

Family Christmas Concert – 21st December 2013

From the Chair...

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls:

Nice to see you, to see you nice!

I hope that all of you 'Strictly' fans have set your TV recorder for the Final!

Strictly Come Dancing is fast becoming one of the current associations with Christmas and hopefully we can stir some memories of the Season through our festive music this evening.

Going to the ballet has long been a popular Christmas treat. Ballets like many fairy tales, often have a sinister side to their plot, Coppelia is no exception. A young man (betrothed to another) becomes infatuated with a life-sized doll and is lured by the doll's maker to sacrifice his spirit to enable the doll to come to life. Fortunately, he is shown his folly by his true love who dresses up as the doll and tricks the inventor. However, all eventually turns out well and ends happily ever after.

Many of you will be familiar with the Nutcracker ballet. Tonight we will be playing part of The Nutcracker Suite. Tchaikovsky himself made a selection of eight of the numbers from the ballet, which he intended for concert performance. The complete Suite was featured in Walt Disney's Fantasia.

There are many other more modern traditions associated with Christmas, none more so than the Snowman by Howard Blake who incidentally celebrated his 75th birthday in October. We are delighted to welcome Stephen, Mike, Linda and Jennifer as the soloists for our performance this evening.

For some, there is little else that epitomises Christmas more than the 1954 musical White Christmas with music by Irving Berlin. This was an innovative film of the time, being the first to be released in vista vision, which was a new wide screen, high-resolution format.

Handel's Oratorio Messiah tells of the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of Christ, the annunciation to the shepherds, the Passion and concludes with the resurrection of the dead and Christ's glorification in Heaven. Three melodies from the Messiah are included in our programme.

On a lighter note, it is becoming a Pelly Christmas concert tradition for us to play Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride and Christmas Festival Overture, which I hope includes some of your favourite Christmas carols.

We hope that you enjoy our eclectic mix of Christmas music and we have given you some new memories to take home with you.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2014.

Barbara Sykes

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TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME

1. Der Freischutz Overture Carl Maria von Weber
2. Coppelia Ballet - Selection Léo Delibes
arr. Albert E. Walton
3. Melodies from “Messiah” George Frederick Handel
arr. Charles Woodhouse
4. The Chronicles of Narnia:
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Harry Gregson-Williams
and Steve Barton
arr. Stephen Bulla
5. The Snowman Howard Blake
(arr. C. Braime)

***Narrator: Stephen Collisson Solo treble: Jennifer Lawrence
Piano duet: Linda Tan & Mike Thomson***

Interval

6. A Christmas Festival Leroy Anderson
7. Selection: White Christmas Irving Berlin
arr. George Pollen
8. The Nutcracker – Suite from the Ballet Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
II. Danses Caractéristiques
*Marche – Danse de la Fée-Dragée – Danse russe Trepak
Danse Arabe – Danse Chinoise – Danse des Mirlitons*
III. Valse des Fleurs
9. Snow Coach Trevor H. Stanford
arr. Keith Papworth & George Pollen
Piano solo: Mike Thomson
10. Carols (three verses each, words on next page)
*The First Nowell
O Come All Ye Faithful
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
11. Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson

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The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their
sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of
nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

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.

O Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all that hear in heaven God's holy
word.
Give to our Father glory in the Highest;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name
adored.
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.

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 heav'n 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*

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This evening's musical programme

This year's Christmas concert is full of festive cheer and old favourites. From carols to opera and ballet this concert by the Pelly Orchestra promises to put a big festive smile on your face. Much of the music in tonight's concert has a Christmas theme or connection with Christmas.

The Overture to the opera *Der Freischutz* is a thrilling example of the early opera overture that began to emerge as a work in its own right at the start of the 18th century. The opera itself is still performed, albeit not frequently enough, but the overture has earned a place in the concert hall of every major orchestra in the world. Carl Maria von Weber composed the opera in 1821 and most of the tunes used were German folk in origin. Magic features heavily in the story and it is famed for its depiction of gruesome darkness in the famous Wolf's Glen scene.

The ballet *Coppelia* by Léo Delibes has become one of the Christmas favourites in the theatre. While the subject matter is not strictly Christmas related, the ballet has the necessary ingredient: magic. Magic is what Christmas has come to mean. Whether it is the magic of Jesus' birth or the magic of a doll coming to life and feeling and living like a real person. This selection includes the famous waltz and mazurka from the ballet.

