

Merchant Sinfonia & Merchant Voices Christmas Concert



Sunday, 13 December 2009 at 8.00pm
City Halls, Glasgow

Claire Evans, soprano
Louise Martin and Eric Dunlea, conductors

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Louise Martin and Eric Dunlea, conductors
with Stephen Duffy, presenter

Welcome to the Merchant Sinfonia and Merchant Voices Christmas Concert!

For the first time, the two regular community groups which operate from City Halls, **Merchant Sinfonia** (run by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra) and **Merchant Voices** (run by Glasgow Concert Halls' Education Department) combine forces for their Christmas concert. This concert is not only full of seasonal cheer, but is a celebration of what orchestral and choral education and learning can truly achieve. We hope you enjoy the evening!



Merchant Sinfonia

Slavonic Dance No.8 in G minor (Series I, Op.46)
Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Merchant Voices

Locus iste
Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Merchant Voices

Gaudete omnes et laetamini
(from *Cantiones Sacrae*, 1619, No.32 – Anon)

Merchant Voices

Heilig, Heilig (from *Deutsche Messe D.872*)
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Merchant Sinfonia and Merchant Voices

Laudate Dominum
(from *Vesperae Solennes De Confessore K.339*)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Claire Evans, soprano

Merchant Sinfonia and Merchant Voices

Sleigh Ride
Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Merchant Sinfonia and Merchant Voices

O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam (1803-1856), arr. Peter Hope
Claire Evans, soprano

Interval (c.20 minutes)

Merchant Voices

Puer natus est nobis
Anon/Medieval

Merchant Voices

Silent night! Holy night! (Josef Mohr: 1792-1849)
Franz Xaver Grüber (1787-1863)

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,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born,
Christ, the Saviour is born!

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,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Merchant Voices

Coventry Carol 'Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child'
Anon/Trad.

Merchant Sinfonia and Merchant Voices

Anvil Chorus (from the opera *Il Trovatore*)
Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Merchant Sinfonia and Merchant Voices

Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves (from the opera *Nabucco*)
Giuseppe Verdi

Merchant Sinfonia

Little Suite No.2, Op.78 (movements from)
Malcolm Arnold (1921-2006)

Merchant Sinfonia and Merchant Voices

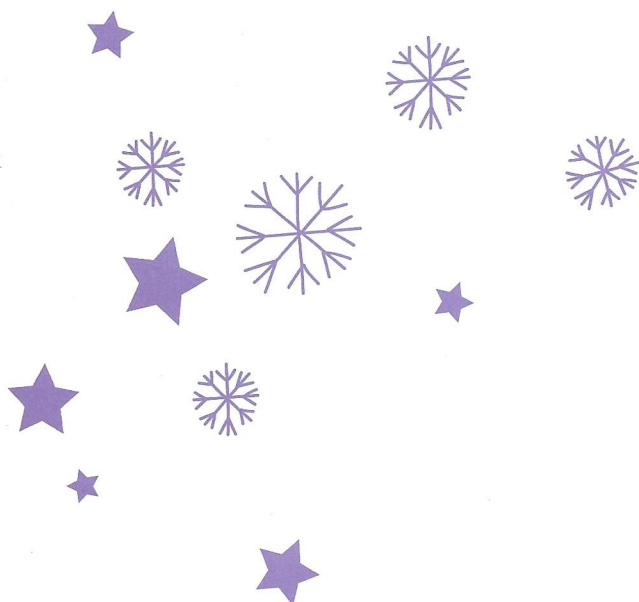
O Fortuna (from *Carmina Burana*)
Carl Orff (1895-1982)

Audience Singalong

I'm dreaming of a White Christmas
Irving Berlin, arr. D.Boyle

I'm dreaming of a White Christmas,
Just like the ones I used to know,
Where the tree-tops glisten
and children listen to hear
sleigh-bells in the snow.

I'm dreaming of a White Christmas
With ev'ry Christmas card I write:
"May your days be merry and bright
and may all your Christmases be white.



Biographies

Claire Evans

Claire Evans graduated in 2006 with a BMus in singing from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where she studied with Margaret Aronson. While there she won the Hugh Robertson Scots' Song Competition in her third year and sang as a guest soloist for Carlisle's Choral Festival. Having sung in choirs from an early age, she joined the National Youth Choir of Scotland in 1997 and sang with NYCoS and its chamber choir until 2007. She performed numerous solos with them, including spirituals from Tippett's oratorio *A Child of Our Time*; Michael Torke's *Book of Proverbs* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. She also sang at 'BBC Proms in the Park Glasgow' which was televised live, and appeared on MTV with Christina Aguilera for its European Music Awards. In addition, she sang the soprano solo in Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* as well as Handel's *Messiah* – both in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh for 'Come and Sing Scotland'. Her appearances with NYCoS have taken in venues all over Scotland, as well as England and Ireland and two tours abroad. In 2006, she sang the soprano solo in the *Serenade to Music* by Vaughan Williams with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and appeared with NYCoS at the BBC Proms in London, with the BBC SSO. She has been a member of the RSNO Chorus for 10 years.

