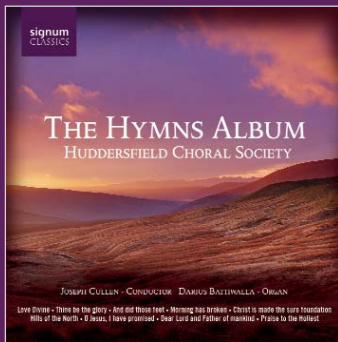


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THE CAROLS ALBUM
JOSEPH CULLEN - CONDUCTOR DARIUS BATTIWALLA - ORGAN

THE CAROLS ALBUM

1. Hark! the herald-angels sing	[3.21]	15. O come, all ye faithful	[3.59]
2. Gaudete	[1.25]	16. The holly and the ivy	[2.33]
3. Gabriel's Message	[2.39]	17. O holy night	[5.34]
4. O little town of Bethlehem	[3.30]	18. In the bleak midwinter	[4.19]
5. Coventry Carol	[2.37]	19. Ding dong! merrily on high	[2.04]
6. In excelsis gloria	[2.44]	20. It came upon the midnight clear	[3.20]
7. Silent night	[4.13]	21. Hail! smiling morn	[2.10]
8. Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing	[4.02]	22. Sussex Carol	[1.38]
9. Angels from the realms of glory	[3.41]	23. Of the Father's heart begotten	[3.16]
10. Ave Maria	[2.13]	24. Away in a manger	[2.33]
11. Joy to the world	[1.49]	25. I saw three ships	[1.47]
12. Little Jesus, sweetly sleep	[2.34]	26. Christians awake	[2.39]
13. Unto us a boy is born	[1.48]	Total time	[74.12]
14. Love came down at Christmas	[1.42]		

HUDDERSFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

DIRECTED BY JOSEPH CULLEN
DARIUS BATTIWALLA - ORGAN

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THE CAROLS ALBUM

Undoubtedly the hardest annual of the entire musical repertory, the carol, in one form or another, has held its own against the twin ravages of time and taste, out-witting the fickleness of fashion and fad down the ages through its remarkable mutability. The simple nature of the carol allowed it to absorb the cross-currents and reflections of religious observance and popular pickiness, giving it a peculiar freedom to be turned into either devotion or diversion for both the religiously inclined or the die-hard holiday reveller. There are very few musical numbers that are still routinely sung, year in and year out, in the most solemn of cathedrals, shabby street corners, grand villas, humble homes, austere churches and rough-and-tumble bars the world over.

The merest glimpse into the history of the carol propels us into a bewilderingly long and complex affair, spanning more than just the couple of thousand years since the the birth of Jesus Christ and its advent. This is a story of ancient texts meeting a suitable musical setting and often changing their tune down the years on finding a more melodic partner. Or the text may change and find itself in the company of several suitors for the

same tune. In medieval times, for example, bawdy, and all too popular, songs were appropriated by clerics who would then apply a new text to the well-known tune in order that a beautiful melody may be returned to God - a by-product presumably being to rob the Devil of the best tunes. It's certain that we were also robbed of a good few drinking songs in the process. The carol's strength lies in its Darwinian ability to absorb and adapt to the sacred and profane alike.

Despite the carol being indelibly linked for us with the Christmas story and surrounding events, its origins have been traced back to pre-Christian times. Our very own twelve days of Christmas are themselves rooted in the Roman festival known as Saturnalia, after which twelve days of holiday ensued - including the giving of gifts, amongst other prefigurations. The Norse may have taken their own twelve-day fest, Yule, from the Romans. Much like the the hanging of boughs of mistletoe and holly, the fuss made over the Christmas tree, the burning of the Yule log and the primacy of both preserved and freshly slaughtered celebratory foods, the carol had its place in ancient custom, most likely as a round dance in honour of gods,

good food, the gradual lightening of the days and momentary fun.

Old favourites, such as *The Holly and the Ivy*, are not quite as innocent, celebratory dance-pieces as they seem. Often, layers of imagery are over-written, re-imagined, even spin-doctored into whole new meanings. So, Holly was a mainstay of Saturnalia festivals and Ivy dedicated to the Roman god Bacchus, for its qualities in preventing drunkenness. Both were mainstays of druidic culture, along with an old favourite, mistletoe. The carol also harks back to an older male-female contest, with the metaphorically 'poisonous' ivy being trumped by the powerful holly as the natural master of the sexes. But the Middle Ages also spun into invoking the holly as a crown of thorns adorning Jesus of Nazareth's head and ivy typifying everlasting life through its perennial green. And so it goes. The tune and text we know today was notated by folksong collector Cecil Sharp from an old woman in Gloucestershire only about a century ago and published in 1911, thus making it, in recent terminology, merely folk music.

