

Seasonal Favourites & Traditional Carols



Eynsford Concert Band
and the
Atherstone Choral Society



Christmas Music Spectacular

The Stag
Sevenoaks



Sunday 13th
December 1998
7.30pm



Programme £1



A Message from the Chairman

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to our Christmas Music Spectacular. Our Musical Director, Phil Evans, has compiled a seasonal programme of popular music for everyone to join in – including all of you in the audience. I am delighted also to welcome our friends from the Atherstone Choral Society. We have shared a concert with the Atherstone Choral Society on many occasions and this is their first visit 'down South'!

I am sure that the combined efforts of the Choir, the Band and, of course, the audience will put us all in a great Christmas mood to start the seasonal festivities.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Paul Gould
Chairman

Director of Music - Lt. Col. (Ret'd) P.R. Evans

Col. Evans began his Army career in 1959 when he joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry as a Bandsman, and in 1971 passed out of the Kneller Hall Army School of Music as top British student. In 1976 he was appointed Senior Bandmaster of the British Army and School Bandmaster at the Royal Military School of Music.

After a series of directing appointments Col. Evans was appointed to the Royal Artillery (Allenbrooke) Band. He finished his military career as Director of Music of the Corps of Royal Engineers and, coincidentally, the most senior musician in the British Army.

Col. Evans' first links with Atherstone Choral Society began in March 1987 when the choir and the Royal Engineers Band performed in The Civic Hall in Bedworth. In January 1989 Col. Evans was the Society's Guest Conductor for 'Messiah'. Col. Evans became Director of Music to the Society in March 1995. It was in this year that Col. Evans introduced the Eynsford Concert Band to the Atherstone Choral Society when the band played at the Choir's Christmas Concert at Bedworth. He has subsequently conducted the band on numerous occasions providing the band with the benefit of his extensive musical knowledge and experience.

Retirement from the Army led to a different type of involvement with music when he took on the management of the Kent Youth Choirs providing him with the opportunity to work with some 750 young singers, with an age range from 8 to 25. He has taken the Youth Choirs on many successful European Tours to places such as Italy, Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels.

In March 1999, Col. Evans will be revisiting the United States of America where he has been invited to be, once again, Guest Conductor with the Connecticut 'All State' Wind Symphony and the Stratford Connecticut Concert Band.

Atherstone Choral Society

Twenty five years ago, a small group of enthusiastic singers from the Atherstone area decided to perform the world famous 'Messiah' (Handel). From the euphoria of that small beginning slowly grew one of the finest and largest mixed amateur choirs in the Midlands, now 100 singers strong. The vision and inspiration of the founding Director, Bernard Powell, ensured that the Choir was heard in famous concert halls in many parts of Britain and overseas. For the last three years, the inspiration and drive has come from its present Director, Lt. Col. (Retd.) P.R. Evans, who first conducted the Society in 1987 in his capacity as Director of Music, Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers. Col. Evans' commitment to the Choir means a round trip from Kent every Monday as well as the occasional Wednesday rehearsals. The musical standards, programme choice and discipline set by the Colonel are high, unremitting and rewarding, all stemming from his unashamed love of music.

The Society's reputation and musical strength is gained from the very wide repertoire it performs, from Bach to the Beatles; ancient to modern; oratorios with full orchestra to unaccompanied madrigals, with piano or military band; traditional favourites by Gilbert and Sullivan to modern day shows such as *Les Miserables*. Most of the traditional oratorios have been performed by the Society with some of the Britain's finest singers as soloists. The Society has had the honour of performing the premiere of three works specially written on its behalf.

In 1982, the Society began its links with Military Bands. Most recently, in November 1998, the Society was honoured to take part in the British Legion's Midlands Festival of Remembrance in the Symphony Hall, Birmingham with the RAF Regiment Band. In 1990, the Choir joined the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers at the Chelmsford Spectacular where it sang to an audience of 10,000; later that year the Choir joined the Band in Wolverhampton in a programme with the organist Carlo Curley. The latest CD 'Sounds for Christmas' - an amalgam of pieces taken from 'live' concerts is selling well and has been aired on local radio.

Many concerts are given to raise funds for local and national charities, but ongoing fundraising within the Society is an essential part of membership in order to continue promoting its own concerts and for the upkeep of its own custom-made staging and trailer.

Travel within the United Kingdom is part of the Society's annual programme, with overseas tours occurring approximately every two years. During this special anniversary year, the Choir has been invited to West Bromwich, Sevenoaks and in August 1999 to the Shrewsbury Flower Show where it will be the first mixed Choir in the show's history.

This year the Society celebrates its silver anniversary - twenty-five years of achievement in bringing classical, popular and major works to the public, and a commitment by the Director and Choir members to produce the very best for its audiences. Long may it continue! We hope you enjoy this evening's concert.

Eynsford Concert Band

Eynsford Concert Band has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1972, when a handful of keen musicians first met in a local classroom, organised and encouraged by Robin O'Connell - the band's founder. Though the band has a relatively short history, a long list of achievements illustrates its prolific development.