Claire currently teaches Kodály musicianship part-time in Glasgow primary schools and has delivered in-service training about this method to a number of primary school teachers.

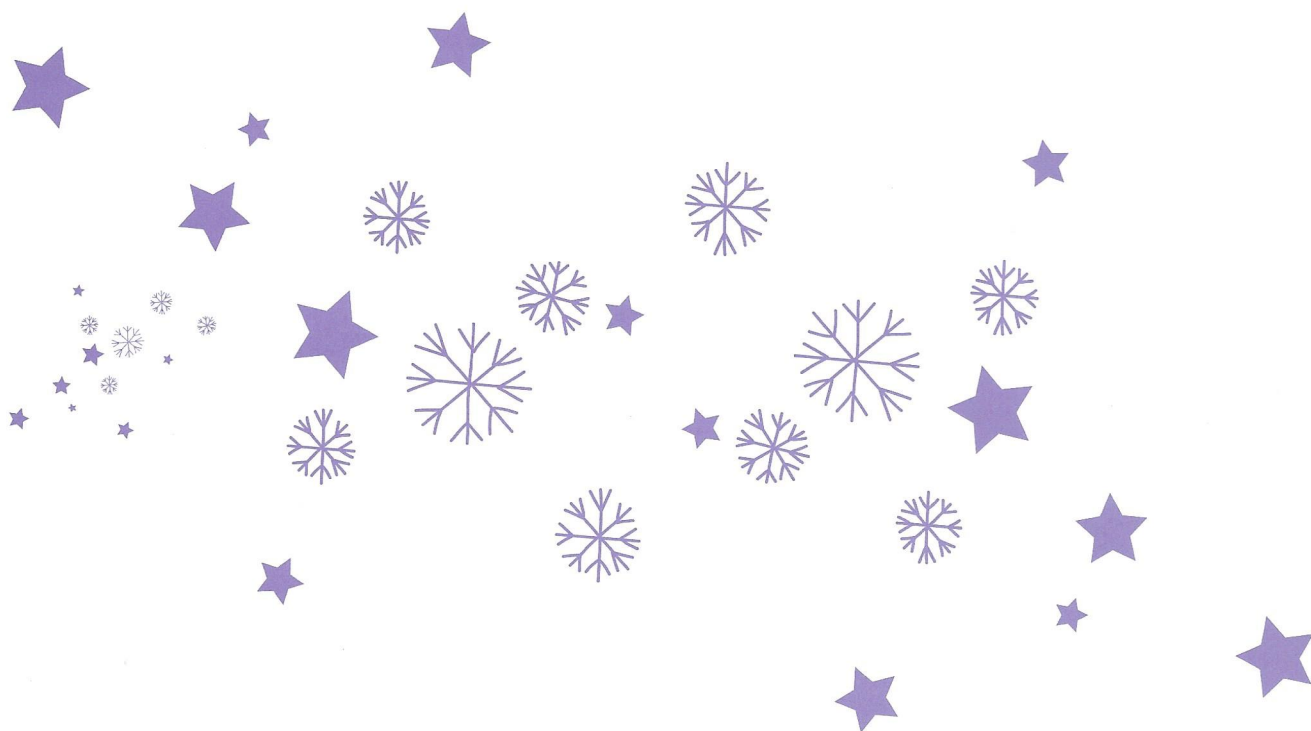
Merchant Sinfonia

Formed in January 2008 by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, with Glasgow Concert Halls as partner, **Merchant Sinfonia** is open to anyone over the age of 16, regardless of previous musical experience. It is an orchestra for all those musicians out there who think they're too rusty, too inexperienced, too busy or too nervous to play. It provides a great opportunity to polish musical skills, get back into music, or to have a go at playing in an orchestra for the first time. All players are welcome, from adult learners to advanced musicians, and those who haven't played for years. Led by cellist and conductor Louise Martin, the sessions are fun and focused, allow for players of all abilities to work together and everyone is mentored under the expert tuition of players from the BBC SSO.

Merchant Sinfonia's first concert took place on 7 December 2008, here at City Halls. It was conducted by guest conductor Ilan Volkov, the BBC SSO's then Chief Conductor. Tonight's performance is the Merchant Sinfonia's second concert.

The Merchant Sinfonia meets on a weekly basis and explores a variety of orchestral repertoire and arrangements in a relaxed, social environment. If you play an orchestral instrument, are over 16 and would like to play under the guidance of professional BBC musicians, please e-mail: SSOoutreach@bbc.co.uk or write to:

Merchant Sinfonia,
c/o BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra,
City Halls, Candleriggs,
Glasgow G1 1NQ.



