Ave, ave, ave Maria

AUDIENCE: **O little town of Bethlehem**

Trad. English, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams and Thomas Armstrong

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.

READING: *Rev. Philip Walsh*

CHOIR:

From Messiah

G.F. Handel

Solo: Vicky Sweetman

- (1) For unto us child is born
- (2) Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)
- (3) There were shepherds
- (4) And, lo, the angel of the Lord
- (5) And the angel said
- (6) And suddenly
- (7) Glory to God

READING: *Ken Holmes, Choir Treasurer*

AUDIENCE: *God rest you merry, Gentlemen Trad. English, arr. David Willcocks*

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 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 of comfort and joy etc

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 of comfort and joy etc.

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 of comfort and joy etc..

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 others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy etc.

CHOIR:

The Infant King

arr. David Willcocks

1. Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby,
Now reclining,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is lying:
Sing lullaby!
2. Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby,
Now a-sleeping,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping:
Sing lullaby!
3. Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby,
Now a-dozing,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Some comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing:
Sing lullaby!
4. Sing lullaby!
Lullaby!
Is the babe awaking?
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not stir the Infant King.
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering Death, its bondage breaking:
Sing lullaby!

CHOIR:

Sussex Carol

arr. David Willcocks

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.
2. Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad?
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?
3. When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.
4. All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.'

ORGAN SOLO: James Longford
Toccata, T. Dubois

CHOIR:

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

John Rutter

1. Going through the hills on a night all starry,
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I hear a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.
*Angels in the sky
brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the King
is come to bring
us peace on earth,
and he's lying
cradled there
at Bethlehem'.*
2. 'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
On the way to Bethlehem,
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem?'
*Angels in the sky
brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the new-born King
is come to bring
us peace on earth,
and he's lying
cradled there
at Bethlehem'.*

3. 'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem;
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky
came down from on high,
Hovered o'er the manger
where the babe was lying
cradled in the arms
of his mother Mary,
sleeping now
at Bethlehem.*

4. 'Where is this new King, shepherd piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?'
'I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky at Bethlehem.'

*Angels in the sky
brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the King
is come to bring
us peace on earth,
and he's lying
cradled there
at Bethlehem.'*

5. May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle?
Is it far to Bethlehem?

*Angels in the sky
brought this message nigh:
'Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the infant King
is born this night
in lowly stable yonder
Born for you
at Bethlehem.'*

CHOIR: Ding Dong Merrily on High *harmonized by Charles Wood*

1. Ding dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
2. E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bell be swungen,
And *io, io, io,*
by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!
3. Pray you dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

READING *Paul Spicer, Conductor*

CHOIR: We wish you a merry Christmas *English Trad., arr. Arthur Warrell*

1. We wish you a merry Christmas,
and a Happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin,
We wish you a merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.
2. Now bring us some figgy pudding,
and bring some out here.
Good tidings we bring
to you and your kin,
We wish you a merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.
3. For we all like figgy pudding,
And we won't go till we've got some,
So bring some out here.
Glad tidings we bring
to you and your kin,
We wish you a merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

**There are mince pies, wine and soft drinks at the back of the church
at the end of the concert – please do join us. Whitehall Choir wish
you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Support the Whitehall Choir at Christmas! If you are intending to shop on Amazon, please access the Amazon site via the Choir's website – www.whitehallchoir.org.uk – and the Choir will automatically receive a small percentage on all purchases you make. Simply click on the Amazon link on the Home Page of the Choir's website! All monies raised are used to support the charitable objectives of the Choir

Paul Spicer



Paul Spicer began his musical training as a chorister at New College, Oxford. He studied with Herbert Howells and Richard Popplewell (organ) at the Royal College of Music in London, winning the Walford Davies Organ Prize in his final year.

As well as being conductor of the Whitehall Choir, Paul conducts the acclaimed Finzi Singers, with whom he has made 15 CDs for Chandos, the Birmingham Bach Choir, and the Chamber Choirs at the Birmingham Conservatoire where he is professor of choral conducting.

Until July 2001 Paul Spicer was Artistic Director of the Lichfield International Arts Festival and the Abbotsholme Arts Society, posts he relinquished in order to pursue a completely freelance musical career. Earlier in his career he spent time as a teacher of music at Uppingham School and Ellesmere College, before moving on to become a recording producer. He was Senior Producer for BBC Radio 3 in the Midlands until 1990, and today is in great demand as a recording producer and as a composer.

His large-scale *Easter Oratorio*, commissioned for performance in Lichfield Cathedral in July 2000, was described by *The Independent* as “almost operatic in its inherent drama” and as being “a major contribution to the choral society repertoire”. It was subsequently recorded, and was one of the Editor’s Choices in *Gramophone* magazine’s April 2006 issue, in which John Steane proclaimed: “The *Easter Oratorio* is a major work and the best of its kind to have appeared, certainly since the death of Howells, probably since Howells’s *Hymnus Paradisi*.” Other commissions have included anthems for the enthronement of Tom Wright as Bishop of Durham in October 2003, a Choral Festival in Long Island, USA, in May 2004, and the centenary of the Birmingham Diocese in 2005. Paul’s composition “The Deciduous Cross”, recorded by the Whitehall Choir, is available to buy via www.whitehall.org.uk .

