

About our programme

Zadok the Priest

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Handel was born in Germany but as a young man moved first to Italy then to London, where he lived from 1712 until his death. He was extremely prolific, composing 42 operas, 29 oratorios, more than 120 cantatas, trios and duets, and many organ and orchestral pieces.

Handel wrote *Zadok the Priest* for the coronation of King George II in 1727 and it has been sung at every British coronation ceremony ever since.

Missa Sancti Nicolai

Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Haydn composed the *Missa Sancti Nicolai* (St Nicholas Mass) in 1772 while he was *Kappellmeister* (music director) at the Esterházy court. It was probably written to celebrate the nameday – the Feast of St Nicholas – of his employer, Prince Nicolaus, on 6 December.

The mass follows the usual format of *Kyrie*, *Gloria*, *Credo*, *Sanctus*, *Benedictus* and *Agnus Dei*. As was sometimes the custom, the *Credo* is in a compressed form, with different lines of the text sung simultaneously by the four sections of the choir. This shortened the mass (a benefit for the composer) while complying with the church's stipulation that the text must not be cut.

Although not on the same scale as the late masses (it is about half the length of the *Nelson Mass*) this work is nevertheless quintessential Haydn in its energy, its tunefulness and, above all, its infectious joy.

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)

Probably best known for his *Requiem*, Fauré also produced a large body of chamber music and more than 100 songs, of which *Cantique de Jean Racine* – written for a composition competition when he was just 19 – is among the most familiar. The text, by Jean Racine, is a French paraphrase of a Latin hymn.

Geistliches Lied

Johannes Brahms (1833–97)

Brahms wrote *Geistliches Lied* (Sacred Song) in 1856 during a 'back and forth' trade of contrapuntal studies with the violinist Joseph Joachim. The composition is in the form of a double canon – the tenor imitating the soprano and the bass imitating the alto – with text by the 17th-century German writer Paul Flemming.

Watts' Cradle Hymn

Good King Wenceslas

Paul Halley (b. 1952)

Grammy award-winning composer Paul Halley was born in Essex 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.

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.

Halley's fun arrangement of *Good King Wenceslas* has plenty of drama and musical sound effects!

Lyme Bay Chorale 2021

Christmas Concert

Sunday 12th December at 4pm

Lyme Regis Parish Church

Directed by Alex Davies

Organ: Andrew Millington

www.lymebaychorale.co.uk

Thank you for sharing this concert with us. We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, and we hope to see you at our concerts during 2022 (Covid permitting!). Please visit our website www.lymebaychorale.co.uk nearer the time for more information.

The company

Lyme Bay Chorale would like to welcome you to our Christmas concert and thank you for your support. We appreciate your help in making this event safe by following social distancing recommendations and by wearing a mask when moving around the church.

Musical director Alex Davies

Organ Andrew Millington

LYME BAY CHORALE

Soprano Maria Barbashina, Sue Bruce-Payne, Kate Buchanan, Janet Clayton, Alison Davies, Cecilia Davies, Dympna Duncan, Julia Eager, Gilly King, Linda Nicholson, Sudhi Salooja

Alto Julie-Anne Conway, Sally Crowther-Burnage, Kate Gunn, Hilary Hight, Kay Luckraft, Nicola Moore, Maya Pieris, Maurene West, Caroline Whitaker

Tenor Nicholas Brown, David Bruce-Payne, James Eager, Charles Gould, Ian Luckraft

Bass Malcolm Foster, David Fouracre, Adrian Hatfield, Graham Jones, Joss Kent, Andrew Nicholson, Eric Ritchie, Nigel Whitaker

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.



This concert is dedicated to Ruth Taylor, 12 February 1935–13 November 2021
Ruth founded Lyme Bay Chorale in 2000 and was its musical director until 2007.
She was a wonderful lady with a great passion for singing and a talent for bringing people together.

The programme

Zadok the Priest HWV 258
George Frideric Handel, 1727

Organ solo: Noël Suisse
Louis-Claude Daquin, c1757

Audience carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Missa Sancti Nicolai Hob. XXII/6
Joseph Haydn, c1772

Kyrie • Gloria • Credo • Sanctus • Benedictus • Agnus Dei

INTERVAL

Cantique de Jean Racine Op.11
Gabriel Fauré, 1865

Geistliches Lied Op.30
Johannes Brahms, 1856

Audience carol: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Organ solo: Sleigh Ride
Leroy Anderson, 1948

Good King Wenceslas
Watts' Cradle Hymn
Paul Halley, 2003/2004

Audience carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful

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

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. There is more information on our website at www.lymebaychorale.co.uk