Merchant Sinfonia

First Violins

David Rycroft (co-leader)
Gillian Lever (co-leader)
Fiona Kindness
John McKenzie
Karen Miller
Elspeth Singleton
Lyndsey Cromar
Julianne Rae Henderson
Karen Withey
Joan Cameron
Ray Bucke
Jennifer Mackay

Second Violins

Caroline Hussey
Anne McGachey
Margaret McKendry
Angela Kelly
Angela Nasr
Maureen Smith
Jessica Wolfson
Alison McIntosh
Anne Burns

Violas

Janette Morrison
Karen McLeod
Stewart Stevenson
Elspeth Traynor
Carole Allen

Cellos

Janet Brown
Allison Grant
Jane MacDiarmid
Alastair Mackie
Ernest Spencer
Kim Wong
Rosina Neil
John McKendry

Double Bass

Robert Coates

Flutes

Elizabeth O'Rourke
Sue Reeve
Karen Clayton
Paul McNairney
Dominique Somers
Adrienne Girvan
Jennifer Kenny
Alison Scott

Oboes

Alan Cooper
Alison McCree
Mary Scott
Tony Strachan
Eileen Williamson

Clarinets

Jennifer Gilbert
Seonaid Nimmo
Karen Hunter
Rebecca Kay
Brian Lees
Judith Bateman
Norman Mills
Simon Munro
Eleanor Young
Marie Christina Mailley

Saxophone

George White

Bassoons

Gib FitzGibbon
Richard Phelps

Horns

Lorna McMillan
Clare Rankin
Katy McNeil

Trumpets

Joe Broussard
Roger Davis
Mary Ann McAlinden
Gavin Smith
Graham Disley

Trombones

Kylee Brown
Lesley Arneil
Declan Burns
Kenneth Smith
Alessio Giovannacci

Tuba

Mark Davis

Percussion

Anne Richards
Michael Clark

Classical Guitar

Andrew Forest
Gordon West

Louise Martin

After reading Music and English Literature at Sheffield University and following a year of volunteering on adult literacy and community projects, Louise Martin spent eight years teaching in the very active music department of a large Sheffield comprehensive school. Returning to Edinburgh, she was awarded a postgraduate MMus from the University of Edinburgh, specialising in Ethnomusicology. Subsidiary studies in Music in the Community led to placements in prisons with adults with special learning needs and people with disabilities, and for the Muzički Centar Pavarotti (Mostar) in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

Louise now works as a freelance musician/animateur in a variety of contexts, including creative music residencies for the Highlands Council and East Lothian Council, sessions with Artlink, music workshops for corporate team-building events and with primary school children, and as musical director of Edinburgh's Stockbridge and New Town Community Orchestra. In November 2007 she led an open taster session run by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for over one hundred adult amateur musicians and was subsequently engaged as conductor/animateur for the Merchant Sinfonia. She also teaches part-time at the University of Edinburgh and Napier University, and works part-time managing music education projects for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Members of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra taking part tonight

Timothy Rundle, oboe
Paul Speirs, double bass
Martin Willis, percussion

Members of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra who have coached the Merchant Sinfonia during this term include:

Anne Brincourt (cello), Jeremy Bushell (horn), Amy Cardigan (violin), Heather Corbett (percussion), Iain Crawford (double bass), Barry Deacon (clarinet), Barbara Downie (violin), Rik Evans (viola), Alex Gascoine (violin), Jane Hainey (violin), Harold Harris (cello), Peter Isaacs (violin), Simon Johnson (trombone), John Van Lierop (double bass), Rosemary Lock (flute), Jacqui Penfold (viola), Alice Rickards (violin), Fiona Robertson (viola), Timothy Rundle (oboe), Anthony Sayer (cello), Paul Speirs (double bass), Jeremy Ward (double bass)

and a special thanks to Heather Corbett for arranging the percussion throughout the term, and to Eildon Byrne for his Stage Management.

Merchant Voices

Sopranos

Joanne Atkinson
Maureen Ball
Valerie Brown
Brenda Burke
Liz Burnett
Elaine Cameron
Grace Campbell
Mary Carmichael
Helen Crawford
Agnes Creaney
Muriel Cupples
Bronwen Datta
Joyce Davidson
Collette Davis
Tina Demir
Isobel Devlin
Mary Rose Donnelly
Melanie Emmanuel
Wendy English
Margaret-Mary Galbraith
Dorothy Gillies
Frances Gray
Dorothy Gunnee
Muriel Habeshaw
Liz Hammond
Siobhan Harkin
Johanna Henderson
Delphine How
Janetta Hutton
Lisa Irvine
Lindsay Johnston
Margaret Johnstone
Jessica Kearslake
Margaret Kingsley
Oonagh Lawson
Meg MacDonald
Sandra Mackay
Christina Macmillan
Jory Martin
Rosemary McCalmont
Martha McDade
Lisa McDevitt
Jackie McNamara
Anne Mulholland
Clare Newlands
Jean O'Donnell

