

# *Songs in the Key of Christmas*

**Sunday 15 December 2013  
St John's Cathedral, Garden Road**

In support of  
**The Hong Kong Red Cross  
South East Asia Relief Fund**

**ChoirAid**  
for the **Philippines**



## **Programme**

### **Participating Choirs:**

**Il Coro, The Cecilian Singers, Grace Notes,  
Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir, Kassia Choirs,  
Celtic Connections and Diocesan Pastoral Center for Filipinos Choir**



## Introduction by the Dean

Dear All,

Greetings in this joyous season! On behalf of St John's Cathedral, I extend a very warm welcome to you all to this meaningful concert. We are just ten days away from the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ which manifests that God is a giving and loving God for a world where all people are His children. While many around the globe enjoy the festivities in abundance, thousands upon thousands in the Philippines are still struggling to survive in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. Christmas is a time of giving and generosity and we are called to follow the supreme example of Jesus' own sacrifices and self-less love demonstrated in his incarnation. It is giving that we experience the true meaning of joy, peace and love.

I thank you in advance for your love and concern shown for the people of the Philippines at this difficult time. Enjoy this wonderful concert. May the true spirit of Christmas surround you and the love of baby Jesus bless you!

Merry Christmas to you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthias Der".

The Very Revd. Matthias Der  
Dean, St John's Cathedral



## Diocesan Pastoral Center for Filipinos Choir

The Diocesan Pastoral Center for Filipinos Choir was literally born out of Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda in the Philippines).

Soon after the concert was first mooted, Discovery Bay resident Lina Costales was asked if she knew of a Filipina choir which would participate. Lina was very touched by this request and immediately enlisted the support of fellow choristers who sing at masses in DB. She then gained the support of choristers from a Church group who have been singing carols in and around DB. Finally Lina approached Sister Felicitas at the Diocesan Pastoral Center for her blessing and permission to use the Center's name.

It must be said that although not an established choir as such, the Pinoys are very proud to be part of this event today and have asked that their gratitude to all the organisers and participants be acknowledged.





## Kassia Choirs



Both Kassia Women's Choir (est. 2003) and Kassia Men's Chorus (est. 2004) were founded by Bethan Greaves. The choirs have performed in many different venues around Hong Kong, entertaining thousands of people. The Choirs have around 80 active members from all walks of life including teachers, lawyers, bankers, housewives, students and psychologists.

Kassia Women's Choir recorded their album "The First Five Years" in 2008 and celebrated their 10th anniversary earlier this year.

Kassia Women's Choir have been invited to perform at New York's Lincoln Center in March 2014 as part of an International Women's Day concert.

For more information please visit our website <http://katerwall.com>



## Grace Notes

**The Grace Notes**, the a cappella group of the HONG KONG WOMEN'S CHOIR, are pleased to join with Hong Kong's premiere Choirs to raise funds for Aid to the relief effort of victims of the Tacloban storms. HKWC was established as a registered charity in 1997, with a mission to perform music for women's voice to raise funds through entertaining and enriching the lives of others. The Choir chooses charities that are less visible to the general public and who do not receive public funds; we are honored to join this effort.

For more information please visit our website <http://www.thkwc.org>.





## ChoirAid for the Philippines: Songs in the Key of Christmas

### Diocesan Pastoral Center for Filipinos

Malamig ang Simoy ng Hanginb - Apo Hiking Society

Silent Night - Traditional

Christmas in Our Hearts - Jose Mari Chan

*Conductor: Thelma Beileza*

*Guitarists: Marilou T Pungtilan and Tania Negradas*

### Kassia Choirs

Christmas Pops Trio - arr. Jay Althouse

Do You Hear What I Hear? - Words & Music, Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne, arr. Harry Simeone

*Conductors: Naomi Weir and Joe Travers*

### Grace Notes

Santa Claus is Coming to Town - John Frederick Coots, arr. Michele Weir, words by Haven Gillespie

