



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



LONDON CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

# MIDWINTER'S EVE

FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER, 7.30PM

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

Craig Leon **conductor / director**

Úna Palliser **violin / vocalist**

Jos Slovic **vocalist**



## PROGRAMME

Deck the Hall  
In the Bleak Midwinter  
Corde Natus Ex Parentis  
In Dulci Jubilo  
Coventry Carol  
Angelus ad Virginem  
What Child Is This?  
Veni, Veni, Emmanuel  
Sussex Carol  
Il est né le divin enfant  
Cantique de Noël  
Gaudete

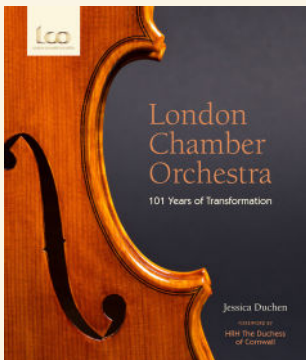
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Holst arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Praetorius arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Adam arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon

## 20 MINUTE INTERVAL

An Irish Winter Medley  
The Wexford Carol  
Mo Ghile Mear  
Away in a Manger (UK)  
Three American Carols  
Two Winter Lullabies  
I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger  
Joy to the World

Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
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Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Trad. arr. Craig Leon  
Handel arr. Craig Leon

Please join us for our post-concert festive party, sponsored by Bluestone Vineyards, downstairs in the crypt



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AND AFTER SHOW PARTY



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## Historical Melodies from the UK and Mainland Europe

### Deck the Hall (Trad.)

From a Welsh folk tune "Nos Galan", it wasn't used in the carol setting until 1881. There are numerous spurious references that state it was used as a melody by W.A. Mozart in his Violin and Piano Sonata in G major K. 301. It wasn't.

### In The Bleak Midwinter "Cranham" (Gustav Holst)

Composed by Holst in 1906 and set to the words of a poem by Christina Rossetti that had been published two years earlier, the melody is titled "Cranham" after the village of Cranham, Gloucestershire. The poem has also been set to music by Harold Darke and used by Benjamin Britten and many other later 20th century composers.

### Corde Natus Ex Parentis (Trad.)

This ancient poem was translated and paired with a medieval plainchant melody - "Divinum mysterium" - a "Sanctus trope", an ancient plainchant melody which over the years had been musically embellished. An early version of this chant appears in manuscript form as early as the 10th century, although without the melodic additions, and "trope" versions with various melodic differences appear in Italian, German, Galician, Bohemian and Spanish manuscripts dating from the 13th to 16th centuries.

### **In Dulci Jubilo** (Trad.)

The tune first appears in Codex 1305, a manuscript in Leipzig University Library dating from c. 1400, although it has been suggested that the melody may have existed in Europe prior to this date. In addition to appearing in several collection by Michael Praetorius the hymn was included in *Geistliche Lieder*, a 1533 Lutheran hymnal by Joseph Klug. It also appears in Michael Vehe's *Gesangbuch* of 1537. In 1545, another verse was added, possibly by Martin Luther.

### **Coventry Carol** (Trad.)

Another very old English carol, the lyrics first appear in 1534 as part of the traditional Coventry Plays. The first printing of the melody dates from 1691 but is most probably contemporary with the lyrics. It was first brought to modern attention by Bramley and Stainer in the 1878 publication "Christmas Carols Old and New".

### **Angelus ad Virginem** (Trad.)

Probably Franciscan in origin, it was brought to Britain by French friars in the 13th century. It is said to have originally consisted of 27 stanzas, with each following stanza beginning with the consecutive letter of the alphabet. Surviving manuscripts may be found in a c.1360 Dublin Troper (a music book for use at Mass) and a 13th or 14th century vellum sequentiale that may have been connected with the Church of Addle, Yorkshire. Its lyrics also appear in the works of John Audelay in a group of four Marian poems. It is mentioned in Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Miller's Tale" (c. 1390), where the scholar Nicholas sings it in Latin to the accompaniment of his psaltery.

