

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.

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 12th 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, 6th 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**
(b) **Stille Nacht**

Trad. arr. John Rutter

Franz Gruber arr. Donald Cashmore

[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** **16th C. French harm. Charles Wood**
(c) **In Dulci Jubilo** **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

