

Singing in the 2019 NHS Minster Carol Service

Programme with preparation notes and sheet music

York Minster

7.30pm Wednesday 4 December 2019

Rehearsal at York Minster starts at 1.45pm; please bring your copy of '100 Carols for Choirs' and a pencil.

Additional Rehearsals

York Hospital – led by Katie Webster

Monday 18 November	12.30pm – 1.30pm	York Hospital Chapel
Friday 22 November	8.00am – 9.00am	York Hospital Chapel
Monday 25 November	12.30pm – 1.30pm	York Hospital Chapel
Friday 29 November	5.00pm – 6.00pm	York Hospital Chapel
Monday 2 December	12.30pm – 1.30pm	York Hospital Chapel

Scarborough Hospital – led by Sarah Dew

Thursday 21 November	8.00am – 9.00am	Scarborough Hospital Chapel
Friday 22 November	12.00pm – 1.00pm	Scarborough Hospital Chapel
Monday 25 November	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Scarborough Hospital Chapel
Friday 29 November	12.00pm – 1.00pm	Scarborough Hospital Chapel
Monday 2 December	8.00am – 9.00am	Scarborough Hospital Chapel

Contact the Arts Team for more information: art@york.nhs.uk; 01904 725265

In addition to the NHS Minster Carol Service you are invited to join York and Scarborough Hospital's Wellbeing Choirs, all welcome. Full details on the webpage: www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/wellbeingchoir

Programme

(Page numbers refer to '100 Carols for Choirs' book)

Congregational	Once in Royal David's City	page 260
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Verses 1, 2, 5 and 6 only. Verse 1 solo. Verse 2 choir only – sing with real sensitivity and clarity of diction. Verse 6 descant. Altos – lean heavily into the G on 'lowly' in verse 2. Ensure the final note of each verse is held strongly for a full 2 beats.

Welcome

Choir only	Adam Lay Ybounden	Page 32
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Men sing verse 1, all ladies verse 2, Sopranos verse 3. Men start verse 4 but ladies join at bar 34. Even though this is in unison, it is not easy, and the intervals need learning carefully (particularly verse 4).

Reading

Choir only	Up! Good Christen folk, and Listen	Page 360
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Tricky Bass line needs careful learning. This needs to move at a good tempo, so think and feel it in minims rather than crotchets. Give pause at end of 4th bar. Be ready for the repeat moving from bar 14 to bar 5 – no break in the rhythmic pulse. Sing "tis no fable" softly (as an echo). Repeat the first 4 bars again at the end with a rall. in the last 2 bars.

Congregational	O Come, All Ye Faithful	Page 226
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Verses 1, 2 and 6 only. Verse 6 descant. Sopranos and Altos sing in unison the 1st "O come, let us adore him" in the chorus of each verse. Sopranos – just before the chorus, be precise over the notes on "Angels" "created" etc. (no slithering!)

Reading

Choir only	The Truth from Above	Page 342
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Not easy to hold the pitch, so ATB must be confident with the harmonies. Verse 1 Sopranos only. Verse 2 harmony with words. Verse 3 ATB hum, but rehearse verses 4 and 5 thoroughly because of the difficulty of the words not being directly under the notes.

Congregational	The First Nowell	Page 323
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Omit verses 3 and 5. Descant at end of verse 6. Lead the congregation by strong rhythmic singing here.

Reading

Congregational	O Little Town of Bethlehem	Page 234
All 4 verses. Verse 3 choir only: breathe after the 1st "How Silently", but not the 2nd! Also in last line breathe after 'receive him' and WATCH! Verse 4 Unison + descant.		
Choir only	Child in a Manger	Page 68
As written, with all ladies singing verse 1 and all men singing verse 2 in unison. Please ensure there are some 2nd sopranos to sing in verse 3. In verse 3 ladies breathe between the 'ah's. Otherwise, breathe every TWO bars (not every bar!) i.e. 4 breaths per verse.		
Reading		
Collection during God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen		
Congregational	God Rest you Merry, Gentlemen	Page 83
All 5 verses. Verse 1 change words in 2nd line to "was born ON CHRISTMAS day". Always sing refrain in Unison. Verses 1 and 3 in Unison. In verse 5 – Sopranos and Altos be confident with the notes on the "ah"s.		
Choir only	Still, Still, Still	Page 306
Sung in English! As written – All ladies sing verse 1 and men sing verse 2. Verse 3 in harmony. In all 2-note slurs, lean into the first note and shade off the 2nd note.		
Reading		
Choir only	Away in a Manger	Separate sheet
All sing the words in verses 1 and 3, but ATB sing 'ah' in verse 2. Just a small number of sopranos sing the small notes to the words in verse 3. Observe breathing points carefully, and no breath, but a slight gap to poise the final note of verse 3.		
Congregational	While Shepherds Watched their Flocks	Page 378
Verse 1 Unison, verse 2 and 3 Harmony. Verse 3 choir only. Verse 4 ladies singing the melody. Verse 5 men singing the melody. Verse 6 Unison and descant (in previous years, this has been the least confident descant, so please count carefully and sing with assurance).		
Reading		

Congregational	As with Gladness Men of Old	Page 52
All verses. Sing verse 1 in unison, verses 2, 3 and 4 in harmony, and take the choir 1 part (the unison tune) for verse 5. Verse 4 choir only - breathe after 'Holy Jesu'.		
Choir only	Sans Day Carol	Page 219
As written. Ladies be particularly careful over notation in Verse 3 "ah" (Sopranos rhythm in bars 73 – 76 is tricky - put an accent on the 1st beat of bar, even though it is tied).		
<i>Reading</i>		
<i>Prayers</i>		
<i>Blessing</i>		
Congregational	Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing	Page 107
All 3 verses. Verses 1 and 2 sing in Harmony (including last 2 bars). Basses – be precise over notes on 3rd line. Verse 3 descant.		

Message from the conductor:

So that you can quickly find the next carol during the service, please write the page number of the NEXT carol at the end of each carol in your book. (You may have to erase the numbers that you wrote in last year!)

Please ensure that these notes are passed on to ALL singers. It is vital that all the carols are learned and confident in advance of the day, that the above directions are carefully observed and copies 'marked up', to achieve a high standard of performance and for all singers to really enjoy the day. Looking forward to another splendid Service on 4th December in York,

Best wishes,

Andrew Padmore

for NHS Carol Service 2009

Andante

SOPRANO ALTO
TENOR BASS

p A - way in a man - ger, no - crib for a bed. The - lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid.

7
 S. A. down his sweetheart. The stars in the bright sky look'd down where he lay, The - lit - tle Lord Je - sus a -
 T. B.

15
 S. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 S. A. sleep on the hay. A.T.B. ah
 T. B.

23
 S. A. Je - sus no - cry - ing he makes. I love thee Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky And stay by my
 T. B.

S. A. cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 T. B. Be near me Lord Je - sus: I ask thee to stay Close

39
 S. A. by me for ev - er, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear child - ren in
 T. B.

45
 S. A. Thy ten - der care, And fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.
 T. B.