

Members of the Promenade Junior

Cristian Buttaci	Lauren O'Donnell	George Guise
Olivia Maestri	Carlos Montiero	Katherine Shore
Jason Huang Woolger		

Members of the Promenade Youth Choir:

Daisy Ardon	Celine Barghouth	Isabella Bartlett
Paige Borg Darcy	Willow Borg Darcy	Lila Cleveland
Molly Cowden	Ruby Cowden	Amelia Cudziková
Robert Cunningham	Thea Dickinson	Charlotte Guise
Matilda Hardcastle	George Hempenstall	Jessica Oldfield
Daisy Shephard	Esme Syme	Emily Williams
Skye Williams	Sophie White	

Anybody interested in joining the **Promenade Choirs** can visit the **Promenade** website www.promenade.org.uk or call Christopher on 07905 006078.

The next choir rehearsal will be on 9th Jan 2023. Our next concert will be on 19th March.

In March 1942 Benjamin Britten was returning to England following three years in the United States. During the voyage the ship berthed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he came across a book of poems in Middle English and some of these he set during the voyage as the 'Ceremony of Carols'. Now classic Christmas work for high voice choirs, it is an unusual setting for three parts and harp. Britten was planning to write a harp concerto and so had been studying the instrument. He had with him a manual on writing for the instrument. The work opens and closes with the choir processing to plainsong (though today we do not process), and the other songs deal in a varied way with the traditional stories surrounding the birth of Christ.

Christopher Field is a former chemistry teacher who was a wonderful baritone singer, winning a scholarship to study in Russia. He happened to have been Christopher Goldsack's chemistry teacher at secondary school, and is remembered fondly for his tuition and his work with his school choir. In his retirement, Christopher Field runs choral courses, but also enjoys composition. The two Christophers met again by chance, and Christopher Field provided the six songs used tonight for a Promenade concert about ten years ago. They have remained a firm favourite in the Junior Choir repertoire.



Promenade Choirs



A Ceremony of Carols



by Benjamin Britten

and a selection of
carols and other
festive classics



directed by Christopher Goldsack
piano – Camilla Jeppeson
harp - Elin Samuel



St. Mary's Church, Oatlands
4.30pm 4th December 2022

the **RCS**herriffTrust
advancing the arts in Elmbridge



A Ceremony of Carols – Benjamin Britten

1) Hodie

Procession - Alleluia, Christ is born today.

2) Wolkum yole

Welcome all, be ye heavenly king or humble person, and make good cheer. May the New Year bring you many blessings.

3) There is no Rose

In the womb of Mary the fantastic truth of heaven and earth united is made manifest.

4a) That yonge Child

The nightingale's song is hoarse next to Mary's lullaby. Whoever follows the nightingale does wrong.

solo: Emily Williams

4b) Balulalow

A tender lullaby for the infant Jesus.

solo: Thea Dickinson

5) As dew in Aprille

I sing of a pure maiden who searched for her son, King of all Kings. He left her as quietly as the dew in April.

6) This little Babe

With only the innocent weapons of Truth, the Holy Child takes on all the forces of hell.

7) Interlude (Harp)

8) In freezing winter night

See the lowly babe in a manger lies. This stable is his court. Approach and pay homage to your King.

9) Spring Carol

The earth was created for man to enjoy. All nature praises God, and we do likewise.

solos: Charlotte Guise and Esme Syme

10) Deo Gracias

Thanks be to God, for had Adam not taken the apple then our Lady would never have bourn Jesus for our salvation. Therefore we sing.

solos: Matilda Hardcastle and Sophie White

11) Hodie

Recession - Alleluia, Christ is born today.

Once in Royal David's city

solo: Cristian Buttaci

Away in a Manger

Ding Dong! Merrily on high

Still, still, still

solos: Daisy Ardon and Celine Barghouth

O come, all ye faithful

A little Christmas suite – Christopher Field

The Oxen

Bedtime: The First Christmas

Bethlehem Town

Sleep, little babe, I love Thee

The Birds

The Christmas Tree

Two Christmas songs – Edmund Rubbra

Hymn to the Virgin

Jesukin

solo: Camilla Jeppeson

Have yourself a merry little Christmas

Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane, arr. Alexander L'Estrange

I'll be home for Christmas

Walter Kent, arr. Peter Schmutte

solos: Sophie White, Lila Cleveland and Amelia Cudziková

Winter Wonderland

Felix Bernard, arr. Jeff Funk

Jingle bells

James Pierpoint, arr. Alexander L'Estrange

The Christmas Song

Mel Tormé and Robert Wells

solo: Matilda Hardcastle