CONCERTS at
SAINT THOMAS

PRESENTS

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS
BENJAMIN BRITTEN

The Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir

Sara Cutler, Harp
Jeremy Filsell, Conductor

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019
5:30 P.M.
We are extremely grateful to all our donors who support and enhance the activities of Concerts at Saint Thomas. This evening’s concert is underwritten in part by the following generous individuals:

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Cover:
Illustration of angels singing
[from Henry VIII’s Psalter (1540-41), ms. Royal 2.A.XVI, folio 118]
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS
OF SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

This evening’s performance of Benjamin Britten’s A Ceremony of Carols has been a fixture in the Saint Thomas concert series since the 1970s and has become, alongside The Rockettes and dramatic window displays along Fifth Avenue, an integral, if more reflective, part of New York’s Christmas traditions. Both haunting and angelic, the work reminds us that there is promise and potential even in the bleakness of winter.

Consisting only of boys’ voices and a harp, this concert also presents an opportunity to reflect on promise and potential in another way. Stretching back to Middle Ages, Anglican choir schools played a vital role in shaping the lives of their choristers. At one time in New York, there were a number of choir schools, but today we are the only one that remains. Saint Thomas is firmly rooted in that choral tradition and is committed to offering an extraordinary and life-changing experience to its choristers.

Our students arrive at eight or nine years old. They come from eight different states. Some are religious; others are not. Some speak two languages; a few speak three. Some sang in choirs before they arrived; others sang in the shower, or on the bus, or wherever they could. But they all had potential and promise. And now at Saint Thomas Choir School, they all find like-minded friends, a warm, familial environment, and an artistic, intellectual community of skilled teachers and working artists. With enviably small class sizes, rigorous academics and personalized instruction, our boys are well prepared for success in high school applications and life beyond. Year after year, it amazes me how transformative our Choir School is.

A key part of continuing this transformative tradition is connecting boys who like music and their families to our Choir School. Word of mouth is one of our best recruitment tools, so please help us spread the word! If you would like to know more about our Choir School, there is information on the table near the doors to Fifth Avenue, and I would be pleased to meet you. Or you can visit our website at www.choirschool.org. Please direct inquiries to me at admissions@choirschool.org.

I hope this evening’s concert marks the beginning of a peaceful and joyous season!

Warmest holiday wishes,

Victoria Vanasco
Director of Admissions
Saint Thomas Choir School
A Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

1. Procession
2. Wolcum Yole!
3. There is no Rose
4a. That yongë child
4b. Balulalow
5. As dew in Aprille
6. This little Babe
7. Interlude
8. In Freezing Winter Night
9. Spring Carol
10. Deo Gracias
11. Recession
SARA CUTLER, Harp

Sara Cutler, Principal Harp of the Orchestra of St Luke’s, the American Symphony Orchestra and the New York City Ballet Orchestra, has performed as soloist at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. She has performed recitals in Tokyo, Tel Aviv, London, Paris, and New York and has appeared with artists ranging from the American String Quartet to the heavy-metal band Metallica. Her recordings include the Dohnányi Concertino for Harp (with the American Symphony), an all-Debussy CD with flutist Linda Chesis, a Christmas CD with soprano Jessye Norman, and recent releases from Paul Simon and Björk. In 2016, Resonus Records released her recording of Christmas music for harp and choir (with John Scott and the St Thomas Boys Choir). She appears each summer at the Bard Music Festival, is on the faculty of the Bard College Conservatory of Music, an editor of the American Harp Journal and an officer of Local 802 of the AFM.

JEREMY FILSELL, Conductor

Jeremy Filsell is one of only a few virtuoso performers as both pianist and organist. His concerto repertoire stretches from Bach to Shostakovich and includes the complete concerto cycle of Rachmaninov. Among others, he has recorded the solo piano music of Herbert Howells, Bernard Stevens, Eugene Goossens, Johann Eschmann, Francis Pott and Sergei Rachmaninov and is on the international piano roster of Steinway Artists. His discography comprises more than 35 solo recordings including, as an organist, the complete oeuvre of Marcel Dupré and the symphonies of Louis Vierne.

