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The Trinity Singers: Mass at the Crib

Thursday 23rd November, 2023 | 8:30pm Trinity College Chapel

Damien Macedodirector

Jonathan Wattspiano

Jonathan Leeorgan

PROGRAMME

*Please hold any applause until the end of each section of this evening's
programme*

Anthems for Advent

ANDREW CARTER Angelus ad Virginem
(1939–)

KERENSA BRIGGS A Tender Shoot
(1991–)

PAUL MANZ E'en so Lord Jesus
(1919–2009)

FELIX Wachet auf!
MENDELSSOHN from *St. Paul*
(1809–1847)

HYMN Hail to the Lord's Anointed
please stand if you are able and join in singing

LOUIS VIERNE Adagio
(1870–1937) from *Organ Symphony No.3, Op.28*

Mass at the Crib

GEORGE MALCOLM (1917-1997) Missa ad Praesepe
I. Kyrie
II. Gloria
III. Sanctus & Benedictus
IV. Agnus Dei

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem
please stand if you are able and join in singing

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750) Toccata in F Major, BWV 540(I)

Christmas Carols

ARTHUR SULLIVAN (1842-1900) I Sing the Birth

JONATHAN WATTS (c.2002-) Swete was the song the Virgine Soong

HEALEY WILLAN (1880-1968) What is this Lovely Fragrance

YSHANI PERINPANAYAGAM In Bethlehem Above

HYMN The First Nowell
arr. PAUL HALLEY *please stand as you are able and join in singing*

PROGRAMME NOTES

The programme this evening is structured in three parts, beginning with music for Advent that tells the story of the Annunciation and speaks of the coming of Christ, calling us to be watchful and alert. A cappella anthems by Kerensa Briggs and Paul Manz provide reflective moments between the more rousing works by Andrew Carter and Felix Mendelssohn, before we all join together to sing the triumphal, Hail to the Lord's Anointed.

George Malcolm's *Missa ad Presepae*, the "Mass at the Crib", is a mainstay of Midnight Mass in most Canadian Anglican churches. A charming work that remains relatively contained and reserved except for the occasional outburst of joy, I chose it as the centrepiece of this evening's concert to bring a little bit of home across the pond. This section ends as we collectively reflect on the holy birth with O Little Town of Bethlehem.

The final third of this concert features carols for Christmas by a diverse array of composers, sung as if by the side of the crib. A rarely-performed work by Arthur Sullivan opens the section, before we hear a new carol by Trinity College Choir countertenor (and accompanist for this concert) Jonathan Watts. Healey Willan's stunning arrangement of a traditional French carol and a modern composition by Yshani Perinpanayagam follow, before the concert ends with Paul Halley's rousing setting of *The First Nowell*.

HYMN TEXT

Hail to the Lord's Anointed (CRÜGER)

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

2. He comes with succor speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace the herald go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

4. Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

5. O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest:
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever;
That name to us is love.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (FOREST GREEN)

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 wondering love.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
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!

The First Nowell (arr. Paul Halley)

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the king of Israel.

Verse 2: Choir only

Refrain: All

Verse 3: Choir only

Refrain: All

Verse 4: Choir only

Refrain: All

Verse 5: Choir only

Refrain: All

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought;

Refrain: All

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