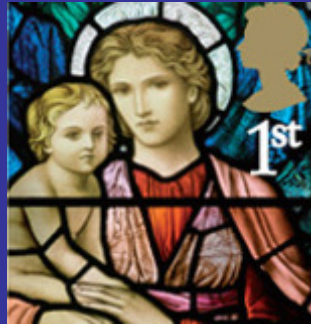


Marlow U3A Music Appreciation Group, Christmas 2009



Gaudete

- ♪ This is a sacred 16th century Christmas carol. The song was published in the *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of Finnish/Swedish sacred songs published in 1582. The tune comes from older liturgical books.
- ♪ The Latin text is a typical song of praise, probably stemming from the Middle Ages. It follows the standard pattern for the time: a uniform series of four-line stanzas, each preceded by a two-line refrain.



XXIV. 35

DISCANTVS.

Gaudete, gaudete Christus

est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete.

Latin

Gaudete, gaudete!
 Christus est natus
 Ex Maria virgine,
 gaudete!
 Tempus adest gratiae
 Hoc quod optabamus,
 Carmina lætitiæ
 Devote reddamus.

English

Rejoice, rejoice!
 Christ is born
 Of the Virgin Mary,
 rejoice!
 The time of grace has
 come that we have
 desired;
 Let us devoutly return
 joyful verses.

Latin

Gaudete, gaudete!
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine,
gaudete!
Deus homo factus est
Natura mirante,
Mundus renovatus est
A Christo regnante.

English

Rejoice, rejoice!
Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary,
rejoice!
God has become man,
and nature marvels;
The world has been
renewed by Christ
who is King.

Latin

Gaudete, gaudete!
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine,
gaudete!
Ezechielis porta
Clausa pertransitur,
Unde lux est orta
Salus invenitur.

English

Rejoice, rejoice!
Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary,
rejoice!
The closed gate
of Ezechiel has been
passed through;
Whence the light is
born, salvation is
found.

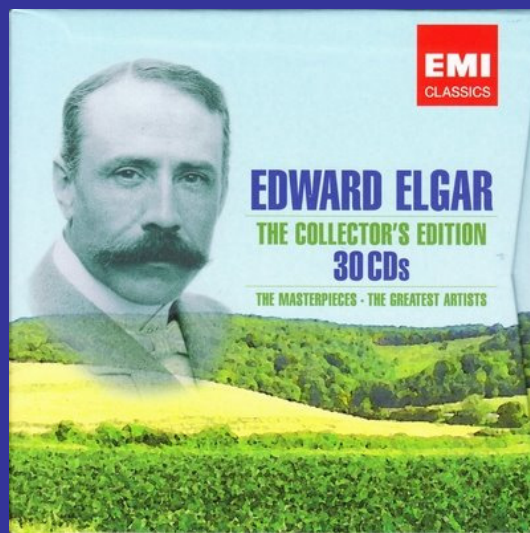
Latin

Gaudete, gaudete!
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine,
gaudete!
Ergo nostra contio
Psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino:
Salus Regi nostro.

English

Rejoice, rejoice!
Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary,
rejoice!
Therefore let our
gathering now sing in
brightness;
Let it give praise to
the Lord: Greeting to
our King.

Elgar: *The Snow Op.26, No.1*



Elgar: *The Snow Op.26, No.1*

- ♪ Words by
Caroline Alice
Elgar (1848-1920)
- ♪ Music by Edward
Elgar (1857-1934)



Elgar: *The Snow Op.26, No.1*

- ♪ Dedicated to Harriet Fitton of Malvern, a fine pianist. (One of her daughters – who was learning the viola with Elgar - is immortalised as “Ysobel” in the Enigma Variations.)
- ♪ It is one of 2 part-songs written in 1894. The other song is *Fly, Singing Bird*.
- ♪ Elgar sold the copyright for 12 guineas!
- ♪ The original published version is for female voices and accompaniment of piano and 2 violins.
- ♪ In 1903 Elgar orchestrated the song. Finally he produced a version for just two female voices (in 1932).

Elgar: *The Snow Op.26, No.1*

- The song is an *Andantino* in 3 verses, moving from E minor to E major and a glorious climax in G major before returning to E minor.
- The version with orchestral accompaniment was premiered at the Queen's Hall London in 1904. This is the version that I've chosen (RLPO and chorus/Sir Charles Groves).

