

Advent Calendar



The Choir of Somerville College, Oxford
David Crown





Advent Calendar

The Choir of Somerville College, Oxford
David Crown

Advent Calendar

1	THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (<i>John Rutter</i>) ^a	4'05
2	ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH' SEI EHR' (<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>)	1'03
3	I SAW THREE SHIPS (<i>John Rutter</i>) ^a	2'23
4	JACOB'S LADDER (<i>Stephen Darlington</i>)	3'00
5	BETHLEHEM DOWN (<i>Peter Warlock</i>)	4'00
6	VEILED IN DARKNESS (<i>Glenn L Rudolph</i>) ^b	3'46
7	OUT OF YOUR SLEEP (<i>Richard Rodney Bennett</i>)	1'40
8	BOGORODITSYE DYEVO (<i>Raymond Head</i>)	5'25
9	WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN (<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>)	1'14
10	THE ANGEL GABRIEL (<i>Malcolm Archer</i>) ^b	2'39
11	JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE (<i>Elizabeth Poston</i>)	2'56
12	THE THREE KINGS (<i>Peter Cornelius</i>)	2'33

13	THE SEVEN JOYS OF MARY (<i>Paul Sartin</i>) ^b	4'15
14	SILENT NIGHT (<i>David Willcocks</i>)	3'17
15	ADVENT CAROL (<i>Toby Young</i>)	2'41
16	NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>)	0'48
17	NOVA! NOVA! (<i>Bob Chilcott</i>)	2'21
18	O THOU, THE CENTRAL ORB (<i>Charles Wood</i>) ^b	4'18
19	ROCKING (<i>David Willcocks</i>)	2'01
20	A TENDER SHOOT (<i>Otto Goldschmidt</i>)	2'11
21	IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER (<i>Harold Darke</i>) ^a	4'37
22	DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH (<i>Charles Wood</i>)	1'54
23	BRICH AN, O SCHÖNES MORGENLICHT (<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>)	1'15
24	TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY (<i>John Gardner</i>) ^b	1'54
BONUS A MERRY CHRISTMAS (<i>Arthur Warrell</i>)		1'47

68'04

Mary-Louise Aitken *soprano*
Jeremy Carpenter *baritone*
The Choir of Somerville College, Oxford
Douglas Knight^a & Robert Smith^b *organ*
Keith Fairbairn *percussion*
David Crown *conductor*

Advent Calendar

It is no surprise that Christmas, the time when so many people are drawn to listen to and sing carols, should have attracted such a breadth of composers and poets and garnered such a wealth of wonderful music. We have sought to combine this wonderful music with the ever-increasing excitement of the Advent season. Some carols are well known, others have been written especially for this disc, and each Sunday is represented by a Bach chorale. There is an international flavour, as so many people in the world come together to celebrate Christmas Day.

The word carol comes from the Old French *carole* – a circle dance accompanied by singers and very popular from the 1150s to the 1350s. **The Angel Gabriel**, which comes from just such a root, is a Basque folk carol describing the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the Archangel Gabriel that she would become the Mother of Christ.

These dances were later expanded to processional songs for festivals and to accompany the medieval mystery plays of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Both **Nova! nova!** and **Out of your sleep** use texts from this period. The former uses a traditional folk style in a contemporary setting by one of the most popular of today's composers, former King's Singer Bob Chilcott. Richard Rodney Bennett, composer of *Out of your sleep*, was as renowned for his film scores and jazz performances as for his challenging classical works. Some may be surprised to learn that the tune of **Ding dong! merrily on high** first appeared in a sixteenth-century dance book, although the lyrics came much later, in the early twentieth century. Their author, George Ratcliffe Woodward, wrote several carol books and loved archaic poetry. Another carol dating from this early period is **A merry Christmas**, an English secular carol from the West Country. Its origin lies in the tradition of wealthy people giving gifts (like figgy pudding!) to the poor at Christmas. It is one of the few songs that makes mention of New Year and so assumes its rightful place at the end of this disc.

Two other carols contain words that were written around this time. **Jacob's ladder** refers to the ladder to Heaven that Jacob dreams of during his flight from his brother Esau described in *Genesis*. **Rocking** is a loose translation of a traditional Czech carol.

