

# BELVEDERE SINGERS

## Ring in Christmas

Music Director: **Clive Watkiss**

Accompanist: **Isabelle Butler**

**Peter Parshall** (organ)

**Miro Vosper** (soprano)  
with **Reuben Bennett** (piano)

**Amelia Seaman** (violin)

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>  
December 2018**

**St Mary's Church, Swanage at 7.30pm**

*Retiring collection in aid of Harlequin Care*



# Belvedere Singers

The Belvedere Singers are now in their 29<sup>th</sup> year. We have members from all walks of life, ages and abilities. What we have in common is a love of music and a willingness to give of our talents to raise money for worthy causes. We have a lot of fun along the way.

If you would like to join the Belvedere Singers, why not come along to one of our rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at St Mark's CE VA Primary School, High Street, Swanage BH19 2PH from 7.15pm – 9.15pm

We would be very pleased to see you.

Our next rehearsal will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

More information is on our website  
[www.belvederesingers.org.uk](http://www.belvederesingers.org.uk)



Charity no. 1160197

*Proud members of*

**making  
music**

Many thanks to  
Albury & Hall Estate Agents  
for selling tickets for this concert

The next  
**Belvedere Singers**  
concert will be on  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
at 7.30pm at  
St Mary's Church,  
Swanage

**Purbeck Arts Choir &  
Orchestra and  
Purbeck Youth Choir**  
Handel's *Messiah*  
at St Mary's Church,  
Swanage  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
2018 at 7.30pm



**Clive Watkiss** began his musical training as a chorister at Waltham Abbey in Essex. He went on to study piano, cello and conducting at the Royal Academy of Music and subsequently took advanced conducting studies with Harry Newstone (Sacramento Symphony Orchestra) at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has worked as musical director with a number of different organisations including Progress Theatre Reading, the Berkshire Shakespeare Players, Southampton Solent University, Park Opera Bracknell and various other

orchestral and choral ensembles. Clive is also a composer; his music has been performed in a number of cathedrals in the UK and at St. Georges Chapel, Windsor, the choir of which recorded his setting of 'Dormi Jesu' on their album *Christmas Joy Volume Four*. Most recently, in August 2018 his two choral songs commissioned by Judy Martin - musical director of the vocal group *Voces Sacrae*, were given its first performance by that ensemble in the Dordogne. Clive presently teaches music at St. Swithun's School in Winchester.

**Isabelle Butler** studied piano at the Birmingham School of Music whilst also studying at the City of Birmingham Teacher Training College. Having won the Concerto Trials she played at Birmingham Town Hall, Aston University and in Vienna on an exchange visit with students from the Conservatoire, as well as broadcasting on the radio. She taught music in Leicester and Birmingham schools and subsequently became a peripatetic string teacher working with schools and orchestras. Since moving to Swanage she has been Musical Director of productions at what is now the Swanage Musical Theatre Society, her most recent show being *Guys and Dolls* in 2011. Isabelle has been the accompanist for the Belvedere Singers since 2000 and is also the regular accompanist for Canzonetta.

## **PROGRAMME**

### **BELVEDERE SINGERS**

#### **Ring Christmas Bells**

Mykola Leontovich  
words Minna Louise Hohman

#### **The Crown of Roses**

P I Tchaikovsky  
words A N Pleshcheev translated G Dearmer

#### **Up! Good Christen Folk and Listen**

melody from *Piae Cantiones*  
harmonized and words G R Woodward

#### **Ding Dong! Merrily on High**

*With Audience*

16<sup>th</sup> Century French melody  
harmonized Charles Wood  
words G R Woodward

#### **Past Three a Clock**

English trad carol harmonized Charles Wood  
words G R Woodward

#### **O Little One Sweet**

Old German melody harmonized J S Bach  
translated Percy Dearmer

### **ORGAN SOLO: PETER PARSHALL**

#### **Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédral de Soissons**

Maurice Duruflé

### **SOPRANO SOLO: MIRO VOSPER, Reuben Bennett Piano**

#### **Come Sing and Dance**

Herbert Howells

### **BELVEDERE SINGERS**

#### **The Three Kings**

*soloist Peter Parshall*

Peter Cornelius  
arranged Ivor Atkins

#### **Kings of Orient (We Three Kings)**

*With Audience*

J H Hopkins  
arranged David Willcocks

#### **The Shepherds' Farewell, from *L'enfance du Christ***

Hector Berlioz  
translated Paul England

#### **Sir Christèmas**

William Mathias  
words 16<sup>th</sup> century anon

## INTERVAL

*BELVEDERE SINGERS*

**Little Drummer Boy**

Harry Simeone, Katherine K Davis  
and Henry Onorati  
arranged Harry Simeone

**O Holy Night**

*soloist Miro Vosper*

Adolph Adam  
arranged John E West

*ORGAN SOLO: PETER PARSHALL*

**Variations sur 'In Dulce Jubilo'**

Denis Bedard

*BELVEDERE SINGERS*

**Good King Wenceslas**

*With Audience*

melody from *Piae Cantiones*  
arranged David Willcocks  
words J M Neale

*SOPRANO SOLO: MIRO VOSPER, Reuben Bennett Piano*

**The Christmas Song**

(Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)

Bob Wells and Mel Tormé

*BELVEDERE SINGERS*

**A Christmas Pops Trio:**

arranged Jay Althouse

**Winter Wonderland**

music Felix Bernard words Dick Smith

**Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas**

Hugh Martin and

Ralph Blane

**It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year**

Eddie Pola and

George Wyle

*VIOLIN SOLO: AMELIA SEAMAN, Clive Watkiss Piano*

**Violin Sonata No. 2 in A major**

Johannes Brahms

*BELVEDERE SINGERS*

**The Twelve Days After Christmas**

Frederick Silver

**White Christmas**

Irving Berlin

**We Wish you a Merry Christmas**

trad arranged Arthur Warrell

### 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*  
*Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!*

E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "io, io, io!"

