

BRISBANE
CHAMBER
CHOIR

FOR IT IS CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, 16 December 2020 @ 7.30 PM
Friday, 18 December 2020 @ 7.30 PM (also live-streamed)

St John's Anglican Cathedral
373 Ann Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000

Host Ed Ayres

Organist Andrej Kouznetsov

Brisbane Chamber Choir

Graeme Morton AM

Natalia Carter, Cheryl Fiedler, Elodie Geertsema, Kathryn Morton, Sandra Nissen, Taisha Paterson, Milly Bailey, Rachel Hoey, Emma Hutchings, John Nolan, Emma Steel, Fiona Palmer, Maria Woolford, Hannah Shanks, Alexander Bowly, Peter Garrett, Jonathan Hargreaves, Isaac Holtby, Alexander Mason, Jeffrey Mitchell, Tim Grantham, Matthew McKinnon, Jason Schoutrop

Thank you for attending *For it is Christmas*. Please note the following housekeeping notices to ensure an enjoyable experience for all.

- You are invited to hold your applause until the end of each section.
- Please make sure you have turned off your phone for the duration of the concert.
- You can find the public amenities on the Ann Street side of the main carpark.
- Children are welcome to use the play area in the south aisle as long as they are supervised by an adult family member and silence is maintained.
- This a Covid-safe socially distanced concert. The Brisbane Chamber Choir takes the health and safety of its members and audiences very seriously. Whilst we have taken precautions to mitigate health and safety risks in our present environment, we cannot guarantee that this is a risk-free event. For a full list of requirements followed at this concert, please see the Covid Safe Event Checklist published online by the Queensland Government.

We Come Rejoicing

In Dulci Jubilo
O Little One Sweet
Sussex Carol
Cecilia McDowall

Christmas There and Here

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day
arr. Stuart Nicholson

Still, still, still
arr. Andrew Gant

I Saw a Light
William Lovelock

Ring Glad Bells
Graeme Morton

Christmas Contrasts

Christmas Traditions
Ed Ayres

Ding Dong Merrily on High
arr. Joseph Flummerflet

O Beatum et Sacrosanctum Diem
Peter Phillips

O Magnum Mysterium
Francis Poulenc

Blessed be that Maid Marie
Gareth Treseder

Woman to Woman

Gabriel's Message
Eleanor Daley

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
Elizabeth Poston

I Sing of a Maiden
Alison Willis

For it is Christmas

The Shepherd's Carol
Bob Chilcott

The Twelve Days of Christmas
arr. Eric Thiman

We Come Rejoicing

3 Movements from A Winter's Night

Cecilia McDowall (1951 -)

In dulci jubilo

In dulci jubilo
Now sing with hearts aglow,
Our delight and pleasure lies
In praesepe
Like sunshine is our treasure
Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O.

O Jesu parvule
For thee I sing alway,
Comfort my heart's blindness,
O puer optime.
With all thy loving kindness,
O princeps gloriae!
Trahe me post te.

O patris caritas,
O nati lenitas,
Deeply were we stained
Per nostra crimina
But Thou for us hast gained
Coelorum gaudia.
O that we were there.

Ubi sunt gaudia
In any place but there?
There are angels singing
Nova cantica:
And there the bells are ringing,
In Regis curia.
O that we were there.

In quiet joy

In a manger

In the mother's lap
Thou art Alpha and Omega

O tiny Jesus

O best of boys

Prince of glory
Draw me unto thee

O father's caring
O newborn's mildness

By our crimes

Heavenly joy

Where be joys

New songs

At the King's court

Traditional 14th century German text

O little one sweet

*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.*

*O little one sweet, O little one mild,
With joy thou hast the whole world filled;
Thou camest here from heav'n's domain,
To bring men comfort in their pain,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.*

*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.*

Traditional 14th century German text

Sussex Carol

*On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free
All for to gain our liberty?*

*When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.*

*All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men,
(O that we were there)
Now and for evermore. Amen.*

Traditional 17th century English text

Christmas there and here

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Trad. English arr. Stuart Nicholson

Soloist: Issac Holtby

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;*

*Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love.*

*Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to man's nature
To call my true love to my dance.*

*In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance.*

Old Cornish poem

Still, still, still.

