

THE
FOURTH
CHOIR

Artistic Director: Dominic Ellis-Peckham
Patron: Dame Ann Murray

IN THE STILLNESS

Saturday 7 December 2019, St Clement Danes, The Strand

**A collection will be taken for Bloody Good Period.
Please give generously.**

BGP work to end period poverty on the ground by giving these products to those who can't afford them, and providing long term menstrual education to those less likely to access it.



In the Stillness

Artistic Director: Dominic Ellis-Peckham

Organist: Andrew Tait

Readers: Annette Badland, Jonathan Blake

Speaker: Gabby Edlin, Founder of Bloody Good Period

The Fourth Choir welcomes people of all religions and none, both as members of the Choir and as members of our audience. We will be singing some carols in tonight's concert which the audience is welcome to sing with the Choir. Traditionally, audiences stand to sing but please do not feel obliged to either stand or join in the singing if you would prefer not to.

Once in Royal David's City - Henry J. Gauntlett, arr. Wilcocks

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander

Solo:

*Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

Choir only:

*He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

Audience joins:

*And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.*

Audience joins:

*For he is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us he grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.*

Alleluia - Peter Wishart, Text: Anonymous 15th century

In The Stillness - Sally Beamish, Text: Katrina Shephard

Readings - *Winter Song* by Katharine Mansfield, *Heavy Women* by Sylvia Plath

Jesus Christ The Apple Tree - Elizabeth Poston, Text: Anonymous

A Babe Is Born - Richard Allain

O Little Town of Bethlehem - traditional carol arr. Vaughan Williams
Text: Phillips Brooks

Audience joins:

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight*

*O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth
For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love*

Choir only:

*How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.*

Audience joins:

*O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel.*

Wither's Rocking Hymn - Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Baldwin
Text: George Wither

Venite Gaudete - Adrian Peacock, Text: traditional Latin carol

INTERVAL – Please join us for a glass of mulled cider and a mince pie

There Is No Rose - Elizabeth Maconchy, Text: Anonymous 15th century

Nova! Nova! Ave fit ex Eva – James MacMillan, Text: Anonymous 15th century

Readings - *White-Eyes* by Mary Oliver, *Snow* by Emily Dickinson

Stars - Ēriks Ešenvalds Text: Sara Teasdale

Of A Rose - Cecilia McDowall, Text: Anonymous 14th century

O Come, All Ye Faithful - John Wade, arr. Willcocks

Text: English translation by Fr. Frederick Oakeley

Audience joins:

*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;*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

*God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created:
(Refrain)*

Choir Only:

*See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
(Refrain)*

Audience joins:

*Lo! star led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations.
(Refrain)*

*Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace Thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?
(Refrain)*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest;
(Refrain)*

Comes The Light - Ann Burgess, Text: Roger McGough

With Us - Clare Wheeler; World Premiere of the choral arrangement of a song which Clare originally wrote for the Swingles Singers

Speaker - Gabby Edlin, Founder of Bloody Good Period

Silent Night - Franz Gruber, arr. Jonathan Rathbone, Text: Joseph Mohr

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas – Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane, arr. Peter Gritton

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - Felix Mendelssohn, Text: Charles Wesley

Audience sings all verses:

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n 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 newborn King!"*

Bloody Good Period

Bloody Good Period provides menstrual products and toiletries to those who can't afford them - a blend of asylum seekers, refugees and LGBTQ people living in poverty. These products are distributed through 40 drop-in services and groups to over 1500 people per month.

Gabby Edlin founded Bloody Good Period when she realised that food banks, drop-in centres, or GP clinics were not supplying menstrual products in the quantity or at the frequency that is required by a menstruator living in poverty (i.e every month), and most were not thinking to supply them at all (unlike condoms).

*"The stress of being a refugee has led to me having heavy and irregular periods: I don't know anymore when I am going to bleed."
Female Refugee, 2017, from "Meeting Point", Leeds*

Menstrual products are essential, and poverty leaves many to go without pads and tampons, using toilet paper, rags, socks, or nothing at all. Asylum Seekers are not allowed to work and are not offered any extra funding to purchase menstrual protection for themselves or daughters. If a person does not have access to menstrual products, they essentially become a prisoner in their home, for fear of leaking in public, or can develop infections or rashes from using inadequate products or homemade methods.

