

Fortismere Community Choir

Fortismere Community Choir started in 2009 as an un auditioned choir that welcomes those with and without musical experience who have a desire to sing with like-minded others. Its repertoire consists of light and jazz music as well as classical. It has performed at the Cadogan Hall and at a range of venues across Muswell Hill. It meets at Fortismere School every Saturday at 11.0.30. New members are welcome. You do not need to have a link with Fortismere School to join.

Repertoire for the 2012/13 Season has included Faure's Requiem, If ye love me by Thomas Tallis and Bruckner's Ave Maria. The choir has at least 10 rehearsals and a concert per term. We usually perform carols and other works at Christmas, a classical work after Easter and light repertoire in the summer. There are also several other performance opportunities over the course of the year including carol singing and collaborations with other musical groups.

New members are welcome and if you are interested in joining you can attend a rehearsal without obligation. We then ask for a subscription of £50 per adult per term in order to cover costs. We are especially looking for Tenors and Basses at present, but Sopranos and Altos always welcome. If you are interested in joining contact us at fmcinfo@fortismere.org.uk

Fortismere Music Centre

For information:

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Fortismere Community Choir

Christmas Concert

St Andrew's Church

Saturday 14th December '13



1st Half

Gaudete - **Traditional**

Hodie Christus Natus Est - **Gabrieli**

Bruckner Motets:

Ave Maria

Locus Iste

Christus Factus Est – Brass Ensemble

Os Justis

INTERVAL

The bar is open before the performance, and during the interval following the first half.

Hark The Herald

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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 newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n 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 newborn King!"

Oh 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.

Oh come ...

See how the shepherds
Summoned to their cradle
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps

O come ...

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all that hear in heaven
God's holy word.
Give to our Father glory in the Highest

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning
Jesus to thee be glory given
Work of the Father
New in flesh appearing

Oh come ...

2nd Half Nine Carols With Readings

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|----|-------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | All | - | Once In Royal David City |
| 2. | All | - | God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen |
| 3. | All | - | While Shepherds Watched |
| 4. | Choir | - | Infant Holy |
| 5. | All | - | Oh Little Town of Bethlehem |
| 6. | Choir | - | Holly & The Ivy |
| 7. | All | - | Oh Come All Ye Faithful |
| 8. | Choir | - | Ding Dong Merrily On High |
| 9. | All | - | Hark The Herald |

Composers

Josef Anton Bruckner was born on September 4, 1824 in the upper Austrian town of Ansfelden. His father was a school teacher and church organist, and Bruckner's initial studies followed similar lines.

Bruckner assiduously studied the music of Renaissance Italian polyphonic masters such as Palestrina and German Baroque composers, especially J S Bach. He completed his studies with Sechter in 1861, and began to make a name for himself as a composer and improviser at the organ. He moved to Vienna in 1868 to take appointments as the Emperor's court organist and to take over Sechter's professorship in harmony and counterpoint at the Vienna Conservatory.

Bruckner spent the 1870's and 80's giving masterful organ recitals. He was a devoutly religious man, composing symphonies, about forty motets and seven masses, until his death in Vienna on October 11, 1896.

Giovanni Gabrieli was born in 1555 Venice and instructed in music by his uncle, Andrea Gabrieli, an organist at St. Mark's Cathedral. Giovanni eventually became an organist at St. Mark's. As a composer, he was considered the greatest of the Venetian Masters. The use of *cori spezzati* (divided choirs) was frequent at St. Mark's, as two separate choirs were placed with the organs on opposite sides of the church. This motet, *Hodie Christus Natus Est*, features a mixture of duple and triple rhythms, the text being an antiphon for Magnificat at Vespers, feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

Oh 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 wondering love

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
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 to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell O come to us,
abide with us Our Lord Emmanuel

While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched
Their flocks by night All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

"Fear not," said he,
For mighty dread had seized their troubled minds
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind."

"To you in David's Town this day
Is born of David's line
A Savior who is Christ the Lord
And this shall be the sign"

"The heavenly Babe You there shall find
To human view displayed
And meanly wrapped In swathing bands
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, And forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song

"All glory be to God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth From heaven to men
Begin and never cease"

Nine Readings

This evening's Nine Lessons or Readings are brought to you by members of the Fortismere Community Choir.

1. Jane Wills – The Bee Carol by Carol Ann Duffy
2. Laura Worsley – The Errors of Santa Claus by Stephen Leacock
3. Nick Thomas – Snow by Louis McNeice
4. Jo Maude – Yorkshire School Christmas – Gervaise Phinn
5. Caroline Elliot – A Child's Christmas In Wales by Dylan Thomas
6. Kerry-Ann Goode – Holly by Seamus Heaney
7. Gavin Lumsden – Ring Our Wild Bells by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
8. Miriam Clarke – Nativity Play by Joyce Grenfell
9. Claire Murdoch – Christmas by John Betjeman

Once In Royal David's City

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.

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.

And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

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 cares when we are sad,
And he shares when we are glad.

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.

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;
When like stars his children crowed
All in white shall wait around.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Saviour Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone
astray

O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy O tidings of
comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by Name.

O tidings ...

The shepherds at those tidings Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway The Son of God to find.

O tidings ...

And when to Bethlehem they came Where this infant lay,
They found Him in a manger, Where oxen feed on hay;
His Mother Mary kneeling, Unto the Lord did pray.

O tidings ...

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now
embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas All other doth deface.

O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy O tidings of
comfort and joy