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Ensemble Rejoyce - Epiphany beyond the sea

Wednesday 24th January, 2024 | 7:30pm Trinity College Chapel

PROGRAMME

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| BENJAMIN BRITTEN
(1913-1976) | Hymn to the Virgin

Hodie Christus natus est
from <i>A Ceremony of Carols</i> |
| GREGORIAN
PLAINCHANT | Ecce advenit dominator Dominus |
| WILLIAM BYRD
(c.1540-1623) | Ecce advenit dominator Dominus |
| GREGORIAN
PLAINCHANT | Omnes de Saba venient |
| ROLAND DE LASSUS
(1532-1594) | Omnes de Saba venient |
| HERBERT HOWELLS
(1892-1983) | Here is the little door |
| GREGORIAN
PLAINCHANT | Surge illuminare Jerusalem |
| WILLIAM BYRD
(c.1540-1623) | Surge illuminare Jerusalem |

GREGORIAN PLAINCHANT	Alleluia vidimus stellam
ETIENNE MOULINIÉ (1599–c.1676)	Magi videntes stellam
GREGORIAN PLAINCHANT	Reges Tharsis
FRANCIS POULENC (1899–1963)	Videntes stellam
GREGORIAN PLAINCHANT	Vidimus stellam
GUILLAUME BOUZIGNAC (c.1587–c.1643)	Noe pastores
JONATHAN WATTS (2001–) after CHARLES TRENET and JACK LAWRENCE	La Mer - Beyond the Sea

PERSONNEL

Rosamund Elias Turner, Joséphine Desalbres soprano
Gabrielle Desalbres, Abigail Horton alto
Liam Lichy-Lightman, David Bick tenor
Kieran Reed, Benedict Harvey bass

About Ensemble Rejoyce

Founded in 2022 by Trinity choral scholar Gabrielle Desalbres and her sister Joséphine, Ensemble Rejoyce is a Franco-British eight-voice ensemble whose core members are current or former

members of the Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge. It aims to strengthen Franco-British friendship by promoting British music in France and vice versa, and by creating its own bilingual music. It has toured France every summer since its creation (Vendée, Pays basque, Landes) and is planning its next tour in Dordogne.

About the programme

A true fusion of British and French vocal polyphony across the centuries, the programme Epiphany beyond the Sea links the British Isles with France in celebration of the feast of Epiphany. This dialogue between French motets, English anthems and bilingual music invites you to embark on a mystical and cultural journey beyond the sea. The Gregorian plainchant forms a reflective narrative link between the pieces and reminds our two nations of their common heritage.

The final piece was written for Ensemble Rejoyce by Jonathan Watts for its 2023 tour to Pays Basque. It revisits Charles Trenet's and Jack Lawrence's masterpieces *La Mer* and *Beyond the Sea*. It is then that those two sailing nations come together to sing a love song to their eternal common ally, the one that links Great Britain and France through their coasts. *La Mer – Beyond the Sea* offers a lighter interpretation of the voyage of the Three Kings of the Nativity story, across lands and oceans.

HYMN TO THE VIRGIN, BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913-1976)

Of one that is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella
Brighter than the day is light
Parens et puella
I cry to thee, thou see to me Lady, pray thy Son for me
Tam pia
That I may come to thee Maria
All this world was forlorn
Eva peccatrice
Till our Lord was y-born
De te genetrice
With ave it went away Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis
The well springeth out of thee
Virtutis.

Lady, flow'r of everything
Rosa sine spina
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King
Gratia divina
Of all thou bear'st the prize Lady, queen of paradise
Electa
Maid mild, mother
Es Effecta

HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST, FROM A CEREMONY OF CAROLS,
BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913-1976)

<i>Hodie Christus natus est</i>	Today is Christ born; today the
<i>hodie Salvator apparuit: hodie</i>	Savior has appeared; today the
<i>in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur</i>	Angels sing, the Archangels re-
<i>Archangeli: hodie</i>	joice;

exsultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluja. today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

ECCE ADVENIT DOMINATOR DOMINUS, GREGORIAN PLAINCHANT FOR THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY

ECCE ADVENIT DOMINATOR DOMINUS, WILLIAM BYRD (c.1540-1623)

Ecce advenit dominator Dominus: et regnum in manu ejus, et potestas, et imperium. Deus, judicium tuum regi da: et justitiam tuam Filio regis. Behold, the Sovereign Lord is coming; kingship, government and power are in his hands. Endow the King with your judgment, O God, and the King's son with your righteousness.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OMNES DE SABA VENIENT, GREGORIAN PLAINCHANT

OMNES DE SABA VENIENT, ROLAND DE LASSUS (1532-1594)

Omnes de Saba venient aurum et thus deferentes et laudem annuntiantes Domini. All they from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense: and shewing forth praise to the Lord.

