



Colchester
Chamber Choir
Director Roderick Earle

*Stille
Nacht*

COLCHESTER CHAMBER CHOIR

Since our first concert in January 2010 we have performed over forty concerts to an ever-growing audience and now have over 200 pieces of music in our repertoire. This season we number twenty-nine auditioned singers. We present varied programmes exploring the more challenging and less well-known repertoire, particularly from the pre-baroque period and 19th and 20th centuries. We have sung works from Gesualdo to Messiaen and in languages including Danish, Slovak and Czech. In November 2014 we performed the UK première of Emile Naoumoff's Concert Sacré in St Edmundsbury Cathedral. and in September 2015 were invited to present two concerts at the Roman River Festival.

Patrons: Peter and Jill Newton

Sopranos: Diana Childs, Katie Chippendale, Liz Curry, Anita Filer, Jessica Hazelton, Jen Hobbs, Jennifer Lloyd, Linda Pearsall, Hilary Sellers

Altos: Lehla Abbott, Patsy Cosgrove, Tessa Freebairn, Julia King, Meg Prolingheur, Lisa Roberts, Emma Scott-Smith, Mary Stamp, Eleanor Walters

Tenors: Martin Arnaud, Zachary Kleanthous, Andrew Marsden, Amrit Nasta, Gerald O'Beirne

Basses: Luca Bellodi, Dominic Blanchard, Simon Bowen, Samuel Carbonero, Jonathan Francis, Stephen Smith

Peter Humphrey is the choir's rehearsal pianist.

Roderick Earle was a boy chorister at Winchester Cathedral and following a choral scholarship at St. John's College, Cambridge and the Royal College of Music entered the singing profession as a soloist. He was a principal baritone with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden for 21 years, singing more than 60 roles with many of the greatest singers, conductors and directors of the era. He has sung in opera and concerts all over the world, in the USA, Argentina, Israel, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East as well as throughout Europe and the UK. He has made several recordings and videos from early to contemporary music. Roderick is also a singing professor at The Royal College of Music, London and teaches the choral scholars at Trinity College, Cambridge.

STILLE NACHT

We begin our concert with the strange and remarkable *Mirabile Mysterium* by Gallus which beautifully expresses the mystery and wonder of this great festival. Then, from the great Advent hymn *Macht hoch die Thür*, through favourite carols like *In Dulci Jubilo*, *Es ist ein Ros'entsprungen* and Luther's *Vom Himmel hoch*, our programme traces a journey through the season of Christmas with music from German speaking lands from the late 16th to the early 20th century. We mix carols, several beautifully arranged by Reger, with great Christmastide pieces by Lassus, Hassler, Sweelinck, Scheidt, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Bruckner.

On Christmas Eve 1818, in the church of Oberndorf near Salzburg, Joseph Mohr, the parish priest and Franz Xaver Grüber, the school master gave the first performance of their now celebrated carol, *Stille Nacht*. It is the original version of the melody found in the earliest sources, and relatively unperformed until recently, that we sing tonight.

PROGRAMME

Mirabile mysterium	Jacob Gallus (1550-1591)
Lasset uns frohlocken	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Es kommt ein Schiff, geladen	Max Reger (1873-1916)
Macht hoch die Thür	
Verbum caro factum est	Hans Leo Hassler (1562-1612)
O Heiland reiss die Himmel auf	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Virga Jesse	Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen	Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Von Himmel hoch	Johann Eccard (1553-1611)
Puer natus in Bethlehem	Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)
In dulci jubilo	Max Reger

INTERVAL

In dulci jubilo	Carl Loewe (1796-1869)
Schlaf', mein Kindelein	Max Reger
Unser lieben Frauen Traum	
Hodie Christus natus est	Jan Sweelinck (1562-1621)
O Jesulein, süß	Max Reger
Stille nacht	Franz Gruber (1787-1863)
Omnes de Saba	Orlande de Lassus (1532-1594)
Frohlocket, ihr Völker	Felix Mendelssohn

Mirabile Mysterium Jacob Gallus

Mirabile mysterium declaratur hodie,
innovantur naturae;
Deus homo factus est;
id quod fuit, permansit,
id quod non erat, assumpsit,
non commixtionem passus
neque divisionem.

