

Christmas Concert

Kingston Parish Church Choir

Thames Youth Orchestra



All Saints Parish Church

23rd December 2006

Programme

Overture to Hansel and Gretel	Engelbert Humperdinck
Three Motets: Blazheni Ninye sili nyebesniya Cherubic Hymn	Pyotr Tchaikovsky
Nutcracker Suite	Pyotr Tchaikovksy

Interval

O come, all ye faithful	
Rejoice and be Merry	John Rutter
O magnum Mysterium	Morten Lauridsen
Hymn to the Virgin	Benjamin Britten
A spotless Rose	Herbert Howells
Good King Wenceslas	arr. Reginald Jacques
Sleigh Ride	arr. Leroy Anderson
Three Christmas favourites	arr. Simon Ferris
The Twelve Days of Christmas	arr. John Rutter
Hark! the Herald Angels sing	

Three Motets

Блажени яже избралъ и приялъ еси, Господи,
и память ихъ въ родъ и родъ.

Аллилуиа.

Blessed are they whom thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord.

Their memory is from generation to generation.

Alleluia.

(from the Panikhia, a service of prayers for someone who has died)

Ныне силы небесныя съ нами невидимо служатъ се
во входить Царь славы.

Се жертва тайная совершена доносится.

Верую и любовь приступимъ, да причастницы
жизни вечныя будемъ.

Аллилуиа.

Now the powers of heaven unseen worship with us.

God is come with great glory.

See now the sacrifice full and perfect raised on high for us.

We draw near with our faith and adoration,

to partake with Thee in the life everlasting.

Alleluia!

(from the liturgy of the presanctified gifts)

Иже херувимы тайно образующе, и животворящей

Троице трисвятую песнь припеванующе, всякое
ныне житейское отложимъ попечение.

Аминь.

Яко да Царя всехъ подимемъ, ангельскими
невидимо доносима чинми. Аллилуиа.

*We who in a mystery represent the Cherubim
and sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-giving Trinity,*

let us now lay aside the cares of this life. Amen.

That we may receive the King of All,

invisibly escorted by the hosts of angels. Alleluia.

(sung in the liturgy at the 'Great Entrance')

The Nutcracker Suite

The Nutcracker (胡桃夹子), Op. 71, is a fairy-ballet in two acts, three tableaux, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composed in 1891–1892, and based on *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (*Nußknacker und Mausekönig*), a story by E T A Hoffmann (1816). Alexandre Dumas' adaptation of the story was set to music by Tchaikovsky (after the libretto and commission of choreographer Marius Petipa in 1891).

In Western countries, this ballet has become among the most popular ballets performed, primarily around Christmas time.

A selection of eight of the more popular numbers from the ballet was made by the composer, forming The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a, intended for concert performance. This suite became more popular for a time than the ballet itself, partly due to its inclusion in Walt Disney's *Fantasia*.

The ballet contains some of Tchaikovsky's most memorable melodies which are frequently used in television and film. The *Trepak*, or Russian dance, is one of the most recognizable pieces in the ballet, along with the famous *Waltz of the Flowers* and *March*, as well as the ubiquitous *Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy*.

One novelty in Tchaikovsky's original score was the use of the celesta, a new instrument Tchaikovsky had discovered in Paris. He wanted it genuinely for the character of the Sugar-Plum Fairy to characterise her because of its 'heavenly sweet sound'.

Not all realise that the Suite was arranged and performed before the premiere of the Ballet. Tchaikovsky was proud of the celesta's effect, and wanted its music performed quickly for the public, before he could be 'scooped'. Everyone was enchanted.

O 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;
O come, let us adore Him, ...

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God,
In the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, ...

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born on Christmas morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

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.
- Wenceslas ‘Hither, page, and stand by me,
 If thou know’st it, telling,
 Yonder peasant, who is he?
 Where and what his dwelling?’
- Page ‘Sire, he lives a good league hence,
 Underneath the mountain,
 Right against the forest fence,
 By Saint Agnes’ fountain.’
- Wenceslas ‘Bring me flesh, and bring me wine.
 Bring me pine-logs hither:
 Thou and I will see him dine.
 When we bear them thither.’
- All **Page and monarch, forth they went,
 Forth they went together;
 Through the rude wind’s wild lament
 And the bitter weather.**
- Page ‘Sire, the night is darker now,
 And the wind blows stronger;
 Fails my heart, I know not how;
 I can go no longer.’
- Wenceslas ‘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 steps 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.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Audience please join in from 'Five gold rings':

Choir On the twelfth day of Christmas,
 My true love sent to me:
 Twelve drummers drumming,
 Eleven pipers piping,
 Ten lords a-leaping,
 Nine ladies dancing,
 Eight maids a-milking,
 Seven swans a-swimming,
 Six geese a-laying,

All *Five gold rings,
 Four calling birds,
 Three French hens,
 Two turtle doves
 And a partridge in a pear tree.*

Hark! the herald-angels sing

Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven 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 new-born King.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen 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 new-born King.