Many religious festivals were banned following the Protestant Reformation and carols went into a decline, though composers such as William Byrd carried on composing motet-

like works for Christmas that they termed carols. Folk-carols continued to flourish in rural areas and some very famous carols emanate from this time. A couple of examples of these are **I saw three ships**, a seventeenth-century carol from Derbyshire, in an arrangement here by a composer many will associate with Christmas – John Rutter, and **The twelve days of Christmas**, first published in 1780. The latter, which serves as an introduction to our disc, derives from a memory game sung before eating mince pies and Twelfth Cake. There are many different tunes, though today the folk melody we sing here is the best known, as added to by the composer Frederic Austin with his setting of the words “five gold rings”.

The strongest revival of carol writing began in the nineteenth century at about the same time as the emergence of Advent Calendars. Advent Calendars always begin on December 1st, so do not necessarily match the church season of Advent. It was the German Lutherans who began the tradition of physically counting down the days of Advent with chalk marks, candles (the ‘Advent clock’) or religious pictures. It seems appropriate that we should therefore include four of Bach’s chorales. A chorale is a hymn tune, and Bach harmonized hundreds of these for use in services, after Martin Luther’s decree that worship should be in German not in Latin. Two of the chorales are settings of words by Luther and another renowned hymn writer, Nikolaus Decius (**Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr’** and **Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland** respectively), and the remaining two (**Wie soll ich dich empfangen** and **Brich an, o schönes Morgenlicht**) come from Bach’s wonderful *Christmas oratorio*, written for the season of 1734 and still immensely popular all over Germany in the run up to Christmas.

The first handmade Advent Calendar dates from 1851, and the first printed one was probably made in Hamburg around 1902. Gerhard Lang, printer with Reichhold und Lang is credited with adding twenty-four coloured pictures stuck on cardboard to an Advent Calendar made in 1908. He later produced the first one with doors to open, carrying on until the firm went bust in the 1930s. Around the same time Sankt Johannis Printing began to make some with religious verses instead of pictures.

As well as giving the world Advent Calendars, nineteenth-century Europe also produced some of the most beautiful carols. **Silent night** was composed in 1818 by Franz Gruber, the schoolmaster and organist of the village of Oberndorf, with words by the local priest.

It was first performed on Christmas Eve that year and originally sung as a sprightly dance! Otto Goldschmidt, composer of **A tender shoot**, was very well connected, having studied with Clara Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn, and being friends with Arthur Sullivan and Charles Dickens, due to him having spent so much of his life in London. **The three kings** uses a chorale by Philipp Nicolai (*How brightly shines the morning star*) to which Peter Cornelius, a close friend of Richard Wagner, set his own tune sung by a baritone soloist.

There was also a major Victorian revival of Christmas Carols prompted by the 1871 publication *Christmas carols, old and new* containing many of today's favourites. It was compiled by the composer Sir John Stainer and the clergyman and hymnologist Henry Ramsden Bramley. The latter wrote the words for Sir Charles Wood's very popular Advent anthem that we include here – **O thou, the central orb**. Another of the best-loved carols – voted the greatest Christmas carol of all time in a poll of choral experts and choirmasters in 2008 – sets Christina Rossetti's 1872 poem **In the bleak mid-winter**. Gustav Holst wrote his setting in 1906 but it has been superseded in popularity by the version we have here by Harold Darke, composed in 1909. Slightly earlier in origin, though in a contemporary setting, is **Tomorrow shall be my dancing day**, whose verses were published in 1833 and tell the story of Jesus' life in his own words. The innovative feature is that his life is characterized as a dance.

The Second World War saw a cessation in production of Advent Calendars, probably to save paper. Richard Sellmer, a printer in Stuttgart resurrected the idea and it has since become vastly popular – the company still prints millions of calendars, which are sold worldwide.

The twentieth century also saw a massive increase in carol writing across the world. **Bethlehem Down** was written by the Anglo-Welsh composer Peter Warlock (to words by Bruce Blunt) in 1927 and won The Daily Telegraph Carol Competition of that year. The words of **Jesus Christ the apple tree** were written in the eighteenth century and the hymn tune is American and became very popular around the same time in the United States. It is sung here in the exquisite setting by the English composer Elizabeth Poston, written in 1967. Apple trees were commonly grown in New England and it was traditional

to wish them health on Christmas Eve. Another American carol which opens with a haunting soprano solo is **Veiled in darkness** by Glenn Rudolph to words by Douglas Letel Rights.

