

A Christmas Celebration

- Ding Dong Merrily on High (3:14) arr. Robert Hartley, Brian Kay & Charles Wood
- 2 Kwmbayah (2:08) arr. K. J. Dinham
- Joys Seven (3:01) arr. Stephen Cleobury
- 4 An Australian Christmas (6:53) William James arr, James Curnow
- 5 Stille Nacht (3:10) F. X. Gruber harmonised by Brian Kay
- Sign hears the Watchmen's Voices (from Cantata 140) (6:01)
 J. S. Bach ed. John Rutter
- 7 Away in a Manger (3:20) arr. Goff Richards Cornet Solo: Phillip McCann
- Deck the Hall (1:48)
 arr. Gordon Langford
- The Holly and the Ivy (2:09) John Gardner

- O Christmas Tree (Tannenbaum) (3:44) arr. Richard Phillips
- A Merry Little Christmas (5:38)
- In the Bleak Mid-Winter (4:00)
 Gustav Holst arr, Stephen Bulla
- Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day (1:52)
 arr. David Willcocks
- Lullaby (2:55)
 Brahms arr. Richard Phillips
 Cornet Solo: Phillip McCann
- Santa Claus-Trophobia (6:29) arr. Sandy Smith
- ¹⁶ Sir Christèmas (1:24) William Mathias
- The Coventry Carol (3:47)
- ¹⁶ A Christmas Fantasy (7:52) arr. Gordon Langford

DDD

TT = 70:40

Tracks 4, 12, 15, 17:
Sellers Engineering Band conducted by Phillip McCann
Tracks 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16:
Huddersfield Choral Society conducted by Brian Kay
Tracks 1, 7, 10, 11, 18:

Sellers Engineering Band & Huddersfield Choral Society conducted by Brian Kay

Tracks 1, 3, 6, 9, 14, 16: Features Organ played by Simon Lindley for the wonder of their message and the tunefulness of their music. Singers suddenly find extra reserves of strength and commitment. Brass players blow that little bit harder, or much more sweetly if the mood demands. And even a lonely busker playing a single line on an old penny whistle, with no words and no harmony, knows he can speak to his passing audience more directly than at any other time. The familiar strains of a favourite carol can instantly overwhelm us with the spirit of Christmas.

Christmas concerts in the Town Hall in Huddersfield give the members of its Choral Society the chance to sayour the delights of the best-known Christmas songs as well

The annual celebration of Christmas gives us the opportunity, among other things, to

enjoy once again a wealth of seasonal songs and carols that are instantly recognisable

Christmas concerts in the Town Hall in Huddersfield give the members of its Choral Society the chance to savour the delights of the best-known Christmas songs as well as finding new ways to tell the old story in words and music. This rather eclectic selection reflects a determination to mix and match the many ways that composers and arrangers have responded to that story: the warmth and gentle simplicity of *Kwmbayah* or *Stille Nacht*, the cheerfulness of *Deck the Hall* with *The Holly and the Ivy*. Then there are those arranged with Church choirs in mind: *Joys Seven, Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day* and William Mathias's exciting combination of the old and new in *Sir Christèmas*.

The exhilarating and euphonius sound of Phillip McCann's Sellers Engineering Band brings to the recording not only a welcome variety of texture but also a tremendous bedrock of support in the accompanied items. The combination of a large choir in full voice and a brass band at full stretch is a force to be reckoned with and arrangers such as Gordon Langford and Goff Richards have made best use of that sound in their seasonal medleys *A Christmas Fantasy* and *A Merry Little Christmas*. The band comes into its own with the three contrasting movements — jaunty, gentle then joyful — of *An Australian Christmas*. It gives a new look to *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* and an adventurous and suitably awesome account of *The Coventry Carol*. Give a brass band the opportunity to let its collective hair down and it will respond with vigour! And whether Santa Claus is stuck up the chimney, kissing Mummy or simply coming to town, he's given the full treatment in *Santa Claustrophobia*!

Add to all this the majesty of the Huddersfield Town Hall organ in the hands of Simon Lindley, and the magic of Phillip McCann's playing of Brahms's *Lullaby* and *Away in a Manger*, and you have a recipe for one of the merriest little Christmas Celebrations on record.

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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, 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!

2 Kwmbayah

Lord in manger lies, kwmbayah! O Lord, kwmbayah!

Wise men worship him, kwmbayah! O Lord, kwmbayah!

Alleluia, Lord! kwmbayah! O Lord, kwmbayah!

K. J. Dinham

Joys Seven

The first good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of one; To see the blessed Jesus Christ When he was first her son:

When he was first her son, good man: And blessed may he be, Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, To all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of two; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, To make the lame to go:

To make the lame to go, good man: And blessed may he be, Both Father...

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of three; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, To make the blind to see:

To make the blind to see, good man: And blessed may he be, Both Father...