### **What Child Is This** (Greensleeves) (Trad.)

A Christmas carol with lyrics written by William Chatterton Dix in 1865 and set to the tune of "Greensleeves", a traditional English folk song that dates from the 16th century, in 1871. Although written in Great Britain, the carol today is more popular in the United States than its country of origin.

### **Veni, Veni Emmanuel** (Trad.)

"O come, O come, Emmanuel" is a traditional hymn for Advent and Christmas. The text was originally written in Latin. It is a metrical paraphrase of the O Antiphons, a series of plainchant antiphons attached to the Magnificat at Vespers over the final days before Christmas. The hymn has its origins over 1,200 years ago in monastic life in the 8th or 9th century. While the text may be used with many metrical hymn tunes, it was first combined with its most famous tune in the English-language Hymnal Noted in 1851.

### **Sussex Carol** (Trad.)

A Christmas carol popular in Britain, sometimes referred to by its first line "On Christmas night all Christians sing". Its words were first published by Luke Wadding, a 17th-century Irish bishop, in a work called *Small Garland of Pious and Godly Songs* (1684). It is unclear whether Wadding wrote the song or was recording an earlier composition. Both the text and the tune to which it is now sung were discovered and written down by Cecil Sharp in Buckland, Gloucestershire, and Ralph Vaughan Williams, who heard it being sung by a Harriet Verrall of Monk's Gate, near Horsham, Sussex (hence "Sussex Carol").

### **Il est né, le divan enfant** (Trad.)

This French carol was published for the first time in 1862 by Jean-Romain Grosjean and Paul Webster, organist of the Cathedral of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, in a collection of carols entitled *Airs des Noël's lorrains*. The text of the carol was published for the first time in a collection of ancient carols, published in either 1875 or 1876 by Dom G. Legeay.

### **O Holy Night “Cantique de Noël”** (Adolphe Adam)

The French carol “O Holy Night”, written in 1847, has become popular in the UK in recent years. The music was written by Adolphe Adam who is best known today for his ballet “Giselle”.

### **Gaudete** (Trad.)

Thought to have been composed in the 16th century, it was published in “Piae Cantiones,” a collection of Finnish/Swedish sacred songs published in 1582. No music is given for the verses, but the standard tune comes from older liturgical books. In modern times the carol has been popularised by the British folk group Steeleye Span.

## 20 MINUTE INTERVAL

### **Songs of Winter and Christmas from the UK, Ireland and the US**

#### **Apples In Winter/Christmas Eve** (An Irish Winter Medley) (Trad.)

A medley of two Irish reels : “Apples in Winter” is a jig in 6/8 time. The melody is known by many variant titles including one of its earliest appearances in print named “Kennedy’s Jig” which appears in Joyce’s *Ancient Irish Music*, Dublin 1890.

Christmas Eve (Oiche Nollag) is a popular Irish reel which has been recorded more than one hundred times including the version by The Chieftains which couples the tune with another reel “The Bells of Dublin”.

#### **The Wexford Carol** “The Enniscorthy Carol” (Trad.)

One of the oldest known carols in Western music is “The Wexford Carol” from Ireland which originates in the 12th century. It is named from the location where it was first collected and is sometimes even more specifically referred to as “The Enniscorthy Carol”. The lyrics are believed to be a later addition and were not originally written in Irish but in English.

#### **Mo Ghile Mear (My Gallant Lad)** (Trad.)

Una Palliser: Vocalist

The modern form of this Irish song uses a traditional air collected in Cúil Aodha, County Cork, and lyrics from Irish-language poems by Seán “Clárach” Mac Domhnaill (1691–1754).

### **Away in a Manger** (UK version)

Una Palliser: Violin Soloist

There are two versions of Away In A Manger that are prominent in the English speaking world. Popular in Britain and Ireland, this version has a melody taken from William Kirpatrick's "Cradle Song". It was said to be written by Martin Luther but that was not the case. This version is the most popular outside of the United States.

