



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



FINE MUSIC RADIO
101.3

Broadcast at 6 pm (South African Standard Time)
on Friday 24 December 2021

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus. It is evoked in nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas hymns and carols. The format is based on an order of service drawn up in 1880 that has since been adapted by churches all over the world. The most famous version is broadcast annually on Christmas Eve by the BBC from King's College, Cambridge.

Since 2016, Fine Music Radio has also broadcast a local adaption of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by VOX Cape Town on Christmas Eve, bringing this musical celebration to a much wider audience.

About this year's selection of music

Every December, VOX Cape Town presents its own local interpretation of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Cape Town, continuing the tradition led for many years by Barry Smith and the St George's Singers.

Two of the choral items presented tonight are by composers with whom Barry's career has been associated. The first is Peter Warlock (1894-1930) and the opening lines of his joyous carol *Benedicamus Domino* set the tone of festive expectation. Later, South African-born composer John Joubert's sublime setting of *There is no rose* is sung after the angel Gabriel appears to Mary in the Fifth Lesson.

To acknowledge our setting at the southern tip of Africa, several choral items from closer to home are presented including the first recording of a meditative setting of a 16th-century text composed by Stephen Carletti. This is contrasted with a specially-commissioned isiXhosa translation of the rocking *Cradle Hymn* by Malcolm Archer. You may also recognise the Afrikaans song originally written by Koos du Plessis to celebrate "a bright summer's Christmas", *Somerkersfees*, here arranged by Hans Huyssen.

In addition to the choral items are the much-loved hymns traditionally associated with this service, such as *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Hark! The*

Herald Angels Sing. We encourage you to join us as we sing these exuberant songs of praise.

Finally, this has been another strange (and strained) year for us all. As a choral ensemble, we have had only limited opportunities to come together and sing. However, earlier this month we were fortunate to team up with early music ensemble Here be Dragons for an exhilarating live performance – a folk-inspired, globetrotting concert experience celebrating the festive season entitled *Follow That Star: A Traveller's Companion to Christmas*. We are delighted to share a handful of live recordings from that performance with you as part of tonight's broadcast, such as the opening instrumental prelude.

Thank you for joining VOX Cape Town and our musical colleagues on FMR tonight. We wish you a safe, happy and music-filled festive season.

Instrumental Prelude

Coetzer-McConnachie Carol

Composed by Jan-Hendrik Harley (South Africa)

Opening Hymn

Solo Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for his bed;
 Mary was that Mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir He came down to earth from heaven
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And his shelter was a stable,
 And his cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly,
 Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All

And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

First verse sung by Jenni van Doesburgh

Words by C. F. Alexander

Music by H. J. Gauntlett

Harmonised by A. H. Mann

Descant by Sir David Willcocks

Organ: Erik Dippenaar

The Bidding Prayer

Read by Reverend Natalie Barnard

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the Wise Men adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this Church glad with our carols of praise:

But let us first pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and fellowship within the Church he came to build.

And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

Carol

Benedicamus Domino

Procedenti puero
Eya, nobis annus est!
Virginis ex utero
Gloria! Laudes!
Deus homo factus est et immortalis.

Sine viri semine
Eya, nobis annus est!
Natus est de virgine
Gloria! ...

Sine viri copia
Eya, nobis annus est!
Natus est ex Maria
Gloria! ...

In hoc festo determino
Eya, nobis annus est!
Benedicamus Domino!
Gloria! ...

Translation:

A boy comes forth,
Eya, this is our time!
From the womb of a virgin.
Glory! Praise!
God is made man and immortal.

Without the seed of a man
Eya, this is our time!
He is born of a virgin.
Glory! ...

Without the means of a man,
Eya, this is our time!
He is born of Mary.
Glory! ...

On this appointed feast,
Eya, this is our time!
Let us bless the Lord.
Glory! ...

Words from the 15th century (Sloane MS 2593)
Music by Peter Warlock (1894-1930, England)

First Lesson

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

Genesis 3:8-15 (Read by Aaron Juritz)

Carol

Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging

Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging.
Kyrieleison!

Maria durch ein' Dornwald ging,
Der hat in sieben Jahr'n kein Laub getragen!
Jesus und Maria.

Was trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen?
Kyrieleison!

Ein kleines Kindlein ohne Schmerzen,
Das trug Maria unter ihrem Herzen!
Jesus und Maria.

Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen.

Kyrieleison!

Als das Kindlein durch den Wald getragen,

Da haben die Dornen Rosen getragen!

Jesus und Maria.

Translation by Henry Drinkler:

Maria walks amid the thorn,

Kyrieleison!

Which for seven years no leaf hath born,

She walks amid the wood of thorn.

Jesus and Mary.

What 'neath her heart does Mary bear?

Kyrieleison!

A little child doth Mary bear,

Beneath her heart he nestles there.

Jesus and Mary.

And as the two are passing near

Kyrieleison!

Lo! Roses on the thorns appear!

Jesus and Mary.