Trad. German arr. Andrew Gant

*Still, still, still, let all God's world be still.
While Mary's holy child lies sleeping,
Angels guard are quietly keeping;
Still, still, still, let all God's world be still.*

*Love, love, love, my heart is filled with love.
The world from night is slowly turning,
Still my heart with love is yearning;
Love, love, love, my heart is filled with love.*

*Still, still, still, let all God's world be still.
In gentle Mary's sweet caressing
Jesus gives his silent blessing;
Still, still, still, let all God's world be still.*

Traditional German text

I Saw a Light

William Lovelock (1899 - 1982)

Soloist: *Issac Holtby*

*The other night I saw a light
A star as bright as the day!
And ever among a maiden sung:
Bye bye baby, Lullay.*

*This virgin clear who had no peer,
Unto her Son did say,
I pray the Son, grant me a boon to sing
Bye bye, Lullay.*

*Let Child or man,
Whoever can be merry on this day
And blessings to bring. So Shall I sing
Bye bye baby, Lullay.*

Anonymous

Ring Glad Bells

Graeme Morton (1952 -)

*Ring loudly ring, glad bells
And rouse us sluggards from our sleep.
Your clamour of an infant tells.
And bids us all His birthday keep.*

*Our death awaits, earth cold, grave grim.
Our short life, candle flam, burns brief.
But comes a message sweet with Him.
And we must turn aside from grief.*

*For here ancient curse withdrawn,
Here is the riddle's final end.
In tiny child is triumph born.
Frail earth and heaven blend.*

*He has in love made us his choice,
Fierce gentleness amongst the hay
Restored price paid with freedom's voice
Shout then, to celebrate new day.*

Sallyanne Carley

Christmas Contrasts

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Trad. French arr. Joseph Flummerflet

*Ding dong! Merrily on high
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel-singing.*

*Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
By priest and people sungen:*

*Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rhyme
Your e'entime song, ye singers.*

*Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis!*

G. R. Woodward

O Beatum et Sacrosanctum Diem

Peter Philips (1560 - 1628)

*O beatum et sacrosanctum diem,
in qua Dominus noster de
Virgine Maria pro nobis nasci dignatus est.
Gaudeat itaque universus orbis,
et cantemus illi,
in sono tubæ, cithara,
psalterio et organo.
Congratulemur cum multitudine
angelorum exercitus,
semper suas laudes cantantibus.
Noe.*

O blessed and most holy day
on which our Lord was born of the
Virgin Mary for our sake.
Let the whole world therefore rejoice,
and let us sing to him
to the sound of the trumpet, strings,
the harp and the organ.
Let us rejoice with the
numerous hosts of angels,
ceaselessly singing his praise.
Noel.

Anonymous

O Magnum Mysterium

Francis Poulenc (1899 - 1963)

*O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
jacentem in praesepio.
Beata Virgo cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.*

O great mystery
and wonderful sacrament
that even the animals saw the new-born Lord
lying in a manger.
Blessed Virgin, whose womb
was worthy to bear
our Lord Christ.

Responsories for Matins of Christmas Day

Blessed be that Maid Marie

Trad. arr. Gareth Treseder

*Blessed be that Maid Marie;
Born He was of her body;
Very God ere time began,
Born in time the Son of man.*

*Eya! Ihesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.*

Hail! Jesus today.
Was born of a virgin

*In a manger of an ass
Jesus lay and lulled was;
Born to die upon the Tree*

Pro peccante homine.

For the sinner Man

*Sweet and blissful was the song
Changed of the Angel throng,
"Peace on earth," Alleluya.*

In excelsis gloria.

