



Registered Charity No 276649

Conductor: Carleton Etherington

Christmas Concert

Cirencester Choral Society

Hannah Brooks-Hughes (*violin*)

Judith Paris (*narrator*)

David Whitehead (*organ*)

and Audience (*carols*)

in support of

Citizens Advice Cotswold District

and Cirencester Housing for Young People (refreshments)



**Cotswold
District**



19 Dec 2017, 7:30 pm

Cirencester Parish Church

Cirencester Choral Society's Fundraising

In addition to the annual programme of two main concerts per year in April/ May and late November/early December, Cirencester Choral Society has in recent years put on biennial Christmas concerts to raise funds for other charities, including the Churn Project in 2013 and Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP) in 2015. The principal beneficiary of tonight's concert is Citizens Advice Cotswold District. We are pleased, also, to welcome back CHYP who are providing and selling the interval refreshments in aid of their work to house and support young homeless people in the town. You will hear about the work of Citizens Advice after the interval and can read about it later in the programme.

Notes on tonight's concert programme



We are delighted to welcome, as our guest musician, Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year 2017, violinist Hannah Brooks-Hughes. Against stiff competition, Hannah took both the Title and the Audience Prize at the finals in March and at age 13 became the youngest ever winner of the event. Shortly afterwards she won the Strings Finals at the Gregynog Young Musician Competition in Wales, competing

alongside category winners & finalists of the BBC Young Musician Competition. As her biography on the next page reveals, these were just the latest successes in a young career already distinguished by awards and prizes. Tonight Hannah performs movements from Bach's *Partitas for solo violin* and, with her accompanist Sara Harris, plays Vittorio Monti's *Csárdás*, a virtuosic piece written in the style of Hungarian gypsy fiddle music, the name being derived from the Hungarian word for 'tavern'.

A warm welcome back is extended to Judith Paris, star of stage and screen, whose inimitable renditions of the spoken word have won the acclaim of audiences at our previous charity concerts.

As the *Abbey900* events commemorating the founding of Cirencester's St Mary's Abbey draw to a close, we have chosen several carols whose texts or melodies originated in the pre-reformation age, including *Ave Maris Stella* (Hail Star of the Sea), an 8th C Vespers hymn to Mary as set by Monteverdi in his *Vespers of 1610*.

One of our traditional carols has a distinctly local history. Gloucestershire's Gustav Holst had links with Cranham and named his tune for *In the bleak midwinter* after the village. This is the original tune for the carol. There remains a belief locally that Holst may have composed it while staying at what was then the B&B in Cranham: the house has since been named *Midwinter House*.



Tonight's performers

Carleton Etherington (*conductor*) has been the Musical Director of Cirencester Choral Society since January 2005. He is Organist and Director of Music at Tewkesbury Abbey and combines that post with teaching and performing. He was educated at Chetham's School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. In 1992 he won first prize at the Paisley International Organ Competition and was the Royal College of Organists' "Performer of the Year" competition in 1993. He held posts at St Bride's Fleet Street and Leeds Parish Church before taking up his present appointment. Carleton has performed widely in Europe, Australia and USA, frequently broadcasts on Radio 3 and has won acclaim for his CD recordings.

Hannah Brooks-Hughes (*violin*) began studying violin when she was 4½, and piano a year later. She performed her first violin concerto aged 8 with the Glevum Symphony Orchestra. By age 9 Hannah had already passed all eight ABRSM Violin exams with distinction, along with five piano and five singing exams, also with distinctions. A Major Music & Academic Scholar at the Cheltenham Ladies College, she was originally taught violin by Robert Bishop of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and is now under the tuition of internationally acclaimed soloist Tasmin Little.

Hannah formerly led the National Children's Orchestra and three times was a recipient of their prestigious Leverhulme Scholarship. In 2014 she became the youngest ever winner of the Two Moors International Festival Young Musician Competition and in 2015 and 2017 was awarded the ABRSM Sheila Mossman Memorial Prize for the highest mark in the country in her Grade 6 and 7 piano exams.

Hannah is in great demand as a soloist and returned to the Two Moors Festival in 2015, performing in a festival which featured such stars as Sarah Connolly, Imogen Cooper and Alina Ibragimova, and becoming the event's youngest ever soloist. In October 2015 Hannah performed a Vivaldi concerto alongside Nicola Benedetti at Birmingham Symphony Hall when Nicola invited a small ensemble to perform with her, asking Hannah to play the solo part to a capacity audience.

