



Christmas starts with Christ



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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The Dalkeith Singers - Charity No. SC032339

# The Dalkeith Singers

Conductor **Jessica Leary**

*present*

## Carols by Candlelight

*with music by* - Britten  
- Rutter  
- Engelhardt  
- Mendelssohn  
- Thomson  
- Leavitt



**Saturday December 8th, 7.30pm**

**St. Nicholas Buccleuch Church, High St., Dalkeith**

## Welcome !



The Dalkeith Singers welcome you to their Christmas Concert 2018 and trust that you will enjoy tonight's performances. This is definitely my last concert as chair of The Dalkeith Singers and once again I would like to thank the Committee for all their help during my tenure of office.

Our Charity this year is CHAS, the Children and Young People's Cancer Charity and, as you have with previous concert collections, I hope you will support it generously.

In May we will be performing the Brahms Requiem in Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh in a joint concert with The Pentland Singers. Please make a note in your diary now and we look forward to seeing you in Edinburgh on May 4 2019.

On behalf of the choir I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful 2019

*Irene Fox*  
Chairwoman, Dalkeith Singers

## To-night's performance.

I'm delighted to welcome you to our Christmas concert 2018. Capturing the flavour of our "Carols by Candlelight" theme, Britten's atmospheric A Ceremony of Carols forms the bulk of our programme. Largely based on anonymous texts from the 15th and 16th centuries, as a consequence of learning this piece, the Dalkeith Singers can now add a mastery of Medieval English to their numerous talents as a choir! At the time of his writing A Ceremony of Carols, Britten was studying the harp in preparation for writing a harp concerto, and indeed our own performance of the work tonight will be with harp accompaniment. As such, we are thrilled to be joined by our guest harpist tonight, Sharron Griffiths, who will feature alongside the choir in several pieces.



## 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. ...

A date for your diary ...

**Saturday, 4th May 2019**

**Brahms Requiem**

A joint concert with the Pentland Singers from Balerno, accompanied by a chamber orchestra in

**Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh**





### 3. 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  
 Pleased as man with man to dwell  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel  
 Hark! The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the newborn King!"



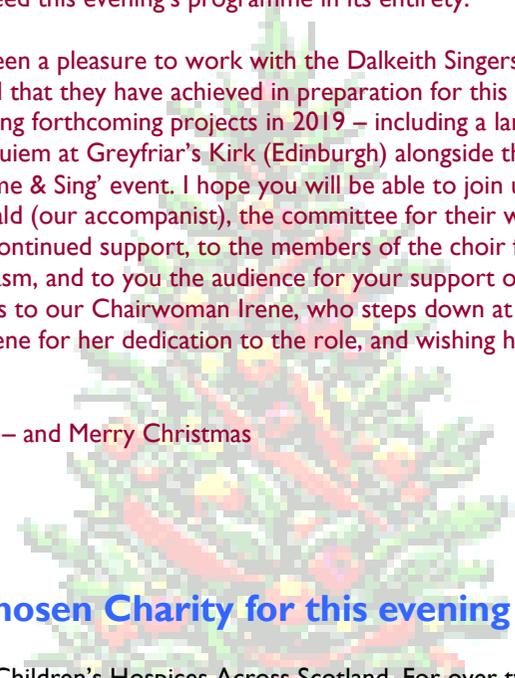
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
 Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all He brings  
 Ris'n with healing in His wings  
 Mild He lays His glory by  
 Born that man no more may die  
 Born to raise the sons of earth  
 Born to give them second birth  
 Hark! The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the newborn King!"



The remainder of our programme includes Faure's hugely popular Cantique de Jean Racine, in addition to more contemporary Christmas arrangements in the latter half. I'm particularly honoured to say that one of these works will be a 'World Premier', having been written especially for The Dalkeith Singers by our very own accompanist, Donald Thomson! I do hope that you enjoy being the first audience to hear Donald's new composition - and indeed this evening's programme in its entirety.

Yet again, it has been a pleasure to work with the Dalkeith Singers this term. I am hugely proud of all that they have achieved in preparation for this evening. I look forward to our exciting forthcoming projects in 2019 – including a large-scale performance of the Brahms requiem at Greyfriar's Kirk (Edinburgh) alongside the Pentland Singers, and our next 'Come & Sing' event. I hope you will be able to join us for these. My thanks go to Donald (our accompanist), the committee for their work behind the scenes and their continued support, to the members of the choir for their ongoing hard work and enthusiasm, and to you the audience for your support of the choir. A final special thanks goes to our Chairwoman Irene, who steps down at the end of this year - many thanks to Irene for her dedication to the role, and wishing her a good 'retirement'.

