

# WHITGIFT CHAMBER CHOIR THE CHOIRS OF CROYDON MINSTER



TOM LITTLE ORGAN RONNY KRIPPNER DIRECTOR

# CHRISTMAS CAROLS from Croydon Minster

WHITGIFT CHAMBER CHOIR | The Choirs of Croydon Minster | Tom Little Organ | Ronny Krippner Director

- 1 Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Robert Ampt (Choir, Brass, Percussion & Organ)\* [3:30]
- 2 O Radiant Dawn James MacMillan (b. 1959) [3:59]
- 3 Once in Royal David's City arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015) [4:40]
- 4 I Saw Three Ships arr. P. Marshall (1921-2005) [2:06]
- 5 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen arr. Robert Ampt (Choir, Brass, Percussion & Organ)\* [4:36]
- 6 Adam Lay Ybounden Boris Ord (1897-1961) [1:17]
- 7 O Thou, the Central Orb Charles Wood (1866-1926) [4:13]
- 8 Sussex Carol arr. Philip Ledger (1937-2012) [2:09]
- 9 While Shepherds watched their Flocks By Night arr. Robert Ampt (Choir, Brass, Percussion & Organ)\* [2:51]
- 10 Personent Hodie arr. Gustav Holst (1874-1934) [2:57]
- 11 Ave Verum Corpus Colin Mawby (b. 1936) [3:54]
- 12 O little Town of Bethlehem arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) [3:20]
- 13 Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day John Gardner (1926-2007) (Choir, Percussion & Organ) [2:07]
- 14 Magnificat (from Collegium Regale) Charles Wood (1866-1926) [5:18]
- 15 Nunc Dimittis (from Collegium Regale) Charles Wood (1866-1926) [3:15]
- 16 Angels from the Realms of Glory arr. Robert Ampt (Choir, Brass, Percussion & Organ)\* [4:35]
- 17 Ding dong! Merrily on high arr. Stuart Nicholson (b. 1975) [2:56]
- 18 O come, all ye faithful arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015) [4:07]
- 19 Joy to the World! arr. Robert Ampt (Choir, Brass, Percussion & Organ)\* [2:57]
- 20 In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) [2:41]

All repertoire performed by Whitgift Chamber Choir \*items featuring both Whitgift Chamber Choir and the Choirs of Croydon Minster



Christmas is a particularly busy time of year for the Chamber Choir of Whitgift School, and this recording represents a selection of the music sung by the boys and men of the Choir at the annual Whitgift Carol Service at Croydon Minster. The repertoire featured is wide, ranging from the early sixteenth-century carol *Personent Hodie*, through to *O Radiant Dawn* by contemporary Scottish composer, James MacMillan. The five carol arrangements for choir, brass, percussion and organ were written by Robert Ampt, the City Organist of Sydney Town Hall, and add to the festive flavour of this carol CD.

Whitgift is very proud of its close partnership with Croydon Minster; the Chamber Choir regularly sings in the splendour of the Minster, and the School provides Choristerships for Whitgift Choristers to sing in the Minster Boys' Choir. This collaboration has resulted in outstanding choral services and concerts, and this CD is testament to the wonderful choral tradition at both Whitgift and Croydon Minster.

Ronny Krippner, September 2015

## Whitgift School

The School was founded in 1596 by John Whitgift, Elizabeth I's last Archbishop of Canterbury, and opened in 1600, making it Croydon's oldest school. Haling Park, to which the School moved in 1931, was at one time the home of Lord Howard of Effingham, Lord High Admiral of the Fleet sent against the Armada. The present Headmaster, Dr Christopher Barnett, is the twenty-sixth in the School's history. Whitgift entered an exciting new chapter in 2013, with the opening of a state-of-the-art boarding house. The School offers an inspirational environment, and is proud of its outstanding facilities, first-class record of academic achievement, and rich co-curricular offering.

## Choral Music at Whitgift

Singing plays an important role at Whitgift, and the School boasts a number of excellent choirs. The **Choristers** are an auditioned boys choir, providing the treble line for Whitgift's flagship choral ensemble, the **Chamber Choir**. Both choirs sing Evensong regularly in the splendour of Croydon Minster, and perform at major venues such as St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Canterbury Cathedral and the Royal Festival Hall. In addition to a busy concert schedule, there have also been concert tours to Italy, Hungary and, most recently, Germany. Whitgift also provides boy choristers of the highest musical calibre for the Choir of Croydon Minster. The English choral tradition is unique, and being a **Minster Chorister** at Whitgift offers boys an all-round education in a school with outstanding facilities. The Minster Choristers sing Evensong on Tuesdays, as well as a service on Sundays, all in the splendour of Croydon Minster. Rehearsals take place at school, and at the Minster before a service. As a day and boarding school, Whitgift is able to offer free flexi-boarding on Tuesdays when boys return from Evensong.

