

## **The Abbeydale Singers**

Founded in 1986 by Kevin Houghton the choir has gradually expanded from an original eight voices to its present total of 32 singers. As one of our region's foremost chamber choirs, the choir has a reputation for outstanding singing and enthusiastic engagement with its audiences. Its repertoire is wide, ranging from renaissance motets to contemporary choral pieces. Overseas concert tours have taken the choir to Dublin, Budapest, Prague, Belgium and, most recently, Seville where their performance was regarded by the congregation as "absolutely breath-taking, heavenly, out of this world".

The choir also provides important performance opportunities for young solo instrumentalists and is delighted to welcome the very talented musician, Harry Castle, tonight playing violin.

We hope you enjoy tonight's concert and would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas.

## **Harry Castle**

Harry began his violin studies at the age of 3, and learnt via the Suzuki method for a number of years. At the age of 11, he was awarded the ABRSM scholarship to the Junior Royal Northern College of Music to study the violin under Nina Martin, and learnt under her until she retired in 2012. He achieved a distinction in his grade 8 aged 13, and after a brief spell with international concert violinist Ulla Benz, he now studies at JRNCM with Steve Wilkie. Harry is currently working towards his dipABRSM. After spending 4 years in the National Children's Orchestra, he spent 2 years as a member of the National Youth Orchestra (2011-2013).

Harry is an all-round musician - he is doing dipABRSM on the piano and grade 8 singing this term. He is a member of the prestigious Rodolfus Choir in London. Harry is an active composer, and is currently undertaking an orchestral commission from the National Children's Orchestra. He is a music and academic scholar at Mount St. Mary's College, Spinkhill, and is in Lower Sixth Form, studying A levels in Maths, Biology, Chemistry and French, having already achieved A level Music with an A\*. Harry also plays the organ.

## Tonight's Programme

A Child is born in Bethlehem  
Hodie Christus natus est  
Virga Jesse

*Scheidt arr. Willcocks*  
*J. P. Sweelinck*  
*Anton Bruckner*

Quatre motets pour le temps de Noel :  
O magnum mysterium  
Quem vidistis pastores dicite  
Videntes stellam  
Hodie Christus natus est

*Francis Poulenc*

### Harry Castle

Praeludium und Allegro

*Fritz Kreisler*

Three Carol - Anthems  
Here is the little door  
A spotless rose  
Sing lullaby

*Herbert Howells*

Ave Maria

*Knut Nystedt*

### **Interval**

A Boy was born  
What sweeter music  
The little road to Bethlehem  
Sweet baby, sleep  
God rest you merry, gentlemen

*Benjamin Britten*  
*Richard Rodney Bennett*  
*Michael Head*  
*Dennis Todd*  
*Dennis Todd*

### Harry Castle

'Nigun' (Improvisation) - No.2 from Baal hem  
(Three Pictures of Chassidic Life)

*Ernest Bloch*

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day  
The three kings  
Past three a clock  
My Lord has come  
Sweet Christmas bells

*trad. arr. Willcocks*  
*Cornelius arr. Atkins*  
*trad. arr. Wood*  
*Will Todd*  
*Trad. (Bradfield Collection)*

During the interval the choir will serve you with  
complimentary refreshments

We are grateful to George Parsons, for accompanying  
Harry Castle and the choir on piano and organ this evening

## The Abbeydale Singers

**Musical Director:** Kevin Houghton

**Sopranos:** Naomi Baynes, Sarah Brown, Ann Charlett-Day, Michelle Hayward, Emily Pieters, Kirsty Prince, Hilary Pye, Sarah Rooper, Anna Ryder, Julia Stockton, Mary Taylor, Pat Turner

**Contraltos:** Helen Beach, Rachel Cockroft, Helen Cowen, Rachel Dobson, Sue Houghton, Pamela Mathieson, Alice Newitt, Rachael Nyarko, Linda Wareham

**Tenors:** Nick Baynes, Stuart Evans, Peter King, Chris Nicholson, Chris Varnom

**Basses:** Nigel Boucher, Michael Hannon, Steve Holden, Matthew Lovell, Peter Thompson, Robert Wareham

**Secretary:** Hilary Pye Tel: 0114 2685493

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**Website:** [www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk](http://www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk)

The choir's CD, "*Christmas at Chatsworth, with the Festive Sounds of the Abbeydale Singers*" is available for purchase tonight for £8.00

### Dates for the diary:

**Saturday 12 April 2014**

**Charity Concert – Friends of the Porter Valley**

**Saturday 12 July 2014**

**Summer Concert, St John's Church, Ranmoor, Sheffield**

Programme designed and compiled by Hilary Pye

Cover art by Robert Wareham

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