The word 'magic' has roots in the ancient word for wise man or Magi. While the three Magi do not feature in George Frederick Handel's *The Messiah* they do connect us to what this work centres around and what Christmas is really about. George Frederick Handel worked and lived in England. He had a fascination with the language and wrote many of the early successful opera and theatre works for the English stage. *The Messiah* was premiered in Dublin and soon became immensely popular, making even more of a star out of its composer.

The recent movie adaptation of CS Lewis' most loved children's stories set in the magical world of **Narnia** led to the composition of a new score, excerpts of which we play for you tonight. These stories tie in nicely with the religious importance of Christmas. Many parallels have been drawn between Jesus and the lion Aslan. CS Lewis wrote these stories to introduce children to the idea of religion and Aslan took on the role of the Jesus figure, even dying at the hands of his enemies only to rise again after three days. The music is evocative of the huge landscapes of Narnia and uses many orchestral colours to illustrate the characters and events that happen throughout the story.

We stay with the medium of the silver screen and perhaps one of the most loved and truly beautiful short animations. *The Snowman* was premiered on what is now Channel 4 on 26th December 1982 and has gone on to be a quintessential part of the Christmas experience. The success of the film was due in part to the wintery beauty of the score written by Howard Blake. The song *Walking in the*

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Air was originally sung by Peter Auty, and not Aled Jones as some have mistakenly recounted. Jones sang the song much later in 1985 and subsequently made it - and himself - very popular. Tonight you will hear *The Snowman* in its entirety: narrator, solo treble and orchestra. Sit back and let the magic of this stunning score transport you to a land where snowmen dance and motorbikes fly!

Leroy Anderson wrote *Christmas Festival Overture* in 1950 at the behest of the then Boston Pops conductor, Arthur Fiedler, as a celebration of all things Christmas and as a work that would cover two sides of a 45 or 78rpm 'single'. What Anderson did was to weave lots of popular carols and secular songs together to create a work that instantly conjures the mood and atmosphere of the yuletide. This is a perfect 'cracker' of an opening to the second half of our Christmas celebrations this evening.

The TV musical *White Christmas* provides the music for our next offering in an arrangement by the Pelly's in-house arranger George Pollen of some of the old favourites from Irving Berlin's original music. *Sisters, Snow, Count Your Blessings, Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me* and of course the title number seem to drift by in a dream-like state reminding us of the glory of the bygone era of big budget movie musicals.

Back to ballet now and of course no Christmas concert would be the same without some Tchaikovsky. The *Nutcracker* has become one of those quintessential Christmas experiences and has charmed and inspired audiences since its premiere in 1892. Described as a *ballet-féerie* it inspired some of Tchaikovsky's most recognizable and memorable tunes. The *Dance of Sugar Plum Fairy* captures the essence of Christmas in the delicate twinkling of the celesta, reminiscent of the lights on a Christmas tree.

The next three works, including the carol selection that you will of course all sing with rousing enthusiasm, are shamelessly Christmassy in inspiration.

British pianist Russ Conway, and his *alter ego* the composer Trevor H. Stanford, had a big hit in 1959 with *Snow Coach*. Recorded in his unique style on a jangly piano and accompanied by sleigh bells, it reached number 7 in the Hit Parade, rounding off an *annus mirabilis* in which Conway had already enjoyed two number one hits.

Sleigh Ride, the second offering from Leroy Anderson on tonight's programme, aims to recreate the ride through the snow with bells and all, even mimicking the whinny of the reindeer on the trumpet just before the final whip crack to usher us into the night.

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1st Violins

David Wallace
Leon Crampin
Judy Dudley
Jinny Gribble
Rachel Haver
Carole Kaldor
Lynne Thomson

2nd Violins

Lesley Lemon
Polly Dickinson
Sue Gillis
David Grocutt
Michael McConnell

Violas

Tony Smith
Tracey Milne
Zami Jalil

Cellos

Lynda Trice
Martin Heath
Sarah Higgs
Margaret Houston
Clive Jackson

Double Basses

Lorraine Collins
Michael Atkinson
James Slade

Flutes/Piccolo

Elaine Herbert
Barbara Sykes
Helen Greenwood

Oboes/Cor Anglais

Barry Collisson
Katy Warren

Clarinets

Andrew Norris
Helen Lister
Len Tyler (Bass
Clarinet)