Glory in the Highest

*Fare three Kings from far-off land,
Incense, gold and myrrh in hand;
In Bethlehem the Babe they see,*

Stelle ducti lumine.

Led by the bright star

*Make we merry on this fest,
In quo Christus natus est;
On this Child I pray you call,
To assoil and save us all.*

In which Christ was born;

Traditional 15th century text

Woman to Woman

Gabriel's Message

Eleanor Daley (1955 -)

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame
"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!*

*"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!*

*Of her, Emanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!*

Rev. S. Baring-Gould

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston (1905 - 1987)

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the Appletree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Appletree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the Appletree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the Appletree.*

Text from *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs*

I Sing of a Maiden

Alison Willis (1971 -)

*I sing of a maiden that is matchless,
King of all kings, for her son she chose.*

*He came as still where his mother was
As dew in April that falls on the grass.*

*He came as still to his mother's bower
As dew in April that falls on the flower.*

*He came as still where his mother lay
As dew in April that falls on the spray.*

*Mother and maiden, there was never ever one but she.
Well may such a lady God's mother be.*

15th century Sloane Manuscript 2593

For it is Christmas

The Shepherd's Carol

Bob Chilcott (1955 -)

*We stood on the hills, Lady, our day's work done,
Watching the frosted meadows that winter had won.*

*The evening was calm, Lady, the air so still,
Silence more lovely than music, folded the hill.*

*There was a star, Lady, shone in the night
Larger than Venus it was and bright, so bright.*

*Oh, a voice from the sky, Lady, it seemed to us then
Telling of God being born in the world of men.*

*And so we have come, Lady, our day's work done,
Our love, our hopes, ourselves we give to your son.*

Clive Sansom

The Twelve days of Christmas

Trad. arr. Eric Thiamn

*On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me
Twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping
Ten lords a leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a milking
Seven swans a swimming, six geese a laying, five gold rings
Four calling birds, three French hens
Two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree.*

Traditional text

Dr. Graeme Morton AM is the founding Director of the Brisbane Chamber Choir.

He is a Senior Lecturer and Choral Conducting Fellow at the University of Queensland and the Director of Music at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane. For twenty-five years was Director of Music at St Peters Lutheran College, where he founded the renowned St Peters Chorale. During this time, he co-founded The Australian Voices with Stephen Leek and served as its inaugural Director.

Never tiring to pursue exciting new choral works for his singers and their audiences alike, Graeme is responsible for commissioning and recording many works now regarded as Australian choral classics. He tours and lectures on choral conducting, both in Australia and overseas. As a Churchill Fellow he observed choral leadership in both the United States and Canada.

He is a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music and received a Prime Minister's Medal and in 2011 was the recipient of the Lord Mayor's Australia Day Cultural Award. Graeme holds a Master of Music (Organ) from the University of Queensland, and as a composer, is published by Augsburg Fortress, Kjos Music, and Morton Music.



The **Brisbane Chamber Choir** is an auditioned vocal ensemble of up to twenty singers, established in 1997 and based in Brisbane, Australia. Under founding musical director Graeme Morton AM, it performs music of all styles and periods with a focus on Australian premiere performances and works of Australian composers. For more than 20 years the ensemble has delighted concert audiences at home and across Australia and has produced several landmark recordings.

In 2014 they were guest artists of Musica Viva in Sydney and collaborated with cornerstone Australian choral ensembles, the Adelaide Chamber Singers and the Sydney Chamber Choir, in *A Tale of Three Cities* in 2015. The ensemble regularly performs with leading instrumentalists including Camerata, the Badinerie Players, and The Adina String Quartet. In 2016, they released *Mass of the Dreaming*, a celebrated recording of Australian choral music, featuring the premier recording of the Ross Edwards' title work, together with compositions of musical friends Joseph Twist, Paul Stanhope, and Keren Terpstra. In their 20th anniversary year, the ensemble was privileged to work with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra under maestro Stephen Layton in a performance of J.S. Bach's *Mass in B Minor* – since broadcast twice on ABC Classic FM – and share the concert platform with internationally renown saxophonist, Diana Tolmie.

