

O Rosa Bella

Music for Advent & Christmas presented by

Lumina

director Anna Pope

3pm Sunday 23 December 2001

Plympton House, 4 Lewis Crescent North Plympton

Lumina

Hannah Bleby, Greta Bradman, Emma Horwood, Christie Anderson,
Rosemary Byron-Scott, Penny Dally, Anna Pope, Bernard Mageean,
Tim Muecke, Theo McCall, Kenneth Pope, Mark de Souza

Programme

Britten	<i>Ceremony of carols</i>	harpist Emma Horwood
Dufay	<i>Ave maris stella</i>	
Britten	<i>Hymn to a virgin</i>	quartet Christie, Rosemary, Tim, Kenneth
Dunstable	<i>O rosa bella</i>	Anna, Penny, Christie & Bernard
Anon	<i>Rosa fragrans</i>	Tim, Theo & Kenneth
Josquin	<i>Praeter Rerum</i>	
Howells	<i>A spotless rose</i>	soloist Kenneth Pope
Cornelius	<i>The three Kings</i>	soloist Kenneth Pope
Vaughan Williams	<i>Fantasia on Christmas Carols</i>	pianist Bernard Mageean, soloists Mark de Souza & Theo McCall

Lumina was formed in 1999, when eight experienced early music singers joined together to present a concert tracing Mediaeval music from plainsong to early polyphony. **Lumina** is a vocal ensemble which specialises in early music but also occasionally ventures into the realm of more recent choral masterpieces. The name of the ensemble was chosen because of its many appropriate allusions, from mediaeval illumination, light and enlightenment to links with teaching and universities. Founder/director of the group Anna Pope has been a member of the Adelaide Chamber Singers for seven years, has conducted two Cambridge choirs, and is founding director of the Adelaide wedding choir Songbyrds.

If you wish to know more about this concert or the Lumina Vocal Ensemble,
please contact Anna Pope on 8297 1836

Ave maris stella

Ave, maris stella, Dei mater alma,
Atque semper virgo, Felix celi porta.

Sumens ilud Ave Gabrielis ore,
Funda nos in pace, Mutans Eve nomen.

Solve vincla reis, Profer lumen cecis,
Mala nostra pelle, Bona cuncta posce.

Monstra te esse matrem, Sumat per te preces,
Qui pro nobis natus, Tulit esse tuus.

Virgo singularis, Inter omnes mitis,
Nos culpis solutos, Miter fac et custos

Vitam presta puram, Iter para tutum,
Ut videntes Jesum, Semper collemur.

Sit lau Deo Patri, Summo Christo decus,
Spiritui Sancto, Tribus honor unus. Amen.

Hymn to a virgin

Of one that is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella:
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tampia
That I may come to thee.
Maria!

O rosa bella

O rosa bella, o dolce anima mia;
Non mi lassar morire in cortesia.
Ai lasso mi, ai lasso mi dolente!
Dezo finire per ben servire e lialment amare.

Rosa fragrans

Rosa fragrans primula vernalis.
Servos tuos libera a malis,
Tu gloriae speculum solis umbraculum.
Da famulis gaudium. post hoc exsilium.

Praeter Rerum

Praeter rerum seriem parit Deum hominem Virgo mater. Nec
virtangit virginem nec prolis originem novit pater. Vitis sancti
Spiritus opus ilud coelitus operatur. Initus et exitus partus tui
penitus quis scrutatur? Dei providentia quae disponit omnia tam
suave tua puerperia transfer in mysteria. Mater ave.

A spotless rose

A spotless rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root.
Of ancient seers forshowing,
Of Jesse promis'd fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light,
Amid the cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

Guillermus Dufay (c. 1397–1474)

Hail, star of the sea, Bountiful mother of God,
And, ever virgin, Auspicious gateway to heaven.

By your accepting that 'Ave', From the mouth of Gabriel,
Establish us in peace, by changing the name 'Eva'.

Loose the bonds of the accused, bring light to the blind;
Dispel our misfortunes, and beg for every blessing.

Show yourself to be a mother: May he who, born for our sake,
Deigned to be your son, Accept our prayers through you.

Matchless virgin, mild above all,
Make us, once released from our sins, mild and chaste also.

Grant us purity of life, Secure for us a safe passage,
So that, when we see Jesus, We may ever rejoice together.

Praise be to God the Father, Renown to the supreme Christ,
And to the Holy Spirit honour: One blessing to the Three.

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

All this world was forlorn
Eva peccatrice,
Till our Lord was y-born
De te genetrice.
With *ave* it went away
Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis;
The well springeth out of thee.
Virtutis.

Lady flow'r of ev'rything,
Rosa sine spina
Thou bare Jesu, Heaven's King,
Gratia divina
Of all thou bear'st the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa
Maid mild, mother *es Effecta.*
Effecta.

John Dunstable (c1370-1453)

O beautiful rose, O sweet spirit;
Don't let me die from courting you.
O release me, O release me from my lamenting!
Must I meet my end in serving you well and loving so loyally.

Anon (English c. 1400)

Fragrant Rose, thou fairest springtime flower,
Keep thy servants free from evil's power.
Thou mirror clear bringing light from the sun to our sight.
Grant to our eyes vision bright in the shadows of the night.

Josquin des Prés (c.1440–1521)

Outside the natural order of things the Virgin Mother gives birth
to God and man. She has known no man; nor does the father
know the origin of the child. By the power of the Holy Spirit this
heavenly work is achieved. Who can fully know the beginning
and end of thy giving birth? By divine and gracious providence,
which orders all things so smoothly, they childbearing plces us
before a holy mystery. Hail, Mother.

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The blessed Babe she bare us,
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Ceremony of carols

- 1 Procession - Hodie Christus natus est [*Rejoice, Christ is born*]
- 2 Wolcum Yole! [*Welcome King of Heaven*]
- 3 There is no Rose of such vertu, as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia [*Praise*]. For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space; Resmiranda [*Miraculous thing*]. By that rose we may well see That he is God in persons three, Paris forma [*in equal form*]. The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gaudeamus [*Glory to God in the highest: rejoice*]. Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth; Transeamus [*Let us journey*].

The Three Kings

Soloist: Three Kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the newborn King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are trav'ling, travel with them!
The star of mercy the star of grace,
Shall lead they heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer they heart to the infant King,
Offer thy heart!

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

- 1 The Truth sent from above (Herefordshire)
- 2 Come all you worthy gentleman (Somerset)
- 3 On Christmas night (Sussex)
- 4 There is a fountain (Herefordshire, tune only)

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

- 4a That yongë child when it gan weep
- 4b Balulalow - O my deare hert young Jesu sweit
- 5 As Dew in Aprille - I sing of a maiden that is makeles
- 6 This little Babe
- 7 Interlude
- 8 In Freezing Winter Night - Behold, a silly tender babe
- 9 Spring Carol - Pleasure it is to hear iwis, the Birdes sing
- 10 Deo Gracias - Adam lay ibounden
- 11 Recession - Hodie Christus natus est

Peter Cornelius (1824–1874)

Chorale: How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heav'n afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.

Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.

Thy word, Jesu,
Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us,
Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

God bless the ruler of this house and long on may he reign,
From out of darkness we have light,
which makes the angels sing this night,
Many happy Christmases he live to see again!
God bless our generation, who live both far and near
And we wish them a happy, a happy New Year