The Organist & Director of Choral Music, Mr Ronny Krippner, is always happy to meet prospective new choristers and their parents. For further details, please contact Mr Krippner at *rjk@whitgift.co.uk* 

## **Croydon Minster**

Croydon Minster, dedicated to St John the Baptist, is the Mother Church of Croydon, and, as the *Civic Church*, plays an important role in the life of the Borough. The Minster has a long and distinguished history. It is believed to have been founded in Saxon times, since there is a record of "a priest of Croydon" in 960, although the first record of a church building is in Domesday Book (1086). The church has had close links with the Archbishops of Canterbury, who had a Palace in Croydon. Six Archbishops of Canterbury are buried in the Minster and many more would have worshipped here. Kings and Queens were regular visitors to the Archbishops at Croydon – visits by Henry VII, Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I are all well documented. Ten bishops have been consecrated here, and the church continues to be regularly used for ordinations and major diocesan and civic services, as well as for daily parish worship.

In its final medieval form, the Minster was mainly a Perpendicular-style structure, but this was severely damaged by a fire in 1867, following which only the tower, south porch and outer walls remained. Under the direction of Sir George Gilbert Scott, the church was rebuilt, incorporating the remains and essentially following the design of the medieval building, and was re-consecrated in 1870. It still contains several important monuments and fittings saved from the old church.

## Minster Organ

The first record of an organ at Croydon Minster is an Avery Organ with 24 stops over three manuals only, built in 1794. Pedals were added in 1819 by Elliot, and, in 1864, the organ was moved from the west end to the north-east end of the church, roughly

where the present Hill/Harrison organ now stands. In 1867, the organ was lost in the fire which destroyed much of the church. Two years later, following rebuilding of the church by George Gilbert Scott, Messrs. Hill and Son built a new organ of three manuals and pedals. The case was in the position currently occupied by the vestry and the console in the Lady Chapel (on the north side), facing east. A few stops were added by Hill in 1871 and in 1893, when the case was moved one bay west, with the console in the chancel, facing north. In 1904, other additions were made by Hill; the action changed from Tracker to Tubular-Pneumatic and preparation was made for the Solo Organ, the eight stops of which were added in 1912, when other alterations were made. In 1937, Hill enclosed the choir organ, and the organ was cleaned and the swell pedals altered to the balanced type.

In 1969, the console was moved to the St Nicholas Chapel, and various adjustments were made by Harrison & Harrison Ltd, including removing the choir swell box. In 2000, the technology of the console was updated by Harrisons, including the installation of 128 channels of General Pistons.

# The Organ of Croydon Minster

Messrs. Hill and Son - 1869, 1904 & 1912 Harrison and Harrison Ltd - 1969

## Pedal Organ

Double Diapason	32' (from Open Wood)
Open Wood	16'
Open Metal	16'
Violone	16'
Bourdon	16'
Principal	8'
Flute	8'
Violoncello	8' (from Violone)
Fifteenth	4'
Mixture	12.19.22
Trombone	16'
Trumpet	8' (from Trombone)
Choir to Pedal	
Great to Pedal	
Swell to Pedal	
Solo to Pedal	

### Great Organ

Double Diapason	16'
Open Diapason I	8'
Open Diapason II	8'
Viola	8'
Hohl Flute	8'
Stopped Diapason	8'
Principal	4'

Swell Organ – Enclosed	
Contra Gamba	16'
Open Diapason	8'
Stopped Diapason	8'
Salicional	8'
Voix Celestes (TC)	8'
Principal	4'
Flute	4'
Fifteenth	2'
Mixture	17.19.22
Oboe	8'
Contra Fagotto	16'
Horn	8'
Clarion	4'
Suboctave	
Unison Off	
Octave	
Solo to Swell	
Choir Organ	
Bourdon (TC)	16'
Open Diapason	8'
Clarabella	8'
Dulciana	8'
Gemshorn	4'

Suabe Flute

Nazard

4'

2<sup>2</sup>/3'