### **Suite: Three American Carols**

Away In A Manger "Mueller" (Trad.)

O Little Town Of Bethlehem "St. Louis" (Lewis Redner)

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear (Richard Willis)

There are many variant melodies of individual Christmas carols and songs throughout the world. These are three Christmas carols in the versions that are more well known in the U.S. as opposed to those that are most often sung in Britain.

### **Two Winter Lullabies: "All Through The Night"** (Ar Hyd y Nos) and **"Oh, Watch The Stars"** (Trad.)

Jos Slovic: Vocalist

Una Palliser: Violin Soloist & Vocalist

"Ar Hyd y Nos" is a Welsh song sung to a tune that was first recorded in Edward Jones' Musical and Poetical Relics of the Welsh Bards (1784) and is traditionally sung at Christmas. The most commonly sung Welsh lyrics were written by John Ceiriog Hughes (1832-1887) with several translations into English.

"Oh, Watch the Stars" (Trad.) is an Afro-American folk song that is sung at Christmastime, It originated in South Carolina in the mid 19th century. It has been recorded numerous times by artist such as Peggy Seeger and Pentangle.

### **I Am A Poor Wayfaring Stranger** (Trad.)

Jos Slovic: Vocalist

A well-known American folk hymn likely originating in the early 19th century. The song has been recorded many times and was recently used in a scene in the film "1917", performed by actor/vocalist Jos Slovic.

### **Joy To The World** (Trad.)

"Joy to the World" is an English Christmas carol which was written in 1719 by the English minister and hymn writer Isaac Watts. It is the most published Christmas hymn in the United States.

Craig Leon

All titles published by Downtown Music Publishers (UK)

## CRAIG LEON

Craig Leon was born in Miami, and raised in Fort Myers, Florida.

After opening his own recording studio in Miami

in 1973, he moved to New York when he was hired as assistant

to producer Richard Gottetehrer at Sire Records. There he was

responsible for the discovery and early development of the Ramones

and Talking Heads, among other artists. In New York, Leon also

produced recordings by Blondie, Suicide and other artists connected

with the burgeoning New York scene. Leon has produced over 150 albums of alternative pop music over the years.



In 1981, Leon produced his own first recorded work, "Nommos", which was released on John Fahey's Takoma Records followed by "Visiting" in 1982. After relocating to the UK in late 1983, Leon continued producing pop and alternative recordings, and also wrote and recorded "Klub Anima" for the Kosh Dance Theatre piece which premiered at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre. In 1998, Leon produced the comeback No Exit by Blondie which yielded the worldwide no 1 single "Maria".

Since 1998, Leon had been exclusively producing, orchestrating and recording classical projects including work with Luciano Pavarotti, Andreas Scholl and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Elysium, the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, Joshua Bell and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and Sir James Galway. In 2011 Leon completed the Sony Classical recording of Midwinter's Eve: Music For Christmas featuring his orchestrations and arrangements of Christmas music performed by the London Chamber Orchestra. As well as numerous UK and foreign television programmes Leon's work has featured in major films including 1917, The Karate Kid (2010), Ghost River, Ladies in Lavender, 200 Cigarettes, Sid and Nancy and Revenge of the Nerds among many others.

Leon has also turned to work combining audio and visual imagery. In 2012 he completed work as an audio/visual producer and music director/composer of the PBS broadcast Quest Beyond The Stars and the U.K. produced Discovery Network broadcast "Orbit:Journey to the Moon" which was viewed on the 40th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing.

In 2013, Nommos was reissued as a vinyl-only limited edition paving the way for the full release of both early electronic works written by Leon, "Nommos" and "Visiting", as The Anthology of Interplanetary Folk Music, Vol. 1 in April 2014. Leon has been performing both works as audio/visual events at venues in the U.S. and Europe in including Moogfest, the CTM-Festival and the Unsound Festival. He also completed the production of the opening and closing ceremony for the Dubai World Cup 2014.