Words from 15th-century Germany

Traditional German carol arranged by Stefan Claas

Second Lesson

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22:15-18 (Read by Jenni van Doesburgh)

Carol

By-By, Lullaby*

In a dream late as I lay,
Methought I heard a maiden say
And speak these words so mild:
“My little son, with thee I play,
And come, and come,” she sang,
“By-by, lullaby; by-by, lullaby.”
Thus rocked she her child.

Solo line sung by Margot Dower

Words from the English Renaissance (c. 1530)

Music by Stephen Carletti (b. 1965, South Africa)

** First recording*

Third Lesson

God the prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

Isaiah 9:2,4-7 (Read by Anthea van Wieringen)

Hymn

All Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
 Once for favoured sinners slain;
 Thousand thousand saints attending
 Swell the triumph of his train:
 Alleluia! (*three times*)
 God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
 Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him,
 Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 Deeply wailing, (*three times*)
 Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion.
 Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
 To his ransomed worshippers:
 With what rapture, (*three times*)
 Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,
 High, on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory:
 Claim the kingdom for thine own:
 O come quickly! (*three times*)
 Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

*Words by C. Wesley and J. Cennick
18th-century French melody arranged by Sir David Willcocks*

Fourth Lesson

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Micah 5:1-3 (Read by David Patrick)

Carol

Ubi caritas

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Amen.

Translation:

Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.
Amen.

Words from the 8th century

Music by Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978, Norway)

Piano: Clinton Claasen

Fifth Lesson

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St Luke 1:26-38 (Read by Dr Barry Smith)

Carol

There is no rose

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heav'n and earth in little space:
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three:
Pares forma.

Now leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth:
Transeamus.

Words from the 15th century

Music by John Joubert (1927-2019, South Africa then England)

Hymn

All O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

Choir How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

All O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Words by Bishop Phillips Brooks

English traditional tune arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Descant by Thomas Armstrong

Sixth Lesson

St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

St Matthew 1:18-23 (Read by Lesley Jennings)

Carol

Thula! Nunu, zola ulale

Thula! Nunu, zola ulale
Lingelosi zinawe!
Ubabalo olungako
Lufefeziwe kuwe.

Lala baba, lala baba,

Thula, baba, ulale.

Lala, sana; ukutya nempahla
Nekhaya, zikho zonke
Azihlawulelwanga nguwe:
Zonke zibonelelwe.

Ibhedi yakh' intofontofo
EyeMvan' iqinile,
Xa wayezalw' estalini
Eyakhe ilifula.

Bon' usana lunxibile;
Mamathse, olo Ncumo!
Xa Elila, unina wakhe
Wayithuthuzel' imvana.

Translation:

Hush! My dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.

*Lullaby, lullaby,
Hush, my baby, lullaby.*

Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment,
House and home, thy friends provide;
All without thy care or payment:
All thy wants are well supplied.

Soft and easy is thy cradle:
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,
When His birthplace was a stable
And His softest bed was hay.

See the lovely babe a-dressing;
Lovely infant, how He smiled!
When He wept, the mother's blessing
Soothed and hush'd the holy child.

Words by Isaac Watts (1674-1748, England)

Translated into isiXhosa by Folio Translation Consultants (2019)

Music by Malcolm Archer (b. 1952, England)

Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to the manger.

St Luke 2:8-16 (Read by Kyle Paulssen)

Hymn

All While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

Men 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.'

All 'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

Ladies 'The heav'nly babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid.'

All Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease.'

*Words by Nahum Tate
Music from Este's Psalter
Descant by Bob Chilcott*

Carol

What sweeter music

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day
That sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his show'rs,
Turns [all] the patient ground to flow'rs.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav'nly King.

Words by Robert Herrick (1591-1674, England)

Music by John Rutter (b. 1945, England)

Piano: Clinton Claasen

Eighth Lesson

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

St Matthew 2:1-11 (Read by Michael Marchant)

Carol

Somerkersfees*

Welkom o stille nag van vrede
Onder die suiderkruis,
Wyl stemme uit die verlede
Oor sterrevelde ruis.

*Kersfees kom, kersfees kom,
Gee aan God die eer.
Skenk ons 'n helder somerkersfees
In hierdie land, o Heer.*

Hoor jy hoe sag die klokke beier
In eeue-oue taal?
Kyk, selfs die nagtelike swye
Vertel die ou verhaal.

Voel jy ook nou sy warm liefde
As ons die dag gedenk,
Toe Hy sy seun aan ons gegee het
Ons grootste kersgeskenk.

Translation by Fi Smit:

Welcome O silent night of peace
beneath the stars of the Southern Cross.
While voices from long ago,
travel to us over fields of stars.

*Christmas is coming, Christmas is coming,
Give unto God all honour.
Gift us a bright summer's Christmas
In this land of ours, O Lord.*

Do you hear how softly the bells are chiming,
In language that is centuries old?
Look, even the silence of the night-time,
Tells the old story.

Do you also feel the warmth of his love now,
As we commemorate the day?
When He gave us his son,
Our greatest Christmas gift!

