

ST. AUGUSTINE'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL
MANCHESTER



Festival of Lessons
and Carols
for Christmas

Sung in the
FREE TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER
on
FRIDAY, 20th DECEMBER, 1968
at 7-30 p.m.



This programme serves as a ticket of admission.

It is requested that there should be no applause.

PROGRAMME

Musical Director—Mr. JOHN DENNISON

Organist—THE REVEREND FRANCIS McGUINNESS

ORGAN: Grave from Fantasia in G Major by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

All stand for the opening hymn. Guests are requested to join in the singing from verse 3.

HYMN: Once in royal David's city

Words by Mrs. C. F. Alexander, 1818-1895; Tune, *Irby*, by H. J. Gauntlett, 1805-1867

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| 1. (Choir)
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. | 4. (All)
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. |
| 2. (Choir)
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. | 5. (All)
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. |
| 3. (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. | 6. (All)
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. |

All remain standing for the Bidding Prayer.

THE BIDDING PRAYER: Reader: Francis Connell

Guests sit after the Lord's Prayer.

CAROL: In the bleak mid-winter words by Christina Rossetti,
1830-1894 set to music by Harold Darke.

CAROL: On Christmas night traditional Sussex Carol arranged
by David Wilcox.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3, 8-15 God announces in the garden of
Eden that the seed of woman shall
bruise the serpent's head.

Reader: John Whatnall

All stand for the hymn which follows; guests are invited to join in the singing.

HYMN: Christians, awake; words by John Byrom, 1692–1763; Tune by John Wainwright, 1723–1768

1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,
Whereon the Saviour of the World was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love,
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.
2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic herald's voice,
"Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
To you and all the nations upon earth;
This day hath God fulfilled his promised
word,
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."
3. He spake; and straightway the celestial choir
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire.
The praises of redeeming love they sang,
And heaven's whole orb with alleluys rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace upon earth, and unto men good will.

AIR: He shall feed his flock (Isaiah 40, 11) from "Messiah" by G. F. Handel 1685–1759

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 11, 1–10 Christ's birth and Kingdom are foretold.
Reader: Simon Barnicott

All stand. Guests are invited to join in the singing.

CAROL: Good King Wenceslas; words by J. M. Neale, 1818–1866; Tune, *Tempus adest floridum*,
from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582.

1. (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,
Gathering winter fuel.
2. (Gentlemen)
"Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"
(Ladies)
"Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain."
3. (Gentlemen)
"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.
4. (Ladies)
"Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer."
(Gentlemen)
"Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly."
5. (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.

Guests now sit.

CAROL: The Infant King, from an old Basque Noel
Words by S. Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Harmonised by Desmond Ratcliffe.

THIRD LESSON: Luke 1, 26–35, 38.
The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Reader: Stephen Wade

CHORUS: A Merry Christmas
West Country Traditional Song, arranged by Arthur Warrell.

All now stand. Guests are invited to join in the singing.

HYMN: O little town of Bethlehem
Words by Phillips Brooks, 1853–1893; Tune adapted by R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

INTERVAL

ORGAN: *Chorale Prelude, "Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland"*, from the Eighteen Chorale Preludes (No. 9) by J. S. Bach.

RECORDER CONSORT: *Andante Comodo* from a Suite by D. Scarlatti, 1685–1757.
Arranged by Arnold Goldsbrough.
Slavonic Dance No. 8 by Antonin Dvorak, 1841–1904.
Arranged by Walter Borgmann.

All now stand for the hymn. Guests are invited to join in the singing.

HYMN: *See, amid the winter's snow*
Words by Edward Caswall, 1814–1878; Tune by Sir John Goss, 1800–1880.

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| <p>1. (All)
See, amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below;
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years:
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.</p> <p>2. (Ladies)
Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies:
He who throned in height sublime
Sits amid the cherubim:
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; etc.</p> <p>3. (Gentlemen)
Say, ye holy shepherds, say
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; etc.</p> | <p>4. (Ladies)
As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing "Peace on earth"
Told us of the Saviour's birth:
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; etc.</p> <p>5. (Gentlemen)
Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine.
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this;
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; etc.</p> <p>6. (All)
Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility;
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; etc.</p> |
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Guests now sit.

FOURTH LESSON: *Luke 2, 1–7* St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.
Reader: Adrian Knowles

CHORUS: *Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling*
(The shepherds' farewell to the Holy Family) from "The Childhood of Christ"
Music by Hector Berlioz, 1803–1869
Words by Paul England—arranged by H. A. Chambers.

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2, 8-16 The Shepherds go to the manger

Reader: Mr. J. Hall, Assistant Education Officer (Schools), City of Manchester Education Department.

CHORUS: And the Glory of the Lord (Isaiah 40, 5) from "Messiah" by G. F. Handel, 1685-1759.

SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 2, 1-11 The Wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Reader: Councillor A. A. O'Connor, Member of the Governing Body of the School.

All stand for the hymn which follows. Guests are invited to join in the singing.

HYMN: While shepherds watched their flocks by night.

Words by Nahum Tate, 1652-1715 and Nicholas Brady, 1659-1726; Tune by Christopher Tye, 1497-1572.

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| 1. (All)
While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The Angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around. | 4. (Ladies)
'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.' |
| 2. (Ladies)
'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind. | 5. (Gentlemen)
Thus spake the Seraph: and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song: |
| 3. (Gentlemen)
'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign: | 6. (All)
'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.' |

Guests sit after the hymn.

CAROL: O little one sweet

(Melody from Scheidt's *Tabulaturbuch*, 1604, arranged by John Vine. Words translated by Percy Dearmer).

All stand for the final prayer.

PRAYER AND BLESSING pronounced by the Reverend Father Edward Carroll, Chairman of the Governing Body of the School.

Guests are requested to join in singing the final hymn.

HYMN: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Tune from a chorus by F. Mendelssohn, 1809-1847, adapted to words by William Cummings, 1830-1915).

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled:
 Joyful all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies,
 With th'angelic host proclaim,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem.
 Hark! the herald angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.
2. 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 th'incarnate Deity!
 Pleased as man with man to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel,
 Hark! the herald angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.
3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Risen 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 new-born King.

ORGAN: Magnificat (Fugato) by J. S. Bach