



DUNSFORD SINGERS



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS PROGRAMME

TVCH Christow

Sat 7 December 7.30pm

(with the Teign Valley Ensemble)

St Mary's Dunsford

Sat 21 December 4pm

**Music: Vivaldi, Joubert, Cornelius,
Handel, Harley, Lake and Moore
.... plus poems and carols**

www.dunsfordsingers.co.uk

CONDUCTOR – Tim Pithers

Tim Pithers is a conductor and musical director based in Exeter, Devon. He is passionate about community and student music-making and firmly believes that classical music should be made as accessible as possible to performers and audiences alike.

He has spent the past year studying conducting with Denise Ham at the London Conducting Academy and has participated in masterclasses with distinguished guest tutors. He has been tutored by Dominic Grier and Rodolfo Saglimbeni at the George Hurst Conductors 'Course at Sherborne Summer School of Music and at the Girton Conducting Course in Cambridge. Tim undertook his degree in Music and French at the University of Exeter where he studied violin with Mary Eade, composition with Joe Duddell and specialised in musical direction.

Tim enjoys working with ensembles of varying degrees of experience and aims to develop ambitious objectives for amateur groups. As well as holding the role of Musical Director of the Dunsford Singers, he is also Conductor of the Exeter University Symphony Orchestra, Exeter University Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Dartmouth Orchestra and EX4 Chamber Orchestra.

ACCOMPANIST – Carol Galton

Carol Galton has lived and worked in Devon for the past 36 years. She was born in South Africa where she completed a Masters in Philosophy before coming to the UK to continue as a postgraduate student. At the same time she continued piano and cello studies and received a teaching diploma from the Royal College of Music. She spent 20 years as a primary school teacher in Exeter. In her role as music coordinator she was involved with children's music making at all levels. She now teaches piano and cello, and accompanies instrumentalists and singers, alongside performing. She divides her spare time between vegetable growing, playing chamber music with local musicians and playing cello in the Devon Philharmonic Orchestra.

Welcome: Giles Frampton

Poem 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' by Jan Middleton

Gloria by Antoni Vivaldi (1678-1741)

An absolute favourite with singers and audiences all over the world, this choral masterpiece is full of distinctive melodies and beautiful rhythms, and seems to personify rejoicing. It presents the traditional Gloria from the Latin mass in twelve varied, cantata-like settings. Dating from about 1716, Vivaldi wrote it for the female choir and instrumentalists of the Ospedale della Pieta, an important charitable institution in Venice, where he worked as a music master. For two centuries after his death, the Gloria lay undiscovered until the late 1920s, when it was found buried among a pile of forgotten Vivaldi manuscripts. However, it was not performed until September 1939. The rest, as they say, is history ...

Solists: Hazel Linney, Julie Cooney, Jan Middleton (Dunsford) Jo Jenkin

Chorus: Gloria in excelsis Deo

Chorus: Et in terra pax hominibus

Soprano Duet: Laudamus te

Chorus: Gratias agimus tibi

Soprano Solo: Domine Deus

Chorus: Domine Fili unigenite

Chorus and Alto Solo: Domine Deus, Agnus Dei

Chorus: Qui tollis pecata mundi

Contralto Solo: Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris

Chorus: Quoniam tu solus sanctus

Chorus: Cum sancto spiritu

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you. We give you thanks for your great glory. O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the Only Begotten Son. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Heavenly King, only Begotten Son who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us; who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; who sittest at the right hand of God, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy, thou only art Lord, thou only art the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen

INTERVAL with Raffle

Audience Carol: 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:

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:

Original Latin, attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

There Is No Rose: John Joubert (1927 - 2019) composed this exquisite piece in 1954

The lyrics are from the early fifteenth century poem, when England was a Roman Catholic country. It celebrates the Virgin Mary, speaking of how heaven and earth meet in the 'little space' of her womb, and weaving the everyday English of the common people with formal Latin of the Church. Christian devotion has long used the rose as representative of Mary's beauty. The recitation of the 'Ave Maria' was popularly called a rosarium, from which we get the word 'rosary'. Mary is also described as a 'mystical rose without thorns'; the red rose a symbol of her love; a white rose symbolising her purity.

Res Miranda; a thing to be wondered at

Paresforma: of equal form (Jesus is God in persons three)

Gaudeamus: let us rejoice

Transeamus : let us be changed (by following Christ)

The Three Kings: Peter Cornelius (1824-1874) The German composer Cornelius set his own carol for a bass soloist against Philip Nicolai's (1556-1608) hymn 'How Brightly Shines the Morning Star'. Cornelius was a little confused, as he thought it was about the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Three Kings to Jesus, when actually the hymn is about the Advent Star, an allegory for the arrival of Jesus. Never mind – it's beautiful song and the soloist is our very own **John Sawyer**.

