



Hitchin Thespians
presents

CHRISTMAS AT WOODSIDE

Musical Director : Hannah Long

Accompanist : Alison Borner

13th - 15th December 2018

Woodside Hall, Hitchin



Welcome to Woodside Hall, home of the Hitchin Thespians!

Did you know...?

- Messiah was written in just 24 days, between 22nd August and 14th September 1741

- It was first performed in Dublin, in April 1742. Ladies attending the premiere were asked to leave the hoops for their skirts at home, to avoid taking up too much room in the auditorium

- Messiah was originally intended to be performed at Easter, as it tells the story of the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of Christ, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. It wasn't performed at Christmas until 1891

- The libretto was written by Charles Jennens, using words taken from the Book of Common Prayer, and the King James Bible.

- The biggest performance of Messiah was given in 1857; the choir had 2,000 singers, and the orchestra 500 musicians.

We hope you enjoy our performance of Part One of Messiah, which tells of the coming of the Christ Child, and Hallelujah, the rousing finale to the oratorio.

Musical Director

Hannah Long

Accompanists

Piano : Alison Borner

Cello : Hilary Drinkall

Soloists

Messiah

Ian Hamilton, Bob Sulzbach, Susan Osbourn, Marianne Bond, Lilian Dixon,
Anna Carter, Melanie Plowman-Cobb

Carols

Susan Osbourn, Melanie Plowman-Cobb, Lynne Leggat, Cathy Coulthard,
Anna Carter, Marianne Bond, Edith Pratt, Bob Sulzbach, Lilian Dixon,
Ann Peacock, Andy Johnson

Sopranos

Anna Carter, Joanna Chugg, Cathy Coulthard, Margaret Coxall, Jackie Duff,
Lesley Greasley, Wendy Hazelwood, Lynne Leggat, Susan Osbourn,
Melanie Plowman-Cobb, Ann Peacock, Jackie Sayer, Pat Staff, Jane Tunesi,
Heidi Weavers, Jenny Wilson, Nicola Wilson

Altos

Marianne Bond, Lilian Dixon, Viv Hamilton, Judith Harrison, Sheila Mole,
Jan Nash, Sandra Oakes, Edith Pratt, Keryle Rutherford, Elizabeth Sturges,
Vivienne Tadman, Andrea Thorpe

Tenors

Alan Dickinson, Andy Johnson, Ian Hamilton, Howard Roberts, Mark Savage

Basses

John Beal, Chaz Dixon, Jack Lardent, Nick Morgan, Mike Steele, Peter Steele,
Trevor Sturges, Bob Sulzbach

**No photographs or recordings are
allowed to be taken during the
performance**



**PLEASE TURN OFF
MOBILE DEVICES**

Messiah

"A Sacred Oratorio" by George Frideric Handel, Watkins Shaw edition
Accompanied by Alison Borner on Piano, and Hilary Drinkall on Cello.

Isaiah's prophecy of salvation: *Comfort ye, my people; Ev'ry valley shall be exalted; And the glory of the Lord*

The coming judgement: *Thus saith the Lord; But who may abide the day of His coming; And He shall purify the sons of Levi*

The prophecy of Christ's birth: *Behold a virgin shall conceive; O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion; For behold, darkness shall cover the Earth; The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; For unto us a child is born*

The annunciation to the shepherds: *There were shepherds abiding in the fields; And lo, the Angel of the Lord; And the Angel said unto them; And suddenly there was with the Angel; Glory to God in the highest*

Christ's healing and redemption: *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened; He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; His yoke is easy*

And

Hallelujah

INTERVAL

During which mulled wine and mince pies will be served

Carols

Audience Carol	O Come All Ye Faithful	JF Wade, Arr. David Willcocks
Choir	Jesus Child The Infant King	John Rutter Basque Noel, Arr. David Willcocks
Ensemble	Mary Did You Know?	Mark Lowry
Solo	The Three Kings	Peter Cornelius, Arr. Ivor Atkins
Audience Carol	O Little Town of Bethlehem <i>First verse choir solo</i>	R Vaughan Williams & Thomas Armstrong
Solo	The Little Road to Bethlehem	Michael Head
Choir	Star Carol Ding Dong! Merrily on High	John Rutter Arr. David Willcocks
Audience Carol	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	Arr. David Willcocks
Solo	The Carol Singers	T C Sterndale Bennett & Charles Haynes
Ensemble	Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas	Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane
Choir	A Merry Christmas	Arr. Arthur Warrell
Audience Carol	Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing	Felix Mendelssohn Arr. David Willcocks

Behind the Scenes

Choral Manager:	Cathy Coulthard
Concert Manager:	Andy Johnson
Box Office Managers:	Nick & Nicky Morgan
Front of House Managers:	Ann Crook, Sarah Cunningham
Bar Manager:	Susan Osbourn
Publicity Artwork:	Alan Bailes
Programme Editor:	Cathy Coulthard and Alan Bailes
Lighting:	Alan Bailes and Luke Jones
Raffle:	Social & Fundraising Committee
Librarian:	Jan Nash
Rehearsal Pianist:	Alison Borner
Page Turners:	Sarah Bailes, Mark Theobald

Our grateful thanks go out to all those who assisted with
Christmas at Woodside 2018

**Hitchin Thespians would like to wish you all a very
Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.**

Hitchin Thespians is looking for new members

Do you enjoy singing, performing, or dancing? If so, you will receive a warm welcome at Hitchin Thespians. We stage two musical shows each season, rehearsing on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7.30 p.m.

The choir meet on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. and perform three concerts annually, which can be songs from musical theatre, operas or oratorios.

We also welcome non-performing members interested in helping backstage, set design, props, costume or make-up.

Thespians are a friendly and active group, so if you would like to join us please contact our Secretary: secretary@hitchinthespians.org.uk; write to The Secretary, Hitchin Thespians, Woodside Hall, Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP.

Young Thespians

Our youth group, Young Thespians, is for ages 8 to 16 and provides a fantastic environment in which these rising stars can learn the joy of the stage.

Young Thespians rehearse at Woodside Hall on Sunday mornings and perform musical theatre productions and concerts throughout the year. For more information, please email youngthespians@hitchinthespians.org.uk

Hiring Woodside Hall

If you would like information on hiring Woodside Hall for an event or function, contact Woodside Hall Manager: woodsidebookings@hitchinthespians.org.uk



WHAT'S ON IN 2019

Young Thespians

Disney's My Son Pinocchio

Woodside Hall

21st – 23rd February

Songs of Stage and Screen

***Featuring songs from Mamma Mia, James Bond,
Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera and many more***

Woodside Hall

5th and 6th April

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat/Andrew Lloyd Webber

In concert with the Young Thespians

Woodside Hall

11th – 13th July



Box Office:

On line

www.hitchinthespians.org.uk

Tel

01462 641575

Email

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