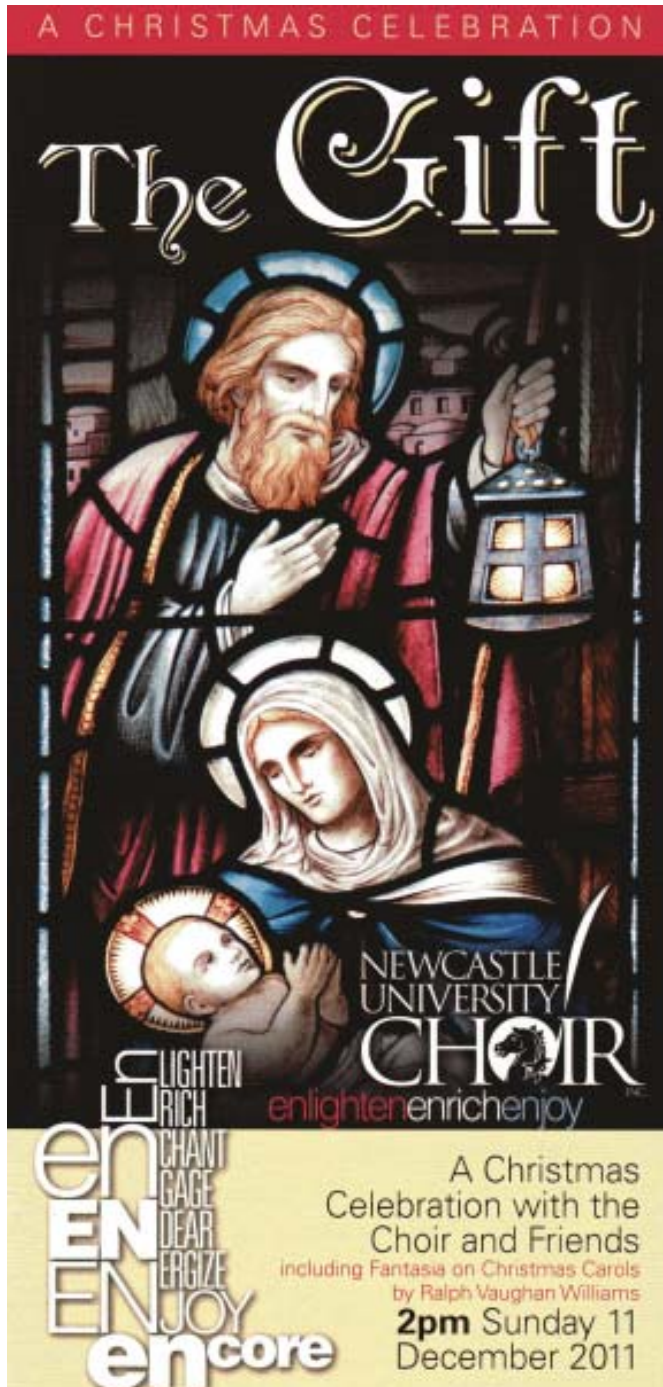


A melange of interesting notes and the promise of things to come

Schoenberg is one of the extremists; here cacophony is elevated to a law... After all, there is an esthetics of the hideous. – Ludwig Karpath, Signale, Berlin, May 29, 1907.



In the Bleak Midwinter

Samuel Scheidt was a German composer, organist and teacher of the early Baroque era. Amongst other works, he composed a galliard, which is a 16th century court dance with four hopping steps and one high leap, which permitted athletic gentlemen of the time to show off for their partners. Elizabeth I practiced galliards as her morning exercise. The significance of this information will be revealed to those who attend our Christmas concert. Along with the fact that Purcell's *Trumpet Voluntary* was composed by Jeremiah Clarke.

The Gift centres around traditional and contemporary English Christmas music – hence the heading of this article. The concert features the works of Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst, who researched and recorded traditional English folk music. Works by Benjamin Britten and John Rutter are included.

Sir David Willcocks is probably best known for his choral arrangements of Christmas carols, most of which were originally written for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's or the Bach Choir's Christmas concerts. He frequently visited Australia for concerts with the ABC.