Elgar: *The Snow*

O snow, which sinks so light,
Brown earth is hid from sight.
O soul, be thou as white as snow.
O snow, which falls so slow,
Dear earth quite warm below,
O heart, so keep thy glow
Beneath the snow.

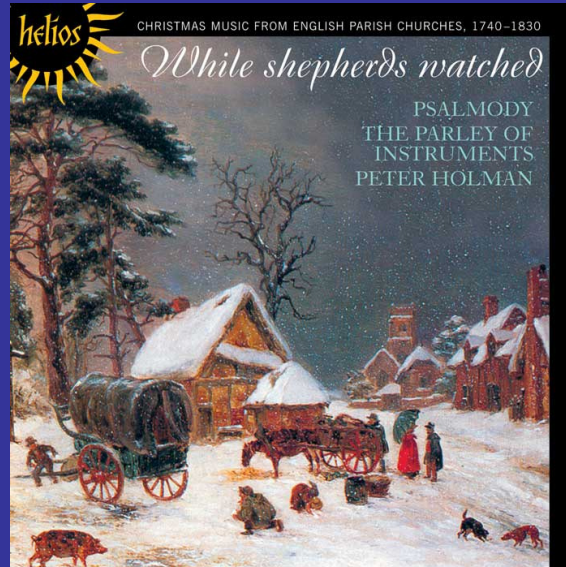
Elgar: *The Snow*

O snow, in thy soft grave
Sad flowers the winter brave.
O heart, so sooth and save, as does the
snow.
The snow must melt, must go,
Fast, fast as water flow.
Not thus, my soul, O sow Thy gifts to
fade like snow.

Elgar: *The Snow*

O snow, thou art white no more,
Thy sparkling too, is o'er.
O soul, be as before was bright the snow.
Then as the snow all pure O heart be, but
endure through all the years full sure -
Not as the snow.

John Foster (1762-1822) : *While Shepherds Watched*



John Foster (1762-1822) : *While Shepherds Watched*

- ♪ John Foster of Chapletown, South Yorkshire was the composer of this tune, known as "*Old Foster*", one of the more popular of the hundreds of tunes used with these words.
- ♪ His style is 19th century classical.
- ♪ He is also credited as being the magistrate who made cock-fighting and bull-baiting illegal in Yorkshire.

**John Foster (1762-1822) : *While
Shepherds Watched***

- The tune was originally for Psalm 47.
- It became *While Shepherds Watched
Their Flocks by Night* accompanied by
a small string band after the originally
intended instruments were thrown out
of the churches into the pubs by the
Oxford Movement.
- This recording merges the full
orchestral/choral version with the
words of the carol.

**Waldo De Los Rios
(1934-1977)**

**was an Argentinian composer,
conductor and arranger.**

**He was born Osvaldo Nicholas Ferrara
into a musical family and studied
composition and arranging
at the Buenos Aires National
Conservatory.**

Waldo de los Rios

He was inspired by the eclectic range of music and formed a musical group called “The Waldos” which crossed folk music with electronic sounds. He wrote music for a number of Argentinian films.

He is best remembered for his ability to transform European classical music into pop music. We’ll hear his arrangements of several carols.

Waldo de los Rios

His arrangement of Mozart’s Symphony No 40 was a great hit and reached top spot in a number of European music charts

A victim of acute depression, while working on “Don Juan Tenorio” he committed suicide in Madrid in 1977.

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956): *Magnificat*

- Gerald Finzi was an English composer whose early musical influences included Parry, Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Gurney.
- He became a masterly and sensitive setter of poetry. He is also well known for his fine Clarinet Concerto. His works are usually lyrical and subtly understated.

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956): *Magnificat*



- The *Magnificat Op.36* was written in 1952 for the choir of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. It was intended for a Christmas Vespers service, rather than for standard liturgical use.

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956): *Magnificat*

- It is typical of Finzi's lyrical approach with a great deal of contrapuntal writing. There is also great drama in the work, with the "scattering of the proud", and the "shewing of strength" being particularly forceful.
- The solo parts are generally brief but telling, and there is a section for semi-chorus.