A wondrous mystery is declared today,
an innovation is made upon nature;
God is made man;
that which he was, he remains,
and that which he was not, he takes on,
suffering neither commixture
nor division.

Lasset uns frohlocken Felix Mendelssohn

Lasset uns frohlocken, es nahet der
Heiland, den Gott uns verheißen.
Der Name des Herrn
sei gelobet in Ewigkeit.
Halleluja!

Let us rejoice! The redeemer is coming,
whom the Lord has promised.
The name of the Lord
be praised for ever.
Halleluja!

Es kommt ein Schiff, geladen Max Reger

1. Es kommt ein Schiff, geladen
bis an den höchsten Bord,
trägt Gottes Sohn voll Gnaden,
des Vaters ewigs Wort.
2. Das Schiff geht still im Triebe,
trägt ein teure Last;
das Segel ist die Liebe,
der heil'g Geist der Mast.
3. Der Anker haft' auf Erden,
da ist das Schiff am Land.
Das Wort will Fleisch uns werden,
der Sohn ist uns gesandt.

1. There comes a ship a' laden
up to its highest board,
bearing God's Son, full of grace,
the Father's everlasting Word.
2. The ship goes quietly into dock,
it carries a priceless load;
The sail is love,
the Holy Spirit, the mast.
3. The anchor clings to earth,
there is the ship at shore.
The Word has for us become flesh,
the Son has been sent to us.

Macht hoch die Tür Max Reger

1. Macht hoch die Tür, die Tor macht weit!

Es kommt der Herr der Herrlichkeit;

Ein König aller Königreich'.

Ein Heiland aller Welt zugleich,

Der Heil und Leben mit sich bringt,

derhalben jauchzt, mit Freuden singt:

Gelobet sei mein Gott,

Mein Schöpfer, hier und dort.

3. Macht hoch die Tür, die Tor' macht weit,

Eu'r Herz zum Tempel sei bereit,

die Zweiglein der Gottseligkeit

steckt auf mit Andacht, Lust und Freud!

So kommt der König auch zu Euch,

ja, Heil und Leben mit zugleich.

Gelobet sei mein Gott,

voll Rat, voll Tat, voll Gnade!

4. Komm, o mein Heiland Jesu Christ,

mein's Herzens Tür dir offen ist.

Ach, zeuch mit deiner Gnaden ein,

dein' Freundlichkeit auch uns erschein,

dein heil'ger Geist uns führ' und leit'

den Weg zur ew'gen Seligkeit.

Dem Namen dein, o Herr,

sei ewig Preis und Ehr'.

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

Behold, the King of Glory waits;

The King of kings is drawing near.

The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring,

wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:

We praise Thee, Father, now,

Creator, wise art Thou!

3. Fling wide the portals of your heart;

Make it a temple set apart

from earthly use for Heaven's employ,

adorned with prayer and love and joy.

So shall your Sovereign enter in

and new and nobler life begin.

To Thee, O God, be praise

for word and deed and grace!

4. Redeemer, come! I open wide

my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!

Let me Thy inner presence feel,

Thy grace and love in me reveal;

Thy Holy Spirit guide us on

until our glorious goal is won.

Eternal praise and fame

we offer to Thy name.

Verbum caro factus est Hans Leo Hassler

Verbum caro factum est

Et habitavit in nobis

et vidimus gloriam ejus

gloriam quasi unigeniti a Patre

plenum gratiae et veritatis.

And the Word was made flesh,

and dwelt among us,

and we beheld his glory,

the glory as of the only begotten of the

Father, full of grace and truth.

O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf Johannes Brahms

O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf,
herab, herauf, vom Himmel lauf,
reiss ab vom Himmel Tor und Tür,
reiss ab, was Schloss und Riegel für.