Continuing this fine tradition of carol writing, we have included three carols that are completely new, each representing a strand within the history of the genre. **The seven joys of Mary** by Paul Sartin, member of the folk group Bellowhead, is a new setting of a traditional Somerset folk carol telling of Mary's happiness at moments in the life of Jesus – sucking at the breast, curing the lame, curing the blind, raising the dead, bearing the cross, wearing the crown of Heaven and writing with a golden pen. Raymond Head's atmospheric **Bogoroditsye Dyevo** uses the text from the all-night vigil ceremony of the Russian Orthodox Church. The text relates to the Catholic *Ave Maria* prayer and within the Orthodox service would be sung at the end of Vespers. Finally, **Advent carol** by Toby Young, a former member of The Choir of King's College, Cambridge, another institution invariably associated with Christmas for millions of people, sets a poem full of powerful imagery by Kevin Crossley-Holland, best known for his writing for children.

With Advent Calendars now appearing with presents, chocolates and so much else, we thought it would be a novel idea to offer one that provided a musical gift for each day of the season. On behalf of the choir, I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas, and hope that you enjoy our Advent Calendar, which, unlike most others, may be re-used year after year.

© 2013 David Crown



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Music: Traditional English carol adapted by Frederic Austin (1872-1952) arranged by John Rutter (b.1945)

Words: Anonymous

On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me a partridge in a pear tree.
On the second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me two turtle doves...
On the third day of Christmas, my true love sent to me three French hens...
On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me four calling birds...
On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me five gold rings...
On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me six geese a-laying...
On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me seven swans a-swimming...
On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me eight maids a-milking...
On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me nine ladies dancing...
On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ten lords a-leaping...
On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me eleven pipers piping...
On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me twelve drummers drumming...



ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH' SEI EHR'

Music: Nikolaus Decius (c.1485-1541) arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Words: Nikolaus Decius

Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr'
Und Dank für seine Gnade,
Darum dass nun und nimmermehr
Uns rühren kann kein Schade.
Ein Wohlgefall'n Gott an uns hat,
Nun ist groß' Fried' ohn' Unterlass,
All' Fehd' hat nun ein Ende.

*To God on high alone be glory
And thanks for His mercy,
Because now and forever
No harm can touch us.
God is pleased with us,
Now there is great peace without end,
All feuds are now over.*



I SAW THREE SHIPS

Music: Traditional English carol arranged by John Rutter

Words: Anonymous

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three
On Christmas Day in the morning?

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And who should be in those three ships
But Joseph and His Lady?

And He did whistle and She did sing
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the Angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas Day in the morning.



JACOB'S LADDER

Music: Stephen Darlington (b.1952)

Words: Anonymous

As Jacob with travel was weary one day,
At night on a stone for a pillow he lay;
He saw in a vision a ladder so high,
That its foot was on earth and its top in the sky.

Alleluia to Jesus whose birth sets us free
And hath raised up a ladder of mercy for me.

This ladder is long, it is strong and well made,
Has stood hundreds of years and is not yet decayed;
Many millions have climbed it and reach'd Sion's hill,
And thousands by faith now are climbing it still.

Come, let us ascend! All may climb it who will;
For the angels of Jacob are guarding it still;
And remember, each step that by faith we pass o'er,
Some prophet or martyr hath trod it before.

And when we arrive at the haven of rest,
We shall hear the glad words, "Come up hither, ye blest,
Here are regions of light, here are mansions of bliss."
Oh, who would not climb such a ladder as this?



BETHLEHEM DOWN

Music: Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Words: Bruce Blunt (1899-1957)

“When He is King we will give him the Kings’ gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.



VEILED IN DARKNESS

Music: Glenn L Rudolph (b.1951)

Words: Douglas Letel Rights (1891-1956)

Veiled in darkness Judah lay,
Waiting for the promised day,
While across the shadowy night
Streamed a flood of glorious light,
Heav'nly voices chanting then,
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Still the earth in darkness lies,
Up from death's dark vale arise
Voices of a world in grief,
Prayers of men who seek relief:
Now our darkness pierce again,
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Light of Light, we humbly pray,
Shine upon Thy world today;
Break the gloom of our dark night,
Fill our souls with love and light,
Send Thy blessed word again,
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men."



OUT OF YOUR SLEEP

Music: Richard Rodney Bennett (1936-2012)

Words: Anonymous (15th century)

Out of your sleep arise and wake,
For God mankind now hath ytake,
All of a Maid without any make;
Of all women She beareth the bell.

And through a Maidè fair and wise,
Now man is made of full great price;
Now angels knelen to man's service,
And at this time all this befell.

Now man is brighter than the sun;
Now man in heav'n on high shall won;
Blessèd be God this game is begun
And His Mother the Empress of hell.

That ever was thrall now is he free;
That ever was small now great is she;
Now shall God deem both thee and me
Unto his bliss if we do well.