Jeremy studied as organ scholar at Keble College Oxford, before completing graduate studies in piano performance at the Royal College of Music and gaining a PhD in Musicology from Birmingham Conservatoire/BCU – researching aesthetic and interpretative issues in the music of Marcel Dupré. Before coming to the US in 2008, he held Academic and Performance lectureships at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music in England, and was a lay clerk in the choir of St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Jeremy Filsell has taught at universities, summer schools, and conventions in both the UK and US and has served on international competition juries in England and Switzerland. Recent solo engagements have taken him across the US and UK and to Germany, France, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Australia and New Zealand. Since 2008 he has directed the music at two Washington DC churches, served as Artist-in-residence at Washington National Cathedral and was Professor of Organ successively at the Catholic University of America and Peabody Conservatory. He became Organist & Director of Music at St. Thomas, 5th Avenue, New York in April 2019.

SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

Founded in 1919, the Saint Thomas Choir School is the only boarding school solely for choristers in the United States, and one of only three schools of its type remaining in the world today. The Choir School offers a challenging pre-preparatory curriculum, interscholastic sports and musical training for boys in grades three through eight. Following graduation, boys move on to highly competitive independent boarding and day schools across the country.

The Saint Thomas Choir School is committed to training and educating talented musicians without regard to religious, economic, or social background. Generous financial aid is available to all successful applicants. Inquiries from interested families are sought throughout the year.
Do you know a boy who loves to sing? We want to hear from you at admissions@choirschool.org. To learn more about the exceptional opportunity provided by a Choir School education, consult our website: www.choirschool.org.

THE BOYS OF THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR

TREBLES

Jovon Patrick-Bernard
Harrison Bieschke
Leighton Cheuk
David Conrado
Wells Alling Graney
Francisco Halvey
Rocco Halvey
William Hanoian
Grayson Hochenberg
Elias Jeon
Ethan Kim
Constantin Lafourcade
William Lee

Fernando Morel
Nathan Moreno
Gioni Mota
James O’Brien
Benjamin Osborne
Henry Park
William Petretta
Max Sauberg
Dominic Scarozza
Francis Segger
Mich Shemezwa
Quinn Vanasco
Christopher Ventura

1. The John. G. Scott Memorial Choristership
2. The Richard Heschke Choristership
3. The Francis S. Falconer Choristership
4. The T. Tertius Noble Centennial Choristership
5. The Ogden Northrop Lewis, Jr. Choristership
6. The Dr. James L. Tuohy Choristership

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS OPUS 28
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

PROCESSION

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt angeli:
Laetantur archangeli:
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia.

Today Christ is born:
Today the Saviour has appeared:
Today on earth the Angels sing:
The Archangels rejoice:
Today the just exult, saying:
Glory be to God in the highest.
Alleluia.

The Antiphon at the Magnificat of Second Vespers of The Nativity of Our Lord

WOLCUM YOLE!

Wolcum, Thomas marter one,
Wolcum Yole!

Wolcum, be ye, good Newe Yere,
Wolcum, Twelfthe Day both in fere,
Wolcum, seintes lefe and dere,
Wolcum Yole!
Wolcum be ye Candelmesse,
Wolcum bothe to more and lesse.
Wolcum be ye that are here,
Wolcum alle and make good cheer.
Wolcum alle another yere,
Wolcum Yole!

(Wolcum by ye) Quene of bliss,
Wolcum Yole!

THERE IS NO ROSE

THERE is no rose of such vertu
As is the rose that bare Jesu.

Alleluia.

For in this rose conteinèd was
Heaven and earth in litel space,
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three,
Pares forma.

The aungels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this werldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus.

