



5. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!
 Peace on earth and mercy mild
 God and sinners reconciled"
 Joyful, all ye nations rise
 Join the triumph of the skies
 With the angelic host proclaim:
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"



Christ by highest heav'n adored
 Christ the everlasting Lord!
 Late in time behold Him come
 Offspring of a Virgin's womb
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
 Hail the incarnate Deity
 Pleas'd as man with man to dwell
 Jesus, our Emmanuel
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"



Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Son of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings
 Ris'n 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 them second birth
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"



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The Dalkeith Singers - Charity No. SC032339




Dalkeith

Singers

Conductor
Cole Bendall

Special Guests

The Newtongrange Junior Silver Band

Christmas Concerts December 2014

Friday, December 12th, 7.30pm Newtongrange Parish Church
 Saturday, December 13th, 7.30pm St. Nicholas Buccleuch Church, Dalkeith.

supporting



Welcome!

Once again it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Christmas concerts of the Dalkeith Singers. These concerts mark the start of a new era for the Singers, being the first under the baton of our new Musical Director, Cole Bendall. Back in January our previous conductor, Norman Adam, informed the choir that he had decided to step down from being our Musical Director at the end of the session. We at once began the process appointing his successor, anxious as to whether we could find someone as good to fill his shoes. The selection and appointment process ended with Cole being appointed and I'm sure you'll agree by the end of the concert tonight that we've managed to get ourselves a "good 'un"! We are hugely grateful to Norman for all he did for us during his time as our conductor. Many audience members have commented how much the quality of the sound the choir made improved over the years under him and we thank him warmly for all the hard work he put in during his time with us.

Cole comes to us with a very impressive pedigree. He graduated with First Class Honours in Music from Aberdeen University in 2012 where he had won the James Lobban Conducting Scholarship with the Aberdeen Bach Choir and the Derek Ogston Music Scholarship for Tenor Voice. He has just embarked upon a Masters degree at Edinburgh University, prior to which he worked as an administrator with the SCO and the SCO chorus. Already the choir are benefitting from his energy and enthusiasm and are looking forward to some of the exciting plans he has for the future.

However, I must also sadly record the passing of one of the founder members and driving forces behind the Dalkeith Singers, Jeff Aldridge. Jeff died unexpectedly while on holiday in Portugal in the summer. Les McEwan, who spoke at Jeff's memorial service, has contributed a condensed version of what he said about Jeff which you'll find on page 4 in this programme. We all acutely miss Jeff's presence, his wise counsel, but above all his cheerful good nature and humour. By way of a lasting memorial to Jeff, we are looking to publish some of the many works he wrote for the choir over the years. I hope to be able to give more information about this project at the Spring concerts in May.

On behalf of all the Dalkeith Singers, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Andrew Watt,
Chairman.

Newtongrange Silver Band Youth Initiative.

We warmly welcome as our guest artists tonight the Newtongrange Silver Band Youth Initiative. There has been a brass band in Newtongrange for over 100 years. To keep that tradition going the Youth Initiative was formed two years ago. The children in the band are aged between 9 and 12 and come from Midlothian, Edinburgh and the Borders. Most of the children get lessons at school however there are also some who get lessons from the adults who come along to help. The band support local events and have recently competed at contests in Perth and Innerleithen



4. 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 virgins womb
Very God, Begotten not created,
*O come, let us adore Him,
etc.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, In the highest
*O come, let us adore Him,
etc. ...*



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Christmas starts with Christ





3. In the Bleak Midwinter.



In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air -
But only His mother In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him — Give my heart.



Coming in 2015...



*Faure's
Requiem*

*Friday 8th May
Saturday 9th May.*

To-night's performance.

On a cold, bleak Spring evening earlier this year, as part of the final stage of the selection process, I was fortunate enough to get twenty minutes to conduct the singers you see tonight and it turned the chills I was feeling into glorious warmth. Since then, it's been a pleasure to have been named Musical Director of the Dalkeith Singers, to feel their passion and joy of singing and to help prepare them for tonight's concert which features Christmas classics as well as wonderful modern musical settings of the Christmas message.

A trio of pieces, the first one by the Estonian Arvo Pärt, then a couple by the well known Western composers, John Tavener and Morten Lauridsen highlight the birth of Jesus Christ through wonderfully evocative musical means; where the music of Rutter, Mathias and others bring out further happiness of the Christmas season - look out for the interactive section of The Twelve Days of Christmas!

We are delighted to pay tribute to our dear friend, Jeff Aldridge, by presenting one of his pieces in his honour and memory; we are also delighted to welcome two brand new pieces to the choir; one by Joan Cumming whose music has been described in The Scotsman as "full of warmth, optimism and compassion" and one, which will be having its world premiere at these performances, by Peter Davis who is one of the University of Aberdeen's strongest undergraduate compositional talents.

The singers have worked tremendously hard to prepare a programme that will entertain, challenge and inspire. We hope you enjoy the concert and join us in celebrating this season of goodwill and gladness!

Cole Bendall
Musical Director

The charity we are supporting at these concerts is ...