Now man he may to heaven wend;
Now heav'n and earth to him they bend.
He that was foe now is our friend.
This is no nay that I you tell.

Now blessèd Brother grant us grace,
At doomès day to see Thy face,
And in Thy court to have a place,
That we may there sing thee nowell.



BOGORODITSYE DYEVO

Music: Raymond Head (b.1948)

Words: Anonymous

Богородице Дево,
Радуйся.
Аллилуйя.
Аминь.

Bogoroditsye Dyevo,
Raduisya.
Alliluia.
Amin.

*Virgin Mother of God,
Rejoice.
Alleluia.
Amen.*



WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN

Music: Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612) arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach

Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676)

Wie soll ich dich empfangen
Und wie begegn' ich dir?
O aller Welt Verlangen,
O meiner Seelen Zier!
O Jesu, Jesu, setze
Mir selbst die Fackel bei,
Damit, was dich ergötze,
Mir kund und wissend sei.

*How should I receive You
And how can I meet You?
Oh Desire of the Whole World,
Oh Treasure of My Soul!
Oh Jesus, Jesus, place
The torch by my side,
So that, what pleases You,
I will know and understand.*



THE ANGEL GABRIEL

Music: Traditional Basque carol arranged by Malcolm Archer (b.1952)

Words: Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) after anonymous

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, His eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou Lowly Maiden Mary,
Most Highly-Favoured Lady." Gloria!

"For known a Blessed Mother Thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour Thee,
Thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
Most Highly-Favoured Lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed Her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," She said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy Name."
Most Highly-Favoured Lady. Gloria!

Of Her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
"Most Highly-Favoured Lady." Gloria!



JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE

Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

Words: R.H. (fl.1761)

The Tree of Life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.



THE THREE KINGS

Music: Peter Cornelius (1824-1874) arranged by Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)

Words: Herbert Newell Bate (1871-1941) after Peter Cornelius and Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's Child in Her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the Infant King.

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heav'n afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.

Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For Thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.

Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.



THE SEVEN JOYS OF MARY

Music: Paul Sartin (b.1971)

Words: Anonymous

The first good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of one.
To see Her infant Jesus
A-sucking her breastbone, blest Man.

And blessed must She be
To Father, Son and Holy Ghost
To all Eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of two.
To see Her infant Jesus
To make the lame to go, blest Man.

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of three.
When that Her infant Jesus
To make the blind to see, blest Man.

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of four.
To see Her infant Jesus,
To read the Scriptures o'er, blest Man.

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of five.
To see Her infant Jesus,
To raise the dead to life, blest Man.

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of six.
To see Her infant Jesus,
To wear the crucifix, blest Man.

The last good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of seven.
To see Her own Son Jesus Christ,
Ascending into Heaven, blest Man.

Rejoice.



SILENT NIGHT

Music: Franz Gruber (1787-1863) arranged by David Willcocks (b.1919)

Words: Anonymous after Josef Mohr (1792-1848)

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds first saw the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiance beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.



ADVENT CAROL

Music: Toby Young (b.1990)

Words: Kevin Crossley-Holland (b.1941)

Jesus walked through whispering wood:
"I am pale blossom, I am blood berry,
I am rough bark, I am sharp thorn.
This is the place where you will be born."

Jesus went down to the skirl of the sea:
"I am long reach, I am fierce comber,
I am keen saltspray, I am spring tide."
He pushed the cup of the sea aside

And heard the sky which breathed and blew:
"I am the firmament, I am shape-changer,
I cradle and carry and kiss and roar,
I am infinite roof and floor."

All day he walked, he walked all night,
Then Jesus came to the heart at dawn.
"Here and now," said the Heart-in-Waiting,
"This is the place where you must be born."



NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Music: Traditional hymn arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland,
Der Jungfrauen Kind erkannt,
Des sich wundert alle Welt,
Gott solch Geburt ihm bestellt.

*Come now, Saviour of the gentiles,
Recognised as the virgin's child,
So that the world may wonder,
God ordained such a birth for him.*



NOVA! NOVA!

Music: Bob Chilcott (b.1955)

Words: Anonymous (15th century)

Nova! nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva".

News! news! "Ave" is made from "Eva".

Gabriel of high degree,
He came down from Trinity
To Nazareth in Galilee.

When the Maid heard tell of this
She was full sore abashed I-wys,
And wened that She had done amiss.

He met a Maiden in a place,
He kneeled down afore Her face,
He said: "Hail, Mary, full of grace!"