These achievements include tours and performances in Malta, Cyprus, Austria, Canada, Spain, Germany, Ireland and most recently a visit to Arnhem in the Netherlands. The band has also been lucky enough to have played with the London Philharmonic Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall and performed several times at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank. The recording of an album, *By the Ford* is an important milestone. The album's exciting and varied musical programme was the result of an intensive course of practice and tuition from members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

While busy planning a return trip to Malta for the near future, the band are also considering the possibility of an extensive 'European Tour' to herald the next millennium.

Closer to home, the roots of the band are not forgotten, as 'Eynsford' are pleased to support local events and charities. The local profile of the band is of great importance as new local venues for future concerts and new band members are constantly being sought. The band would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in finding out more.

Please contact Paul Gould on 01474 706665 for more information, or visit the website <http://members.aol.com/eynsford/ecb.html>. The album *By the Ford* is also available for sale - CD £10 and tape £7

Society Accompanist - Robert Ramskill

Robert Ramskill comes originally from Leeds and after studying music at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, moved to the Midlands in 1975 to take up an appointment as Lecturer at the Coventry School of Music. Robert is now Senior Lecturer in Music at Coventry University.

In addition to his teaching work, Robert has continued to be involved in practical music-making as an accompanist and composer/arranger.

Robert's extensive catalogue of compositions include a Tuba Concerto, several works for solo piano and an anthem specially written for the choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral. He has also written a number of albums for brass instruments which are published by Brasswind Publications: pieces from these are now set in the syllabus of all major practical examination boards.

Robert is also a regular arranger for BBC Television's *Songs of Praise* programme.

Programme

Band	Christmas Festival	Leroy Anderson	Band	A Christmas Suite	David Barker
Audience Carol	Once in Royal David's City	Traditional	Audience Carol	O Come all ye Faithful	Traditional
Choir	Birthday Carol	David Willcocks	Choir	Hawaiian Carol	Arr. Malcolm Sargent
	Gabriel's Message	Arr. David Willcocks		O Holy Night	Arr. Kevin Norbury
Band	Don Quixote	Minkus	Band	The Wonder of Christmas	Arr. John Moss
Audience Carol	The First Nowell	Traditional	Audience/Choir	The 12 Days of Christmas	Arr. Phil Evans
Band	Festive Cheer	Arr. Roger Harvey	Band	Just Like the Ones We Used to Know	Arr. Robert Ramskill
Choir	Sing Noel	Arr. Capt. L. Ballentine	Audience Carol	Hark the Herald	Traditional
Band	Excerpts form the Nutcracker Suite	Tschaikowsky	Choir/Band	Hallelujah Chorus	Handel
	Children's Overture	Richard Quilter			
Choir/Band	The King and I	Richard Rodgers			

Interval - 20 minutes



Further information on **Atherstone Choral Society** can be obtained by contacting:

The General Administrator, Jan Jones
74 Goodere Drive, Polesworth, Tamworth, Staff. B78 1BZ - 01827 896375

or

The Membership Secretary, Eileen Goddard
174 St Nicolas Park Drive, Nuneaton, Warks. CV11 6EQ - 01203 347367

Once in Royal David's City

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.

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

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

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
When like stars his children
crowned
All in white shall wait around

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winters 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 earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country afar
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went

This star drew nigh to the north west
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense

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



O Come all ye Faithful

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

God of God
Light of light
Lo! He abhors not the virgins womb
Very God
Begotten not created

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
In the highest

The 12 Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas
my true love sent to me
A partridge on a pear tree
On the second day of Christmas
my true love sent to me
Two turtle doves and
A partridge on a pear tree

On the third day Three French hens
On the fourth day Four calling birds
On the fifth day Five gold rings
On the sixth day Six geese a laying
On the seventh day Seven swans a swimming
On the eighth day Eight maids a milking
On the ninth day Nine drummers drumming
On the tenth day Ten pipers piping
On the eleventh day Eleven ladies dancing
On the twelfth day Twelve lords a leaping

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting lord
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgins womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel

Hail the heaven born prince of peace
Hail the son 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



Eynsford Concert Band

Bb Clarinet

Andrew Mattison
Sandra Lane
Wendy Lane
Joe Stafford
Sue Moore
Chris Pye
Sarah Watts
Brian Edwards
Rob Burns

Oboe

Jo Chapman

Flute

Nigel Keen
Alison Hughes
Clare Chalkley
Louise Sherwood
Jo Culley
Chris Blew

Saxophone

Marie Chalkley-Bowman
Daryl Oliver
Graham Bell
Keren Mead
Stuart Bennett

Bassoon

Sian Miller

Eb Alto Clarinet

Brian Evans

Trombone

Paul Gould
Mike Barker
Darren Biddulph

French Horn

Gary Copnall
Phillipa Harton
Viv Davis
Marion Potter

Bass Clarinet

Bob Stewart
Rob Lawrence

Euphonium

Mark Cerson

Trumpet

David Walker
Colin Palmer
Ron Hazlewood
Paul Boyd
Andrew Stephens
Tony Wilson

Percussion

Dorian Burt
Geraint Thomas
David Chapman

Tuba

Brian Bennett
Steve Bennett



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