Johanna O'Connor
Margaret Park
Linda Rankine
Catherine Senior
Hazel Skeoch
Gill Stewart
Avril Taylor
Sheila Tennant
Moirra Turner
Nancy Walker
Mary Weeple
Rosie Woods

Altos

Sharon Abraham
Maggie Alexander
Mercy Baguma
Lynda Beattie
Pauline Beveridge
Florence Boyle
Evelyn Brown
Mary Anne Carroll
Eleanor Champress
Joyce Clark
Teresa Corcoran
Deedee Cuddihy
Polly Ewart
Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Maria Forrester
Gay Graham
Eileen Heron
Irene Howat
Rena Jordan
Kirsten Kirkpartrick
Jac Lister
Sheena MacGregor
Morag MacLeod
Marlene MacOwan
Phoebe McCallum
Mary McCormick
Shena McDonald
Cathie McDougall
Annemarie McGregor
Margaret McKerlie
Antoinette McKinney
Margaret Nicholls
Winifred Noble
Ann Parsonage

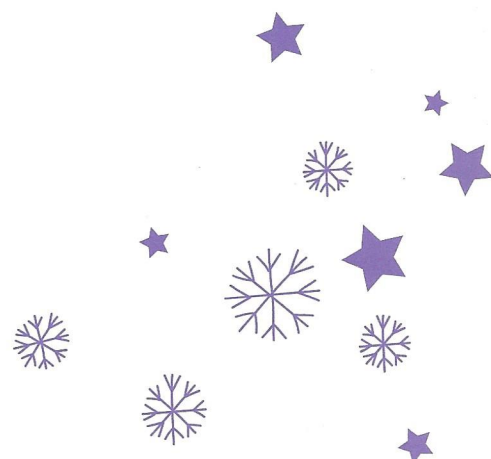
Barbara Paterson
Patricia Porter
Nora Preston
Annie Reddick
Katie Rhodes
Ena Ringrose
Margaret Russell
Krystyna Rybczynska
Helen Samuel
Wendy Shaw
Lyn Shinie
Kirsty Steel
Ellie Taylor
Edelweisse Thornley
Patricia Urquhart
Rosalie White
Hilda Wilson
Susan Woodcock

Tenors

Donald Ball
John Brown
Joan Campbell
Robert Farmer
Andrew Forrest
Saj Hamid
Kenneth MacLeod
Joseph McGowan
Brian Murphy
Alex Stuart
Ian Tennant
Phil Wongs

Basses

Kenny Ball
Allan Craig
Robin Ewart
Philip Glover
Colin Johnston
Harry McLarnon
Shantiketu
Ian Symington



Merchant Voices

Since it was founded in February 2006, the **Merchant Voices** community choir has attracted well over 100 members from different communities across Glasgow and beyond, including Easterhouse, Milngavie, Govan, Rutherglen, Anniesland, Clydebank and Yoker. This diversity extends beyond mere geography, with ages ranging from 18 to 80! The varied musical ability and experience of participants reflects one of the core principles of the choir – that it is completely accessible to everyone.

The choir enjoys rehearsing under the expert baton of its music director Eric Dunlea and is accompanied by pianist Laura Baxter. The energy, passion and sheer enjoyment communicated by all our singers from the concert platform to the audience this evening is no less apparent at our weekly rehearsals. The choir rehearses a wide range of vocal repertoire and styles and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Jacqui Sharples, Education Manager at City Halls on: 0141-559 6023, or e-mail: jacquis@glasgowconcerthalls.com

Eric Dunlea

Born in Cork, Eric Dunlea studied music at the Municipal School of Music there and later at the University of Cork. Having completed postgraduate trumpet studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London he freelanced with the RTE Symphony Orchestra in Dublin. Eric moved to Belfast in 1978 as Principal Trumpet with the BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra and then to Glasgow in January 1979 to take up the post of sub-principal trumpet with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the post which he still holds.

In 1996 Eric formed a choir in his local village of Lochwinnoch and a few years later became Conductor of the Stirling City Choir. He studied conducting with Martyn Brabbins at the RSAMD where he continues to teach some of the finest young musicians in the country in the Junior Department. Eric also conducts the St. James Orchestra in Paisley, is a guest conductor with the Glasgow Orchestral Society and made his professional debut with members of the BBC SSO in Raploch Stirling, when he conducted a performance of Ibert's *Divertissement*. He was delighted to be appointed conductor of the Merchant Voices in October 2008.



B B C
SCOTTISH SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Glasgow's
Concert Halls
Glasgow Royal
Concert Hall
City Halls
Old Fruitmarket



Merry Christmas