Messiah Choruses: First performed in 1742, and sung by a choir not much bigger than the Dunsford Singers, Handel's famous oratorio tells the story of Jesus' Nativity, Passion, Resurrection and Ascension. We have chosen to sing two tuneful and energetic choruses from Part One. ***And the Glory of the Lord*** announces the revelation of God's glory in a confident, affirmative way, setting the scene for the story of Jesus' birth. ***His Yoke is Easy*** concludes the 'Christmas' section; the words offer a sense of relief, release and togetherness for those who choose to follow Him.

Reading *The Cultivation of Christmas Trees* by TS Eliot 1954 Giles Frampton

The poet advocates that as we grow older we should strive to preserve the innocence, simplicity and wonderment with which a child regards Christmas. He warns us that ageing will bring fatigue and tedium into our lives but our accumulated memories of the annual emotion of wonderful Christmases may bring us great joy. He offers a timely reminder that the incarnation of Jesus foreshadows his death and Christian belief in his return to Earth.

Alpha And Omega by Bee Harley: Bee Harley is an Exeter-based composer who has written many beautiful pieces. She often takes extracts from poems and adds her special musical magic to create atmospheric and memorable compositions. In this song she has taken the last, powerful six lines of *The Cultivation of Christmas Trees* and works them into something profoundly moving.

I Believe in Father Christmas was composed in 1975. Greg Lake said that he wrote it in protest at the commercialisation of Christmas. The lyricist Peter Sinfield described the song as 'a picture postcard Christmas with morbid edges', and said that his words were about a loss of innocence and childhood belief. In between verses, the 'lalalalal' riff comes from Prokofiev's 'Troika' or 'Sleigh Ride'. Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' kept it from being the 1975 Christmas Number One. Greg Lake told *The Guardian* "It's lovely getting the old royalty cheque every year but it's not enough to buy my own island in the Caribbean."

**Reading: *Another Night Before Christmas* by Carol Ann Duffy
Jo Macdonald, Lorraine Hart and Ray Mallett**

We hope that this lovely poem will offset any cynicism about Father Christmas...

Audience Carol: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven 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.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen 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 us second birth.
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

An Irish Blessing : **Dr James E Moore Junior (1951-2022)** was an American black composer working in Ohio and then Vienna. He arranged this lovely song in 1987, using the traditional Irish Celtic blessing of wishing someone well in their journey through life. References to the sun, rain, wind, stars, flowers and storms create a profound connection to Nature and yet also reference God's mercy and the Holy Spirit. We hope it sends you on your way into the Christmas season with a sense of peace and goodwill to all.



Dunsford Singers Christmas Choir:

Sopranos:

Julie Cooney, Ruth Frampton, Jeanie Honey, Daphne Leversedge, Hazel Linney, Jo Macdonald, Jan Middleton, Diana Petit, Mary Sansom, Verity Stiff, Ros Tripp
Mari Turner.

Altos:

Jo Anderson, Bryony Bushell, Barbara Cross, Jo Jenkin, Kath Keating, Erica Lee, Marie McGahey, Leslie Pearman, Liz Robin, Sandra Swinger, Toria Wimpenny.

Tenors:

Steve Cook, Giles Frampton, Lorraine Hart, Francis Leversedge, Ray Mallett, Mike Wimpenny.

Basses:

Gerald Battersby, Peter Goodchild, Don Oliver, John Sawyer, Jan Traylen.

Teign Valley Ensemble (7 December only):

Violin 1: Sophie Jesson (leader), Mary Trafford

Violin 2: Anna Li, Hannah Bradley

Viola: Laura Parfitt, Toni del Mar

Cello: Amye Farrell, Catherine Sherwin

Trumpet: Nona McIntosh

Oboe: Charlie Gershinson

Future Dates:

Summer rehearsals 2025 begin on Monday 20 January 2025 in Dunsford Village Hall - 7.30pm-9:00pm.

Concert in **St Mary's Church, Dunsford** at 7:30pm on **Saturday 7 June 2025**

Concert in **St David's Church, Exeter** at 7.30pm on **Saturday 14 June 2025**

(both these concerts will include the Hummel Mass in D)

Come and sing with us!

DUNSFORD SINGERS



WWW.DUNSFORDSINGERS.CO.UK
www.facebook.com/dunsfordsingers/

WHAT DID YOU DO THIS YEAR?!

FILLED MY LUNGS
MAXIMISED MY OXYGEN INTAKE
CORRECTED MY POSTURE
LEARNED TO CONTROL MY DIAPHRAGM
RELAXED AND IMPROVED MY MOOD
WORKED MY NUMERACY
IMPROVED MY LANGUAGES
LISTENED TO OTHERS
CHALLENGED MY BRAIN
FOCUSSED ON TEAMWORK
LAUGHED WITH FRIENDS
MADE MISTAKES AND IT WAS OK
NO REALLY!

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MAESTRO! TIM PITHERS

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