O Gott, ein' Tau vom Himmel giess,
im Tau herab, o Heiland fliess,
ihr Wolken brecht und regnet aus
den König über Jakobs Haus.

O Erd', schlag aus, schlag aus, o Erd',
dass Berg und Tal grün alles werd,
O Erd', herfür dies Blümlein bring,
O Heiland, aus der Erden spring.

Hie leiden wir die grösste Not,
vor Augen steht der bittre Tod,
ach komm, führ uns mit starker Hand
von Elend zu dem Vaterland.

Da wollen wir all' danken dir,
unserm Erlöser, für und für.
da wollen wir all' loben dich
je allzeit immer und ewiglich.
Amen.

O Saviour, tear open the heavens,
hasten downward, downward from heaven!
Tear away the gate and door of heaven for us,
tear off the locks and bolts!

O God, pour dew from heaven;
Flow downward, O Saviour, in the dew.
Ye clouds, break and rain down
the king over Jacob's house.

O earth, break out, break out, O earth,
that all mountains and valleys become green.
O earth, bring forth this flower here,
O Saviour, spring out of the earth.

Here we suffer the greatest trials,
before our eyes looms eternal death;
Ah come, lead us with a strong hand
from misery to the Father's land.

We all desire to thank thee,
our Redeemer, forever and ever.
We all desire to praise thee
at all times, always and for ever.
Amen.

Virga Jesse Anton Bruckner

Virga Jesse floruit:
Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:
pacem Deus reddidit,
in se reconcilians ima summis.
Alleluja.

The branch of Jesse blooms:
a Virgin brings forth God and man:
God has restored peace,
reconciling in Himself the lowest with
the highest. Alleluia.

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen Michael Praetorius

1. Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art
und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

2. Das Röslein, das ich meine,
davon Jesaia sagt,
hat uns gebracht alleine
Marie, die reine Magd.
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren
und blieb doch reine Magd.

3. Das Blümelein so kleine,
das duftet uns so süß,
mit seinem hellen Scheine
vertreibt's die Finsternis:
Wahr' Mensch und wahrer Gott,
hilft uns aus allem Leide,
rettet von Sünd und Tod.

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Saviour,
so staying the Virgin bright.

3. This Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendour
the darkness everywhere;
True Man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us,
and lightens every load.



Von Himmel Hoch Johann Eccard

1. Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her,
ich bring euch gute neue Mär,
Der guten Mär bring ich soviel,
davon ich sing'n und sagen will.

2. Euch ist ein Kindlein heut geborn
von einer Jungfrau auserkor'n;
Ein Kindelein so zart und fein,
das soll eu'r Freud und Wonne sein.

3. Es ist der Herr Christ, unser Gott,
Der will euch führn aus aller Not,
Er will eu'r Heiland selber sein,
Von allen Sünden machen rein.

Martin Luther 1539

1. From heaven above to earth I come
to bring good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
whereof I now will say and sing.

2. To you this night in born a child
of Mary, chosen mother mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
shall be the joy of all your earth.

3. 'Tis Christ, our God, who far on high
hath heard your sad and bitter cry,
Himself will your Salvation be,
Himself from sin will make you free.

Puer natus in Bethlehem Samuel Scheidt

1. Puer natus in Bethlehem, Alleluia,
Unde gaudet Jerusalem. Alleluia.

2. Hic jacet in praeseptio, Alleluia,
Qui regnat sine termino. Alleluia.

5. in hoc natali gaudeo, Alleluia,
Benedicamus Domino, Alleluia.

1. A boy is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia,
For which Jerusalem may rejoice. Alleluia.

2. Here He lies in a manger, Alleluia,
Who reigns for ever. Alleluia.

5. For this joyful birth, Alleluia,
Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia.



In dulci jubilo Max Reger (vs 1,3,4) : Carle Loewe (vs 1,2,4)

1. In dulci jubilo,
nun singet und seid froh!
Unsers Herzens Wonne liegt
in praesepio,
Und leuchtet als die Sonne
matris in gremio,
Alpha es et O!