THAT YOUNGÈ CHILD

THAT yongë child when it gan weep
With song she lulled him asleep;
That was so sweet a melody
It passèd alle minstrelsy.

The nightingalë sang also:
Her song is hoarse and nought thereto:
Whoso attendeth to her song
And leaveth the first then doth he wrong.

14th Century Anonymous

BALULALOW

O my dere hert, young Jesu sweit,
Prepare thy credhil in my spreit,
And I sall rock thee to my hert,
And never mair from thee depart.

But I sall praise thee evermoir
With sanges sweit unto thy gloir;
The knees of my hert sall I bow,
And sing that richt Balulalow.

James, John and Robert Wedderburn (1548), 1561
AS DEW IN APRILLE

I SING of a maiden
That is makeless;
King of all kings
To her son she ches.

He came al so stille
There his moder was,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the grass.

Moder and mayden
Was never none but she:
Well may such a lady
Goddes moder be.

Anonymous (15th century)

THIS LITTLE BABE

This little Babe so few days old,
Is come to rifle Satan’s fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake,
Though he himself for cold do shake;
For in this weak unarmed wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,
And feeble Flesh his warrior’s steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall;
The crib his trench, haystarks his stakes;
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels’ trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;
Stick to the tents that he hath pight.
Within his crib is surest ward;
This little Babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

Robert Southwell (c. 1561-95)

INTERLUDE (Harp)

IN FREEZING WINTER NIGHT

Behold, a silly tender babe,
In freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies
Alas, a piteous sight!

The inns are full, no man will yield this
little pilgrim bed.
But forced he is with silly beast,
In crib to shroud his head.

This stable is a Prince’s court,
This crib his chair of State;
The beasts are parcel of his pomp,
This wooden dish his plate.

The persons in that poor attire
His royal liveries wear;
The Prince himself is come from Heav’n;
This pomp is prizèd there.
With joy approach O Christian wight,
do homage to thy King;
And highly praise his humble pomp,
wich he from Heav’n doth bring.

Robert Southwell

**SPRING CAROL**

**PLEASURE it is**
To hear iwis,
The Birdês sing,
The deer in the dale,
The sheep in the vale,
The corn springing.

God’s purveyance
For sustenance,
It is for man,
Then we always
To give him praise,
And thank him than.

William Cornish (14?–1523)

**DEO GRACIAS**

*Deo gracias!*

ADAM lay ibounden,
Bounden in a bond;
For thousand winter,
Thought he not too long.
And all was for an appil,
An appil that he tok,
As clerkês finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the appil takè ben,
The appil takè ben,
Ne haddè never our lady,
A ben hevenè quene.
Blessèd be the time
That appil takè was.
Therefore we moun singen,
*Deo gracias!*

Anonymous (15th century)

**RECESSION**

HODIE Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt angeli:
Laetantur archangeli:
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia.

Today Christ is born:
Today the Saviour has appeared:
Today on earth the Angels sing:
The Archangels rejoice:
Today the just exult, saying:
Glory be to God in the highest.
Alleluia.

The Antiphon at the Magnificat of Second Vespers of The Nativity of Our Lord
Friends of Music share a passion for choral music and a commitment to upholding the tradition of excellence maintained by the world-renowned Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Friends of Music enjoy a host of benefits including concierge ticketing and invitations to social and educational events throughout the season.

Friends are loyal. Friends have heart. Friends listen. Join the Friends of Music today!

**DO YOU KNOW A BOY WHO LIKES MUSIC?**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

Saint Thomas Choir School has been nurturing and educating boys for 100 years. Our music program, one of the most varied and demanding in the world, dovetails with a robust, pre-preparatory curriculum, interscholastic sports, and a focus on fine arts to truly inspire our students and enrich their lives. Admissions are without regard to economic, religious or social background, and all of our students go on to some of the finest high schools in America. Tuition is modest and financial aid is available.

Contact our admissions office at admissions@choirschool.org or at (212) 247-3311 to explore this exceptional opportunity.