



DURHAM MUSIC YOUTH CHOIRS
NORTHERN SPIRIT SINGERS

CHRISTMAS WITH WILL TODD

Saturday 16 December 2023

Elvet Methodist Church

Programme

Profits to be donated to Durham Music Trust

www.durhamchoralsociety.org.uk

Durham Choral Society Registered Charity No. 514557 affiliated to Making Music

Durham Music Trust Registered Charity No. 1126844





1 - Will Todd (Photo: A Holdsworth)

Thank you for coming to our Christmas Celebrations.

We are delighted that local composer Will Todd, Durham Choral Society's President and Chair of Durham Music Trust, has found time in his busy schedule to perform his wonderful jazzy Christmas music with us.

Moreover we are very pleased that Durham Music Youth Choir, Durham Music Training Choir and Northern Spirit Singers are joining us for the evening to share in our Celebrations.

Enjoy!

Val Wooff Chair, Durham Choral Society

Jazz ensemble: Will Todd on piano, Isaac Conroy on bass and John Bradford on drums. Brass ensemble: formed of young players from Durham Music Service. More information about Will Todd and the choirs can be found at [Durham Choral Society](#) [Durham Music Training Choir](#) [Durham Music Youth Choir](#) [Northern Spirit Singers](#) [Will Todd](#)

Programme

Carols

Personent Hodie – Durham Music Youth Choir and Northern Spirit Singers

In the Bleak Midwinter – Durham Choral Society

Reading – Christmas Mail by Ted Kooser

Member of Durham Choral Society

Carols

Away in a Manger – all choirs and congregation (verse 2)

Softly – Northern Spirit Singers

We Three Kings – all choirs and congregation (verses 3, 4 and 5)

Reading – Christmas Carol by Sara Teasdale

Member of Northern Spirit Singers

Carols

The Christ-child – Durham Music Youth Choir

A boy was born – Durham Choral Society

I am changed – Northern Spirit Singers

Reading – Christmas Giving by Iris W. Bray

Member of Durham Music Youth Choir

Carols

All the gifts – Durham Music Training choir and Durham Music Youth Choir

My Lord has come – all choirs

Once in Royal David's City – all choirs and congregation (verses 2, 4 and 5)

Congregational verses are in bold text.

Congregational Carols

Away in a Manger

Choirs

1. 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.

Congregation

2. **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.**

Choirs

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.

We three kings

Choirs

1. We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star
 O star of wonder, star of night
 Star with royal beauty bright
 Westward leading, still proceeding
 Guide us to thy perfect light
2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
 O star of wonder, star of night etc

Congregation

3. **Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high**

Choirs O star of wonder, star of night etc

Congregation

4. **Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone cold tomb**

Choirs O star of wonder, star of night etc

Congregation

**5. Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Heaven to earth replies**

Choirs O star of wonder, star of night etc

Once in Royal David's City

Choirs

1. 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.

Congregation

**2. 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.**

Choirs

3. For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

Congregation

**4. 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.**

**5. 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;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

Readings

Reading - Christmas Mail by Ted Kooser

Member of Durham Choral Society

Cards in each mailbox,
angel, manger, star and lamb,
as the rural carrier,
driving the snowy roads,
hears from her bundles
the plaintive bleating of sheep,
the shuffle of sandals,
the clapping of camels.
At stop after stop,
she opens the little tin door
and places deep in the shadows
the shepherds and wise men,
the donkeys lank and weary,
the cow who chews and muses.
And from her Styrofoam cup,
white as a star and perched
on the dashboard, leading her
ever into the distance,
there is a hint of hazelnut,
and then a touch of myrrh.

Reading - Christmas Carol by Sara Teasdale

Member of Northern Spirit Singers

The kings they came from out the south,
All dressed in ermine fine;
They bore Him gold and chrysopease,
And gifts of precious wine.
The shepherds came from out the north,
Their coats were brown and old;
They brought Him little new-born lambs—
They had not any gold.
The wise men came from out the east,
And they were wrapped in white;
The star that led them all the way
Did glorify the night.
The angels came from heaven high,
And they were clad with wings;
And lo, they brought a joyful song
The host of heaven sings.
The kings they knocked upon the door,
The wise men entered in,
The shepherds followed after them
To hear the song begin.
The angels sang through all the night
Until the rising sun,
But little Jesus fell asleep
Before the song was done.

Reading – Christmas Giving by Iris W. Bray

Member of Durham Music Youth Choir

Christmas is for giving
And for showing that we care,
For honoring the Christ Child
With the loving gifts we share.
The wise men gave of riches;
The shepherds, faith and love.
Each gift, in its own measure,
Was smiled on from above.
Let every gift be treasured;
Not always size or price
Determines the extent of love
And willing sacrifice
Handsome gifts with festive trim
Bring smiles of sweet content,
But modest gifts of humble means
are oftentimes heaven sent.
Whether it be large or small,
Each gift will share in part
The message of true Christmas joy
If given from the heart!

Future Concerts

Durham Choral Society

20 January 2024, Durham Cathedral

Mozart: *Mass in C Minor* and *Piano Concerto No 21*

[Tickets on sale now](#) £24 and £12, booking fees apply.

Durham Choral Society

18 May 2024, Durham Cathedral

Schubert: *Mass in G* and Gjielo: *Sunrise Mass*

Save the date.

Orchestra North East

Saturday March 9th 2024, Newcastle Cathedral, 7.00pm

Bizet: *L'Arlésienne Suite No. 1* Finzi: *Clarinet Concerto*

Puccini: *I Crisantemi* Rachmaninov: *Symphonic Dances*

[Tickets on sale now](#) £16; £14; £8; £1, booking fees apply