Wald Flute	4'
Twelfth	2²/3'
Fifteenth	2'
Tierce	1 <sup>3</sup> ⁄5'
Full Mixture	17.19.22
Sharp Mixture	26.29
Double Trumpet	16'
Posaune	8'
Clarion	4'
Choir to Great	
Swell to Great	
Solo to Great	
Solo Organ – Enclosed	
Viole d'orchestre	8'
Viole Celeste (TC)	8'
Harmonic Flute	8'
Concert Flute	4'
Cor Anglais (TC)	16'
Clarinet	8'
Tuba	8'
Tremulant	
Suboctave	
Unison Off	
Octave	

Manual compass:

Wold Eluto

#### 58 notes

1١

Flageolet Fourniture Regal Tremulant Suboctave Unison Off Octave Swell to Choir Solo to Choir

#### Accessories

8 General Thumb Pistons 7 Toe Pistons to Pedal Organ 6 Thumb Pistons to Choir Organ 7 Thumb Pistons to Great Organ 8 Thumb Pistons to Swell Organ (with duplicate toe pistons) 5 Thumb Pistons to Solo Organ General Cancel & Divisional Cancels to each Manual Reversible Pistons: Ch/Pd, Gt/Pd, Sw/Pd, So/Pd, Sw/Ch So/Ch, So/Sw, So/Gt, Sw/Gt, Ped 32, Trombone Great & Pedal Combinations Coupled Generals on Swell Toe Pistons 256 General Memory Levels with Stepper Pedal compass: 30 notes 8 Divisional Memory Levels

2'

8'

19.22

6

## The Whitgift Chamber Choir

## Whitgift Choristers

Nathanael Adegoke\*, Zac Allen, Stef van Bockstaele, Gus Bradford\*, Oliver Brown\*, Omari Elliott\*, Joseph Eve, Xabi Geering (Head Minster Chorister)\*, Sami Haddour\*, William Hau\*, Benjamin John, Isaac Kong, Paul-Victor Lenoir\*, Daniel Munks, Arthevan Murukathash, Zain Peerbhoy, Jack Raincock, Max Sitter (Head Whitgift Chorister)\*, Arun Stanley\*, Jeffrey Tan\*, Luke Townsend

(\* denotes Whitgift Minster Choristers)

#### Altos

Karl Gietzmann, William Harvey, Theo Nisbett, Pavan Rao, Alan Weakley

## Tenors

Jamie Bedu-Addo, Alex Carpenter, Teo Dirtu, Nick Dykes, Ashwin Gobiraj, Adam Haddour, Findlay Harrison-Phipps, Abbas Kahn, Oliver-John Ruthven, Dan Sivathas

#### Basses

Alex Buchanan, Matthew Honeyman, Miles Horner, Jonathan Lewis, Zakaria Mohamed, Matthew Munks, Alex Roose, Nathaniel Sanderson



# The Choirs of Croydon Minster

## Boys' Choir

Damola Amusa, Ryan Court, Zeron Francis, Arjun Gobiraj, Ahmari Grey, Michael Ifalore, Chinedu Igu (Head Chorister), Anton May, Levi McKenzie, Nnaemeka Okwu-Kanu, Matthew Olukoga

# Girls' Choir

Zandile-Monique Adedipe-Ncube\*, Mylan Bowen-Rose, Elen Ghazaryan, Rachel Igu, Kiki Neysmith-Morgan (Head Chorister), Martha Legesse, Melucia Lukamba, Naa-Aku Niimoi, Adae Onyejekwe, Nkasi Onyejekwe, Ria Paulraj-Cooper\*, Samantha Payne, Zaynah Saiyed\*, Anastazja Skrok, Lara St. John-Roberts\*, Eva Thomas Daly, Sophie Thomson, Sade Williams, Ellie Willmer (Head Chorister) (\* denotes Old Palace of John Whitgift Preparatory School Choral Scholars)

## Lay Clerks & Choral Scholars

Julie Beaumont, Keith Bailey, Leopold Benedict, David Morgan, Casady Neysmith-Morgan, James Osland, Rachel Rhodes, John Watkins, Gail Winter

# **Brass Ensemble**

## Trumpets

Julie Ryan, Claire Duncan, James Marshall

## Trombones

Lorraine Temple, Danny Scott

## Percussion

Hristiyan Hristov, William Church

# Organ

Tom Little

# Ronny Krippner Director of Choral Music

Ronny Krippner is Organist and Director of Choral Music at Croydon Minster and Whitgift. He is also Specialist Lecturer for Organ Improvisation at Birmingham Conservatoire and Trinity Laban Conservatoire.

