

Faithful and Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and we'll invite the audience – especially the children - to sing along.

John Rutter, some say, 'has become the musical equivalent of Dickens, synonymous with the season.' Perhaps – but Dickens wrote only one *Christmas Carol*, while Rutter's contribution to Christmas music is substantial. We'll be joined by organist Peter Guy and pianist Philip Sketchley in presenting some of his works.

Rutter writes "Many leading British composers wrote carols: Britten, Vaughan Williams, Holst and others. They created as fine a modern tradition as you could find in any other country in the world. The Christmas carol is, after all, one of very few musical forms which allows classically trained musicians to feel it's permissible to write tunes without worrying about a kind of composers' 'political correctness!'"

Visiting baritone Richard Bannan will join with vocal quartet Waxing Lyrical in Peter Cornelius's *The Three Kings*. The choir will sing with him *In the Bleak Midwinter*, a wonderful work by Gustav Holst.

What of Samuel Scheidt and his galliard? The concert features some of his work, together with compositions of Purcell (or Clarke), Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Rossini, Wagner, Tchaikovsky and Gershwin. It's not very often that you'll hear so many composers featured in one concert – but as part of our Christmas gift to you, and with the assistance of the Lakeside Brass, we're going to fit them all into one carol.

There's more, but I'll leave that for you to discover at what is really quite a unique Christmas concert.

Meet the Artists



Visiting baritone Richard Bannan began singing as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral. More recently, he studied music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a Choral Scholar and now sings regularly with ensembles such as the Monteverdi Choir, Polyphony, Academy of Ancient Music and the BBC Singers. Away from his performing commitments Richard is an enthusiastic teacher of singing, working at Bloxham School and for the Eton Choral Courses. He is also a keen songwriter.

Lakeside Brass were National Open Quintet Champions in 2009. The group consists of Timothy O'Hearn and Patricia O'Hearn on trumpets, Chris Hunt on French horn, Rowen McBride on trombone and Rowan Taylor on tuba.

Vocal quartet Waxing Lyrical will be well known to our audience. Soprano Jennifer Barnes was recently our Musical Director, and has been a regular soloist with the choir, as have Mezzo Soprano Rosemary Saunders and Tenor Paul Bevan.

Bass Dr Christopher Allan is our Musical Director, and has recently been awarded his PhD by the University of Newcastle. The title of his thesis is 'Exploring the Value of Aural and Kinaesthetic Feedback using Speech Quality as a Catalyst for Vocal Development in the Training of Tertiary Voice Students'. He will not be singing it at our concert – but we are very proud of him.

Peter Guy and Philip Sketchley are not pictured here, but are also regular performers with the choir. Philip is our repetiteur, and we couldn't do it without him.

Cacophony is edited by Peter McCloy on behalf of the Newcastle University Choir, who do not necessarily share the views of the editor. To contribute or to communicate, email us at newsletter@newcastleuniversitychoir.com

For more about Newcastle University Choir, go to www.newcastleuniversitychoir.com