

Dunsford Singers

A Teign Valley Choir
and

The Teign Valley Ensemble

MESSE DE MINUIT

sur des Airs de Noël

Marc-Anthoine Charpentier

and

CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Conductor: Tim Pithers
Accompanist: Carol Galton

Welcome

On behalf of Dunsford Singers, welcome to this Christmas concert supported by the delightful Teign Valley Ensemble. We aim to engender your fine Christmas spirit with the Charpentier and to encourage you to join us in singing lustily along with some beautiful carols.

Francis Leversedge, Chairman

Sunday 3rd December 2023, St Mary's Church, Dunsford

Refreshments will be served by choir in the pews at the interval.

Saturday 9th December 2023, Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow

You have been encouraged to bring a winter picnic with you. Refreshments will be available at the interval.

Messe de Minuit sur des Airs de Noël by Marc-Anthoine Charpentier

French composer, Marc-Anthoine Charpentier, lived from 1643-1704 during the reign of King Louis XIV, the Sun King. Early, he spent time in Italy and brought that influence back to France. He was one of the most prolific and versatile Baroque composers of his time.



Aged around 27, Charpentier was retained by the influential noblewoman Marie de Lorraine, Duchesse de Guise. He enjoyed her patronage for almost 20 years and also composed secular music at her behest.

During the 1690s he was Maître de Musique at the Jesuit Church of St Louis in the Marais district of Paris. He composed this Messe de Minuit in 1694 aged 51. Music in the Jesuit Church was understood to be the conduit through which the listener comes closer to God and stirs the emotions of the

listener. With his experience of secular music and the Jesuit aim of inspiring emotions, Charpentier constructed the Messe de Minuit using the themes of a number of well-known French carols, the first sacred mass of its kind. Some carols were secular (controversial at that time) but of a long tradition and so tolerated. In 1698, he was appointed by Louis XIV as director of music at the magnificent Sainte-Chapelle du Palais in Paris.

Charpentier plays with the themes from 11 French carols:

Kyrie: “Joseph est bien marié”

Christe: “Or nous dites; Marie”

Last Kyrie: “Une jeune pucelle”

Gloria: “Les bourgeois de Châtre”

“Ou s’en vont ces gais bergers”

Credo: “Vous qui désirez sans fin”

“Voici le jour solennel de Noël”

“A la venue de Noël”

Sanctus: “O Dieu, que n’étais-je en vie”

Agnus Dei: “A minuit fut fait un réveil”

The themes are echoed by organ and instruments which also include carol “Laissez paître vos bêtes”.

First Half Programme

**Once in Royal David's City
Arr Mann/Willcocks
(Choir)**

Messe de Minuit sur des Airs de Noël

Marc-Anthoine Charpentier

READING

**O Little Town of Bethlehem
Arr Armstrong
(Audience)**

Interval

Refreshments and Raffle

Second half programme

**It Came upon the Midnight Clear
Arr Willcocks (Audience)**

**Adam Lay Ybounden
Peter Warlock (Choir)**

**O Little One Sweet
JS Bach (Choir)**

READING

**As with Gladness, Men of Old
Arr Willcocks (Audience)**

**Sans Day Carol
Arr Rutter (Choir)**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Arr Willcocks (Audience)**

READING

**Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
Elizabeth Poston (Choir)**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Arr Willcocks (Audience)**

DUNSFORD SINGERS CHOIR (soloists in bold):

Sopranos: Julie Cooney, Ruth Frampton, Daphne Leversedge, Hazel Linney, Sarah Maybin, Jan Middleton, Diana Petit, Mary Sansom, Verity Stiff, Ros Tripp, Mari Turner

Altos: Jo Anderson, Bryony Bushell, Jo Jenkin, Kath Keating, Erica Lee, Marie McGahey, Leslie Pearman, Liz Robin, Juliet Speed, Toria Wimpenny

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

Bass: Gerald Battersby, Peter Goodchild, Don Oliver, John Sawyer

TEIGN VALLEY ENSEMBLE

Flute: Robert Stephenson and Hester Somerville

Violin: Natalie Leung and Hannah Bradley

Viola: Serena Stephenson and Deborah Hamilton,

Cello: Holly Molyneux

Basso Continuo (on cello):

Isabelle Woolcott (3rd December)

Amye Farrell (9th December)

Keyboard: Carol Galton

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Tim 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 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 has studied conducting with Denise Ham, Dominic Grier and Rodolfo Saglimbeni at the George Hurst Conductors' Course at Sherborne Summer School of Music and at the newly established Girton Conducting Course. He is currently undertaking the year-long conducting programme at the London Conducting Academy with Denise Ham. He 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 and Exeter University Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Dartmouth Orchestra and EX4 Chamber Orchestra.

ACCOMPANIST

Carol 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.

FUTURE CONCERT DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 8th June 2024, TVCH, Christow at 7.30pm

Saturday 15th June 2024, St Mary's, Dunsford at 7.30pm

Hiawatha's Wedding Feast by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

The Sprig of Thyme by John Rutter

Dunsford Singers

A friendly and inclusive Teign Valley Choir warmly invite you to

 **SING WITH US!** 

Rehearsals for the summer begin Monday 22nd January 2024
7.30pm Dunsford Village Hall
See our website or Facebook for more information and contact
details.

<http://www.dunsfordsingers.co.uk>
<https://www.facebook.com/dunsfordsingers/>