

Cast

The Evangelist William Petter

Herod David Till

The Angel members of Queen's Park Junior Singers

Shepherds in the Field, Wise Men, High Priests and Scribes, A Soldier, Rachel members of Queen's Park Singers

Mary Molly Moody

Joseph Nathanael Baring

Queen's Park Singers

Soprano Holly Blackman, Jo Hurley, Erline Johnson, Susan Kerrison, Anna Mumford, Katy Payne, Hannah Robbins, Rowena Rosenbaum, Tania Spooner, Patricia Towey, Ann Tribble

Alto Helen Dymond, Frances Freeman, Hinda Golding, Monica Healy, Katherine Lawson, Christine MacLeod, Lindsay Samii Pour, Liz Till

Tenor Margaret Jackson-Roberts, Glyn Jones, Julie Krausz, Mario Mansilla, Hugh Rosenbaum

Bass Roger Bloomfield, Mark Hine, Simon Judge, David Till, Peter Walter, Julian Watts

Queen's Park Junior Singers

Athena Ham, Marina Anastasi, Ellie Beale, Conor Carleton, Celeste Collier, Maddie Harriman, Natalie Lawson, Eloise Longfield-Skeet, Florence Longfield-Skeet, Connie Mottram, Chloe Payne, Rosie Rota, Sam Thorp, Rhiannon Tripp.

Queen's Park Sinfonia

Recorders Mary Phillips, Emily Tripp

Oboes Nicholas Murray, Judith Roads

Bassoon Emma Selby

Trombones Zeb Tonkin, Hannah Arora

Violins Alison Apley, Ruth Kitching

Cello Josie Abbott

Keyboard Geoffrey Dancer

Directed by Mary Phillips and Peter Burtt-Jones

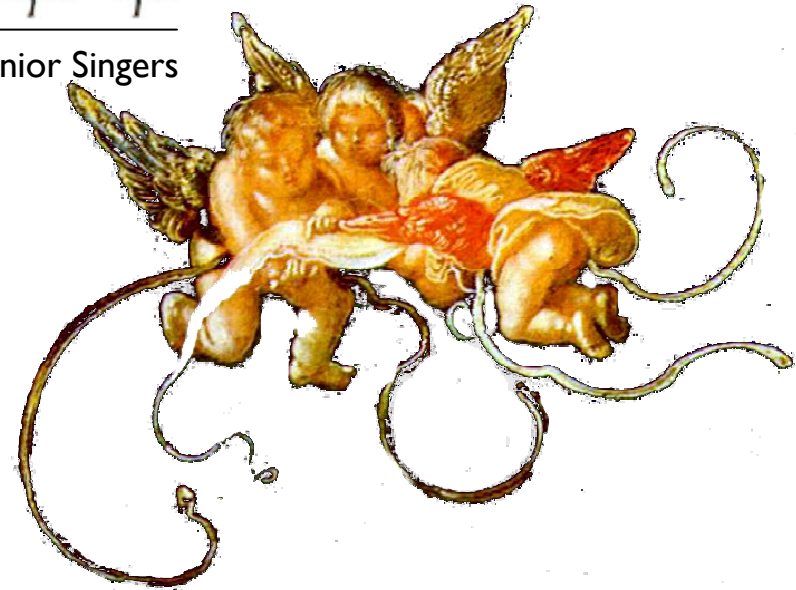
We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to this production, in particular Julia Dollimore and Tania Spooner for their help with costumes, and Father Fergus for use of the church.

Programme notes by Peter Burtt-Jones. Programme design by Glyn Jones. Front cover illustration: detail from *The Nativity* by Albrecht Altdorfer, Staatliche Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

Queen's Park Singers



& Queen's Park Junior Singers



Heinrich

Schütz

The Christmas Story

Church of St Anne and St Andrew, Salusbury Road, Sunday 14th December 2008

Performances at 6pm and 7.15 pm

Heinrich Schütz (1585—1672)

The Christmas Story

Schütz's Christmas Story (*Weihnachtshistorie*) was probably first performed at Christmas 1660. The familiar biblical story of the events surrounding the birth of Christ, told in eloquent recitative by an Evangelist, is illuminated at intervals by *intermedia* – musical interludes in which the characters of the story are given their own voice. These solos and ensembles are so vividly realised – like illuminated characters in a mediaeval manuscript – that they seem to demand showing as much as telling, and so we decided to stage the work. In doing so, we are following a tradition which began in Schütz's day.

The expressiveness and directness of Schütz's setting – and the circumstances of our presentation, given by a group of people for their own community – both find an echo in the paintings of Pieter Bruegel the Elder, in which with compassionate truthfulness he views the events of the Christmas Story through the lives and landscapes of his own community. And so we decided to set the action in a peasant village in sixteenth century Flanders.

The villagers are gathering together for their annual enactment of the Christmas Story ...



Come and sing with us

Queen's Park Singers and Junior Singers welcome enthusiastic singers. We currently have vacancies for tenors and basses. If you would like to sing with us please email membership@queensparksingers.org.uk

Queen's Park carols

Do come and join us and other local singers to sing carols around the park on Thurs 18th December and Sun 21st December. We meet at 7.30pm at the park end of Summerfield Road on 18th and outside 7 Kempe Road on 21st. We use *Carols for Choirs Book 1* (David Willcocks) we have a few copies but please bring a copy if you have one. We will be collecting for local charities.

For more information about Queen's Park Singers and Junior Singers visit

<http://queensparksingers.org.uk>



<i>Introduction or Overture to the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ</i>	Chorus in four parts
<i>Recitative</i>	The Evangelist
<i>Intermedium I: The Angel to the Shepherds in the Field wherein is introduced at times the rocking of the Christ Child's cradle</i>	Children's voices with two violins and cello
<i>Recitative</i>	The Evangelist
<i>Intermedium II: Chorus of Angels</i>	Chorus in six parts with two violins
<i>Recitative</i>	The Evangelist
<i>Intermedium III: The Shepherds in the Field</i>	Ensemble for three altos with two recorders and bassoon
<i>Recitative</i>	The Evangelist
<i>Intermedium IV: The Wise Men from the East</i>	Ensemble for three tenors with two violins and bassoon
<i>Recitative</i>	The Evangelist
<i>Intermedium V: High Priests and Scribes</i>	Ensemble for four basses with two trombones
<i>Recitative</i>	<i>Recitative</i> The Evangelist
<i>Intermedium VI: Herod</i>	Bass solo with two oboes
<i>Recitative</i>	The Evangelist
<i>Intermedium VII The Angel to Joseph wherein is introduced at times the rocking of the Christ Child's cradle</i>	Soprano solo with two violins and cello
<i>Recitative</i>	The Evangelist
<i>Intermedium VIII: The Angel to Joseph wherein is introduced at times the rocking of the Christ Child's cradle</i>	Soprano solo with two violins and cello
<i>Recitative</i>	The Evangelist
<i>Conclusion of the Birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ</i>	Chorus in four parts

There will be no interval. After the second performance members of the audience are cordially invited to join the performers for refreshments in the rotunda.