# TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Winkleigh Singers
with Tom Bayliss, organ
Directed by Roland Smith

19th December 2015
All Saints Parish Church,
Winkleigh
Programme

The Winkleigh Singers

making music

## PROGRAMME

**Messiah** — G F Handel (1685–1759)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Organ* | Sinfony | |
| *Chorus* | And the glory of the Lord | |
| *Accompagnato:* Bass | Thus saith the Lord | *Soloist:* John Smith |
| *Song:* Bass | But who may abide | *Soloist:* John Smith |
| *Chorus* | And he shall purify | |
| *Chorus* | O thou that tellest | |
| *Accompagnato:* Bass | For behold, darkness | *Soloist:* John Smith |
| *Song:* Bass | The people that walked in darkness | *Soloist:* John Smith |
| *Chorus* | For unto us a child is born | |
| *Organ* | Pifa | |
| *Recit.:* Soprano | There were shepherds | *Soloist:* Tina Gladwin |
| *Recit.:* Soprano | And the angel said unto them | *Soloist:* Tina Gladwin |
| *Accompagnato:* Soprano | And suddenly there was with the angel | *Soloist:* Tina Gladwin |
| *Chorus* | Glory to God | |
| *Song:* Soprano | Rejoice greatly | *Soloist:* Tina Gladwin |
| *Chorus* | His yoke is easy | |
| *Chorus* | Hallelujah | |

**It came upon a midnight clear** * — Traditional English Tune, adapted by Arthur Sullivan

INTERVAL

**A child is born in Bethlehem** — Samuel Scheidt (1578–1654)

**God rest you merry, gentlemen** * — English trad. arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

**No sad thought his soul afright** — R Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

**O little town of Bethlehem** * — 18th c. arr. David Willcocks

**O Men from the fields** — Arnold Cooke (1906–2005)

**Rocking** — Czech carol arr. David Willcocks

**Away in a manger** * — Traditional Normandy tune arr. Reginald Jacques

**Myn Lyking** — R R Terry (1865–1938)

**Sussex Carol** * — English trad. carol arr. David Willcocks

**O little one sweet** — Old German tune harmonized by J S Bach (1685–1750)

**Gloucestershire Wassail** * — English trad. arr R Vaughan Williams

**Ave Maria** — Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)

**Blessed be that maid Mary** — English trad. arr. David Willcocks

**Good King Wenceslas** * — Tune from *Piae Cantiones* arr. Reginald Jacques

**O come all ye faithful** * — attr. J F Wade (1711–1786) arr. David Willcocks

**Twelve Days of Christmas** * — Trad folk melody arr. Roland Smith

** Please join in these carols*

**The Winkleigh Singers**

The choir was founded in 1984 after a small notice was posted in Winkleigh Post Office inviting those who were interested to take part in singing madrigals and similar music. A small group then started meeting regularly and, although the original intention was to sing just for the fun of it, the members were keen to have something to work towards. The first ever Winkleigh Singers concert, of Christmas music, was given in December of that year to much local acclaim.

Since that first concert, the choir has sung a vast repertoire of music in all sorts of different places, including the Opera House in Budapest (back staircase), Matthias Templon and the University in the same city, and have been on tour to France on several occasions both in Normandy and the Charente region.

We have been privileged to give several first performances over the years and have performed with some top artists including The British Chamber Orchestra, Devon Baroque, Evelyn Tubb and the 2013 winner of the Kathleen Ferrier Prize, Gareth John.

Over the years the choir has slowly grown to its present size (it has always been the intention for The Winkleigh Singers to be a chamber choir) with members travelling from throughout North Devon for weekly rehearsals. To reflect the catchment area of the choir, we have moved our rehearsal venue to Umberleigh, still always on a Monday evening.

New members are always made most welcome and there are current vacancies for altos, tenors and basses. There is no audition, but a three week trial period needs to be completed for full membership. A reasonable standard of sight-reading, a pleasant voice with the ability to blend, and a positive attitude towards creating high quality music is required.

Future concerts include a complete performance of Handel's Messiah in March 2016 with Devon Baroque. See back page for more details.

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Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**It came upon the midnight clear,**
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

**God rest you merry, gentlemen**,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day;
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,*
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
*O tidings of comfort and joy…*

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessèd babe to find:
*O tidings of comfort and joy…*

But when to Bethlehem they came,
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray:
*O tidings of comfort and joy…*

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
*O tidings of comfort and joy…*

**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 wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may his 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 in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.


