

# orlando

CHAMBER CHOIR

LUCY GODDARD DIRECTOR

WILLIAM FAIRBAIRN ORGAN

SUPPORTING



New Horizon  
Youth Centre

## the humility of the shepherds

A GRASSROOTS CHRISTMAS



THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2019 | 19:30

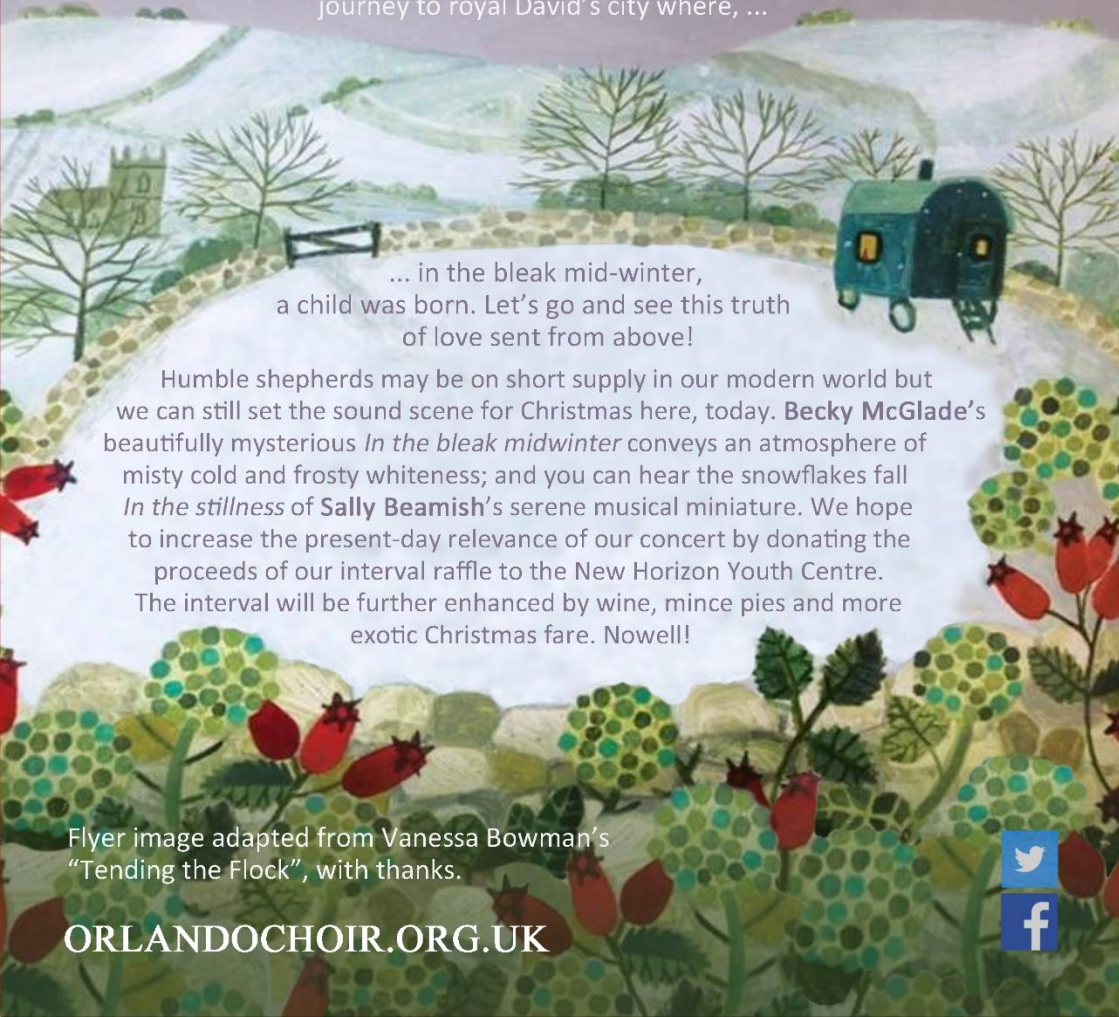
ST MARY-AT-HILL | LONDON EC3R 8EE

TICKETS £12 | CONCESSIONS £10

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Orlando Chamber Choir explores a grassroots perspective of the Christmas story, retelling it from the humble shepherds' point of view. Intimate settings of *Angelus ad pastores ait* by **Claudio Monteverdi** and **Raphaella Aleotti** express the quiet contemplation and joyful exultation with which the herders receive the angel's tidings. When a whole heavenly hosts echoes the good news in Aleotti's *Facta est cum angelo*, the shepherds are left somewhat shaken but stirred into action. They hastily convene. **Francisco Guerrero** sets their excited conversation to music in *Pastores loquebantur* – never were more harmonic herders heard! – and **Jean Mouton's** *Quaeramus cum pastoribus* draws us in further, enticing us to follow the humble herds(wo)men on their way to Bethlehem. We do, of course, and reach the manger to the sound of **Cristobál de Morales'** sumptuous *Missa Quaeramus cum pastoribus* which, expanding on Mouton's motet, captures the joy of the earthly birth as well as its sacred significance. **Jacobus Gallus'** double-choir *O magnum mysterium* finally reveals the full scale of what the humble herders have witnessed: here lies the future! Excitement ensues in which the choir, the shepherds, our organist and (we hope) you all join in. The audience carols retrace the herders' journey to royal David's city where, ...



... in the bleak mid-winter,  
a child was born. Let's go and see this truth  
of love sent from above!

Humble shepherds may be on short supply in our modern world but we can still set the sound scene for Christmas here, today. **Becky McGlade's** beautifully mysterious *In the bleak midwinter* conveys an atmosphere of misty cold and frosty whiteness; and you can hear the snowflakes fall *In the stillness* of **Sally Beamish's** serene musical miniature. We hope to increase the present-day relevance of our concert by donating the proceeds of our interval raffle to the New Horizon Youth Centre. The interval will be further enhanced by wine, mince pies and more exotic Christmas fare. Nowell!

Flyer image adapted from Vanessa Bowman's  
"Tending the Flock", with thanks.

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