Kingston Parish Church Choir

Simon Toyne, Director of Music

Timothy Burke, Organist

Kingston Parish Church has a long and remarkable history and has supported a choral tradition since the 16th century. The choir is known nationally for the quality of its music making and sings an extensive, Cathedral-style repertoire. At the heart of its existence is its contribution to the worship of the church through two choral services every Sunday, as well as highly popular Advent and Epiphany Carol Services, Civic Services and concerts throughout the year. The choir has made many broadcasts and commercial recordings, the most recent being *And I saw a new heaven for Herald* CDs (also featuring Christopher Herrick).

The main choir consists of a treble line of boys and girls, aged between 7 and 13, supported by 18 altos, tenors and basses, a significant proportion of whom are students at local schools. Several members of the choir have gained choral scholarships at the principal choral foundations in Oxford and Cambridge (some of this evening's singers will be singing in St John's, Jesus and Trinity Colleges, Cambridge next year). In addition, an Upper Voices Girls' Choir has recently been formed, directed by Timothy Burke, which aims to give similar training opportunities to those offered to young altos, tenors and basses.

The choir enjoys excellent relationships with many local schools, from which the treble line is formed. Rehearsals for trebles are on Wednesdays, 5.15-6.15 pm, and Fridays, 7-8 pm. For further information, contact Simon Toyne on music@allsaintskingston.co.uk.

Simon Toyne was a chorister in Exeter Cathedral Choir, a Music Scholar at Eton College, and the Organ Scholar of University College, Oxford. He is Assistant Head and Director of Music at Tiffin School. Under his direction, the Tiffin Boys' Choir has worked with all the London orchestras and the Royal Opera, and has been conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Colin Davis, Bernard Haitink, and Mark Elder, among others. The choir has recorded many operas for EMI and Antonio Pappano, and for Chandos and Richard Hickox. He has conducted most of the major oratorios with the Tiffin Oratorio Choir and the Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra, including most recently *A Child of our Time* (Tippett), Janacek's *Glagolitic Mass* and *Belshazzar's Feast* (Walton), Bach's *Mass in B minor* and Handel's *Messiah* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and Britten *St Nicolas* with the London Mozart Players.

Simon is in great demand as a choral conductor, and has led conferences and workshops on conducting and singing on the Eton Choral Courses and for the Association of British Choral Directors' annual Singposium at the Purcell Room. He has a close relationship with the MET Opera Children's Chorus, New York, leading rehearsals and workshops with them every year. He has been Guest Chorus Master for many choirs, especially the Royal Choral Society and the London Symphony Chorus. In addition to his work with the Tiffin Boys' Choir at the Royal Opera House, he has assisted the Music Staff and worked as organist in recent productions of *Tosca* and *Lohengrin*.

He is Director of Music at Kingston Parish Church, whose renowned choir maintains a Cathedral-style repertoire and has broadcast on BBC1, Radio 4 and World Service Radio.

For Court Opera and Riverside Opera, for whom he is Music Director, he has conducted *Carmen*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La Belle Hélène*, *La Forza del Destino*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Madama Butterfly*, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Macbeth* and *Nabucco*. Future plans include directing the Tiffin Boys' Choir in *War Requiem* with Richard Hickox and *Carmen* with Antonio Pappano, and conducting *Eugene Onegin* at Richmond Theatre in March 2007.

Thames Youth Orchestra

Thames Youth Orchestra was launched in 2005 with funding from the Performing Arts College, Tiffin School, Kingston upon Thames.

Now comprising musicians from ten South West London schools, TYO looks ahead to an exciting future fully committed to providing for its young players an exhilarating and enriching first hand experience of great orchestral music.

Simon Ferris – Director

Simon Ferris read music and was organ scholar at King's College London. As an undergraduate he pursued additional instrumental and musicianship studies with Bernard Oram at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and, after graduation, received composition tuition and encouragement from Geoffrey Bush.

A skilled and experienced jazz musician, Simon's wide-ranging professional career now embraces an array of genres and disciplines, finding at its core a mixture of performing, composing, arranging, conducting and teaching.

Simon is currently, and uniquely, on the staff both at Tiffin School and at Tiffin Girls' School in Kingston upon Thames.