Although carols have been associated down the ages with ancient festivals, the changing of the seasons and other important annual festivals, it was Christianity that seriously went about the

business of re-structuring, re-formation and standardising of the carol into both a secular and sacred celebration of the Holy Trinity and the Virgin Mary, largely by incorporating or over-painting known local rites in order to prevail. Like the yew tree in many a churchyard, the carol takes on a new life with a new, Christian father, the baby Jesus and his adored mother.

The Virgin has had her ups and downs over the years. Fervently adored during the Middle Ages, it took the most esteemed church authorities to curb the massive amounts of humble songs, hymns, motets and other sacred pieces dedicated to her sanctity. Still, the *Ave Maria* remains one of the most widely sung and set texts in history. From early plainchant through the Renaissance, Haydn, Mozart, Gounod and co. to modern-day folk metal bands like In Extremo and operatically inclined groups such as Il Divo, the song remains the same - a divine incantation, newly wrought on this collection by Simon Lindley. *Gaudete*, which also celebrates Mary, was memorably revived through Steeleye Span's pop hit which relives the original chant-like melody, sung here by Huddersfield's incomparable Choral Society.

Texts to which we rarely give a thought nowadays are steeped in very early Christian thought. / *Saw*

Three Ships is a case in point, despite being a great favourite at children's carol concerts. The third verse ought to be a magnet for Da Vinci Code theorists ('And what was in those ships all three'...'Our Saviour Christ and His lady'), but the whole is thought, disappointingly for some, to hark back merely to the relics of the three kings being guided toward the recently Christian Constantinople in the Fourth Century as ancient and holy remains, and consequently a means of spreading the word.

While the *Sussex Carol* is a relatively recent, and remarkably effective song, the *Coventry Carol* has the delectable and disturbing baggage of another ancient custom - the mystery play. The Pageant of the Shearman and Tailor's Guild was evidently an annual event in Coventry in the Sixteenth Century and included this haunting piece, almost an anti-carol, a dark sabbath, softly detailing Matthew's gospel version of the Slaughter of the Innocents.

Local events, such as mystery plays and processions afforded great succour to the carol. But that same localism and its secular - sacred flux through the centuries have made it ripe for censure and re-definition. The more remarkable then that some of these entities are still with us in that same middle-ground we still recognise and rejoice in.

The re-invention of the carol in more recent centuries has focused upon, initially, institutionalised notions, followed by increasingly international, not to say harmonised forms, of Christianity. Such is the blood-line of the carol - freedoms, like strictures only encourage and embolden composers, arrangers, choirmasters, clerics and wordsmiths to bring in the brass, descants, double choirs, full organ and entire congregations to the mix. The carol is just too much simple fun to leave alone. We shall keep inventing words, tunes, swapping them over and around and tweaking their old mysteries and jigs for examples to suit our times.

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TEXTS

1. 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 the 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 the 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 Son 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.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn arr. D. Battiwalla
Words: Charles Wesley & others

2. Gaudete

*Chorus: Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus ex
Maria virgine, gaudete!*

Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus;
carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.

Deus homo factus est, natura mirante;
mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.

Ezecaelis porta clausa per transitur;
unde lux est orta, salus invenitur.

Ergo nostra contio psallat iam in lustris
Benedicat Domino: salus regi nostro

*Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the
Virgin Mary, rejoice!*

At this time of grace and longed-for blessing,
Love faithfully offers a song of praise.

God is made human in this wonderful birth:
The world is cleansed through the rule of Christ.

The gate of heaven now opens which to us was
closed,
Sending forth transforming light through which
holiness is found.

Therefore we meet in pure songs of joy:
We bless the Lord, King of our salvation.

Words & music: trad. arr. Joseph Cullen

3. Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All Hail," said he; "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favour'd lady,"
Gloria!

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favour'd lady,"
Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy Name."
Most highly favour'd lady
Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
Most highly favour'd lady
Gloria!

Music: Basque noel arr. Edgar Pettman
Words: S. Baring-Gould

4. O little town of Bethlehem

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 praises 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.