Born in Bavaria, Ronny is in the unique position of having been formed in both the German and British choral traditions. He studied organ-playing and improvisation with Prof. Franz-Josef Stoiber at the Hochschule für Kirchenmusik in Regensburg, while at the same time working as Assistant Choirmaster of the Regensburger Domspatzen" ("Regensburg Cathedral Sparrows"), Regensburg Cathedral Sparrows"), Regensburg Cathedral's famous boys' choir. After graduating, Ronny went to Exeter University to take his master's degree (M.A.) in "English Cathedral Music", whilst singing in the Cathedral Choir as a Choral Scholar.

Building on these twin musical foundations, Ronny went on to take up various posts. In 2005, he became Organ Scholar at Bristol Cathedral, Organist at Clifton College and a member of staff at Bristol Grammar School, combining his expertise in organ-playing with a gift for choral direction. After a period working at Newport Cathedral, Wales, Ronny moved to London where he was Organist and Teacher of Music at King's College School, Wimbledon. In addition to his school activities, Ronny also held the post of Assistant Director of Music at the celebrated 'Handel church', St George's, Hanover Square (London), with its professional choir and annual Handel Festival.

Being fascinated from an early age by organ improvisation, Ronny has made this a specialism, for which he has won many accolades. He took part in several masterclasses on that subject, having studied with Olivier Latry, Naji Hakim, Anders Bondeman, Jos van der Kooy, Hans Haselböck, Loïc Mallié, David Briggs and Daniel Roth. Finalist in the prestigious Organ Improvisation Competition in St Albans in 2009, he won two Prizes in the International Organ Improvisation Competition in Biarritz in the same year.

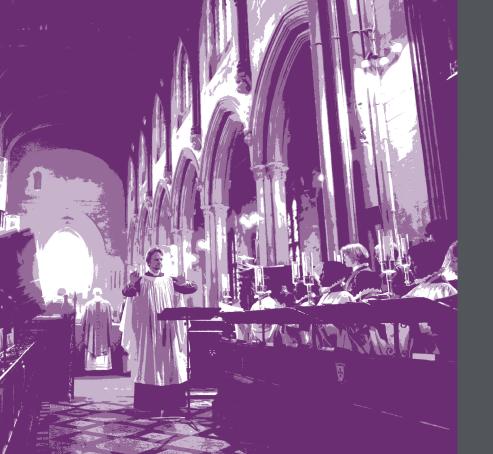
Ronny has recorded several CDs with organ and choir music on German record labels, and has frequently been heard performing on television and radio, both in Germany and the UK. He has given organ recitals in Germany, Holland, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the United States, Mexico and Australia.

# Tom Little Organist

Tom Little is the Sub-Organist at Croydon Minster, where he accompanies the Minster Choirs. He has also held positions at Southwark Cathedral, Ealing Abbey and King's College, London.

Tom began his early musical training as a chorister at York Minster, under the direction of Phillip Moore. At 13, he moved to Ampleforth College as a music scholar, where he continued to take lessons in Piano, Violin and Voice. It was here that he took up the organ, studying with Simon Wright.

Leaving school in 2003, he spent a year at the Conservatoire Nationale d'Angers in France, before moving to Truro. As a choral scholar in the Cathedral, he sang six services a week, and participated in live broadcasts and several recordings. The following year, Tom decided to leave the stalls in favour of the loft, and took up the organ scholarship. In 2006, Tom was awarded a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music, where his principal professor was Margaret Phillips. Since graduating, Tom has combined his duties at Croydon with a variety of freelance work. Recent highlights have included recitals at London cathedrals, and a concert for the John Armitage Memorial, performing with Onyx Brass and Nicholas Cleobury. Tom also teaches at the London Oratory School and Whitgift, and sings regularly with choirs in London.





# COPYRIGHT

This digital booklet is made freely available through the website www.conviviumrecords.co.uk for personal use and reference only.

Copyright subsists in all recordings, associated artwork and supporting imagery from Convivium Records, including within this digital booklet. It is illegal to copy this / them in whole or in part, for any purpose whatsoever, without permission from the copyright holder, Convivium Records Ltd. Any unauthorized copying, reproduction, distribution, re-recording, broadcasting or public performance of this or any other content provided by Convivium Records Ltd. will constitute an infringement of copyright.

To apply to use any recordings, associated artwork and supporting imagery from Convivium Records, including any content within this digital booklet, for anything other than personal use, please email: hello@conviviumrecords.co.uk

Applications for a public performance licence should be sent to: Phonographic Performance Ltd, 1 Upper James Street, London W1F 9DE. For more on copyright, please visit: www.conviviumrecords.co.uk/copyright