

The Choir's next major public performance will be our  
**SPRING CONCERT**  
which will be held in  
Cochrane Hall  
West Stirling Street, Alva  
on Saturday, 25th April, 2026 (TBC).  
We hope to see you there.

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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.  
Rehearsals resume 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
<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  
Margaret McMurray  
Angela Leask  
Mary Bannatyne  
Alexis Robinson  
Isabelle Reekie  
Sue Mitchell

#### ***The Choristers***

##### **Altos**

Sue Egerton  
Elsie Pollock-Smith  
Kay Conn  
Pauline Page  
Lindsay Lovell  
Carol Lawson  
Sylvia Gorski  
Ann Bullock  
Trudy Miller  
Angela Wright

☆☆☆☆☆☆

#### **Tenors**

Joy Hendry  
Brian Howie  
Patrick Cairns  
Ken Thomson  
Alan Booth

#### **Basses**

Donal Hurley  
John Maddox  
Henry Edwards  
David Dobbie  
Ewart McAuslane  
Andrew Wilson

# Christmas Concert



## PROGRAMME



*Programme and  
interval  
refreshments  
included in  
ticket price*

**Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**Cochrane Hall**  
**West Stirling Street, Alva, FK12 5LJ**  
**7:30 p.m.**

## Welcome

I have the great pleasure of welcoming you to our Christmas Concert 2025, ClacksChoral's annual celebration of the festive season in song and spoken word.

After three fruitful years of musical partnership, Meg Carroll retired as our valued and versatile accompanist this summer. Fortune smiled again on us when Nicola MacRae agreed to be our new accompanist, starting in September. She has been invaluable to our music-making since then and makes her ClacksChoral debut this evening. You will see why we feel so lucky, As an extra treat, Meg returns tonight with her *clarsach* as a guest soloist.

Our Music Director Kit has devised another Yuletide programme with the customary mix of old favourites, new curiosities, solos vocal, instrumental and narrative, and a handful of audience participation numbers (for which we hope you're in good voice).

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

**Donal Hurley**  
**President of ClacksChoral**

## 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 has been the Music Director of ClacksChoral since January 2023.

## 12. SOLOISTS & MONOLOGUE

- (a) **Prelude in B minor** **Kit Mitchell, piano**  
(transcribed from Prelude in E minor)  
**Alexander Siloti after Johann Sebastian Bach**
- (b) **The Parable of the Prodigal Tenor** **Donal Hurley, narrator**  
**by W. H. Blakey**
- (c) **The Christmas Song** **Ewart McAuslane, baritone**  
(Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)  
**Robert Wells & Mel Tormé**

## 13 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.*

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

8. CHOIR, A CAPPELLA  
**Away in a Manger** Trad. arr. **Reginald Jacques**  
 [CHOIR Verses 1 & 2; then with AUDIENCE for Verse 3]  
 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.
9. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED  
 (a) **I Saw Three Ships** Trad. arr. **John Rutter**  
 (b) **Stille Nacht** **Franz Gruber** arr. **Donald Cashmore**  
 (c)  
 [CHOIR Verses 1 & 2; then with AUDIENCE for Verse 3]  
 Silent night, holy night, God's own son, oh how bright  
 Shines the love in thy holy face, .  
 Shines the light of redemption and grace.,  
 Christ th'incarnate God, Christ th'incarnate God.
10. INSTRUMENTAL SOLOIST **Meg Carroll, clarsach**  
**We Three Kings of Orient Are**  
**John Henry Hopkins Jr. arr. Megan Melheney**
11. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED  
**Torches** n **John Joubert**

## *Our Accompanist*

**Nicola MacRae** (née Stein) was born in Stirling and brought up in Tillicoultry. After attending Alva Academy, in 1999 she left to study music at The University of Edinburgh, graduating with BMus (Hons) in 2003 and MMus in Organology in 2006. Nicola was awarded the Janet Buckley Memorial Prize for her undergraduate studies in Early Music.

In 2015, Nicola was awarded her Doctorate from The University of Edinburgh for her thesis on the life and work of the organ builder James Jepson Binns.

In 2016 she graduated from The University of Glasgow with an MSc in Information Management and Preservation which qualified her to work as an archivist, and she currently works for Diageo based in Menstrie, as the Cataloguing Archivist.

Nicola also plays the cinema organ and has assisted the Corstorphine Trust in bringing their unique Ingram cinema organ back to life through performances and advising on the organ's maintenance. Nicola was the Honorary Secretary of the Edinburgh Society of Organists for 12 and a half years, a Past President of the Scottish Federation of Organists and is currently the President of the Stirling and District Society of Organists.

2025 saw the publication of her first book: Edinburgh Society of Organists: A Fellowship of Organists which was highly praised. She is currently working on her second book for publication in 2026 which is based on her Ph.D thesis.

Aside from music Nicola enjoys exploring the great outdoors through swimming, cycling and running.

Nicola joined us as accompanist in September.

## PROGRAMME

1. CHOIR, A CAPPELLA & ACCOMPANIED
  - (a) **O Little Town of Bethlehem** **Ralph Vaughan Williams**  
 [CHOIR Verses 1, 2, 3; then with AUDIENCE for Verse 4]  
 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.
  - (b) **Ding Dong! Merrily On High**
  - (c) **In Dulci Jubilo** **16<sup>th</sup> C. French** *harm.* **Charles Wood**  
**Trad. arr. Robert L. Pearsall**
2. INSTRUMENTAL SOLOIST **Meg Carroll, clarsach**  
**The Angel Gabriel** **Trad. Basque** *arr.* **Anne Macdearmid**
3. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED
  - (a) **Break Forth, O beauteous heav'nly light**  
 (And There Were Shepherds) **Johann Sebastian Bach**
  - (b) **O Men from the Fields** **Arnold Cooke**
4. INSTRUMENTAL SOLOIST **Nicola MacRae, piano**  
**Yuletide Medley**
5. CHOIR  
**Susanni** **Richard Rodney Bennett**

6. VOCAL/INSTRUMENTAL SOLOIST  
**Donal Hurley, baritone/violin; Nicola MacRae, piano**  
**Don Oíche Úd I mBeithil** (Unto that Night in Bethlehem)  
**Trad. Irish** *arr.* **Donal Hurley**
7. ALL (CHOIR & AUDIENCE, ACCOMPANIED) **Anon., arr. David Willcocks**  
**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)

## INTERVAL

Refreshments will be served