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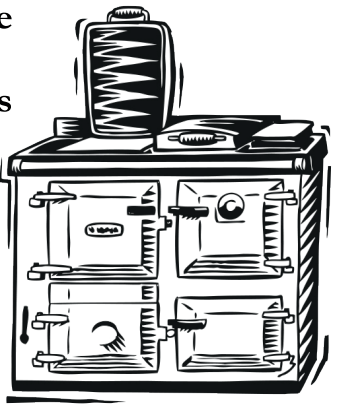

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**Away in a manger,** no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where
he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

**Sussex Carol**

*High voices*
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
*Low voices*
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the new the angels bring —
*High voices*
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
*All*
News of our merciful King's birth.

*Low voices*
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
*High voices*
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
*Choir only*
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

*All*
When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place:
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.

*All*
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.'

**Gloucestershire Wassail**

Wassail, wassail, all over the town!
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown,
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree;
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

So here is to Cherry and to his right cheek,
Pray God send our master a good piece of beef,
And a good piece of beef that may we all see;
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

And here is to Dobbin and to his right eye,
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie,
And a good Christmas pie that may we all see:
With our wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

So here is to Broad May and to her broad horn,
May God send our master a good crop ol corn.
And a good crop of corn that may we all see:
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

And here is to Fillpail and to her left ear,
Pray God send our master a happy New Year,
And a happy New Year as e'er he did see;
With our wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

And here is to Colly and to her long tail,
Pray God send our master he never may fail
A bowl of strong beer; I pray you draw near,
And our jolly wassail it's then you shall hear.

*Choir only*
Come, butler, come fill us a bowl of the best,
Then we hope that your soul in heaven may rest;
But if you do draw us a bowl of the small,
Then down shall go butler, bowl and all.

Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock,
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock!
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin,
For to let these jolly wassailers in.

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*All*
**Good King Wenceslas looked out**,
On the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep, and crisp, and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

*Low voices*
'Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'
*High voices*
'Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By St Agnes' fountain.'

*Low voices*

'Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pine-logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.'

*All*

Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

*High voices*

'Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.'

*Low voices*

'Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.'

*All*

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

**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 Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created:

*O come, let us adore him…*

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…*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him…*

**The Twelve days of Christmas**

On the First day of Christmas my true love sent to me
A Partridge in a Pear Tree.

On the Second day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Two Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

On the Third day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Three French Hens…

On the Fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Four Calling Birds…

On the Fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Five Gold Rings…

On the Sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Six Geese a-Laying…

On the Seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Seven Swans a-Swimming…

On the Eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Eight Maids a-Milking…

On the Ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Nine Ladies Dancing…

On the Tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Ten Lords a-Leaping…

On the Eleventth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Eleven Pipers Piping…

On the Twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me
Twelve Drummers Drumming…


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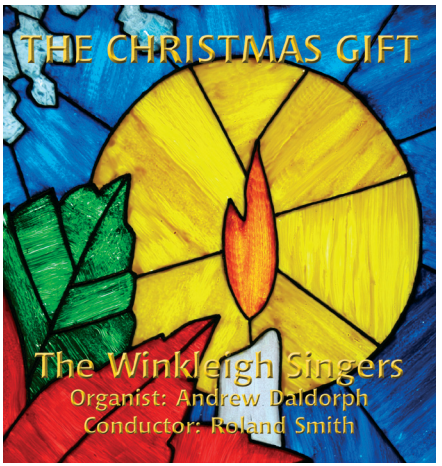


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**Messiah - G F Handel**

Saturday 12th March 2016 at 7.00pm

The Winkleigh Singers with Devon Baroque

St Peter's Church, Paternoster Row, Barnstaple EX31 1BH

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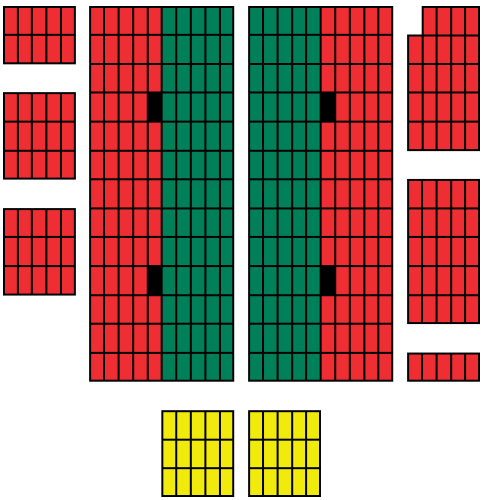

*Seats are unreserved within the colour zones. Red zone seats may have limited visibility. Accompanied under 16s will be in same zone as main ticket holder.*

# G .F. Handel

# MESSIAH

## The Winkleigh Singers

*directed by* Roland Smith

## Devon Baroque

*leader* Persephone Gibbs

| | |
|---|---|
| Hannah Reynolds | *Soprano* |
| Fiona Mackay | *Alto* |
| Nicholas Hawker | *Tenor* |
| Charles Murray | *Bass* |

**St. Peter's Church, Paternoster Row, Barnstaple**

**Saturday 12th March 2016 at 7.00pm**

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