Dominic Ellis-Peckham, Artistic Director

Dominic is regarded as one of the UK's finest young conductors and an ambassador for choral music both in performance and through his critically acclaimed educational work. He is Artistic Director of The Royal Opera House's 'RM19', Assistant Musical Director of The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Artistic Director and Founder of iSingUK – The Schools Workshop Programme, Director of The Ulster Youth Training Choir and Patron and Principal Guest Conductor and Adjudicator of The Voice Festival UK. In demand at home and abroad as a conductor, choral specialist, adjudicator, workshop director, and consultant for a variety of ensembles and choral training programmes, he was guest Vocal Director of the BBC Choir of the Year, Consultant of Trinity Guildhall Teaching Programme and Guest Speaker for 'Sing Up'.

Recent and upcoming posts include Guest Chorus Master at English National Opera; Guest Conductor for Aldeburgh Music; returning as Guest Conductor for Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance; Chorus Master for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Presenter for the Royal Opera House BP Big Screens. In June 2016 Peckham conducted the London Mozart Players in a unique concert celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday, which marked the orchestra's final concert in their home venue, Fairfield Halls, before its major refurbishment.

The Fourth Choir

The Fourth Choir was founded in 2013 by a group of singers aspiring to represent the LGBT+ community on London's world-class classical music scene. At six years old, the Choir is going from strength to strength. We have performed in many of London's iconic cultural venues including the Southbank Centre, the British Library, the British Museum, the V&A and Tate Britain. We have also performed in such diverse venues as Brunel's Thames Tunnel, Hampton Court Palace, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern and the Tower of London; and in the heart of Westminster, both on the stage at the National Holocaust Memorial Ceremony and on the pavement, protesting outside the House of Commons. Overseas, we have performed at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Queer Arts Festival in Antwerp (twice) and the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj in Rome. We have developed a particularly fruitful relationship with Shakespeare's Globe, having given four concerts in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse and appeared in the play *After Edward* and we are now looking forward to appearing with Sandi Toksvig in *Snow Globe* later this month.

The choir welcomes experienced singers of all backgrounds and identities. While our members are not all LGBT, we assume that anyone who works with us celebrates diversity and equal rights. To join the choir, visit our website: thefourthchoir.com.

The Fourth Choir is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales, number 1156769.

Annette Badland

Annette Badland's work in film, theatre and TV spans four decades. Highlights include playing a tap-dancing pupil in *The Naked Civil Servant*, Margaret Blaine in *Doctor Who*, the evil Aunt Babe in *Eastenders* and receiving an Olivier nomination for the film *Little Voice*. This year, among other things, she played Gertrude Stein in *After Edward* at The Globe, pathologist Fleur Perkins in *Midsomer Murders*, worked on a top-secret project for AppleTV to be released next year, was in JK Rowling's *Strike* and joined The Fourth Choir in their *Love is Love*, *Stonewall Warriors* and *Powerful and Dangerous Women* concerts at the Wanamaker Playhouse, Charterhouse and Heaven.

Jonathan Blake

Jonathan Blake's career as an actor was cut short when he was one of the first people in the UK to be diagnosed with HIV in 1982. He was a founder member of *Gays and Lesbians Support the Miners* and was portrayed by Dominic West in the film *Pride*, most memorably in an incredible dance routine inspired by an actual photo of Jonathan dancing with the miners' wives. Jonathan later worked as a costume designer and maker at English National Opera and has now returned to acting, playing Francis in the incredibly successful sexual health series *The Grass is Always Greener* which has received over 2 million views on YouTube. This year Jonathan celebrated both his 70th birthday and his 36th anniversary with his partner Nigel.

Andrew Tait, Organist

Andrew studied at the Guildhall School of Music, the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, and Trinity College of Music. He was a founding member of the Onovo Trio who have won prizes at international Chamber Music competitions. He has performed throughout the world, from Sweden to South America, and has provided music, both in the UK and abroad, for television, radio and film.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas at the (Snow) Globe - Thu 19 - Mon 23 December 2019

We will be joining comedians Sandi Toksvig and Sindhu Vee on a Christmas romp at the Globe and leading the singing of your favourite Christmas songs. Dress warm and join us for this most heart-warming of gatherings.

Journeys - Cutty Sark, Fri 27 March 2020 - We will be performing songs on the theme of pilgrimage and discovery, under the hull of the celebrated historic sailing ship in Greenwich, surrounded by wooden figureheads that adorned ships from over 3 centuries.



Join The Fourth Choir at...

Christmas at the **SNOW** Globe

Thursday 19 - Monday 23 December 2019



The Fourth Choir presents...

Journeys

Songs about pilgrimage
and discovery

Cutty Sark, Greenwich
Friday 27 March 2020

**THE FOURTH
CHOIR**