Music: trad. English tune arr. R Vaughan Williams & Joseph Cullen,
descant by Thomas Armstrong
Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks

5. Coventry Carol

Refrain
Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, By by, lully lullay.
O sisters too, How may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling, For whom we do sing,
By by, lully lulay?

Herod the king, In his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, In his own sight,
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, Poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting Neither say nor sing,
By by, lully lulay!

Music: trad. arr. Martin Shaw
Words & tune from the Pageant of the Shearman and Tailors, 15th century

6. In Excelsis Gloria

Christo paremus cantica, in excelsis gloria,

When Christ was born of Mary free,
In Bethlem in that fair city,
Angels sang with mirth and glee,
In excelsis gloria.

Herdmen beheld these angels bright,
to them appeared with great light
and said: "God's Son is born this night",
In excelsis gloria.

This King is come to save his kind,
In the scripture as we find;
Therefore this song have we in mind,
Therefore this song have we in mind:

Christo paremus cantica, In excelsis gloria,

Then, dear Lord, for thy great grace,
Grant us the bliss to see thy face
Where we may sing to thy solace
In excelsis gloria.

Music: Joseph Cullen
Words: Harleian M. S. (1456)

7. Silent night

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Music: Franz Gruber arr. Joseph Cullen
Words: Joseph Mohr trans. John Freeman Young

8. Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing
our senses all away?
Never the like did come a-blowing, shepherds in
flow'ry fields in May,
Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing,
stealing our senses all away?

What is that light so brilliant breaking here in the
night across our eyes?
Never so bright the day-star waking started to
climb the morning skies!
What is that light so brilliant breaking here in the
night across our eyes?

Bethlehem! there in manger lying, find your
Redeemer, haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing! Worship the
Saviour born today.
Bethlehem! there in manger lying, find your
Redeemer, haste away,

Father Almighty, praise we offer, Glory be thine for
evermore.

May the whole earth in peace abiding tell of thy
grace from shore to shore,
Father Almighty, praise we offer, Glory be thine
for evermore.

Music: French trad. arr. Graham Barber

Words: French trad. Transl. A.B. Ramsay & David Willcocks

9. Angels, from the realms of glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant Light:

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of Nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him;
Every knee shall then bow down:

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Music: trad. arr. Martin Shaw

Words: J. Montgomery

10. Ave Maria

Ave Maria gratia plena, Dominus tecum, Dominus
tecum,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus
Sancta Maria Mater Dei ora pro nobis.

Sancta Maria ora pro nobis, nunc et in hora, hora
mortis nostrae,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus, ora. Amen

Music: Simon Lindley

Words: trad.

11. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ;
While fields and streams and hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
The wonders of his love
The wonders of his love
The wonders, the wonders of his love.

Music: W. Holford arr. Joseph Cullen

Words: Isaac Watts

12. Little Jesus, sweetly sleep

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir, we will lend
a coat of fur;
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
See the fur to keep you warm, Snugly round your
tiny form.

Mary's little baby sleep, sweetly sleep, sleep in
comfort, slumber deep.
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling little man.

Music: trad. Czech carol arr. Darius Battiwalla

Words: trad. Czech

13. Unto us a boy is born

Unto us a Boy is born!
King of all creation,
Came he to a world forlorn,
The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a stall was he
With sleepy cows and asses;
But the very beasts could see
That he all men surpasses.

Herod then with fear was filled:
'A prince,' he said, 'in Jewry!'
All the little boys he killed
At Bethlehem in his fury.

Now may Mary's Son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.

Music: trad. arr. Geoffrey Shaw
Words: Trier M. S. (15th century)

14. Love came down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But where-with for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Music: Sidney Hann arr. Graham Barber
Words: Christina Rossetti

15. O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlem;
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;

Gloria in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea Lord, we greet Thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Music: attrib. J. F. Wade arr. Joseph Cullen
Words: trad.

16. The Holly and the Ivy

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown:
Of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears
the crown.
*O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer;
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in
the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet
Saviour.
O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer;

*The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in
the choir.*

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor
sinners good.
*O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer;
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in
the choir.*

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn:
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas
day in the morn.
*O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer;
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in
the choir.*

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.
*O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer;
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in
the choir.*

Words and music: trad. arr. Joseph Cullen

17. O holy night

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees!
Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine!
O night when Christ was born,
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

Led by light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;

He knows our need,
To our weakness no stranger;
Behold your King!
Before him lowly bend!
Behold your king! your King!
Before him bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love and his Gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let us all within us praise his holy Name.