2. O Jesu parvule
Nach dir ist mir so weh!
tröst' mir mein Gemüte
O puer optime
durch alle deine Güte
O Princeps Glorïae.
trahe me post te!

3. O Patris caritas!
O Nati lenitas!
Wir wär'n all' verloren
per nostra crimina
So hat er uns erworben
Coelorum gaudia
O qualis gloria!

4. Ubi sunt gaudia
nirgend mehr denn da!
Und da die Englein singen
nova cantica.
Und die Schellen klingen
in regis curia.
Eia, wären wir da!

1. In quiet joy
now sing with hearts aglow!
Our delight and pleasure lies
in a manger.
Like sunshine is our treasure
in the mother's lap.
Thou art Alpha and Omega.

2. O tiny Jesus
for thee I long away;
Comfort my heart's blindness,
O best of boys
With all Thy loving kindness,
O Prince of glory
Draw me unto thee

3. O love of the Father!
O gentleness of the Son!
Deeply were we stained
through our sins,
But Thou for us hast gained
the joy of heaven.
O how glorious!

5. Where are joys
in any place but there?
There are angels singing
new songs.
And there the bells are ringing
in the king's court.
O that we were there!

Schlaf', mein Kindelein Max Reger

1. Schlaf', mein Kindelein.

Schlaf', mein Söhnelein!

singt die Mutter Jungfrau rein;

Schlaf', mein Herzelein,

schlaf', mein Schätzelein!

singt der Vater eben fein.

Singet und klinget dem Kindelein klein,
dem honigsüssen Jesulein.

Singet und klinget, ihr Engelein rein,
mit tausend süssen Stimmelein!

2. Schliess die Äugelein,

deck' die Händelein,

denn es saust ein scharfer Wind.

Schlaf', mein Kindelein,

dich das Eselein

wird erwärmen mit dem Kind.

Singet und klinget dem Kindelein klein,
dem honigsüssen Jesulein.

Singet und klinget, ihr Engelein rein,
mit tausend süssen Stimmelein!

3. Schlaf', mein Hoffnung

und mein Tröstung,

Schlaf', o Freund' des Herzens mein!

Schlaf', mein Wonne, schlaf' mein Krone,

schlaf', und schliess dein Äugelein!

Singet und klinget dem Kindelein klein,
dem honigsüssen Jesulein.

Singet und klinget, ihr Engelein rein,

mit tausend süssen Stimmelein!

1. Sleep my little child.

Sleep my little son!

Sings the pure virgin mother;

Sleep my little heart,

sleep my little treasure

well sings the father.

Sing and play to the tiny little child,
the honey sweet little Jesus.

Sing and play you pure angels
with a thousand sweet little voices.

2. Close your little eyes,

cover your little hands

for a sharp wind is blowing

Sleep my little child,

for the donkey

and ox will warm you.

Sing and play to the tiny little child,
the honey sweet little Jesus,

Sing and play you pure angels
with a thousand sweet little voices.

3. Sleep my hope

and my consolation,

Sleep, O friend of my heart!

Sleep, my bliss, sleep my crown,

sleep, and close your little eyes.

Sing and play to the tiny little child,
The honey sweet little Jesus.

Sing and play you pure angels
with a thousand sweet little voices.

Unser lieben Frauen traum Max Reger

Und unser lieben Frauen
der traumet ihr ein Traum:
wie unter ihrem Herzen
gewachsen wär ein Baum.

Und wie der Baum ein Schatten gäb
wohl über alle Land:
Herr Jesus Christ, der Heiland
also ist er genannt.

Herr Jesus Christ, der Heiland
ist unser Heil und Trost,
mit seiner bitterm Marter
hat er uns all erlöst.

And to our blessed Lady
there came a dream one day,
that there beneath her bosom
there lived and grew a great tree.

And as the tree gave shadows,
even over every land,
Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour,
just so has he been named.

Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour,
he is our help indeed,
and by his bitter passion
he has redeemed the world.

Hodie Christus natus est Jan Sweelinck

Hodie Christus natus est, Noe.
Hodie Salvator apparuit,
Alleluia.

Hodie in terra canunt Angeli.
Laetantur Archangeli, Noe.

Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia, Noe.

Today Christ is born, Noel.
Today the Saviour appeared,
Alleluia.

Today on Earth the Angels sing,
Archangels rejoice, Noel.

Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia, Noel.

O Jesulein süß Max Reger

1. O Jesulein süß! O Jesulein mild!
dein's Vaters Will'n hast du erfüllt;
bist kommen aus dem Himmelreich,
uns armen Menschen worden gleich,
O Jesulein süß! O Jesulein mild!

3. O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!
Du bist der Lieb' ein Ebenbild.
Zünd' an in uns der Liebe Flamm,
dass wir dich lieben allzusamm.
O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!

4. O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!
Hilf, dass wir tun Alls, was du willst,
was unser ist, ist Alles dein,
ach lass uns dir befohlen sein.
O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild!

1. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal ken
equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

3. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
in thee love's beauties are all distilled;
then light in us thy love's bright flame,
that we may give thee back the same,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

4. O little one sweet, O little one mild,
help us to do as thou hast willed.
Lo, all we have belongs to thee!
Ah, keep us in our fealty!
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

Stille Nacht Franz Gruber

1. Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
nur das traute heilige Paar.
Holder Knab im lockigten Haar,
schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

2. Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn! O wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.
Jesus in deiner Geburt!

6. Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kund gemacht
durch der Engel Alleluja,
Tönt es laut bei Ferne und Nah:
Jesus der Retter ist da!

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All are sleeping, alone and awake
only the intimate holy pair.
Lovely boy with curly hair,
sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, O how he laughs
love from your divine mouth,
Then it hits us - the hour of salvation.
Jesus at your birth!

6. Silent night! Holy night!
To shepherds it was first made known
by the angel, Alleluia;
Sounding forth loudly far and near:
Jesus the Saviour is here!

Omnes de Saba venient Orlande de Lassus

Omnes de Saba venient
aurum et thus deferentes
et laudem Domino annuntiantes,
Alleluia.
Reges Tharsis et insulae
munera offerent,
reges Arabum et Saba dona adducent,
Alleluia.

All they from Saba shall come,
bringing gold and frankincense:
and shewing forth praise to the Lord,
Alleluia.
The kings of Tharsis and the isle
offer their gifts,
the kings of Arabia and Sheba bring gifts,
Alleluia.

Frohlocket, ihr Völker Felix Mendelssohn

Frohlocket, ihr Völker auf Erden,
und preiset Gott!
Der Heiland ist erschienen,
den der Herr verheißten.
Er hat seine Gerechtigkeit
der Welt offenbaret.
Halleluja!

Rejoice, ye people of the earth,
and praise God!
The redeemer is come,
whom the Lord has promised.
He has revealed his justice
to the world.
Hallelujah!



STABAT MATER

A close-up, high-contrast portrait of the Virgin Mary, likely from a religious painting. She is wearing a white head covering and a dark veil. Her face is illuminated from the right, highlighting her eyes and the texture of her skin. The background is dark and textured.

Music for Passiontide by
Palestrina, Gesualdo,
Lotti and Leo (Miserere)

Saturday 19 March 7.30pm
St Teresa's Church,
Clairmont Road,
Colchester CO3 9BE

tickets online from
www.colchesterchamberchoir.org

A photograph of a highly ornate pipe organ, likely from a cathedral or grand church. The organ features multiple tiers of pipes, intricate woodwork, and gold leaf accents. The background is a soft, warm light, possibly from a window or stage lighting.

MOZART REQUIEM

Mozart : Ave Verum Corpus
Haydn : Insanae et Vanae Curae
Mozart : Symphony no. 39 in E Flat

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The London Handel Orchestra

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