Written in 1971 by Koos du Plessis (1945-1984, South Africa)

Arranged in 2017 by Hans Huyssen (b. 1964, South Africa)

** First recording*

Ninth Lesson

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

St John 1:1-14 (Read by Reverend Douglas Bax)

Hymn

All O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born on Christmas morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

Words translated by F. Oakeley and W. T. Brooke

Composer unknown

Music arranged by Sir David Willcocks

The Collect for Christmas Eve

Read by Reverend Natalie Barnard

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

The Blessing

Read by Reverend Natalie Barnard

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Final Hymn

All Hark! The herald-angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled:
 Joyful all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies,
 With the angelic host proclaim,
 Christ is born in Bethlehem.
 Hark! The herald-angels sing
 Glory to the new-born 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 Godhead see,
 Hail th'incarnate Deity!
 Pleased as man with man to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.
 Hark! The herald-angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King.

 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Risen 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 new-born King.

Words by C. Wesley, T. Whitefield, M. Madan and others
Music by Mendelssohn
Descant by Sir David Willcocks

Finale

Tonight's broadcast of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols concludes with two sparkling live recordings from VOX Cape Town's in-person performance with Here be Dragons earlier this month entitled *Follow That Star: A Traveller's Companion to Christmas*.

Carol of the Bells

Words by Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978, United States)

Music by Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921, Ukraine)

Follow That Star

Peter Gritton (b. 1963, England)

HERE BE DRAGONS

Lente Louw (vocals), Josh Frank (recorders/guitar), Annien Shaw (baroque violin), Emile de Roubaix (nyckelharpa/baroque viola), Uwe Grosser (chitarone/baroque guitar), Mariechen Meyer (double bass), Jan-Hendrik Harley (baroque violin/baroque guitar/mandolins/direction)

VOX CAPE TOWN

Suzanne Buchanan, Jan Buys, Wilhelm Delport, Margot Dower, Casey Driver, Nonni Driver, Shaun February, Tessa Gawith, Karen Hahne, Simon Hartley, Aaron Juritz, James Lister, Jen Matlock, Sarah McArthur, Maryanne McLachlan, Kyle Paulssen (manager), John Rennie, Owen Rogers, Fi Smit, Bernice Toweel, Stefan van der Westhuizen, Jenni van Doesburgh, Anthea van Wieringen, John Woodland (direction)



**What did you think of this year's broadcast of the Festival of
Nine Lessons and Carols? Did you enjoy the selection of music?**
*We'd love to hear from you! Email us at hello@voxcapetown.com
or connect with us on social media @VOXCapeTown*



*Choral items (excluding live recordings) recorded at CapeTown Sound,
Woodstock, in December 2019 by Sergio Trout*

*Hymns and organ music recorded in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
Cape Town, in December 2017 by Paul Petersen and Sergio Trout*

*Readings recorded in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
Cape Town, in December 2016 by Nolan Chiat*

*Executive Producers: Patric van Blerk, John Woodland,
Kyle Paulssen and Paul Petersen*

Mastered at CapeTown Sound

*The music that forms part of tonight's broadcast (excluding live recordings) is available on
YouTube and online streaming platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify and Amazon Music*

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Artwork by Casey Driver



**VOX Cape Town is grateful to Mark Jennings, Rodney Trudgeon
and the team at Fine Music Radio for making this broadcast possible**

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107.9 FM in Fish Hoek and Noordhoek,
94.7 FM in Hout Bay and Llandudno,
97.1 FM on the Atlantic Seaboard,
DStv Audio Channel 838
and worldwide on www.fmr.co.za

About VOX Cape Town

VOX Cape Town was founded in 2015 to create mesmerising, imaginative choral experiences to enrich the musical life of the Mother City.



Since then, we have presented scores of immersive performances in venues ranging from the intimacy of the UCT Irma Stern Museum and the Tasting Cellar at Groot Constantia to the breathtaking grandeur of the Norval Foundation and St George's Cathedral. Our flagship performances have spanned millennia, juxtaposed the classical and the contemporary, and even taken us on a musical voyage to the mystical Northern Lights.

Last year we celebrated our fifth birthday. This provided us with an opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our singers, our musical colleagues, our generous donors and our supporters. To read more about the ways in which we were able to celebrate this milestone together as a musical community (while remaining physically distant), please visit our website: www.voxcapetown.com/five-years-of-vox

About St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cape Town, is the mother church of Presbyterianism in South Africa. It was built with the assistance of the British Government as a Scottish Presbyterian Church and opened in 1828 for the Scottish community including the Scottish garrison in Cape Town which was well represented in the church. As a result of the latter, St Andrew's is still the regimental church of the Cape Town Highlanders. Their roll of honour is kept there and their flags are laid up in the church.

St Andrew's has a beautiful organ that is over a century old and is used in two services every Sunday. There is an Afrikaans service at 9 am and an English service at 10:30 am. A service is also held at 9:30 am on Christmas Day. The church may be contacted on 021 419 1059.

