

The Choir's next major public performance will be our
SPRING CONCERT
which will be held in
Tillicoultry Parish Church Hall
17 Dollar Road, Tillicoultry
on Saturday, 20th April, 2024 (TBC).
We hope to see you there.

Clackmannanshire Choral Society
rehearses on Monday evenings at 7 p.m.
in Tillicoultry Parish Church Hall, 17 Dollar Road, Tillicoultry.
New members are welcome to join us.
Just come along to a rehearsal.
<https://clackschoral.godaddysites.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ClacksChoral/>

Sopranos

Joyce Bell
Norma Ramage
Elizabeth Philliben
Jan Harvie
Isabel Watt
Cath Chadwick
Pamela Thomson
Kate Paterson
Marie Pascale Bray
Angela Leask
Nicole Kremer
Barbara Brown
Isabelle Reekie

The Choristers

Altos

Sue Egerton
Elsie Pollock-Smith
Kay Conn
Pauline Page
Lindsay Lovell
Carol Lawson
Sylvia Gorski
Carole Thomson
Gillian McAuslane
Maggie Lewis

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Tenors

Joy Hendry
Brian Howie
Patrick Cairns
Ken Thomson

Basses

Donal Hurley
Ian McLachlan
Henry Edwards
David Dobbie
Ewart McAuslane
David Brown

Christmas Concert



PROGRAMME



*Programme and
interval
refreshments
included in
ticket price*

Saturday, 9th December 2023
Tillicoultry Parish Church,
17 Dollar Road, Tillicoultry.
7:30 p.m.

Welcome

On behalf of Clacks Choral, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Christmas Concert 2023, our first ever Christmas programme prepared under the guidance of our new Music Director, Kit Mitchell.

Kit has selected a varied mix of old favourites and fresh repertoire for tonight's programme and we've been working busily and happily on it since September. We also have a selection of solo items to add to the mix. As ever, we also hope that you'll join with us in the audience participation numbers.

Thinking of joining us for more than just carols? We welcome new members and there is no scary audition! We recommence rehearsing for our Spring Concert in Tillicoultry Church Hall at 7pm on Monday January 8th, 2024. We would be delighted to see you!

We hope you enjoy your evening with us and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Donal Hurley
Acting President

Our Conductor

Kit Mitchell learned to sing at his mother's knee and was dispatched at the age of eight to be a Chorister in Durham Cathedral choir, where he experienced an intensive grounding in musicianship and the church music tradition, and learned the craft of choral singing.

He sang in St Ann's Church Choir, Manchester as a student, and with Manchester University Gilbert & Sullivan Society; later with Wokingham Choral Society under Stephen Layton, and later still with Dunblane Cathedral Choir and Stirling University Choir.

In 2015, under the expert guidance of his teacher, Catriona Lang BMus (Hons) PGDIP, Kit achieved a Distinction at Grade 8 in the practical Singing exam of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

A member of the Association of British Choral Directors, Kit was Assistant Conductor of Stirling University Choir from 2016 to 2022, leading sectionals, warm-ups, and deputising as accompanist and as conductor as required, including conducting performances of Haydn's Little Organ Mass and Faure's Requiem.

Kit was appointed Music Director of ClacksChoral in January of this year.

12. CHOIR, A CAPPELLA & ACCOMPANIED

- (a) **Up! Good Christen Folk and Listen** 16th CY, *arr. G. R. Wood*
- (b) **Full Fathom Five** *C. Wood*
- (c) **Ding Dong Merrily on High** 16th Century French
arr. C. Wood

13. SOLOISTS

- (a) **Gobnait Ó Lúnasa's 12 Days of Christmas** *F. Kelly*
Donal Hurley, Reciter & Meg Carroll, Keyboard
- (b) **Winter Wonderland** *F. Bernard* *Kate Paterson, Soprano*

14. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night *arr. R. Mather*

15. ALL: *F. Mendelssohn*

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing: Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King.

