

MUSIC AT PEMBROKE

Christmas Concert

A celebratory concert given by all fellows, students, and staff from Pembroke's music ensembles to celebrate the end of Michaelmas term.

Friday 2nd December 2022 6 - 7pm

Music Director: Mark Wilson

The Ensembles:

Pembroke College BIG Choir – A chance for all fellows, students and staff to come together and work on a range of musical styles with no previous experience necessary!

Jazz Band – Newly reformed, the Jazz Band are working in preparation this term, to take their music around Oxford for gigs. They rehearse weekly and are based in the Student bar.

Orchestra – The largest group in Pembroke! All abilities are welcomed and Friday rehearsals combine the learning of repertoire with an opportunity to learn about the techniques of playing in a large ensemble. The Strings of the Orchestra also occasionally rehearse and perform music as their own ensemble.

Pembroke Chapel Choir – The longest tradition in Pembroke musically is its Chapel Choir, who can be found singing 3 days a week in the Damon Wells Chapel.

Programme:

Gaudete! - Trad.

Gaudete is a sacred Christmas Carol, thought to have been composed in the 16th Century. It was published in Piae Cantiones, a collection of Finnish/Swedish sacred songs published in 1582. No music is given for the verses, but the standard tune comes from older liturgical books.

The Latin text is a typical medieval song of praise, which follows the standard pattern for the time – a uniform series of four-line stanzas, each preceded by a two-line refrain (in the early English carol this was known as the burden). Carols could be on any subject, but typically they were about the Virgin Mary, the Saints or Yuletide themes.

Good King Wenceslas with Audience Participation - Please Stand!

S&A - Sopranos and Altos

T&B - Tenors and Basses

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 Gath'ring winter fuel.

(T&B) "Hither, page, and stand by me If thou know'st it, telling Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"

(S&A) "Sire, he lives a good league hence underneath the mountain.

Right against the forest fence by Saint Agnes' fountain."

(T&B)"Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither

Thou and I will see him dine when we bear him thither." (Full) Page and Monarch forth they went, forth they went together,

Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather

(S&A) "Sire, the night is darker now and the wind blows stronger,

Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer."
(T&B) "Mark my footsteps, good my page, tread thou in them boldly.

Thou shalt find the winter's rage - Freeze thy blood less coldly."

(Full) 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 Thee who now will bless the poor: Shall yourselves find blessing.

Corelli: Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 8 'Christmas Concerto'

Arcangelo Corelli (17 February 1653 – 8 January 1713) was an Italian violinist and composer of the Baroque era.

The composition date of the "Christmas concerto" is uncertain, but it was commissioned by Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni and published posthumously in 1714 as part of his Twelve concerti grossi, Op. 6. The concerto bears the inscription Fatto per la notte di Natale ("Made for the night of Christmas"). There is a record of the Italian composer having performed a Christmas concerto in 1690 for the enjoyment of his then-new patron.

Whitacre: Seal Lullaby

The Seal Lullaby is a setting in the form of a lullaby for mixed choir and accompaniment of Rudyard Kipling's story The White Seal. It's is a beautiful story and the opening poem in this story is entitled The Seal Lullaby. The work was commissioned by the Towne Singers and is dedicated to Whitacre's friend and tutor Stephen Schwartz.

Orchestra - Pirates of the Caribbean Medley

Contains selections of music from the film score. The music of the film and this arrangement are credited to composer Klaus Badelt and producer Hans Zimmer.

Chapel Choir – 'Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light' and 'The Three Kings' (Henry Nurse, Soloist)

Break Forth O Beauteous heavenly light Is a chorale set to music by J.S Bach. It is one of those found in his Christmas Oratorio (1734) in Part 2, mvt no 12.

The three kings incorporates a chorale like texture that

accompanyies a baritone solo and has become a staple of the church music repertoire in the season of advent.

Jazz Band – Lullaby of Birdland

George Shearing wrote "Lullaby of Birdland" in 1952 for Morris Levy, the owner of the New York jazz club Birdland. Levy had gotten in touch with Shearing and explained that he'd started a regular Birdland-sponsored disk jockey show, and he wanted Shearing to record a theme which was "to be played every hour on the hour." Levy originally wanted his own music to be recorded, but Shearing insisted he couldn't relate very well with it and wanted to compose his own music. They compromised by sharing the rights of the song; the composer's rights went to Shearing, and the publishing rights went to Levy.

Shearing stated in his autobiography that he had composed "the whole thing within ten minutes. The chord pattern was from Walter Donaldson's "Love me or Leave Me."

Christmas Festival

Once Conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, Arthur Fiedler asked Leroy Anderson to write a special concert piece for a Christmas recording in 1950. Anderson selected eight of the most popular Christmas carols and one Christmas song, "Jingle Bells". Using the themes, Anderson built a concert overture whose title at the time of the June 12, 1950 recording was "Christmas Festival". For publication in 1952, Anderson eliminated "The First Noel" and shortened the overture overall by a third. Anderson adjusted the title to "A Christmas Festival".

Sing Gloria!

Upbeat and rhythmic with a contemporary feel, 'Sing Gloria' is both fun to sing and gives an upbeat approach to sharing the timeless message of Jesus' birth. A very singable melody full of catchy syncopation will have you humming it for days afterward! Hayes uses vocal variety to his strength and the section in which the choir sings the word "sing" polyphonically to create a bell-like sound is particularly effective. Nestled in the middle of the piece is the first verse of "Joy to the World".

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen with Audience Participation - Please Stand!

God rest ye merry, gentlemen Let nothing you dismay for Jesus Christ, our Sa'viour Was born upon this day To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray:

(Refrain) O tidings of comfort and joy! Comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same

How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by Name:

Refrain

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The Son of God to find:

Refrain

And when they came to Bethlehem Where our dear Saviour lay They found Him in a manger Where oxen feed on hay His Mother Mary kneeling down Unto the Lord did pray:

Refrain

Now to the Lord sing praises
All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface:

Refrain

Thanks for coming!

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A big well done to everyone who participated in this year's Christmas Concert!

Thank you to all who have supported the groups in their founding and to those who have made today and all other music events possible this term.

See you back in the Pichette in Hilary Term for the following public events:

Lunchtime recitals (Every Tuesday, 1pm – 1:40pm in term time)

Joint Concert with Pembroke College Choir and Orchestra in 8th week (Date/time tbc)

Pembroke's Musical of 2023: 'Guys and Dolls' 27th Feb – 2nd March

Season's Greetings!