Bassoons

Paula Burton
Karen Carter

French Horns

Peter Kaldor
Tim Jones
Brian Taylor
Alison Wyld

Trumpets

Roy Falshaw
David Gray

Trombones

Frances Jones
Mike Thomson
Len Tyler

Tuba

Les Stewart

Percussion

Katie Tyler
Chris King

Harp

Charlie Grimsey

Piano

Linda Tan
Mike Thomson

The Pelly Concert Orchestra Committee 2013 - 2014

Chairman – Barbara Sykes (Flute)
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Personnel – Barry Collison (Oboe)
Patrons Secretary – Sue Gillis (Violin)
Assistant Librarian – Paula Burton (Bassoon)
Musical Director – Christopher Braime
Leader – David Wallace

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Christopher Braime: Conductor and Musical Director

Christopher was born in Beverley in 1983. He was awarded a Foundation Scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music where he studied oboe with John Anderson, Christopher Cowie and David Theodore; and conducting with Neil Thomson and Richard Dickins.

Christopher was the Musical Director of the Imperial College String Ensemble from 2003 - 2007 and now works as assistant conductor for the Kensington Philharmonic Orchestra, the Farnborough Symphony Orchestra, and the Sussex Symphony Orchestra. In 2007 he took up the role of Musical Director of the Pelly Orchestra, and in 2010 Musical Director of the Grosvenor Light Operatic Company. In 2011 Christopher beat significant competition to become Musical Director of the London Gay Symphony Orchestra, and in March 2012 was invited to guest conduct the Redhill Sinfonia.



David Wallace: Leader

David Wallace studies violin with Suzanne Stanzeliet. Previous teachers include Maeve Broderick at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and during his undergraduate years at the Cork School of Music he studied violin with Cornelia Zanidache. He was one of the youngest members of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (over 18's) at 16, where he had the pleasure of working with some of the greatest conductors in the world in some of the greatest venues in Europe.

Following classes with Natalia Tchitch he started to play viola in 2004 and since his move to London in 2005 he has played viola with many orchestras in many venues throughout the capital. He has attended masterclasses and coachings with Hugh Maguire, Suzanne Stanzeleit, Pal Banda, Constantin Zanidache, Robin Ireland and Andrew Fuller.

Ensembles he has played with include GSMD Symphony Orchestra, YMSO, LGSO, Pelly Concert Orchestra, Sinfonia Tamesa, London Charity Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, RIAMSO, CSMSO, Lambeth Orchestra, Wexford Sinfonia, Kilkenny Youth Orchestra, Bloomsbury Symphony and British Police Orchestra. He also leads a busy chamber music career on both violin and viola.



He teaches violin at James Allen Girls and is Head of Music at Reedham Park School in South London. He is a music scholar (violin) at Roehampton University in London.

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Soloists and Guest Artists



Jennifer Lawrence

Thirteen year-old Jenny has always enjoyed singing. While a pupil at St Patrick's School, she gave several solo performances, starting in her very first term. This tradition was continued when she moved to St Nicholas' School, where she sings in two choirs and is currently rehearsing for a singing and dancing role in *Bugsy Malone*. She plays the piano and violin and this summer began teaching herself to play the guitar. She has also recently started singing lessons. Aside from music and dance, she has a passion for art, maths and learning to speak Mandarin.

Stephen Collisson studied the cello at Manchester University with Bernard Gregor-Smith of the Lindsays. He graduated with a first class honours degree, won the top academic and performance prizes in three successive years and was awarded the Sir Thomas Beecham Medal. He later studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Douglas Cummings, graduating with a Master's degree in performance. In 1994 Steve gained a Doctorate in Music Theory and Analysis from King's College, London.

For fifteen years Steve was a Visiting Lecturer at Birmingham Conservatoire, and Lecturer and chamber music coach for the University of Birmingham. Steve has adjudicated at many festivals and competitions including the BBC Young Musicians Competition and has worked under conductors including Mark Elder and Sir Simon Rattle, with whom he has broadcast on Irish, Danish and Swedish radio and BBC Radio 3.



Since September 2013 he has been Director of Music at South Hampstead High School for Girls in London, a job with which he continues to combine his work as a freelance musician and as an Examiner for ABRSM.



Linda Tan began piano lessons at the age of seven, and went on to attend the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied piano, flute and piano accompaniment, in due course gaining her LRAM Piano Performer's Diploma. During her time at music college she performed Rachmaninov's demanding Second Piano Concerto with the Liverpool Youth Orchestra. She now does quite a bit of accompanying.

She first became involved with the Pelly Concert Orchestra several years ago as Assistant to the Librarian at rehearsals and has also been known to help out with selling programmes and making the coffee!

She has performed with the Orchestra on a number of occasions, including two previous performances of *The Snowman*. She is very pleased to be playing with the Orchestra again during this evening's concert.