MYPAS (Midlothian Young People's Advice Service)

MYPAS is an award winning voluntary sector organisation, based in Dalkeith working with young people (12 to 21 years of age) across Midlothian and in all its Secondary Schools, providing a wide range of creative services to improve young people's health and wellbeing. The organisation focuses on young people's sexual health, mental health and substance use needs. The sexual health service works on a drop-in basis, which young people access for a wide range of clinical and educational interventions. The mental health service provides young people with counselling, family counselling and art therapy. The MYPAS drug and alcohol service provides one to one support for young people who are experiencing problems with substance use and does educational group work with young people around the issue of substance use. Street work is also undertaken across Midlothian in partnership with Midlothian Council and Y2K making contact with over 2000 young people in their own locales. MYPAS has received many accolades UK wide and are supported by some major funders, including Children in Need and the Big Lottery. However, in order for them to continue their support to young people and families they rely on the generous donations of individuals and businesses.

Jeffrey Paul Aldridge (1938 – 2014)



Jeff, a founder member of the Dalkeith Singers in 1974, was actively involved with the choir until his untimely death in June this year. He fulfilled almost every role. He was a singer first of all, an occasional soloist, and the leader of the Basses. He also sometimes acted as accompanist – often when his wife Pauline was singing a soprano solo. He regularly stepped in as conductor in the early days and also led and conducted part-rehearsals.

He was the Chairman of the Choir Committee for a number of years until he became Musical Director – the position he filled until 2000 when he reverted to the back row with the Basses. Together with Pauline, always at his side (or him at hers when she was Committee Chair), he promoted links with other choirs and secured our involvement in local and national singing events in venues large – St Giles and Durham Cathedrals, the Usher Hall - and small – Rosslyn Chapel and Dalhousie Castle. They were prime movers of the choir's visits to Dalkeith's twin town Jarnac and they organised a choir tour to Amarante in Portugal in 2004.

Through their considerable energy we – that's several hundred choir members over the choir's lifetime – benefitted from the weekly enjoyment of singing together and thereby an enriched social life whilst many of us bonded further to establish life-long friendships. Through Jeff's interest, common sense and commitment the choir grew and has become one of Dalkeith's, and indeed Midlothian's, established institutions.

Jeff also wrote music for the choir - the first of which was performed in 1977. To date we have been able to ascertain that Jeff wrote 14 pieces which were performed by the choir between 1977 and 1989 - five of these were sung at more than one series of concerts. We expect to track down more works and we plan – with Pauline's permission – to publish it as a lasting memorial to his contribution to choral singing. We miss him greatly and remember him with gratitude and affection.

Les McEwan



2. O little town of Bethlehem

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

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

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.





I. Once in Royal David's City,

(Solo) Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

(Choir only) He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

(All) And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us, He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles, like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.



The Dalkeith Singers

Conductor: Cole Bendall



Pianist: Lenora Godwin



Sopranos



Margaret Craig

Pauline Aldridge
Lesley Ballantyne
Patricia Bateman
Mary Brough
Alice Cavaye
Lilian Davidson
Kathleen Donald
Gilleoin Finlay-Coull
Irene Fox
Audrey Galloway
Natalie Harmsworth
Mary Holgate
Angela McErlain
Catherine McEwan
Shona Murphy
Julie Purves
Hilary Richardson
Elaine Robertson
Ruth Smith
Agnes Thorburn
Peggy Traquair
Clare Underwood

Altos



Stella Allan

Christine Barraclough
Claire Blakey
Liz Blows
Esther Brown
Ivy Campbell
Ros Campbell
Moira Dryden
Fiona Edwards
Bridget Gillespie
Jane Halliday
Linda Joy
Helen Main
Rhoda McCallum
Margaret Melrose
Dorothy Reilly
Jennifer Phibbs
Carine Roberts
Fiona Saxby
Sylvia Shearer
Susan Simpson
Anne Williams
Moira Stevenson
Di Williams
Jane Wilson

Tenors



Les McEwan

Matthew Blair
John Buchanan
Bill Elliot
Anne Mackay
John Miller
Robert Simpson
Donna Thomson
Mitch Thomson

Basses



David Richardson

David Barraclough
Robin Donald
Jack Kirk
Jim Linn
Mick Nugent
Andrew Watt



Programme



First half

Carol for all: *Once in Royal David's City*
(NB verse 1—Solo, verse 2 choir only, verse 3—6 All)

Choir

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Bogoroditse Djevo | Arvo Part |
| 2. | Mother of God, Here I Stand | John Tavener |
| 3. | O Magnum Mysterium | Morten Lauridsen |

Carol for all: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Choir

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 4. | Adam Lay Ybounden | Boris Ord |
| 5. | We Three Kings | Jeffrey Aldridge |
| 6. | Do You Hear What I Hear? | Regney/Shayne |
| 7. | Brightest and Best (Midlothian Premiere) | Joan Cumming |
| 8. | Ring Christmas Bells | Trad. Ukranian |

The work of **MYPAS**

INTERVAL

during which refreshments are available and there will be an opportunity to donate to MYPAS

Christmas starts with Christ

Second half

Newtongrange Junior Silver Band

Carol for all: *In the Bleak Mid-winter*

Choir

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| 9. | In the Bleak Mid-winter | Harold Darke |
| 10. | In the Bleak Mid-winter (World Premiere) | Peter Davis |

Carol for all: *O Come all ye faithful*

Choir

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------|
| 11. | Nativity Carol | John Rutter |
| 12. | Sir Christemas | William Mathias |
| 13. | The Twelve Days of Christmas | arr. John Rutter |
- with a little help from the audience!!!
(N.B. It's 12 drummers drumming, 11 pipers piping, 10 lords a-leaping, 9 ladies dancing, 8 maids a-milking, 7 swans a-swimming, 6 geese a-laying, 5 gold rings, 4 calling ... well you know the rest!)

Carol for all: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