The next good joy that Mary had. It was the joy of four; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, To read the bible o'er:

To read the bible o'er, good man: And blessed may he be, Both Father...

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of five; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, To bring the dead alive:

To bring the dead alive, good man: And blessed may he be, Both Father...

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of six; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, Upon the crucifix:

Upon the crucifix, good man: And blessed may he be, Both Father... The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of sev'n; To see her own son, Jesus Christ, To wear the crown of heav'n:

To wear the crown of heav'n, good man: And blessed may he be, Both Father...

Traditional

5 Stille Nacht

Stille Nacht! Heiliger Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht. Nur das traute, hoch heiliger Paar Holde Knabe im lockigen Haar. Schlaf in himmlischer ruh!

Stille Nacht! Heiliger Nacht! Hirten erst Kund gemacht. Durch der Engel, haleluja. Tönt es laut von fern und nah: Christ der Retter ist da!

Stille Nacht! Heiliger Nacht! Gottes Sohn, O wie lacht, Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund, Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund, Christ in deiner Geburt!

Josef Mohr

Zion hears the Watchmen's Voices Zion hears the watchmen's voices, With gladness all her heart rejoices, She eager wakes to greet the day.

See, her Lord from heav'n descending With grace and truth and power unending, Her day star dawns with brightest ray. O come, thou blessed One, Lord Jesu, God's own Son, Hosianna!

We follow there Thy feast to share, And taste the joys beyond compare.

Glory now to God we render, Who reigns on high in heav'nly splendour;

Let ev'ry tongue in praise unite.

Lo, we enter heav'n's bright portal To join the song of saints immortal With angels round thy throne of light.

No mortal joy can e'er With heav'n's true bliss compare; Alleluia!

Rejoice below, i-o, i-o! Sing out in dulci jubilo.

P. Nicolai English words: J. Rutter

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.

Bless all the dear children In thy tender care And fit us for heaven, To live with thee there.

Traditional

B Deck the Hall

Fa-la-la-la...

Fa-la-la-la...

Deck the hall with boughs of holly Fa-la-la-la la la la la.

Tis the season to be jolly Fa-la-la-la...
Fill the mead cup, raise the wassail Fa-la-la-la...

Troll the ancient Christmas carol

See the flowing bowl before us Fa-la-la-la-la...
Sound the harp and join the chorus Fa-la-la-la...
Follow me in merry measure Fa-la-la-la...
While we sing of mirth and pleasure

Deck the hall with boughs of holly Fa-la-la-...
'Tis the season to be jolly

Fa-la-la-la...
Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel
Fa-la-la-la...

Troll the ancient Christmas carol

Fast away the old year passes Fa-la-la-la...

Hail the new, ye lads and lassies Fa-la-la-la...

Make we merry, all together Fa-la-la-la...

Heedless of the wind and weather Fa-la-la-la...

Fa-la-la-la...

9 The Holly and the lvy

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.

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 the lily flower; And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To be our sweet Saviour.

The rising of the sun...

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.
The rising of the sun...

The holly bears a prickle, As sharp as any thorn; And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ On Christmas Day in the morn.

The rising of the sun...

The holly bears a bark, As bitter as any gall; And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ For to redeem us all.

The rising of the sun...

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.

The rising of the sun...

Traditional

O Christmas Tree

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, You stand in verdant beauty! Your boughs are green in summer's glow, And do not fade in winter's snow.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Much pleasure doth thou bring me! For ev'ry year the Christmas tree Brings to us all both joy and glee.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Thy candles shine out brightly. Each bough doth hold its tiny light That makes each toy to sparkle bright.

A Merry Little Christmas

Jingle bells, jingle bells, Here's wishing you a merry little Christmas.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas Let your heart be light, Next year all our troubles will be out of sight.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas Make the yuletide gay, Next year all our troubles will be miles

away.

Once again as in olden days
Happy golden days of yore,
Faithful friends who were dear to us will
be near to us once more.

Someday soon we all will be together If the fates allow,

Until then we'll have to muddle through somehow,

So have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

Sleigh bells ring, are you list'nin'? In the lane, snow is glist'nin', A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, Walkin' in a winter wonderland!

Oh! The weather outside is frightful, But the fire is so delightful And since we've no place to go, Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

It doesn't show signs of stopping And I brought some corn for popping. The lights are turned way down low Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas; With every Christmas card I write May your days be merry and bright And may all your Christmases be white.

Dashing thru' the snow, In a one-horse open sleigh, O'er the fields we go, Laughing all the way. Bells on 'Bob-tail' ring.

Making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, Jingle all the way, Oh what fun it is to ride On a one-horse open sleigh. Merry Christmas!

Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day

Information in the state of the

Sing O my love, This have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to man's nature, To call my true love to my dance.

Sing O my love...