Christ by highest Heav'n ador'd, 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 newborn King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and Life to all he brings, Ris'n 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 newborn King.

16. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

A Merry Christmas *Trad. West Country* *arr. A. Warrell*

**THE CHOIR WISHES YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS,
A HAPPY NEW YEAR and a safe journey home.**

9. ALL

O Come All Ye Faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels;
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created. (Chorus)

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God In the Highest. (Chorus)

10. SOLOISTS

(a) **The Cats' Duet (*Duetto buffo di due gatti*)** G. Rossini
Joyce Bell, *Soprano* & Kay Conn, *Alto*

(b) **Greensleeves – What Child is This?** *attrib.* Henry VIII
(arr. R. Ederveen) Meg Carroll, *Clarsach*

11. ALL: W. J. Kirkpatrick

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Our Accompanist

Meg Carroll ALCM was born in Dumbarton and raised in Helensburgh. She started piano lessons at the age of 5, progressing to playing harmonium for Sunday School and piano for Brownies, Guides and ballet classes by the age of 12.

Leaving school after O-levels, Meg enrolled in a secretarial college in Glasgow, which led to a career in administration, including at Alva Academy, Stirling University, NCH and Grounds for Learning.

She continued to study music privately and joined Girlguiding in Alva and the Scottish Singing Circle. Thus she had the opportunity to try the clarsach and was hooked. She joined Edinburgh-based *Na Clarsairean* and has since played in many venues, including Holyrood Palace, the Scottish Parliament, Scone Palace and Iona Abbey. Performing with a friend in the National Mod, they won the adult duet competition two years in a row.

She learned violin at school and unearthed the instrument after many years' neglect and now plays with Stirling Strathspey and Reel Society. Flute playing also took her fancy and she often plays with friends in small groups.

Meg is also an active member of Stirling and District Society of Organists and the Organist at Menstrie Parish Church.

Formerly and occasionally our relief accompanist, Meg joined us permanently in September 2022 and is now an integral and essential contributor to our music-making going forward.

PROGRAMME

1. CHOIR, A CAPPELLA

Past Three O' Clock

Trad. arr. C. Wood

2. ALL (CHOIR and AUDIENCE)

H. J. Gauntlett

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.

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.

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.

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;
When like stars his children crowned, All in white shall wait around.

3 CHOIR, A CAPPELLA & ACCOMPANIED

- (a) **Coventry Carol** Trad. 16^h Century English
 (b) **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** Trad. Polish arr. D. Willcocks

4. (a) ALL: **C. Kocher arr. D. Willcocks**

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold,
 As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, burning bright,
 So, most gracious God, may we Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, To that lowly manger-bed,
 There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore,
 So may we with willing feet Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down:
 There for ever may we sing Alleluias to our king.

(b) ALL: **Trad. English arr. R. Vaughan Williams**

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.

O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
 And praise 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 wond'ring love.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

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.

5. SOLOISTS

- (a) **Leanabh an àigh (Child of Joy)** Trad. Gaelic
 Angela Leask, *Soprano*
 (b) **Mary's Boy Child** J. Hairston Isabel Watt, *Soprano*
 (c) **The Little Road to Bethlehem** M. Head
 Gillian McAuslane, *Alto* & Ewart McAuslane, *Bass*
 (d) **Bonnie Wee Thing** R. Burns / G. Fox
 Ewart McAuslane, *Bass*

6. CHOIR (verses 1-4) **Good King Wenceslas** arr. R. Jacques
 with AUDIENCE verse 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.

7. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED from **Cantata: 'Wachet auf'** J. S. Bach

- (a) **Zion hears the watchmen's voices** (tenors only)
 (b) **Glory now to God we render** (full choir)

INTERVAL

8. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

- (a) **Torches** J. Joubert
 (b) **The Shepherds' Farewell** H. Berlioz