By priest and people sungen  
*Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!*  
*Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!*

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers,  
May you beautifully rhyme  
Your eve'time song, ye singers

*Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!*  
*Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!*

### The Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

*O Star of wonder, star of night*  
*Star with royal beauty bright*  
*Westward leading, still proceeding*  
*Guide us to thy Perfect Light*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign

*O Star of wonder, star of night...*

Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, all men raising  
Worship Him, God most high

*O Star of wonder, star of night...*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

*O Star of wonder, star of night...*

Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice  
Heav'n sings Alleluya  
Alleluya the earth replies

*O Star of wonder, star of night...*

### Good King Wenceslas

*All*

Good King Wenceslas looked out  
on the feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about,  
deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night,  
though the frost was cruel,  
when a poor man came in sight,  
gathering winter fuel.

*Men*

Hither, page, and stand by me.  
If thou know'st it telling,  
yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?

*Women*

Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
underneath the mountain,  
right against the forest fence  
by Saint Agnes fountain.

*Men*

Bring me flesh, and bring me wine.  
Bring me pine logs hither.  
Thou and I will see him dine  
when we bear them thither.

*Women*

Page and monarch, forth they went,  
forth they went together  
through the rude wind's wild lament  
and the bitter weather.

*Women*

Sire, the night is darker now,  
and the wind blows stronger.  
Fails my heart, I know not how.  
I can go no longer.

*Men*

Mark my footsteps good my page,  
tread thou in them boldly:  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
freeze thy blood less coldly.

*All*

In his master's step he trod,  
where the snow lay dinted.  
Heat was in the very sod  
which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,  
wealth or rank possessing,  
ye who now will bless the poor  
shall yourselves find blessing.

**Peter Parshall** read Theology and was Organ Scholar of Westminster College, Oxford from where he studied the organ with David Saint at the Birmingham Conservatoire. Having held church and cathedral posts in Oxford and Dublin, he is now based in Devon where he runs a private teaching practice and directs several choirs. Having worked for the Royal School of Church music for many years, both in the UK and in Ireland, as an educator, examiner and facilitator, he was honoured recently with the award of Associate of the RSCM. Peter is Chapel Music Co-ordinator and Artistic Director of the new South Wessex Organ Society. As an occasional composer, he has been commissioned and recorded by choirs in the UK, Ireland and the USA. He is the co-editor of the choral anthology, *Weddings for Choirs*, published by Oxford University Press, and a contributor to the *New Dictionary of National Biography*.

**Miro Vosper** is 15 and has had singing lessons with Helen Attfield since the age of 8. She is currently studying for her Grade 8 examination having achieved distinction at Grade 7. She has had a number of amazing opportunities over the last year performing Henry Purcell's *Music for a While* with the BSO, *Pie Jesu* in Faure's Requiem with the Purbeck Arts Choir and *The Blue Bird* with the Belvedere Singers. She has been accepted for the National Youth Training Choir and will be performing with them next year. Milo also plays the clarinet and the drums as well as enjoying musical theatre and recently performed in *Bugsy Malone* with a local group.

**Reuben Bennett** is 15 and plays the piano and the trumpet and sings in St Mary's Church choir. He is taking Grade 8 piano and has accompanied Miro on several occasions. He is a member of Poole Grammar School's Big Band and Concert Band and plays in the trumpet section of the Wessex Youth Orchestra. He competed with PGS Big Band at the Music for Youth Festival in Birmingham and performed with Concert Band at the Royal Albert Hall in the Schools Prom. Recently Reuben played in the band for a local production of *Bugsy Malone* and the PGS production of *Oliver!*. He performed arrangements from *The Great American Songbook*

conducted by Sam Jewison, thanks to the Broadstone Music Series. Reuben played the trumpet for a performance of *Belshazzar's Feast*, accompanied by the Oxford Sinfonia, in Christchurch Priory.

**Amelia Seaman** is 14 years old and started learning to play the violin when she was 5. She is currently Principal Second Violin of the Wessex Youth Orchestra and a former member of the National Children's Orchestra. This has given her the opportunity to play in some of the UK's major concert venues, including The Royal Albert Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall and Leeds Town Hall. She regularly takes part in violin workshops, quartet courses and master classes at local Music Festivals and last year played in a quartet in Salzburg and solo violin at a wedding in Italy. She is currently working towards her Grade 8, having passed her Grade 7 with distinction. Amelia also recently passed her Grade 7 piano exam with distinction and takes singing lessons.

### Harlequin Care

Caring for a loved one with a life limiting illness can be difficult both physically and emotionally. Harlequin Care is a local charity which offers complementary therapy and counselling, free of charge, to Dorset's unpaid Carers. It offers support and respite for those who are caring for a relative, friend or neighbour. Carers' Days are run several times a year which provide an opportunity:

- to meet with Harlequin volunteers and other Carers
- have a relaxed chat over refreshments
- have a pre-booked appointment with a counsellor
- choose from a range of complementary therapies.

More information is available on their website

[www.harlequincare.com](http://www.harlequincare.com) or by ringing 07547136041.

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