Enjoy the concert – and Merry Christmas  
*Jessica Leary,*  
 Musical Director



### Our Chosen Charity for this evening ... CHAS

CHAS stands for Children's Hospices Across Scotland. For over twenty years they've been offering a full family support service for babies, children and young people with life-shortening conditions. This includes palliative care, family respite and support – through their hospices, homecare services and hospital presence. They care for children throughout Scotland, and are here for the whole family. Whether you're at home, in hospital, or visiting them at Rachel or Robin House, they'll give you the care and support you need, when you need it. Whether it's donating, fundraising, developing a great business partnership, volunteering, shopping or joining our team, there are many ways you can support children across Scotland with life-shortening conditions. You can find out much more on the CHAS website

[www.chas.org.uk](http://www.chas.org.uk)



Children's Hospices Across Scotland





# The Dalkeith Singers

**Conductor:** Jessica Leary



**Pianist:** Donald Thomson



## Sopranos



### **Kathleen Donald**

Nita Adams  
Pauline Aldridge  
Lesley Ballantyne  
Patricia Bateman  
Mary Brough  
Alice Cavaye  
Lillian Davidson  
Thelma Ellison  
Gilleoin Finlay-Coull  
Irene Fox  
Natalie Harmsworth  
Mary Holgate  
Ida Lugton  
Ann McCarter  
Angela McErlain  
Catherine McEwan  
Shona Murphy  
Margaret Okell  
Peggy Orr  
Hilary Richardson  
Catriona Robertson  
Sylvia Shearer  
Clare Underwood

## Altos



### **Moira Stevenson**

Stella Allan  
Christine Barraclough  
Ivy Campbell  
Margaret Crankshaw  
Moira Dryden  
Fiona Edwards  
Bridget Gillespie  
Rhoda McCallum  
Margaret McMahan  
Dorothy Reilly  
Jennifer Phibbs  
Kate Pollock  
Carine Roberts  
Jane Wilson

## Tenors



### **Les McEwan**

Matthew Blair  
Bill Elliot  
Jack Kirk  
Anne Mackay  
Alan Robertson  
Mitch Thomson

## Basses



### **David Richardson**

David Barraclough  
Robin Donald  
Peter Hoskins  
David Kingston  
Bob Lees  
James Lewis  
Mick Nugent  
John Okell  
Andrew Watt

## 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

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,

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.

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.

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.



*Tonight's soloists ...*

## Sharron Griffiths — Harpist.

Sharron started playing the harp at the age of ten in her native Wales, gaining early experience as principal harpist with the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. She studied harp performance at the Royal Northern College of Music and as a Postgraduate at Trinity College of Music and during this time she won several awards for her playing. Following her studies, Sharron has pursued a successful and varied career firstly in London and currently based in Glasgow.



Sharron has appeared as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician in recitals both on the concert platform, in recording studios and radio broadcasts, playing at many prestigious concert halls all over the World. She works regularly with many international orchestras, including the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra,. She has held harp positions on West End and Touring Musicals and played for many pop and film sessions, including at the famous Abbey Road studio's, and with many famous artists such as Pavarotti, Katherine Jenkins, Alfie Boe and Russell Watson.

Sharron is in great demand as a soloist, and is also a keen chamber musician, being a member of many different ensembles. She also finds time to teach aspiring harpists and lectures at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire in pedal harp; she was co-creator of Scotland's first pedal harp summer school at the Conservatoire, now in its 3rd successful year. She also is available to play at weddings and other such events. You can find full details on her website [www.sharrongriffiths.co.uk](http://www.sharrongriffiths.co.uk)

## Michael Ferguson — Percussion.



Michael's talent was spotted at the tender age of 11 months when it was noticed he could beat a perfect 3/4 time on his high chair with a spoon. He trained with the Ringo Starr Teach Yourself Drumming book, which he was given for his fifth birthday and he graduated 'summa cum loudy'. Since then he has developed a reputation for such powerful performances that some in his audiences have required counselling afterwards. Of his previous appearance with The Dalkeith Singers the Scotsman is reported to have written "Michael's performance had all the grace and fluidity of a spawning salmon combined with the soulful expression of a lovesick tarantula." The Midsommer Gazette wrote "Yet again Ferguson gave a performance full of unexpected surprises and gave interpretation a whole new meaning." He is currently working on a full concerto for kettle drum, teapot, saucepan lids and spoons. Oh, ... he is also Jessica's husband!



# Programme



## First half

1. **Audience Carol:** Once in Royal David's City, (choir only v.1)
2. **Ceremony of Carols** *Benjamin Britten*
  1. Procession
  2. Wolcum Yole
  3. There is no rose
  4. Balulalow
  5. As Dew in Aprille
  6. This Little Babe
  7. Interlude
  9. Spring Carol
  10. Deo Gracias
  11. Procession
3. **Audience Carol:** O Little Town of Bethlehem,
4. **Cantique de Jean Racine** *Gabriel Fauré*

The work of CHAS

## Interval

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

### Interested in joining us ... ?

If the thought of singing magnificent choral music as part of a large choir appeals to you, do have a word with Jessica or any member of the choir about joining us. We rehearse on Thursday evenings in St. Nicholas Buccleuch church hall. There is no audition, but Jessica will happily listen to you and suggest which part would suit you best if you are not sure.

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## Second half

5. **Spirit of the Season** *Glen Ballard/Alan Silvestri arr. Robert Sterling*
6. **Angel's Carol** *John Rutter*
7. **Gaudete** *Michael Engelhardt*
8. **Audience Carol:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing
9. **(World Première)** O Magnum Mysterium *Donald Thomson*
10. **Harp Solo** – Performed by Guest Soloist **Sharron Griffiths**
11. **Silent Night** *Franz Gruber arr. Jackson Berkey*
12. **Audience Carol:** O Come All Ye Faithful,
13. **African Alleluia** *John Leavitt*

## The Dalkeith Singers.

Website [www.dalkeithsingers.org.uk](http://www.dalkeithsingers.org.uk)  
Facebook - [www.facebook.com/dalkeithsingers](https://www.facebook.com/dalkeithsingers)  
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