

Festive Family Concert



Saturday 9 December 2023

St Mary's Church, Banbury

Programme Free



Concert Dates for Your Diary

Banbury Symphony Orchestra

Spring Concert

Saturday 16th March 2024

Ethel Smyth – *Overture The Wreckers*

Dvořák – *American Suite*

Leokadiya Kashperova – *Symphony in B minor*

7.30 p.m. – Deddington Church

Banbury Symphony Orchestra

Chamber Concert

Sunday 19th May 2024

Elgar – *String Serenade*

Dvořák – *Serenade for Wind*

Louise Farrenc – *Symphony No. 3 in G minor*

4.00 p.m. – St Peter's Church, Hook Norton

Tickets from

www.banburysymphony.com

Programme

Carols marked * are for audience participation; please sing along!

A Christmas Festival Overture

Waldteufel - Skater's Waltz

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

Mince Spies

Composed: Lawrence Killian

Narration: Sarah Johnston

Narrated: Jonathan Rowe

Interval

(Refreshments available)

Christmas at the Movies

A Most Wonderful Christmas*

Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer*

The First Nowell*

Sleigh Ride

Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing*

Merry Christmas Everybody

Welcome again to the Church of St Mary's in Banbury at this very special time of year. I'm very pleased that you are able to be with us for our concert this afternoon, and I hope that you will enjoy the music that we have for you.

Despite all of the difficulties in the world at the current moment, Christmas remains a time of celebration, and I hope that our concert will raise your spirits and bring you some Christmas cheer.

We have quite a selection of music for you this afternoon: we have some traditional carols which I'm sure will be familiar to most of you; *Sleigh Ride* and *A Christmas Festival Overture* incorporating a number of Christmas tunes composed by Leroy Anderson; *A Most Wonderful Christmas* by Robert Sheldon, which is a new addition to our repertoire; and finally a piece specially composed for the orchestra by Lawrence Killian, narrated by our own Jonathan Rowe – *Mince Spies*.

As always during our Christmas concerts, please do sing along during the carols and other Christmas items – we have

included the words in the programme to help you along!

Finally, I'd like to wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year for 2024!

Dave Settle

Chair, Banbury Symphony
Orchestra



Mince Spies

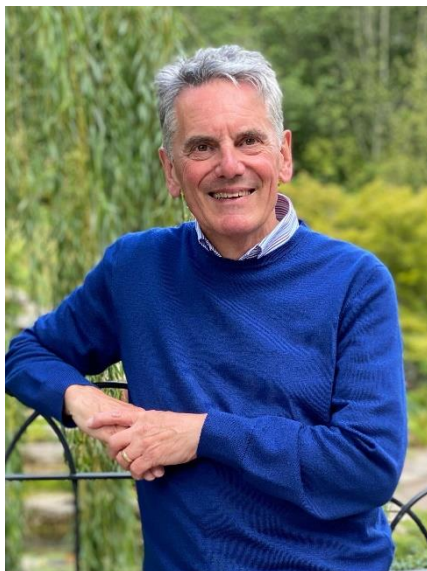
Lawrence Killian

Suffolk-based musician Lawrence Killian draws on his extensive experience as an orchestral conductor and brass player to compose music that is immediately accessible to both audience and players alike. Hailing from Haworth in West Yorkshire, composer Arthur Butterworth introduced him to composing and orchestral brass playing. Lawrence has enjoyed conducting many orchestras and groups over the years.

Having moved to Suffolk in 2021, he now lives in Hacheston near Woodbridge and has already established an excellent reputation as a conductor and brass player with a number of groups. These include Suffolk Sinfonia, Churchgate Sinfonia, the Rehearsal Orchestra in London, Ipswich Hospital Band, RAF Honington Band, and the East of England Co-op and Castleton Brass Bands. He was delighted when asked to be the Suffolk Sinfonia's guest conductor for their June concert at the Apex concert hall in Bury St Edmunds.

Combined with the narration, the music conjures up images of a busy English town during preparations for Christmas in 1647.

At that time, the Puritan government had officially banned Christmas, Easter, and Whitsun festivities, church services and celebrations, including festivities at



home. There were fines if this law was broken, and in some places the threat of sending 'offenders' to prison. This varied in each area depending on how rigorously the so-called 'Rule of the Major Generals' was upheld.

The Christmas ban was unpopular, with riots in Kent and other places. This was also the time when the country was in disarray due to the Civil War. Some riots may have been an excuse for pro-Royalist rebels to cause trouble for the Parliamentarians on the opposite side.

Our story unfolds through the eyes of a young girl, Ivy Johnston, who, like many, couldn't wait for Christmas to come.

The structure of the music and narration follows the descriptive headlines within the story:

A Most Wonderful Christmas
(Santa Claus is Coming to Town)

J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie

You better watch out,
You better not cry,
Better not pout,
I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He's making a list
And checking it twice,
Gonna find out
Who's naughty and nice.
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He sees you when you're sleepin',
He knows when you're awake,
He knows if you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness sake.