In a manger laid and wrapp'd I was, So very poor, this was my chance, Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, To call my true love to my dance.

Sing O my love...

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day I would my true love did so chance To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance.

Sing O my love...

Traditional

14 Lullaby

Ah lullaby, to thy rest; Thy slumbers are blest. In dreams thou shalt see God's fair Christmas tree. Slumber soft where it gleams In the heaven of dreams.

16 Sir Christèmas

Nowell, nowell, nowell. Who is there that singeth so? Nowell, nowell, nowell. I am here, Sir Christèmas, Welcome my lord Sir Christèmas! Welcome to all, both more and less, Come near, come near.

Nowell, nowell, nowell. Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, Tidings I you bring: A maid hath borne a child full young, Which causeth you to sing: Nowell, nowell, nowell. Christ is now born of a pure maid, In an ox-stall he is laid, Wherefore sing we at a brayde: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell. Buvez bien par toute la compagnie. Make good cheer and be right merry, And sing with us now joyfully. Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.

Anon. (c.1500)

18 A Christmas Fantasy

Gloria! It came upon the midnight clear That glorious song of old From angels bending near the earth To to uch 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.

In dulci jubilo Let us our homage show Our heart's joy reclineth In praesepio, And like a bright star shineth Matris in gremio Alpha es et o.

O Jesu parvule
My heart is sore for thee
O hear me I beseech thee
O puer optime;
My prayer let it reach thee
O princeps gloriae
Trahe me post te.

Unto us a child is born, King of all creation. Came he to a world forlorn The lord of ev'ry nation. Now may Mary's son who came So long ago to love us Lead us all with hearts aflame Unto the joys above us.

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.

The first nowell The angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds In fields as they lay. In fields where they lay Keeping their sheep On a cold winter's night That was so deep.

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

O let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly lord That hath made heav'n and earth of nought And within his blood mankind hath bought.

Nowell, nowell, ...

Simon Lindley is Organist of Leeds Parish Church and Leeds Town Hall. One of the most popular recitalists of his generation, Mr Lindley has given over 200 recitals at the Town Hall and over 100 at the Parish Church since moving to Leeds seventeen years ago.

He is a retained Adviser to Yorkshire Television, and enjoys close associations with all the leading institutions for the organ and church music. He is a long serving Councillor of, and Examiner to, The Royal College of Organists and is much sought after as a writer and speaker on musical matters.

Born in London, the son of an Anglican priest and a writer, Simon Lindley was educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford, and the Royal College of Music. He held posts at Westminster and St Albans before his appointment to Leeds Parish Church. Mr Lindley currently holds a senior position in the City's Leisure Services Department, having been for twelve years a Senior Lecturer at Leeds Polytechnic.

The Huddersfield Choral Society is one of the oldest in Britain and was founded in 1836, just before Queen Victoria came to the throne. Since that date the Society has built itself not only a national, but also an international reputation for excellence.

In 1932 Malcolm (later Sir Malcolm) Sargent was appointed conductor, and the choir began recording and broadcasting frequently on radio, eventually employing only professional orchestras with, as always, eminent soloists. Then came television appearances and foreign tours to Europe and America. The 'Huddersfield Sound' produced by the choir under Sargent was, by the 1950s, something of a national institution. For its centenary in 1936 Vaughan Williams wrote *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and for its 125th anniversary in 1961 Sir William Walton wrote his *Gloria*.

When Sargent died in 1967 the choir was thrown back on its own musical reputation for the building of its future. Subsequent conductors, Wyn Morris, John (later Sir John) Pritchard, Owain Arwel Hughes, Jane Glover and Brian Kay have ensured that the Society's great tradition has been maintained. In 1990 the Society took part in the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival in a performance of Schnittke's Faust Cantata in the presence of the composer. More recently the choir has made its first foreign tour (to Czechoslovakia) since Sargent's time, has shared a platform at Castle Howard with José Carreras and Ilona Tokody in an operatic extravaganza, and has taken part in a Kiri Te Kanawa concert at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester. In July 1993 an appearance at the BBC Promenade Concerts with the BBC Philharmonic marked the start of a four-year collaboration resulting in joint performances at the Proms of major choral and orchestral works.

The **Sellers Engineering Band** was originally formed as The Huddersfield Tecol Band in early 1986 by the Head of Brass Music Teaching at Huddersfield Technical College, Phillip McCann, at the request of his students.

The Band was initially admitted to Section 3 of the National Championships, gaining promotion to Section 2 from January 1987. In January 1990 Sellers Engineering Band were promoted to the

Championship Section, and in October 1990 were placed third in the Championship Grade finals in the Royal Albert Hall. In 1992 the Band competed in the Swiss Open Championship and was placed third. As well as the contest side the Band is also heavily engaged in concerts, recordings and charity events.