Mike Thomson was fascinated in the 1960's by the recordings of Fats Waller, Russ Conway and Winifred Atwell. He then spent much of the following half-century trying to copy their piano styles as faithfully as possible, thereby demonstrating a complete inability to grow out of this harmless teenage obsession. He also plays music of a more serious nature.

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Forthcoming Concerts

These concerts all take place at The Church on the Heath, Elvetham Heath, at 7.45pm, except for the Proms Concert in July 2014 which will start at 7.30pm. Please let us know if you would like to be notified by e-mail or post of future Pelly Orchestra concerts.

March 29th 2014 A Night at the Opera - Opera favourites for Orchestra

- Bizet - *Carmen* Overture
- Verdi - Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves
- Wagner - Ride of the Valkyries
- Puccini - Selection from *La Bohème*
- Ponchielli - Dance of the Hours

19th July 2014 Last Night of the Pelly Proms

The first half of a Proms concert always includes some of the more serious items from our standard repertoire. It will be a particular delight to welcome back Amanda Lake as our Guest Artist to play Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*. The second half will include the usual boisterous Pelly fun, albeit tinged with sadness, as it will be Christopher Braime's last concert as Musical Director. However, with our Union Jack hats and flags to supplement the hooters, clapping and singing that disturb the peace in this quintessentially British institution, we will ensure he does not depart quietly!

Acknowledgements

The Pelly Concert Orchestra would like to thank the following people, who have in their various ways made significant contributions to this evening's concert:

- Front of house helpers - Mary Grocutt, Jan and Chris Powis, Martin Burton, Rolly Trice, Lesley Nicholls and Polly Dickinson
- Paula Burton for loan of electronic piano
- Lucy Kolodynska for recording the concert
- All those who donated raffle prizes
- Our Patrons and Friends
- Tony Roberts and the team at Church on the Heath
- David Wallace for contributing programme notes on the music being played
- Michael McConnell for maintaining the website
- Tonight's soloists: Steve Collisson, Jennifer Lawrence, Linda Tan, Mike Thomson
- Our inspirational Conductor and Musical Director Christopher Braime

Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, in memory of Peter Haver.

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From October 2013 tickets are priced as follows:

	Adults	Concessions	Children under 16
Purchased in advance:	£11	£9	£6
Purchased on the door:	£13	£11	£6

Friends and Patrons Scheme

The Orchestra's Friends and Patrons Scheme offers a three-tier system as detailed below.

Patron: for a minimum of £45 per annum a Patron will be entitled to:

- Advance notice of forthcoming concerts
- A champagne reception before the first concert of the season
- A ticket for each of the four scheduled concerts in the season with a reserved seat for the subscriber
- Their name in each programme as a 'Patron' of the orchestra

Junior Patron: for a minimum of £20 per annum a Junior Patron (under 18) will be entitled to:

- Advance notice of forthcoming concerts
- A soft drinks reception before the first concert of the season
- A ticket for each of the four scheduled concerts in the season with a reserved seat for the subscriber
- Their name in each programme as a 'Junior Patron' of the orchestra

Friend: for a minimum of £35 per annum a Friend will be entitled to

- Advance notice of forthcoming concerts
- A champagne reception before the first concert of the season
- A ticket for each of the four scheduled concerts in the season (no reserved seat)
- Their name in each programme as a 'Friend' of the orchestra

For more information or to become a Patron or Friend, please contact Sue Gillis (Second Violin) by e-mail on: susancgillis@ymail.com. We are very grateful to all our Patrons and Friends for helping to support the orchestra:

Patrons:

Mr J and Mrs Allan	Mr R W and Mrs Neave
Mr P and Mrs Ashford	Miss I New (Junior Patron)
Mr K Baker	Mr K and Mrs Over
Mr J and Mrs Cowley	Mr G and Mrs Pollen - life members
Mr M and Mrs Cox	Mrs G Rose
Miss G Daley	Mr J Smedley
Mr B and Mrs Emmins	Mr P and Mrs Smith
Mr R and Mrs Hicks	Mrs B Thomas
Miss D Houghton	Mr E J and Mrs Wacey
Mrs L Jackson	Mr B and Mrs Young
Mrs B Kegel - life member	

Friends:

Mr T Jones	Ms X Zhang
Ms A Fice	Mrs S Nathan
Mrs G Redman	Mrs N Jeffries

Programme Editor: Mike Thomson
Programme Cover Design: Barbara Sykes
Programme printed by: The Printroom Group Ltd, Camberley (01276 684313)

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