An album, Bach to Moog, featuring works of J.S. Bach arranged for the reissued Moog model 55 modular synthesizer and performed by Leon with the Sinfonietta Cracovia, was issued in 2015 by Sony Classical. In November 2017 he released The Film Scores and Original Orchestral Music of George Martin, featuring the personal work of the iconic Beatles producer performed by The Berlin Music Ensemble and conducted by Craig Leon. Leon's The Canon: The Anthology of Interplanetary Folk Music Volume 2, was released on 10 May 2019 on RVNG Intl.

## ÚNA PALLISER

Irish born Úna Palliser is violinist, violist and vocalist based in London. Having won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, Una won several awards for viola including Philharmonia Martin Musical Scholarship, RTE Musician Of The Future string finalist & ensemble prize, and was a member of the European Union Youth Orchestra before graduating with 1st class honours.



Although Úna's playing is heavily informed by rigorous classical training, her fluency in a number of styles and genres has led to a diverse musical career. In 2017/18 she was invited to tour Canada, Australia, New York, London and New Zealand as featured solo violinist with Indian composer AR Rahman. Una also featured as solo violinist and multi-instrumentalist / backing singer on world tours with Shakira, including Madison Square Gardens NYC, blues artists Otis Taylor, Leona Lewis, and spent many years working and touring as guest artist with balkan-classical BBC World Music Award winners Terrafolk.

In 2022 Úna was invited to perform as solo celtic violinist with the Philharmonia Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall in London for the world premiere of Outlander. She has also appeared as violin soloist with European Symbolic Orchestra and featured string quartet with Manchester Camerata Orchestra. She has lead the strings of the Avex Ensemble for Blade Runner Live since 2019 and is a regular guest leader of The Rock Orchestra.

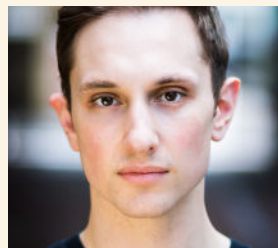
Úna's solo vocals can be heard on the score of recent Star Wars: Obi Wan Kenobi and she has been featured vocalist singing traditional Irish songs on number film and tv scores including Herself (Merman), BBC's My Mother & Other Strangers and Redwater. She has also She has also recorded violin on viola on a number of film soundtracks. Una's vocal rendition of Irish folk song 'Mo Ghile Mear' was featured on long-running Specsavers sheepdog advert. She was also on-set musical director / coach for BBC's Hold The Sunset. Una has recorded, toured and collaborated with over 100 major artists including Ariana Grande, Liam Gallagher, Michael Bubl , Little Mix, Nicole Scherzinger, Birdy, Maxim Vengarov, Robbie Williams, Dionne Warwick, The Killers, Bueno Vista Social Club, Elbow, Moby, Take That, George Michael, Gnarl Barkley, Jeff Beck.

She has performed in a number of productions as singer and violinist at Shakespeare's Globe (including as MD and composer), National Theatre and London's West End. Una currently performs as deputy on-stage violinist/ fiddler in Come From Away, and dep violin/violist in Hamilton, Moulin Rouge. Her vocals and string playing featured in award winning play The Ferryman in the West End and Broadway, NYC.



## JOS SLOVICK

Theatre credits include: Beautiful (UK Tour) Cinderella (Nuffield Theatre), Emma Rice's Brief Encounter (West End), Fiddler on the Roof and Love Story (Chichester Festival Theatre), Bad Jews (West End/ Tour), Cinder/Ella and The Snow Queen (Nuffield Theatre), Once (West End), Lost in Yonkers (Watford Palace), The Secret Garden (Edinburgh/ Toronto), The Human Comedy (Young Vic), Guys & Dolls and The Buddy Holly Story (Upstairs at the Gatehouse) and Spring Awakening (Lyric Hammersmith/ West End).



Concerts include The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Ambassadors Theatre) Soho Cinders (Queens Theatre) and Follies (Royal Albert Hall).

Screen work: Doctor Who, 1917, Les Miserables, The Addicted and Howard's End.

French Horn illustration:  
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