Vaughan Williams was 38 years his senior, but always treated him as an equal. Willcocks asked Vaughan Williams, when conducting his works: "Do please tell me if I am doing it exactly as you wished", to which the composer replied "I've written the music – it's up to other people to interpret it... I want you to feel absolutely free to do as you wish".

Benjamin Britten was not so tolerant. "I've written in the score exactly what I want in every bar, the tempo, phrasing, the dynamics, the articulation – everything's there. If people don't do it like I've written it, I'd rather they didn't do it at all."

We'll be performing arrangements by Willcocks of such well known carols as *O Come, All Ye*

THE GREAT HALL NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY
FREE PARKING Tickets - Adults \$25 Concession \$20 Students \$15

Enquiries & tickets sales Ph 4954 8781
Tickets available at Latham's Music Kotara & Greenhills, Music Solutions
Warners Bay, on our website through Stickytickets, or at the door.

Would you like to join the choir? Details on the website
www.newcastleuniversitychoir.com

Faithful and Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and we'll invite the audience – especially the children - to sing along.

John Rutter, some say, 'has become the musical equivalent of Dickens, synonymous with the season.' Perhaps – but Dickens wrote only one *Christmas Carol*, while Rutter's contribution to Christmas music is substantial. We'll be joined by organist Peter Guy and pianist Philip Sketchley in presenting some of his works.

Rutter writes "Many leading British composers wrote carols: Britten, Vaughan Williams, Holst and others. They created as fine a modern tradition as you could find in any other country in the world. The Christmas carol is, after all, one of very few musical forms which allows classically trained musicians to feel it's permissible to write tunes without worrying about a kind of composers' 'political correctness'!"

Visiting baritone Richard Bannan will join with vocal quartet Waxing Lyrical in Peter Cornelius's *The Three Kings*. The choir will sing with him *In the Bleak Midwinter*, a wonderful work by Gustav Holst.

What of Samuel Scheidt and his galliard? The concert features some of his work, together with compositions of Purcell (or Clarke), Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Rossini, Wagner, Tchaikovsky and Gershwin. It's not very often that you'll hear so many composers featured in one concert – but as part of our Christmas gift to you, and with the assistance of the Lakeside Brass, we're going to fit them all into one carol.

There's more, but I'll leave that for you to discover at what is really quite a unique Christmas concert.

Meet the Artists



Visiting baritone Richard Bannan began singing as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral. More recently, he studied music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a Choral Scholar and now sings regularly with ensembles such as the Monteverdi Choir, Polyphony, Academy of Ancient Music and the BBC Singers. Away from his performing commitments Richard is an enthusiastic teacher of singing, working at Bloxham School and for the Eton Choral Courses. He is also a keen songwriter.

Lakeside Brass were National Open Quintet Champions in 2009. The group consists of Timothy O'Hearn and Patricia O'Hearn on trumpets, Chris Hunt on French horn, Rowen McBride on trombone and Rowan Taylor on tuba.

Vocal quartet Waxing Lyrical will be well known to our audience. Soprano Jennifer Barnes was recently our Musical Director, and has been a regular soloist with the choir, as have Mezzo Soprano Rosemary Saunders and Tenor Paul Bevan.

Bass Dr Christopher Allan is our Musical Director, and has recently been awarded his PhD by the University of Newcastle. The title of his thesis is 'Exploring the Value of Aural and Kinaesthetic Feedback using Speech Quality as a Catalyst for Vocal Development in the Training of Tertiary Voice Students'. He will not be singing it at our concert – but we are very proud of him.

Peter Guy and Philip Sketchley are not pictured here, but are also regular performers with the choir. Philip is our repetiteur, and we couldn't do it without him.

Cacophony is edited by Peter McCloy on behalf of the Newcastle University Choir, who do not necessarily share the views of the editor. To contribute or to communicate, email us at newsletter@newcastleuniversitychoir.com

For more about Newcastle University Choir, go to www.newcastleuniversitychoir.com