Then said the angel: "Dread not You,
You shall conceive in all vertue
A child whose name shall be Jesu".

"It is not yet six months agone
Since Elizabeth conceived John,
As it was prophesied before."

Then said the Maiden verily:
"I am your servant right truly.
Ecce Ancilla Domini".

Behold the Handmaid of the Lord".



O THOU, THE CENTRAL ORB

Music: Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)

O Thou, the Central Orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal light
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.
Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about Thy throne set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
Gives measur'd grace to each, Thy power to prove.
Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with Thee, transforming clay
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within.
Amen.



ROCKING

Music: Traditional Czech carol arranged by David Willcocks

Words: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) after anonymous

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you:
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you:
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling little man.



A TENDER SHOOT

Music: Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

Words: William Bartholomew (1793-1867) after anonymous (16th century)

A tender shoot hath started
Up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted,
From Jesse's holy race,
It blooms without a blight,
Blooms in the cold bleak winter
Turning our darkness into light.

This shoot, Isaiah taught us,
From Jesse's root should spring.
The Virgin Mary brought us
The branch of which we sing.
Our God of endless might,
Gave Her this Child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.



IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER

Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.



DING DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

Music: Traditional French carol (16th century) arranged by Charles Wood

Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

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",
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!



BRICH AN, O SCHÖNES MORGENLICHT

Music: Johann Schop (c.1590-1667) arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach

Words: Johann Rist (1607-1667)

Brich an, o schönes Morgenlicht,
Und lass den Himmel tagen!
Du Hirtenvolk, erschrecke nicht,
Weil dir die Engel sagen,
Dass dieses schwache Knäbelein
Soll unser Trost und Freude sein.
Dazu den Satan zwingen
Und letztlich Frieden bringen.

*Break forth, oh beautiful morning light,
And let the heavens dawn!
You shepherd folk, do not be afraid,
Because the angels have told you,
That this weak little Baby
Shall be our comfort and joy.
To subdue Satan
And finally bring peace.*



TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY

Music: John Gardner (1917-2011)

Words: Anonymous

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 oh my love, my love, my love, 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.

In a manger laid and wrapped 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.

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on Me did glance,
My Father's voice heard I from above,
To call my true love to my dance.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Music: Traditional West Country carol arranged by Arthur Warrell (1883-1939)

Words: Anonymous

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Now bring us some figgy pudding, and bring some out here.

For we all like figgy pudding, so bring some out here.

And we won't go till we've got some, so bring some out here.

The Choir of Somerville College, Oxford:

Soprano – Amelia Hamer, Elizabeth McMillan, Rebecca Nohl, Joanna Perkins, Katharine Piddington, Olivia Waring, Emily Winkler;

Alto – Jenni Butler, Eleanor Makower, Laura Schack, Isabel Sinagola, Orly Watson, Glenn Wong;

Tenor – Bertie Baigent, Antony Beere, David Bowe, Ian Buchanan, Sam Walker, Daniel Wyman;

Bass – Matthew Kerr, Stephen O'Driscoll, Christoph Schnedermann, Stefan Schwarz, Robert Smith, Toby Young.

Produced by Matthew Bennett & Alexander Van Ingen.

Engineered by Alexander Van Ingen.

Post Production: Dave Rowell.

Recorded 23-25 June 2013 at Keble College Chapel, Oxford, U.K.

Organ: Kenneth Tickell and Company – IV/P, 2011.

Sung text of *Bethlehem Down* © 1928 Hawkes & Son (London) Ltd, reproduced by permission of Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.

Sung text of *Veiled in darkness* © Douglas Letel Rights, reproduced by kind permission of Eleanor R. Roller.

Sung text of *Advent carol* from the poem *The Heart-in-Waiting* © 2001 Kevin Crossley-Holland, reproduced by kind permission.

Publishers: Oxford University Press (tracks 1,3,4,6,10,12,14,17-20,22,24,25); Bärenreiter (tracks 2,9,16,23); Boosey & Hawkes (track 5); Universal Edition London (track 7); Sky Dance Press (track 8); Campion Press (track 11); Stainer & Bell (track 21).

Booklet notes © 2013 David Crown.

English translations © 2013 Mark Stone.

Inside front cover: photograph of the Choir of Somerville College, Oxford © 2013 Glenn Wong.

Reverse inlay: photograph of the Choir of Somerville College, Oxford © 2013 Glenn Wong.

Graphic design: Colour Blind Design.

Printed in the E.U.

5060192780338

STONE
records