

Audience Carol Sing-along

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and adore Him, born the King of Angels. *Refrain: O come, let us adore Him; O Come, let us adore him: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*
2. God of God, Light of light, Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb. Very God, begotten not created. *Refrain*
4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation; Sing all ye citizens of heaven above. Glory to God, in the highest. *Refrain*
5. Yea, Lord we greet Thee, Born this happy morning. Jesu, to Thee be all glory giv'n. Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

Angels, We Have Heard on High

4. See Him in a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Saviour's birth. *(key change)*
Glo-ri-a! In excelsis Deo! Glo-ri-a! In excelsis Deo!

Carols of the Night

2. Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven above, Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!" Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus Lord at Thy birth. Jesus Lord at Thy birth.

Program Notes on Featured Composers

Benjamin Britten

A Hymn to the Virgin was composed while Benjamin Britten, age 16, was a student at Gresham's School in Holt, Norfolk, England. It was written in a few hours during a period of illness while Britten was in the school sanatorium. Apparently, there was no music paper within reach, so he drew the staves on a page from an ordinary exercise book. Britten's diary entry for 9 July 1930 gives an account of the day's work at composition. "Hymn to the Virgin, a set of variations, which are rather rubbish – I rather like the hymn tho." This anthem, with its touching simplicity, is one of the most enduring compositions of Britten's youth. It was sung at his memorial service in Aldeburgh on 7 December 1976.

Of one that is so fair and bright. *Velut maris stella. (as a human star)*
Brighter than the day is light. *Parens et puella. (parent and daughter)*
I cry to the, thou see to me, Lady pray they Son for me. Tampia. (so holy)
That I may come to Thee. *Maria*

All this world was forlorn. *Eva peccatrice. (Eve is sinful)*
Till our Lord was y-born. *De te genetrix. (according to the Mother)*
With ave it went away, Darkest night, and comes the day. *Salutis. (salvation)*
The well springeth out of thee. *Virtutis. (powerful virtue)*
Lady, flow'r of everything. *Rose sine spina. (Rose without a thorn)*
Thou bare, Jesu, Heaven's King. *Gratia divina (divine grace)*
Of all thou bear'st the prize, Lady, queen of paradise. *Electa (the chosen one)*
Maid mild, mother. *Es effecta. (for accomplishment)*

John Rutter

John Rutter was born in London in 1945. He studied music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he wrote his first published compositions and conducted his first recording while still a student. His compositional career has embraced both large and small scale choral works, orchestral and instrumental pieces, for piano concerto, two children's operas and music for television. In 1979, he formed the Cambridge Singers as a professional chamber choir primarily dedicated to recording, and he now divides his time between composition and conducting. In 1980 he was made an honorary Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians. In 1996, the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred a Lambeth Doctorate of Music upon him in recognition of his contribution to church music. He was honoured in the 2007 Queen's New Year Honours List, being awarded a CBE for services to music.

What Sweeter Music

"What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing the birth of Christ, our heavenly King. Awake the voice! Awake the string!" This tender setting of the traditional carol text has become one of John Rutter's most cherished Christmas anthems.

Angels' Carol

John Rutter's superb talents are evident in this sprightly, uplifting original Christmas carol, composed in the 1980's on his own lyrics. Voices are supported by the rhythmic harp accompaniment. *Angels' Carol* has become a choral classic. *"Have you heard the sound of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear? Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here!"*

The chorale joins millions of choral music listeners around the world in mourning the passing of **Sir David Willcocks** on September 15, 2015 at the age of 95. He was the most influential choirmaster of his generation. Throughout his career, Willcocks was at the centre of British choral music. He injected choral singing with a sense of purpose while building up a strong base of support through choral societies internationally. For many radio and television audiences, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast from King's College, Cambridge is the sound of Christmas, and it was David Willcocks who turned this Victorian invention into a landmark in the musical year.