Christ is the Lord,
then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

Music: Adolphe Adam arr. John Rutter
Words: Cappeau de Roquetaure

18. 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 breast full of milk, And a manger full of hay.
Enough for Him whom angels, Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel, Which adore.

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.

Music: Harold Darke
Words: Christina Rossetti

19. Ding dong! merrily on high

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells
are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel
singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below let steeple bells be
swungen,
And i -o, i -o, i -o, by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime,
ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song,
ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Music: 16th century French tune arr. David Willcocks
Words: G. R. Woodward

20. 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, goodwill 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 lowly 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 lovesong 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.

Music: trad. English tune arr. Arthur Sullivan & Darius Battiwalla
Words: E. H. Sears

21. Hail! smiling morn

Hail! smiling morn, That tips the hills with gold,
Whose rosy fingers ope the gates of day, Hail!

Who the gay face of nature doth unfold,
At whose bright presence darkness flies away, Hail!

Music & Words: Reginald Spofforth

22. Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new born King.

All out of the darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night;
Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.

Music: trad. arr. David Willcocks
Words: English trad.

23. Of the Father's heart begotten

Of the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close.
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun.
Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie,
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

Music: from Piae Cantiones (1582) arr. David Willcocks
Words: Prudentius (348) transl. R. F. Davis

24. Away in a manger

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.

Music: W. Kirkpatrick arr. Joseph Cullen
Words: anon.

25. I saw three ships

I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas
Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas
day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three? on
Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And what was in those ships all three? on
Christmas Day in the morning

Our Saviour Christ and his lady, on Christmas Day,
on Christmas Day,
Our Saviour Christ and his lady, on Christmas Day
in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three? on
Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Pray whither sailed those ships all three? on
Christmas Day in the morning.

O, they sailed in to Bethlehem, on Christmas Day,
on Christmas Day,
O, they sailed in to Bethlehem, on Christmas Day
in the morning.
And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas
Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas
Day in the morning.

And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
on Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain!
on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Then let us all rejoice amain!
on Christmas Day in the morning.

Music: trad. arr. Darius Battiwalla
Words: trad.

26. Christians Awake

Christians awake, salve the happy morn,
Whereon the Saviour of mankind was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love,
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
To you and all the nations upon the earth;
This day hath God fulfilled His promised Word;
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

Music: John Wainwright arr. Darius Battiwalla
Words: John Byrom

BIOGRAPHIES

THE HUDDERSFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1836, and under a succession of distinguished principal conductors and chorus masters has developed an international reputation as the UK's leading choral society. The present chorus master is Joseph Cullen, with Darius Battiwalla as deputy chorus master.

The choir's special quality is the unique 'Huddersfield Sound' – a thrilling full-bodied and firm blended tone, flexible enough for both the most shattering climaxes and for the softest but focused pianissimos.

The Society promotes its own professional subscription concert season in Huddersfield Town Hall, its home since 1881. The choir also visits other major concert halls in the UK and abroad, regularly broadcasts for BBC radio and television, and has a long history of pioneering recordings. Recent repertoire includes established works such as Verdi's *Requiem*, Brahms's *German Requiem*, Elgar's three great oratorios *Gerontius*, *Apostles* and *The Kingdom* and Britten's *War Requiem*.

Under the leadership of principal conductor Martyn Brabbins the choir has also explored repertoire such as Rachmaninov's unaccompanied *Vespers* – performed at the Flâneries musicales d'été de Reims in 2004 and the Cheltenham Music Festival in 2005 – and choral music by Arnold Bax.

But Handel's *Messiah* remains the work most closely associated with the Huddersfield Choral Society – performed at least annually since 1864, and still attracting capacity audiences at the two Christmas performances in Huddersfield. Lightness and flexibility combine with awesome grandeur to bring this choral masterpiece to life for modern audiences.

The Society supports two junior choirs – the Youth Choir and Young Voices – which are directed by professional musicians and have their own independent concert programmes.