The Brisbane Chamber Choir regularly commissions works and is currently the resident Chamber Choir of St John's Anglican Cathedral.



Ed Ayres is a writer, music teacher and broadcaster. He was born on the White Cliffs of Dover and began playing violin when he was eight years old. He studied music in Manchester, Berlin and London, played professionally in the UK and Hong Kong and moved to Australia in 2003. Ed was the presenter of ABC Classic FM's breakfast program for many years.

Ed has written two books; *Cadence*, about his journey by bicycle from England to Hong Kong with only a violin for company, and *Danger Music*, describing his year teaching music in Afghanistan.

Ed was born Emma, and transitioned just before his 50th birthday. Better late than never.



Andrej Kouznetsov studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with Philip Swanton. While a student there he won several awards, including that of first place in the open section of the Sydney Organ Competition. During this time, he was Organ Scholar at the University of Sydney, and at St James', King Street, where he was subsequently appointed Organist.

Relocating to the United Kingdom, Andrej spent a year as Organ Scholar at Salisbury Cathedral, where he was also Director of the Cathedral Chamber Choir. Following this, he was appointed Organ Scholar at Westminster Abbey in London, where he regularly accompanied and conducted the Abbey's world-renowned choir, gave numerous recitals, and took part in high-profile events attended by Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. Whilst based in London, Andrej studied with Birmingham City Organist, Thomas Trotter.

Andrej is currently Assistant Director of Music at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, where he plays the organ for Cathedral services, assists with the training of the boy choristers, and directs the Johannine Voices, a chamber choir he founded in 2015. He is also Director of Music at St John's College in the University of Queensland. Andrej was recently admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.



Wednesday 23rd December @ 7.00pm
St John's Cathedral, 373 Ann Street. Brisbane

A service of Lessons and Carols to welcome the Christmas Season. Let the robed Brisbane Chamber Choir transport you to a place of simple Christmas beauty as they sing the well-loved traditional choral carols made famous throughout the world by the choir of King's College, Cambridge. Directed by Graeme Morton with organist Andrej Kouznetsov.

No admission charge but booking is a must: an offering to assist the Cathedral Music Foundation or general donation will be most welcomed. Parking is available in the precinct or nearby carparks. Bookings are available at:

www.trybooking.com/691254

We hope that you enjoyed tonight's concert by the Brisbane Chamber Choir. If you would like to find out more about the choir or simply keep up-to-date with us you can scan the QR code on the back of the program or visit www.brisbanechamberchoir.com. On the website you will find links to our social media pages, information about upcoming performances and a place to listen and purchase our recordings.

The Brisbane Chamber Choir is a charitable organisation which means all donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible. Upon completion of a donation an official tax receipt will be sent to you via your provided email address.

If you did enjoy tonight performance please consider donating, you can scan the QR code below to go directly to our donation page. Thank you.



LUMENS CHAMBER CHOIR

Under the banner of the Brisbane Chamber Choir, Lumens Chamber Choir is a new choral ensemble that is being formed in Brisbane. Directed by **Kathryn Morton**, this auditioned chamber group is suitable for focused singers aged 18 - 28 years. This choir will perform repertoire from Renaissance to Contemporary music in the traditional choral style and aims to provide young adult singers with the skills of collaboration and artistry that comes from working in a chamber ensemble.

Auditions for Lumens will be occurring in February 2021 however expressions of interest are now open. This ensemble will be rehearsing regularly and will have exciting and engaging performance opportunities. Singers who are interested in auditioning for this ensemble are encouraged to fill out the link below to register for more information when it is released. For additional questions about the choir please email admin@brisbanechamberchoir.com

bit.ly/lumenschamberchoir

A project of the Brisbane Chamber Choir



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