Hannah plays a 1760 violin by the Mantua master luthier Tommaso Balestrieri which is generously loaned to her by Florian Leonhard Fine Violins of London. She is also generously supported by Avonside Group Services & Brimpsfield Music Society.

Judith Paris (*narrator*) was born in Cirencester and was a member of Cirencester Ballet Club, winning a scholarship to the Royal Ballet School. She has been a member of the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and has performed many times in London's West End. She made eight films with Ken Russell, has appeared in a variety of TV productions from Lynda La Plante's *Mind Games* and *A Touch of Frost* to *Dr Who* and *The Two Ronnies*. Judith's mother was the pianist Doris Franklin, Cirencester Choral Society's accompanist for many years. In 2011 Judith performed her one woman show *Waxing Lyrical* - the story of Mme Tussaud - in Cirencester Parish Church.

David Whitehead (*organist*) is Director of Music at St Augustine's Church, Edgbaston and is accompanist for Chew Valley and Tewkesbury Choral Societies. David studied at the Royal College of Music in London where he was Organ Scholar at St Paul's Cathedral, before embarking upon a teaching and performing career. Over the years he has taught in a wide variety of schools, from London across to Gloucestershire, and his conducting and performing career has encompassed involvement with many church and school choirs, chamber choirs and choral societies, including Cirencester Choral Society from 2001 - 2004. Alongside his teaching he has maintained a career as an established recitalist and répétiteur.

Citizens Advice Cotswold District

For its Christmas concert the Choral Society looks to support a charity which is locally-based and which has a broad remit. Citizens Advice Cotswold District (the new name for our local Citizens Advice service) certainly meets these criteria. In organising this event, we have welcomed working with CACD's supporting charity, The Friends of Cirencester CAB, as well as CACD volunteers and staff.

CACD offers free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to any of the eighty thousand plus people living in the district. Last year, from its centres in Cirencester, Northleach, Bourton and Tetbury, it handled some 5,700 issues - or cries for help - from over 2,000 people, all dealt with promptly, efficiently and compassionately by the handful of paid staff and some 25 trained volunteer advisors.

CACD gets no funding from central government and relies on grants it receives from District, Town and Parish Councils, donations from businesses and individual supporters and funds raised through the activities of the Friends of Cirencester CAB. It informs and advises about debt, employment, welfare benefits, housing, family matters, legal issues, utilities, consumer matters and discrimination.

If you have a problem, or know of anyone who does, and would like to discuss it with Citizens Advice Cotswold District, ring the Freephone helpline: 0808 800 0511 Mon–Fri 10 am - 4pm, or drop in to the offices in either Cirencester, Moreton or Tetbury. Full details of opening times and locations, as well as online information and access to e-mail advice, can be found at <http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk>



*Cirencester's CACD office is at
2-3 The Mews, Cricklade St, through
the passageway next to D&J Sports.
The office is open on Mondays to
Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm.*

O come, all ye faithful

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:
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest;
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God almighty
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a manger full of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Throng'd the air;
But his mother only
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him -
Give my heart.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the help of the Visitor Information Centre in providing box office facilities and the Parish Church for making the venue available for this concert.

On this day earth shall ring

On this day earth shall ring
With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King,
Born on earth to save us;
Him the Father gave us.

Ideo – o – o

Ideo – o – o

Ideo, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth;
When he came down to earth,
Bethlehem saw his birth;
Ox and ass before him
From the cold would hide him.

Ideo – o – o

Ideo – o – o

Ideo, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise men three to him led;
Kneel they low by his bed,
Lay their gifts before him,
Praise him and adore him.

Ideo – o – o

Ideo – o – o

Ideo, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

On this day angels sing;
With their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven's King,
Born on earth to save us;
Peace and love he gave us.

Ideo – o – o

Ideo – o – o

Ideo, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

It came upon the midnight clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lonely plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.



Cirencester Choral Society's next event:
"The Glories of Parry and Stanford"

Sat 5 May 2018, 7.30 pm
Cirencester Parish Church



Good King Wenceslas

All Good King Wenceslas look'd out
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep and crisp and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

Men Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?

Women Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.

Men Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
Bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.

All Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

Women Sire the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.

Men Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.

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.

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
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 new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen 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 new-born King.*