*MUSIC AT WESLEY*

SATURDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERT

Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester CH1 1DA

December 21st 2024, 12.45pm

##### CLAIRE HEALD: CONTRALTO

**JEREMY HEALD: PIANO**

**BRIAN HEALD: ORGAN/PIANO**

***Programme of Music for Christmas***

*Organ:*

***In Dulci Jubilo Bach (1685 – 1750)***

*Voice:*

**Behold, a virgin shall conceive ) Handel (1685 *–* 175)**

**O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion )**

*Piano:*

**Balulalow Peter Warlock** arr. by Nikki Iles **Winter wonderland Felix Bernard** (music) **& Dick Smith** (words)arr. by Nikki Iles*Organ:*

***Noël Landais Bonnal (1880 – 1944)***

*Piano:*

**We three kings of orient are John Henry Hopkins** arr. by Nikki Iles **Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer Johnny Marks** arr. by Nikki Iles

*Voice:*

**Bethlehem Down Peter Warlock (1894 – 1930) The Little Road to Bethlehem Michael Head (1900 – 76)**

*Piano Duet:*

**A Short Fantasia on Christmas Carols Dorothy Parke (1904 *–* 90)**

*Voice:*

**Rocking** (Little Jesus, sweetly sleep) **arr. John Carol Case (1923 – 2012)**

**Shepherd’s Pipe Carol John Rutter (b. 1945)**

*Organ:*

***Postlude on ‘Hark the Herald Angels Sing’ David Willcocks (1919 – 2015)***

**Claire Heald** studied singing under Dorothy Richardson of the Guildhall School of Music while a student in Cambridge, and continued her singing studies with Enid Whittle. She has appeared locally as a soloist on many occasions, usually accompanied by her husband, Brian. She performed regularly for 16 years with the Chester St. Cecilia Singers and has been singing with The Vale Royal Singers since 1992. Following an earlier career as a teacher, Claire became a Methodist Minister serving in the North Cheshire Circuit.

**Jeremy Heald** currently studies piano with John Gough and was taught the organ by his father, Brian. He holds masters degrees in engineering from the universities of Leeds and York and has previously worked in the aerospace, oil and pharmaceutical industries. He now works for SSE, helping maintain critical machinery across their fleet of power stations. Jeremy has been a church organist in Leeds and Solihull and is a deputy organist at Wesley. He devotes much of his free time to pursuing his passion for the piano and performs regularly as a soloist and a duettist with his father.

**Brian Heald** read natural sciences and chemical engineering at Pembroke College, Cambridge. He has been organist at Wesley Methodist Church since 1976 and is accompanist for The Vale Royal Singers. He gives regular piano and organ recitals in Chester and performs with his wife Claire (contralto), his pianist son Jeremy, Chester cellist Lionel Clarke, trumpeter John Bush and various chamber ensembles. After a 35-year chemical industry career, Brian now enjoys spending more time on musical activities.

*FUTURE ‘MUSIC AT WESLEY’ CONCERTS*

 **Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts Series**, 12.45pm. Retiring collection.

January 7th: Yuxuan Zhao (piano)

January 14th: Chetham’s School of Music Pianists

January 21st: Kell Wind Trio

**Saturday Lunchtime Organ Recitals**,12.45pm, Retiring collection

January 18th: Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

***Publicity for this recital by*** [***www.organrecitals.uk***](http://www.organrecitals.uk) ***is gratefully acknowledged***

*Thank you for supporting this recital. The retiring collection (suggested minimum donation £4 per person) covers performing rights and other direct expenses, with the balance in aid of Wesley Church funds. If you are a taxpayer it would be much appreciated if you would donate using a Gift Aid envelope (just add your name, address & post code).*

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