You better watch out,
You better not cry,
Better not pout,
I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Johnny Marks

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

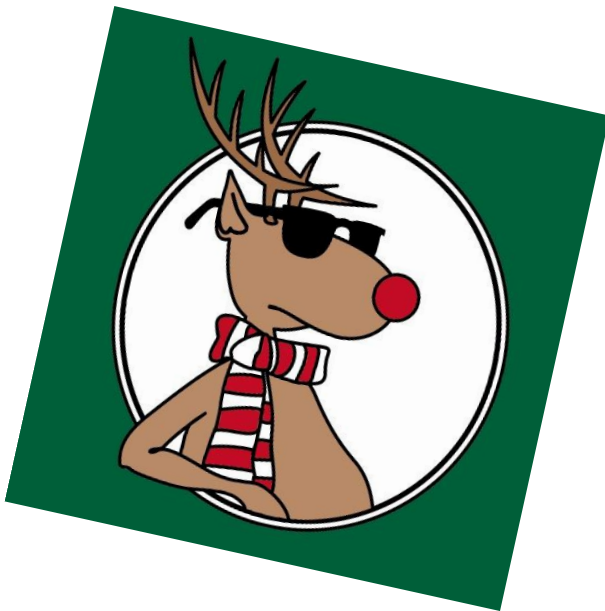
Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee:
"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,
You'll go down in history!"

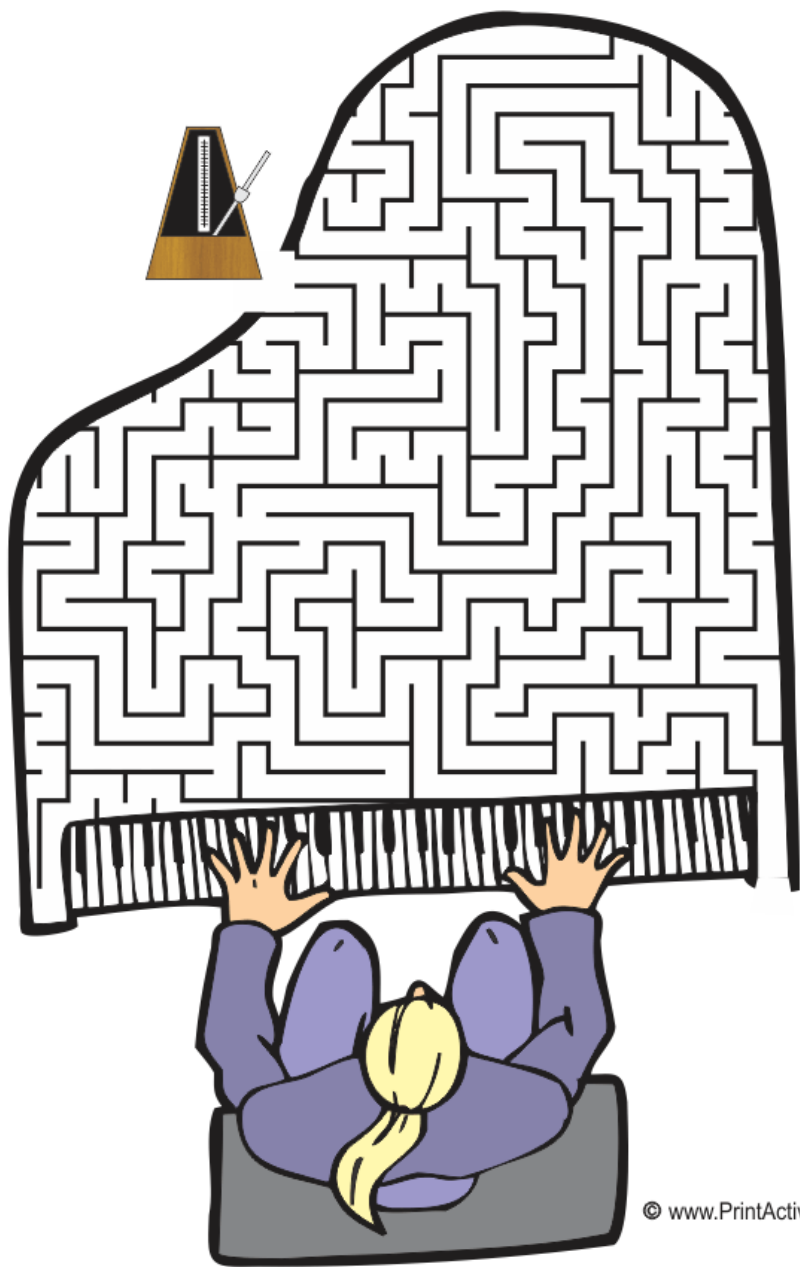
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You'll go down in history"





The First Nowell

English trad. arr. Willcocks

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made Heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!



Christmas
Connect-the-Dots #22



courtesy of www.noelladesigns.com

Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing

Mendelssohn arr. Willcocks

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.*

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 God-head see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n 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! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*



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Banbury Symphony Orchestra



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Joining the Orchestra

If you play an instrument to a standard of Grade 7 or above and would like to play with the orchestra, find out more by sending us a message using the links above.

All rehearsals take place in Banbury in term time on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 pm.

