

# Programme

## TRUMPET FANFARE: Benjamin Britten (1917-1936) \* Fanfare for St Edmundsbury

Trumpet: Brian Jones, Alasdair Harvey, Gareth Flett

Britten's fanfare for three trumpets was written in 1959 for a Pageant of Magna Carta at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. Three fanfares, each in a different key, are heard separately before all combine in an emphatic finish.

## WINTER CHOIR: John Joubert (1927-2019) \* Torches

This joyful carol, with its folk-like, dotted-rhythm melody and powerful organ chords, has become a Christmas favourite. It was written in 1951 by the South African-born British composer and has since received hundreds of performances worldwide.

## NØ BOYS: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) \* Es ist ein' ros' entsprungen (arr. Michael Leavitt)

'A rose has sprung up'. The image of the rose was a popular Christmas symbol in medieval times. The single-line tune to this anonymous poem appeared in a German hymn collection in 1599 and was harmonised in 1609 by the German composer and organist Michael Praetorius.

## CAMERATA: Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) \* Largo from 'Winter', The Four Seasons

Each of Vivaldi's four concertos is prefaced by a sonnet portraying the delights and difficulties of the respective season. This movement is described as 'passing peaceful, contented days by the fire while the rain outside pours down'. The pattering of raindrops is portrayed by the *pizzicato* strings under the solo violin's flowing melody.

## CAMERATA: Andrew Woodward (b. 1968) \* Midwinter Sea

Reader: Lorraine Bruce

### Midwinter Sea

Cold streaks of air  
filled with stinging bitter tears  
charge on under a  
sliver of ice – new moon.

White sea spray  
fragments on unforgiving rocks  
and patters  
like pearls  
scattered from a torn thread.

Waves pile up like broken promises.  
Each one reaching deeper  
then falling back,  
leaving silver shadows  
on the layers of cold stone,  
waiting for Spring and sea pinks.

Lorraine Bruce

A setting for tenor, oboe and string trio of a poem by Lorraine Bruce, composed for Words into Music, a joint project between Orkney Camerata and the GMB Fellowship to celebrate the centenary of George Mackay Brown's birth.

"My piece is a setting of *Midwinter Sea* by Lorraine Bruce. I like her image of the sea at midwinter – quiet and dark, cold and brooding, though the work that inspired her ('The Sea: Four Elegies' from *Winterfold*) is very bleak indeed! In the same way that midwinter brings with it the prospect of warmer, longer days, so Lorraine's poem ends in an optimistic way which I've tried to reflect in the music by letting it end in the major key – 'waiting for Spring and sea pinks'." AW

## WINTER CHOIR: James MacMillan (b. 1959) \* O Radiant Dawn

*O Radiant Dawn* is from the series of Strathclyde Motets written in 2007 by Scotland's pre-eminent composer. Its directness of expression and some harmonic surprises make for an emotionally powerful Advent motet which appeals for the coming of dawn and the imminent birth of Christ.

**WINTER CHOIR: Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) \* Sure on this Shining Night**

Piano:

Morten Lauridsen is one of the most frequently performed American composers of choral music. *Sure on this Shining Night* is a setting for choir and piano of a poem by the American poet James Agee. A warm and lyrical little gem, with soaring moments for the choir, it features Lauridsen's trademark use of harmonic 9ths and 2nds to enrich the chords.

**CAMERATA: Peter Warlock (1894-1930) \* Bethlehem Down**

The reputation of the English composer Peter Warlock rests on a small body of work which includes the *Capriol Suite*, over one hundred songs and small-scale masterpieces such as the carol *Bethlehem Down*. Its lyrical melody and modal harmonies transfer perfectly to string ensemble.

**WINTER CHOIR: Gustav Holst (1874-1934) \* Christmas Day**

Holst's 'Choral Fantasy on Old Carols' was composed in 1910. In this finely crafted little piece Holst combines several favourite carols which are harmonised distinctively and woven together in ingenious counterpoint. 'Good Christian men, rejoice!' provides the central theme, while 'God rest you merry gentlemen' and 'The first Nowell' also make appearances, the latter combining with 'Come ye lofty, come ye lowly' which is set to a traditional Breton tune.

