

# HARK!



## Christmas Carols with The Song Company



SYDNEY

**MON 20 DEC** 6PM

Garrison Church, Millers Point

**TUE 21 DEC** 3PM & 6PM

**WED 22 DEC** 3PM & 6PM

St Philip's, Church Hill, York Street

DIGITAL

**TUE 21 DEC** 6PM

Australian Digital Concert Hall

THE  
SONG  
CO.

# The Song Company

The Song Company belongs to a land whose first peoples have always used songlines and vocal music to pass knowledge and culture from one generation to another. We acknowledge and respect those traditions and are honoured to work together with Indigenous creative artists as part of our artistic mission. As Australia's national vocal ensemble, The Song Company is an elite chamber vocal ensemble demonstrating international excellence and bringing together the country's finest voices in innovative performances, artist development, educational outreach and collaborative music-making – unique in its stylistic diversity with repertoire spanning the 9th century to today.

Led by Artistic Director, Antony Pitts, The Song Company comprises eight Principal Artists and a consort of Ensemble Artists mentored by Associate Artistic Director, Francis Greep, and is at the forefront of scholarly early music performance, of contemporary vocal music through an extensive commissioning program, and cross-artform collaborations with artists of the highest calibre from across Australia and around the world. Together we are reshaping the professional vocal landscape in Australia for today and the next generation.

## PRINCIPAL ARTISTS

Amy Moore	Soprano
Chloe Lankshear	Soprano
Roberta Diamond	Soprano
Jessica O'Donoghue	Mezzo soprano
Stephanie Dillon	Mezzo soprano
Dan Walker	Tenor
Koen van Stade	Tenor
Thomas Flint	Bass

## 2021 ENSEMBLE ARTISTS

Janine Harris	Mezzo soprano
Ethan Taylor	Tenor
Hayden Barrington	Baritone

## BOARD

Michael Tidball, Chair
Antony Pitts
Elizabeth Grey
Louise Guy
Matthew Hindson
Robert Bryden

## THE SONG COMPANY TEAM

Antony Pitts	Artistic Director
Francis Greep	General Manager & Associate Artistic Director
Sarah Elise Thompson	Production Manager
Eva Frey	Marketing & Development Manager
Jane Diamond	Bookkeeper



The Song Company is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the NSW Government through Create NSW

The Song Company acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and we pay our respect to the Elders both past and present

The Song Company Pty Ltd trading as The Song Company is a non-profit organisation registered as a company of limited guarantee ABN 27 001 577 377

*To respect our performers, please turn off all mobile devices.  
Or if you are using one to read the program online, please make sure it is on silent!*

# HARK! 2021

Carols with new and old arrangements from *The Naxos Book of Carols (N)*  
and *The Patmos Book of Carols (P)* – **stand and sing the carols in red!**

## PROCLAMATION

<b>O come, o come, Emmanuel</b> c.13th-century	N
<b>The Angel Gabriel</b> Traditional Basque	P
<b>A Song of Joy, Christmas Day, The Song of Angels</b> Orlando Gibbons	NP
<b>Hark! the herald angels sing</b> Felix Mendelssohn	N

## ANTICIPATION

<b>The holly and the ivy</b> coll. Cecil J. Sharp & Antony Pitts	N
<b>Lo, there a Rose is blooming</b> Michael Praetorius	N
<b>The King of Blis</b> Brian Kogler	
<b>Silent Night</b> Franz Xaver Gruber	N

## GENERATION

<b>Mary, gentle Mother</b> Elizabeth Sheppard	
<b>Baby Jesus, hush! now sleep</b> Traditional Czech	N
<b>Balulalow</b> Rachel Scanlon	
<b>Away in a manger</b> William J. Kirkpatrick	N

## CELEBRATION

<b>It came upon the midnight clear</b> Jonathan Pitts	P
<b>Gaudete</b> Brian Kogler	
<b>A Jolly Wassel-Bowl</b> Richard Eteson	
<b>In dulci jubilo</b> Michael Praetorius, J.S. Bach, John Stainer arr. Antony Pitts	N
<b>Good King Wenceslas</b> Piae Cantiones, 1582	N
<b>O come, all ye faithful</b> coll.? John Francis Wade	N

