

# Cantabile at Christmas



Saturday 10th December 2011  
Holy Trinity Church, Leeds

# Carols old and new

Sit back and listen while Cantabile sings five traditional carols. Most of these date back hundreds of years; some retain their original harmonies but others have been refreshed in the eighteenth or twentieth centuries.

<b>Chanticleer</b>	<b>William Austin, Martin Shaw</b>
<b>Poverty</b>	<b>traditional Welsh, Caradog Roberts</b>
<b>See amid the Winter's snow</b>	<b>Edward Caswell, R O Morris</b>
<b>How brightly beams the morning star!</b>	<b>Philipp Nicolai, harm J S Bach</b>
<b>O little town of Bethlehem</b>	<b>Phillips Brooks, Sir Joseph Barnby</b>

## A joyful noise

Join with us in these two familiar carols, and echo the psalmist by enjoying the chance to “make a joyful noise” alongside everybody else.

**Silent Night**                      **Joseph Mohr trans Stopford Brooke, Franz Gruber**

*This translation was used before the one most people sing today, beginning “silent night, holy night”. Cantabile will sing the first verse.*

Still the night, holy the night!  
Shepherds first saw the light,  
Heard resounding clear and strong,  
Far and near, the angel-song,  
Christ the Redeemer is here,  
Christ the Redeemer is here.

Still the night, Holy the night!  
Son of God, oh how bright,  
Love is smiling from Thy face!  
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,  
Saviour, since Thou art born!  
Saviour, since Thou art born!

**It came upon a midnight clear**                      **Edmund Sears, arr Arthur Sullivan**

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 Heaven’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 heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessèd angels sing.

But 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 give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## Other traditions

Christmas is celebrated around the world, and this selection gives a taste of some very different traditions. We start with two carols from Germany; the first was harmonised by Johann Sebastian Bach and the second discovered and translated by Samuel Taylor Coleridge then set to music by the twentieth-century Englishman Edmund Rubbra. Four hundred years after Tomás Luis de Victoria died in Spain, we sing two of his liturgical settings – the angel's message telling Mary not to be afraid, and an expression of wonder that animals should see the new-born Christ lying in a manger. We finish with the contemporary Spanish composer Julio Dominguez whose music draws on his twin Basque and Catholic heritages; these two songs both tell of the events of Christmas Eve.

<b>O Jesulein süß</b>	<b>Samuel Scheidt, harm J S Bach</b>
<b>The Virgin's cradle hymn</b>	<b>trans Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Edmund Rubbra</b>
<b>Ne timeas, Maria</b>	<b>Tomás Luis de Victoria</b>
<b>O magnum mysterium</b>	<b>Tomás Luis de Victoria</b>
<b>Da rosa rosina</b>	<b>trad Basque, arr Julio Dominguez</b>
<b>Medianoite máxica</b>	<b>Anxo Abalde, Julio Dominguez</b>

# Finale

We finish with an old favourite for everybody to join in. There is some dispute as to its possibly royal origins – have a look for “adeste fideles” in wikipedia.

**O come, all ye faithful**

**attributed to John Francis Wade**

*This original version of the music is slightly different from the one usually heard nowadays. Again, Cantabile will sing the first verse.*

True God of true God,  
Light of light eternal,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father,  
Begotten, not created:

Oh come, let us adore Him,  
Oh come, let us adore Him,  
Oh come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above,  
Glory to God  
In the highest:

At the end of the concert, please join us for refreshments. If you might like to sing with Cantabile regularly, just talk to any member about what's involved.

## For your diary

**Open rehearsal**

Monday 9th January 2012, 7.30

If you would be interested in joining Cantabile, or would just like to see how we prepare music, then please join us for the evening. We'll be working on new pieces that will form part of our Garland of Song programme and you are welcome to come along and join in or to just sit, listen and enjoy.

Chapel Allerton Methodist Church, Town Street, Leeds LS7 4NB

**A Garland of Song**

Saturday 26th May 2012, 7.30

Echoes of the first Elizabethan age, including extracts from *The Triumphs of Oriana* and *A Garland for a Queen*, and the choral dances from Benjamin Britten's *Gloriana*.

Northern Ballet, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7PA

[www.cantabile-leeds.org.uk](http://www.cantabile-leeds.org.uk)