Details of all concerts and events, how to join the choir and how to become a subscriber can be found on the website at www.huddersfieldchoral.com


HUDDERSFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY

DARIUS BATTIWALLA

Darius Battiwalla has given organ recitals at cathedrals and concert halls including Leeds Town Hall, Westminster Abbey, York Minster and Bath Abbey. Recent highlights include a complete performance of Messiaen's *L'Ascension* at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, the solo part in Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* with the Hallé and Mark Elder, and a recital from the St. Magnus Festival broadcast on Radio 3. He is a regular organist for the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and has played on many of their recordings for Chandos Records. He was the organist for Simon Rattle's recent recording of Mahler's Eighth Symphony.

Darius has been music director of the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus for six years, preparing them for visiting orchestras and conductors, and conducting the occasional concert himself. He is also a visiting chorus master for Huddersfield Choral Society, CBSO chorus and the Netherlands Radio Choir, and an occasional conductor of the BBC Daily Service singers.

Darius teaches organ improvisation and continuo at the Royal Northern College of Music, enjoys arranging for both choir and instruments and has had arrangements broadcast on radio and television; he also improvises accompaniments for silent films.

JOSEPH CULLEN

Joseph Cullen was appointed Chorus Master of the Huddersfield Choral Society in 1999. He conducted the 2006 Christmas Concert in Huddersfield Town Hall, and a concert of British Choral music during the Society's tour to Brno in April 2007.

Joseph Cullen is also Director of the London Symphony Chorus whose recording of Verdi's *Falstaff* with the London Symphony Orchestra was awarded a Grammy for Best Opera Recording of 2006. Their performance of Verdi *Requiem* in New York was voted Critic's Best Performance of the Year by the *New Yorker* magazine. Joseph Cullen's commissions for symphonic chorus include a full-scale choral and orchestral work by the American composer, Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum to mark the LSC's 40th anniversary.

Future conducting engagements include Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at the Barbican on Easter Day 2007 with the London Symphony Chorus and City of London Sinfonia, Baroque programmes with his own group, London Chamber Players, at the City of London and Brighton Festivals, *Messiah* with l'Orchestre National de Lille and Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle* in Ravenna Cathedral, Italy with the LSC.



WORKING WITH THE FOOD INDUSTRY

Celsius Projects are delighted to support the Huddersfield Choral Society by sponsoring this recording.

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The Society would like to thank Celsius for their sponsorship and support which has made this project possible.



All of us at the Property Search Group (PSG) are delighted to be associated with the Huddersfield Choral Society. Their success, based on the excellence of individual choristers and the way in which they are combined in unity of purpose and voice to achieve a collective musical perfection, is a transport of delight. They are a local institution enjoying widely acknowledged national and international recognition.

PSG, another local institution, founded locally in Huddersfield, provides property information services to the conveyancing market and is a leading provider of Home Information Packs nationally through its 84 offices. Our Head Office is still in Huddersfield and we like to think that we are emulating the artistic success of the Choral Society with our own business success as the largest provider of Personal Searches in the UK.

That success has been on the back of working together with local companies. Nowadays we do that through "TheHIPAlliance" where along with local estate agents and solicitors we provide a service that makes the life of homeowners much easier. We are proud of the work we do and we are proud to be sponsoring this festive CD from the Huddersfield Choral Society.

We wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Tweedie Brown CBE
Property Search Group
www.TheHIPAlliance.com

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 Mr Roy Thompson
 Philip Cooper Building Merchants
 Andrea Crawshaw
 David Croft
 Barrie and Judith Williams

Carol

Coventry Carol
 Sussex Carol
 O Little Town of Bethlehem
 O Holy Night
 O Come All Ye Faithful
 Away In A Manger
 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
 The Holly and The Ivy
 Angels from the Realms of Glory
 Little Jesus, sweetly sleep
 In the Bleak Mid-Winter
 In the Bleak Mid-Winter
 Gabriel's Message
 Silent Night
 Ding Dong
 Love Came Down at Christmas
 Whence is that Goodly Fragrance
 Flowing
 Christians Awake
 I Saw Three Ships
 In Excelsis Gloria
 Ave Maria
 Hail! smiling morn
 Hark the Herald Angels Sing
 Joy To The World

*For James M Rawling (1978-2005)
 In memory of Peggy Broadbent*

*For Ken & Suzette Owen
 In Memory of Joe Morley*

In memory of Rev Valerie Barford



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SignumClassics, Signum Records Ltd., Suite 14, 21 Wadsworth Road, Perivale,
 Middx UB6 7JD, UK +44 (0) 20 8997 4000 E-mail: info@signumrecords.com