**ORGAN: J. S. Bach (1685-1750) \* In Dulci Jubilo**

Organ: George McPhee

The carol which we heard as 'Good Christian Men, rejoice' originated as the 14<sup>th</sup> century German tune 'In Dulci Jubilo'. Bach's chorale prelude on the tune is one of his most frequently performed organ pieces at Christmas. Composed in the style of a fantasia, the familiar melody is presented in short harmonised phrases which are interrupted by flamboyant improvisatory interludes.

**WINTER CHOIR, CAMERATA, SOLOISTS, ORGAN: G. F Handel (1685-1759) \* excerpts from Messiah**

*Recit:* Comfort ye;

*Aria:* Ev'ry valley

*Chorus:* And the Glory

Pastoral Symphony

*Recits:* And there were shepherds

*Aria:* Rejoice greatly

*Chorus:* Glory to God

*Chorus:* Hallelujah

*Chorus:* Amen

Although performances of Messiah are generally associated with the Christmas season, only Part 1 of Handel's oratorio deals with the prophecies of Christ's birth and the story of the Nativity. Tonight we are performing some of the much-loved music from Part 1 – but could not omit the famous Hallelujah or the great Amen chorus which closes Handel's epic work.

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## Winter Choir

Director: Glenys Hughes

### Sopranos

Gail Anderson  
Sylvia Barnett  
Elizabeth Bown  
Hannah Bown  
Carolyn Chalmers  
Beverley Clubley  
Jane Clouston

Merilyn Francis  
Ishbel Fraser  
Marilyn Gowland  
Thryma Howe  
Catriona Kemp  
Val Kitchen  
Lorraine Littlejohn

Andrea Massey  
Emma Melin  
Caroline Melody  
Patricia Sinclair  
Roella Wilson  
Jane Wishart

### Altos

Marian Ashburn  
Sheila Campbell  
Jane Cooper  
Avril Cromarty  
Cristine Ferguson  
Susan Dejardin  
Liz Flett  
Kate George

Clare Hammond  
Carol Hartmann  
Margaret Hinckley  
Chris Hopkins  
Sally Inkster  
Manda MacDonald  
Emma Maxwell

Sue Palmer  
Jenny Rambridge  
Kate Richmond  
Caroline Robertson  
Lorna Scott  
Gill Smee  
Tina Smith

### Tenors

Russell Aitken  
Jenny Bunning  
Iain Campbell  
Richard Francis  
Graham Garson

Keith Hartmann  
Miriam Landor  
Caitriana McCallum  
Nila McCallum

Bruce Mainland  
Alan Massey  
Rajmund Olah  
Colin Paice

### Basses

Steve Bray  
Keith Brown  
Aly Bruce  
John Butterfield  
Philip Cook

Paul Cooper  
Ian Fraser  
Chris Giles  
Dennis Gowland  
Jan Malesa

Michael Mappin  
George Rendall  
Peter Stephenson  
Cameron Stout  
Leslie Tait

## Orkney Camerata

Artistic Director: Elizabeth Sullivan

### Violin

Elizabeth Sullivan  
Lesley MacLeod  
Elizabeth Duncan

### Viola

Sandy Dennison

### Cello

Valerie Webster

### Double Bass

Gillian Morrison

### Oboe

Yvonne Gray

### Keyboard & Glockenspiel

Lynn Procter



## No Boys

Paul Rendall  
Mark Rendall  
George Rendall  
Iain Tait

1921  
GEORGE  
MACKAY  
BROWN  
2021

THE GEORGE MACKAY BROWN FELLOWSHIP  
gmb



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# Christmas Concert



St Magnus Cathedral  
Sunday 12 December 2021  
5pm & 8pm

Winter Choir \* Orkney Camerata \* Nø Boys

Soprano: Hannah Bown

Tenor: Paul Rendall

Organ: George McPhee

Piano: Iain Campbell \* Peter Stephenson