HERE IS THE LITTLE DOOR , HERBERT HOWELLS (1892-1983)

Here is the little door,
lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more,
but enter with our gift;

Our gift of finest gold.
Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;
Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed,
For each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake,
Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red,
Myrrh for the honored happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
Touched by such tiny hands,
and Oh such tiny feet.

SURGE ILLUMINARE JERUSALEM, GREGORIAN PLAINCHANT
SURGE ILLUMINARE JERUSALEM, WILLIAM BYRD (c.1540-1623)

Surge, illuminare Jerusalem : Arise, be enlightened, O
Quia venit lumen tuum, Et gloria Jerusalem: for thy light is come,
Domini super te orta est. Alleluia. and the glory of the Lord is
risen upon thee. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA VIDIMUS STELLAM, GREGORIAN PLAINCHANT

Alleluia. Vidimus stellam ejus in Oriente, et venimus cum muneribus adorare Dominum. Alleluia. We have seen his star in the East, and we have come with our gifts, to worship the Lord.

MAGI VIDENTES STELLAM , ETIENNE MOULINIÉ (1599-C.1676)

Magi videntes [viderunt] stellam [qui] dixerunt ad invicem hoc signum magni regis est eamus et inquiramus [requiramus] eum et offeramus ei munera aurum thus et myrrham. Alleluia

The magi, seeing [having seen] the star, said, each in turn: "This is the sign of a great king! Let us go and look for him and offer him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh." Alleluia

REGES THARSIS, GREGORIAN PLAINCHANT

Reges Tharsis et insulae munera offerent: reges Arabum et Saba dona adducent: et adorabunt eum omnes reges terrae, omnes gentes servient ei.

The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall pay tribute; the kings of Arabia and of Saba offer gifts; all the kings of the earth shall bow down before him, all nations shall do him service.

VIDENTES STELLAM , FRANCIS POULENC (1899-1963)

Videntes stellam Magi gavisii sunt gaudio magno: et intrantes domum obtulerunt Domino aurum, thus et myrrham.

Seeing the star, the wise men were overwhelmed with great joy; and entering the dwelling, they offered to the Lord gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

NOE PASTORES, GUILLAUME BOUZIGNAC (C.1587-C.1643)

Noe Noe, pastores, cantate Domino canticum novum. Dum silentium tenerent omnia, et nox in suo cursu iter haberet - Gloria ! Gloria !

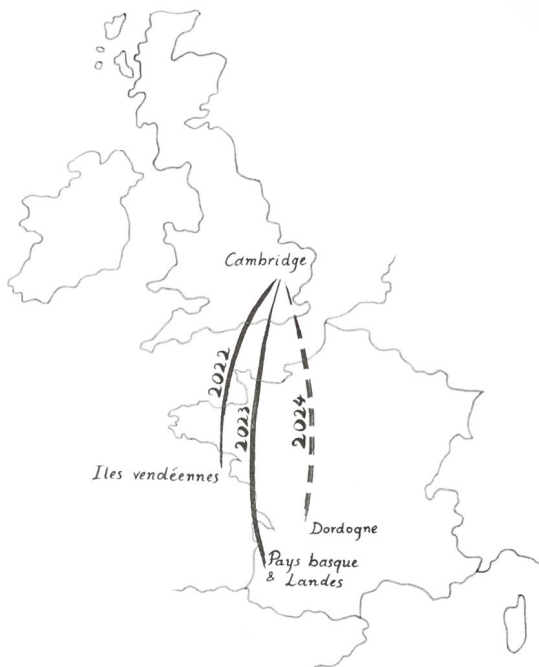
Noe ! O shepherds, sing to the Lord a new song. While everything was silent and the night had its way... Gabriel : "Glory!"

LA MER – BEYOND THE SEA, JONATHAN WATTS AFTER CHARLES
TRENET AND JACK LAWRENCE

<i>La mer, qu'on voit danser</i>	The sea, see it dance
<i>Le long des golfes clairs</i>	Playing along the long shore
<i>A des reflets d'argent, la mer</i>	N' when it showers, the sea
<i>Des reflets changeants sous la pluie</i>	shines bright
	Splaying the light even more

<i>La mer au ciel d'été</i>	The sea, reflects the summer
<i>confond ses blancs moutons</i>	sky
<i>Avec les anges si purs</i>	N' confounds those ivory sheep
<i>La mer, bergère d'azur infinie</i>	Shepherd of blue, you watch
	the view
	Revealing the angels as they
	greet.

It's far, beyond a star,
it's near beyond the moon.
We'll meet, beyond the shore.
I know beyond a doubt,
my heart will lead me there soon.
We'll kiss just as before.
Happy we'll be beyond the sea,
and never again, I'll go sailing.



Since its creation, Ensemble Rejoyce links Great-Britain to France through summer tours.
Next destination: Dordogne, August 2024



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