The Band has made two successful tours of Spain and one of Belgium and other continental tours are envisaged. Sellers Engineering Band performs regularly on BBC Radio 2, and has appeared on both BBC and Yorkshire Television. The Band has signed an exclusive recording contract with Chandos Records.

Phillip McCann is one of the best known names in the brass band world. Born in Bo'ness, Scotland, he first came to fame as an outstanding cornet player. Starting with the Kinneil Colliery Band, he later became principal cornet with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain for five years before advancing to the same position with the world-famous Black Dyke Mills Band in 1973. He remained with Black Dyke until 1988, and since then has maintained his reputation as a player as principal cornet at the Leyland DAF Band as well as the Williams Fairey Engineering Band.

In recent years Phillip has progressively increased his activities as a conductor, and was the driving force behind the formation and development of the highly successful Sellers Engineering Band from Huddersfield, of which he is currently the Musical Director. He is also busy as a guest soloist and in giving master classes with bands throughout the world. He is a member of the team of internationally renowned instrumentalists assisting the Yamaha Corporation in the development of their range of wind and brass instruments.

Phillip is also heavily committed to teaching brass music through his work at Huddersfield Technical College, the University of Huddersfield, and the Birmingham Conservatoire of Music.

Brian Kay was Chorus Master of the Huddersfield Choral Society from 1983 · 1993 and conducted the choir on many occasions, on television and radio, in London's Royal Albert Hall, at the 1987 Royal Variety Show, and for the annual Christmas concerts in Huddersfield Town Hall. He is conductor of the Cheltenham Bach Choir and spent five years as Musical Director of the Cecilian Singers of Leicester. Brian Kay is much in demand for concerts and choral workshops in many parts of the country and has worked with the Orpheus Choir in Wellington, New Zealand and the Berkshire Choral Institute from Sheffield, Massachusetts. He spent fifteen years travelling the world as founder-member and bass voice of the King's Singers. His speaking voice is also known in many countries through his work as a broadcaster on the BBC World Service. On home ground he presents two weekly radio programmes: Brian Kay's Sunday Morning on BBC Radio 3 and Music in Mind every Saturday night on BBC Radio 4, as well as appearing frequently as guest presenter and narrator with many of the country's leading orchestras.



SELLERS ENGINEERING BAND

Principal Cornet Soprano Cornet Solo Cornets

Repiano Cornet Second Cornets

Third Cornets

Flugel Horn Solo Horn First Horn Second Horn Dean Wright Robert Jagger Darren Stott Alex Foy Richard Hanson David Hale Katherine Evans Gavin Hall Heather Wood Joe Flood Graham Murray Kirsty Abbotts Leslie McCormack Natalie Whiteley James Fletcher First Baritone Second Baritone Solo Trombone Second Trombone Bass Trombone Solo Euphonium Second Euphonium EE flat Basses

BB flat Basses

Percussion

David Holling
Jonathan Beatty
Mark Ayres
Stuart McCreedy
Thomas Rüedi
Nigel Lawless
Matthew Hall
Charles Battye
Nick Plummer
Matthew Routley
Peter Earnshaw
Richard Charles
Julian Warburton

Alison Ward



PHILLIP McCANN



SIMON LINDLEY



BRIAN KAY

12

Recent releases featuring Sellers Engineering Band:

THE WORLD OF BRASS

inc. The Stars and Stripes Forever • The Ash Grove • Blue Danube Waltz
Rose of Tralee

Sellers Engineering Band/McCann/Blackledge CHAN 4511 CD; BBTD 4511 Cassette

A SONG OF YORKSHIRE

inc. Amazing Grace · Rose of England · Onward, Christian Soldiers
The Lost Chord · 'Pirates of Penzance' Selection
Lindley/Boys of Leeds Parish Choir/Honley Male Voice Choir
Sellers Engineering Band/McCann
CHAN 4515 CD; BBTD 4515 Cassette

WE LOVE A PARADE

inc. 76 Trombones · The Dam Busters March Toreadors' March (from Carmen) · Marche Militaire · Marche Slave Radetzky March

Sellers Engineering Band/McCann/Law CHAN 4527 CD; BBTD 4527 Cassette

A Chandos Digital Recording

- · Recording Producer: Ralph Couzens
- · Sound Engineer: Richard Lee
- Assistant Engineer: Peter Newble
- · Editors: Bob Mansell & Peter Newble
- Recorded at Huddersfield Town Hall on 2-4 June 1993
- Front Cover Painting: Happy Christmas by Viggo Johansen, courtesy of the Hirsch Sprungske Collection, Copenhagen/Bridgeman Art Library
- · Back Cover Photograph taken at the recording sessions by Fraser Photographers

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CHANDOS DIGITAL

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DDD

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - Huddersfield Choral Soc. / Sellers Eng.

. Band

CHANDO: CHAN 453

TT = 70:40

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