

*The Chantry Singers*

**CHRISTMAS AT  
CLANDON PARK**

**Conductor -- Timothy Venvell**

Clandon Park

Saturday 9th December 1989 8.00 p.m.

During the interval mulled wine and mincepies (£1.25)  
will be available from the restaurant downstairs

## PROGRAMME

1. The Yorkshire Wassail  
A babe is born arr. Ian Humphris  
Robin Wells
2. Reading: "A Christmas Hymn" Richard Wilbur
3. The Little road to Bethlehem Michael Head
4. Interlude: Sonata in F Major Wilhelm de Fesch  
Preludio, Allemanda, Sarabanda, Minuetto  
cello - Charlotte Hicks keyboard - Paul Hicks
5. Stille Nacht Grüber arr. Humphris  
I sing of a maiden Patrick Hadley
6. Reading: O Simplicitas Madeleine L'Engle
7. Ave Maria Gustav Holst
8. Reading: Christmas Bells H.W. Longfellow
9. Ding dong! merrily on high trad. French arr. W. Llewellyn

## INTERVAL

10. De Virgin Mary had a baby boy arr. W Llewellyn
11. Reading: extract from "Donkey's Glory" Nan Goodall
12. The song of the Birds trad. Catalan arr. Ribo  
The Trees of the Field David Stone
13. Reading: Journey of the Magi T. S. Eliot
14. The Three Kings Peter Cornelius
15. Interlude: Two Jazz Arrangements for Christmas  
'Silent Night' and 'Jingle Bells'  
keyboard - Timothy Venvell
16. London Waits arr. W. Llewellyn
17. Reading: The Boy who laughed at Santa Claus Ogden Nash
18. The Twelve Days of Christmas arr. Humphris

**Charlotte Hicks** is a second year Music Scholar at Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton. Having shown early promise, she is now taught by Antonia Butler.

**Timothy Venvell** was educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford, and St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he was Organ Scholar. He became Assistant Director of Music at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, in 1981, and 18 months later formed The Chantry Singers. For five years he was organist and choirmaster at St Saviour's Church, Guildford. In 1987 he relinquished both Guildford posts to become Director of Music at Kingston Grammar School, and took over the KGS Choral Society. Twice a year he directs Ex Collegio, an occasional choir of experienced amateurs, which broadcast on Radio 3 in 1984, and has recently made a record.

The readers are Anna Weston, Anneli Winford, Tony Morden and Tim Sewell.

### **Programme Notes**

This evening's programme is a collection of songs, carols and readings, familiar and unfamiliar, that have some association with Christmas.

We begin with a familiar tune in a new and exciting arrangement by Ian Humphris, one of several we hear tonight. This is followed by a new carol by Robin Wells, which is nevertheless traditional in style, and neatly incorporates plainsong melody at the end of each verse. Following 'A Christmas Hymn', the first choral section is completed with Michael Head's own arrangement for SATB choir of his song: 'The Little Road to Bethlehem', an exquisite melody typical of English music in the early decades of this century.

After an instrumental interlude, the Singers continue with another familiar tune, in another Humphris arrangement. Then follows 'I sing of a maiden', a haunting piece for two soprano parts by Hadley, one time Professor of Music at Cambridge, and doubtless written for the luscious acoustics of Kings College, Cambridge. The reading 'O Simplicitas' continues the Marian theme, as does Holst's 'Ave Maria', scored for 8-part female chorus. The eight voice parts are divided into two equal 4-part choirs, which gives ample scope for antiphonal effects, as well as a rich overall sonority. Longfellow's 'Christmas Bells' leads us back to

the more familiar territory of 'Ding dong! merrily on high', though if you listen carefully, you will realise that even this is not being sung quite as it usually is!

The gentlemen of the choir begin the second half in vigorous vein with the best-known Caribbean carol. The following reading gives us the donkey's perspective on the Nativity, and the two carols that are heard next present slightly unusual angles on the traditional Christmas story. A literary and a musical glance at the Magi lead to another instrumental interlude, and thence to our final group. 'London Waits' is again an unfamiliar arrangement of the well-known 'Past three o'clock' and you will probably be able to detect several other well-known carols in the arrangement as well. After Ogden Nash's quizzical look at Christmas, we close in traditional fashion, in yet another splendid arrangement by Ian Humphris.

---

Next concert: - Saturday 24th February 1990, Holy Trinity Church, Guildford at  
7.30 p.m.

Programme includes Vivaldi: Gloria and Bach: Magnificat

Further details from The Hon. Secretary,

3, Swayne's Lane, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 2XX

Telephone Guildford (0483) 67062

---