About this afternoon's programme

Gloria FP177
Francis Poulenc

Francis Poulenc (1899–1963) was one of a group of young French composers who became known as 'Les Six'. They aimed to break away from the influences of Germanic formality and French impressionism, and to employ a direct and simple style. Of the six, Poulenc was by far the most successful.

In the Gloria, the words from the Mass are set to music of an unmistakable freshness and vivacity. Some critics at the time suggested that it bordered on the sacrilegious; Poulenc replied, "While writing it I had in mind those Crozzoli frescoes with angels sticking out their tongues, and also some solemn-looking Benedictine monks that I saw playing football one day."

There are six short movements. After a brief introduction, the chorus enters with a prominent dotted figure to the word 'Gloria', forming the basis of this movement. The playful second, 'Laudamus Te', sees the chorus mostly divided into pairs of voices exchanging short phrases. In 'Domine Deus' the soprano soloist is heard for the first time, supported by the chorus, before we are whisked back to the playground for the chirpy 'Domine Fili, unigenite'. The soloist returns for 'Dominus Deus, Agnus Dei', combining and exchanging lyrical phrases with the chorus. In the sixth movement a majestic opening gives way to an animated section. Peace and serenity suffuse the closing pages, but Poulenc cannot resist a last loud interjection at the first 'Amen', before calm is restored for the final 'Amen'.

Poulenc notes © John Bawden

Good King Wenceslas
Infinite Light · Watts' Cradle Hymn
Paul Halley

Grammy award-winning composer Paul Halley was born in Essex in 1952 but was raised in Canada, where he now lives. He is director of music of the University of King's College Chapel Choir and of the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

His fun arrangement of Good King Wenceslas has dramatic roles for all, including solos for the robust but saintly king, his stammering page, a choir of treble angels, and storm effects for the rest.

Infinite Light has a light and lively traditional English melody with a fluid yet rhythmic organ part, culminating in a soaring, signature Halley descant. In Watts' Cradle Hymn, lyrics by Isaac Watts (1674–1748) are set to a traditional American melody in a simple, poignant, and hauntingly beautiful arrangement.

Christus Natus Est
Cecilia McDowall

Cecilia McDowall was born in London in 1951. She has been shortlisted eight times for the British Composer Awards, winning the award for Choral Music in 2014. Her work has been performed by leading choirs including the BBC Singers.

Christus Natus Est is her arrangement of five carols in an original setting, linked by instrumental passages. This afternoon you will hear the version scored for mixed chorus, unison children's choir and organ.

Thank you for sharing this concert with us. We wish you a very happy Christmas and hope to see you at our spring concert on Sunday 5th May 2019. Please visit our website www.lymebaychorale.co.uk nearer the time for more information.

Lyme Bay Chorale 2018

Christmas Concert

Sunday 9th December at 4pm
St Michael's Church, Lyme Regis

With St Michael's Children's Choir

Chloe Stratta (soprano)
Andrew Millington (organ)

Musical director: Alex Davies

Lyme Bay Chorale

The company

Musical director	Alex Davies
Organ	Andrew Millington

LYME BAY CHORALE

Soprano	Maria Barbashina, Katy Buchanan, Janet Clayton, Alison Davies, Dympna Duncan, Julia Eager, Elaine King, Gilly King, Heidi Merrett, Linda Nicholson, Sudhi Salooja, Jill Witherden
Alto	Sally Crowther-Burnage, Hilary Highet, Margaret Hurford, Kay Luckraft, Sue Milner-Smith, Nikki Moore, Maya Pieris, Caroline Richmond, Caroline Whitaker
Tenor	Charles Gould, Roger Grose, Charles King, Ian Luckraft, Alex McNeice
Bass	John Eade, Graham Jones, Joss Kent, Andrew Nicholson, Nigel Whitaker

ST MICHAEL'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Madi Apps, Freya-May Bujniewicz, Cecilia Davies, Frida Foody, Freya Harp, Milly Harp, Eva Jefferies, Ezra Jefferies, Joel Jefferies, Daisy Merrett, Frankie Remington, Daisy Taylor, Amber Wilcox, Marita Witkowska. *Adult helpers:* Margaret Davies, Julie Foody, Kate Gunn, Zoe Harp, Caz Jefferies, Sandra Lello, Margaret McConkey, Jacki Taylor

Chloe Stratta, soprano

Chloe grew up in Lyme Regis and attended Colyton Grammar School. She has a degree in music from the University of Manchester and is currently studying with Colin Baldy.

Chloe has performed in oratorio, opera and recitals across the country. This year she co-founded Grassroots Opera, with the aim of bringing engaging and accessible operatic productions to intimate rural venues.

Andrew Millington, organ

Andrew was director of music at Exeter Cathedral from 1999 to 2015, and his work with the cathedral choir included broadcasts, recordings and overseas tours.

He is well known as a recitalist, having played in most major UK venues, and has made several recordings as an organ soloist. He is also an active composer of church music.

Lyme Bay Chorale

The programme

Audience carol: **O come, o come Emmanuel**

Gloria
Francis Poulenc, 1959

Gloria • *Laudamus te* • *Domine Deus* • *Domine Fili, unigenite*
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei • *Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris*

Soloist: Chloe Stratta (soprano)

Audience carol: **O come, all ye faithful**

Good King Wenceslas
Paul Halley, 2003

Soloists: Joss Kent (baritone, the king)
Ezra Jefferies, Joel Jefferies, Frankie Remington, Amber Wilcox (trebles, pages)

INTERVAL

Audience carol: **O little town of Bethlehem**

Infinite Light • Watts' Cradle Hymn
Paul Halley, 2000/2004

Christus Natus Est
Cecilia McDowall, 2003

Personent hodie • *Entre le boeuf* • *Gaudete*
Infant holy, infant lowly • *Angelus ad virginem*

Audience carol: **Hark! The herald angels sing**

Ding! Dong! Merrily on high
Traditional, arranged by Mack Wilberg

After the performance, please make your way to the church hall for refreshments

Lyme Bay Chorale Young Singers Bursary: We are looking to encourage young singers aged 14 to 35 who would like to join us. Our bursaries include five free singing lessons; in return, we expect punctual attendance at rehearsals and participation in the concert. More information online at www.lymebaychorale.co.uk