## THE SONG COMPANY

**Chloe Lankshear** Soprano

**Amy Moore** Soprano

**Janine Harris** Alto

**Stephanie Dillon** Alto

**Kurt Ison**<sup>^</sup> Organ

**Francis Greep** Associate Artistic Director

**Antony Pitts** Artistic Director

**Ethan Taylor**\*\* Tenor

**Richard Butler**<sup>^\*</sup> Tenor

**Elias Wilson**<sup>^^</sup> Tenor

**Hayden Barrington** Bass

**Christopher Richardson**<sup>^</sup> Bass

<sup>^</sup> Guest Artist

<sup>^^</sup> 2022 Ensemble Artist

\* Mon 20 Dec \*\* Tue 21, Wed 22 Dec

# Christmas is coming...

**Hark!** is our annual selection of carols drawing on centuries of tradition, but with a contemporary sense of freedom and joy! Every generation musicians have added something of their own to the yearly festivities of Christmas, and even those age-old tunes and words which have stood the test of time have also been weathered by it: carols are part of a living ritual that is not concerned so much with authenticity as with sincerity. Our selection for the first of our annual **Hark!** series ranges from the most well-known of all to some less familiar mediaeval carols as well as entirely original music by both Australian and British composers, including Indigenous composer Elizabeth Sheppard, and one of various composers in my extended family, Jonathan Pitts.

The arrangements themselves are sometimes a very light touch on what is known and loved, and sometimes a complete rethink of a traditional carol. In the case of *The Holly and the Ivy*, the rarely-heard tune was transcribed from a tape in the BBC's archives and is intertwined with the 'common or garden' melody for the same words. These carols tell the affirmative Christmas story of hope in the same way that an Advent calendar gradually opens its windows day by day through December. The carols are grouped in four sections, each focusing on a different part of the narrative:

The PROCLAMATION of the coming Messiah to save the world from sin and death, delivered by prophets and angels down the ages, and by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary.

The expectancy is heightened in ANTICIPATION of the scene at Bethlehem with the gradual growing of holly, ivy, and the Rose – and then that fateful, “silent” night with shepherds hearing the “good tidings of great joy”.

From one GENERATION to another, the Virgin Mary passes on the heritage of her ancestor King David along with the incomparable love of a mother for her new-born child, Jesus, lying not in a hospital bed, but among the livestock.

From the visit of the wise men from the East via mediaeval kings and minstrels to today, more than two millennia later, the CELEBRATION continues...

Each of our four sequences of carols is capped by a well-known carol which follows the customary alternation of unaccompanied verses, descants and colourful last-verse harmony. No need to applaud between carols, but I hope you will feel moved to stand and join in – as indicated in the following pages!

## **Hark! the herald angels sing**

### VERSE 1

Hark! the herald angels sing:  
Glory to the newborn King!  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing:  
Glory to the newborn King!*

### VERSE 2

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
pleased, as Man,  
with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! ...*

### VERSE 3

Hail! the heav'n-born  
Prince of Peace!  
Hail! the Sun of Righteousness!  
light and life to all He brings,  
risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.

*Hark! ...*

## **Silent Night**

### VERSE 1

Silent night! holy night!  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and Child,  
Holy Infant so tender and mild;  
sleep in heavenly peace.

### VERSE 2 – CHOIR ONLY

### VERSE 3

Silent night! holy night!  
Son of God, Love's pure light,  
radiant beams from Thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

## **Away in a manger**

### VERSE 1

Away in a manger,  
no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the night sky  
looked down where He lay:  
the little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.

### VERSE 2 – HUM THE TUNE

### VERSE 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever  
and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven  
to live with Thee there.

## *O come, all ye faithful*

### VERSE 1

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold Him born, the King of Angels;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

### VERSE 2

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

### VERSE 3

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God in the highest";  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

### VERSE 4

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born on Christmas morning;  
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

For Artist Biographies, go to:

**<https://the.song.company/ensemble>**

For more carol texts, download:

**<https://naxoscarols.com/docs/NaxosCarolsheet.pdf>**

For further information and recordings:

**<https://www.naxoscarols.com>**

**<https://www.patmoscarols.com>**

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Join The Song Company in creating music that will live on in your imagination forever by making a tax-deductible donation at **[the.song.company/donate](https://the.song.company/donate)**

If you enjoyed tonight's performance, consider making a donation to The Song Company, where you will be directly supporting the emerging generation of Australian artists.

Thank you to our donors who have given so generously in 2021 during such uncertain times. Your support has enabled us to keep singing.

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Guest Artist: Gerard Willems, piano

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For tickets & more information go to [the.song.company](http://the.song.company)