Paul Spicer’s highly acclaimed biography of his composition teacher, Herbert Howells, which was published in August 1998, went into its second edition exactly a year later and is progressing to its third edition. He is a contributor to the new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and has begun work on a full-scale biography of Sir George Dyson, commissioned by the Dyson Trust. Paul Spicer is a member of the Council of Lichfield Cathedral, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, an Honorary Research Fellow of Birmingham University and an Honorary Fellow of the Birmingham Conservatoire.

James Longford



James Longford studied piano and organ at the Royal College of Music where he won the Tagore Gold Medal. Performances with a variety of singers and ensembles have since taken him to many major UK venues, such as the Barbican and Wigmore Hall, whilst abroad he has performed throughout Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, the US and the Baltic States. With New Zealand pianist Lindy Tennent-Brown, James is one half of the longfordbrown piano duo, who are forging a career as one of the UK’s foremost piano duos with performances this season in Sicily, the Vendsyssel Festival, Denmark, and a prestigious residency in Banff, Canada, in November. He also works as a répétiteur and orchestral pianist with a number of organizations - Aldeburgh Music, Britten Sinfonia, Gabrieli Consort, Polyphony, Southbank Sinfonia and The Opera Group to name a few.



THE WHITEHALL CHOIR

President: Sir Brian Bender, KCB

Conductor: Paul Spicer

Accompanist: James Longford

After its wartime origins in 1941 as a lunchtime madrigal group in the Board of Trade, the Whitehall Choir has grown and become a permanent and thriving choir, performing regularly at major London venues, and sometimes more widely in the UK. Its repertoire ranges from the Renaissance to the 21st century, and includes challenging unaccompanied pieces as well as larger choral works performed alongside professional soloists and orchestral musicians. Paul Spicer's appointment as Conductor and Musical Director has continued and enhanced the Choir's regular contribution to the London music scene. Most recently our programme has included Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Haydn's *Imperial Mass* at St John's, Smith Square, Rachmaninov's *Vespers* at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* at the Cadogan Hall, and the Fauré *Requiem* at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. In 2007 the Choir also went on tour in Toulouse, France where they performed a varied programme two separate venues. In 2006 the Choir performed the London premiere of Paul Spicer's *The Deciduous Cross* along with Bruckner's *Mass in E Minor* at St John's, Smith Square, and both works feature on the Choir's recent (January 2007) CD recording available to purchase from our website.

If you would like to sing with the Whitehall Choir please visit our website www.whitehallchoir.org.uk, or alternatively contact Nicola Kirkup 020 7215 6566 (daytime only) for details. Should places be available in the choir, membership is subject to a short audition. Registered Charity no. 280478.

Sopranos

Joanna Bradley
Hilary Davies
Imogen Davies
Ruth Eastman
Jacky Erwteman
Rebecca Gill
Kate Goulden
Fiona Graph
Shelley Haley
Katherine Herzberg
Claire Johnston
Margaret Lauder
Leane Mercier-Tardif
Fiona Murray
Simone Nauerth
Lesley Raymond
Rachel Salisbury
Ruth Soroko
Yvette Street
Vicky Sweetman
Sue Vincent
Joanna Worrell

Altos

Helen Audaer
Rose Chandler
Tamsin Cousins
Miranda Douce
Sam Foley
Penny James
Kate Mole
Jean Orr
Marion Paul
Caroline Price
Penny Prior
Moira Purkiss
Jean Robinson
Claire Short
Liz Walton
Lis Warren

Tenors

Patrick Haighton
Ken Holmes
Simon Lancaster
Ashley Marshfield
Philip Pratley
Danny Tomkins
Jonathan Williams

Basses

Chris Gotto
Laurence Grace
Richard Grafen
Michael Growcott
Michael Hope
Martin Humphreys
Andrew Hyde
Simon Lawson
Keith Long
William Longland
Roland Lubett
Brendan O'Keeffe
Malcolm Todd
David Wedmore
Ian Williamson

*The Choir is very grateful for the support that it continues to receive from the
Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.*

WHITEHALL CHOIR COMMITTEE 2007/08

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Mr John Warren
Capt. B. V. Woodford, CBE, RN

For further details about Friends of Whitehall Choir, please email friends@whitehallchoir.org.uk

WHITEHALL CHOIR – FUTURE PROGRAMME

MONTEVERDI: 1610 VESPERS
Thursday 10 April, 2008
Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, W1

ENGLISH SECULAR MUSIC
Monday 7 July 2008
The Banqueting House, Whitehall

If you would like to be kept informed of Whitehall Choir initiatives and events, please sign up for our "e-alerts" via the website – www.whitehallchoir.org.uk .

ANTON BRUCKNER MASS IN E MINOR
PAUL SPICER THE DECIDUOUS CROSS



WHITEHALL CHOIR
WITH THE BRANDENBURG SINFONIA
CONDUCTED BY PAUL SPICER



During 2007 the Whitehall Choir produced a CD, featuring the first recorded performance of Paul Spicer's *The Deciduous Cross*. On this disc the Choir has also recorded Bruckner's *Mass in E minor*. The CD is on sale via our website www.whitehallchoir.org.uk.

"...instrumental writing which is assured, inventive and colourful...a performance which is committed and compelling..." Organists' Review, October 2007.

"...Definitely recommended!" Bruckner Journal, November 2007.