Up on the Housetop - Words & Music by B.R. Handy, arr. Kirby Shaw

Winter Wonderland - Music by Felix Bernard, arr. Michele Weir; Words by Richard B. Smith

*Conductor: Genevieve Hilton*



### Celtic Connections

With the ICOHK (International Concert Orchestra of Hong Kong)

Christmas Pipes - Words & Music by Brendan Graham

Night of Silence - Words & Music by Daniel Kantor

Bells of Christmas - Words & Music by Brendan Graham

*Conductor: Canice Gleeson*

### The Cecilian Singers

Christmas Lullaby Words and Music by John Rutter

See Amid the Winters Snow by John Goss. Arr. by David Willcocks. Soloist: Liz Sullivan (Soprano)

Carol of the Bells by M. Leontovich. Arr. and Words by Peter J. Wilhousky

*Conductor Kent Lee*

*Organist: Jackie Fung*

### Il Coro

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen - Traditional English carol arr. Donald Moore

Jazz Cantate - Words and Music by Andy Beck

We Three Kings - John H. Hopkins, adapted and arr. Russell Robinson

*Conductor: Forrest Morr*

### Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir

The Boar's Head Carol - Trad.arr. Malcolm Sargent

Still, Still, Still - Words Marilyn Keith and Alan Bergman, Music Norman Luboff

Gaudete - Piae Cantiones 1582, arr. Michael Neaum

*Conductor: Howard Topper*

*Accompanist: Enrico Millo*



## Celtic Connections Chamber Choir



**Celtic Connections Chamber Choir** celebrates its fourth year as the only choir dedicated to performing Celtic music in Asia. Linked to the St. Patrick's Society of Hong Kong and the Honorary Consul General of Ireland in Hong Kong, its mission is to promote all aspects of performing arts through exciting, innovative and collaborative performances throughout the region. Having performed at a number of high profile events including:

the closing ceremony of the Hong Kong Asian Gaelic Games, 'A Celtic Christmas' Annual Concert, St. Patrick's Society Annual Ball, 'Celtic Connections' concert at City Hall, Hong Kong and Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing with Davy Spillane and the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong. Performing to packed audiences at St. John's Cathedral; A Celtic Christmas charity concerts and 'Reflection'. We continue to support the community with proceeds from our concerts going to local and international charities.

**Hong Kong's newest youth orchestra - The International Concert Orchestra of Hong Kong (ICOHK)**, received accolades at their debut performance with Celtic Connections at the 'Reflection' concert in June 2013. Members of Hong Kong's finest youth orchestra are gifted and talented students from International and secondary schools throughout Hong Kong. ICOHK's mission is to inspire young musicians through the study of challenging and exciting repertoire with performances of the highest standard on national and international platforms.

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.celticconnections.hk/>



## The Cecilian Singers

Founded on 18th December in 1962, we are one of the oldest mixed choirs in Hong Kong; singing a myriad repertoire from madrigals and world music to Mozart - in the style of a capella harmonies or with piano accompaniment. We do three concerts a year: Christmas, Spring and Summer. We also do 'pop up' concerts for the right cause and consider requests to sing at weddings etc. Our choir is a registered charity and it's very important to us that we sing for other charities and a significant percentage of our profits go to various charities chosen by the choir. All singers share a passion for singing and Kent Lee has been our conductor since 2012. We are delighted and honored to be part of ChoirAid.



For more information, please visit our website <http://www.ceciliansingers.com>



## Il Coro

Il Coro was formed in March 2010 under the aegis of Forrest Morr – Musical Director and Joo Lee Chang – Producer. When it was first conceived, the intention was to put together the myriad of quality voices found among the residents of Hong Kong to present a superbly blended choir of voices to display choral music. Il Coro has achieved this ambition and have proven to be a choir of great merit, grace, and a voice to charm, beguile and soothe. The members of the company comes from a wide range of locals and expatriates with one common factor – to deliver excellent choral music in the most enjoyable way not just for the audience but for the choir members as well. Our members are all residents of Hong Kong with a wide variety of experience on stage be it musical or dramas and have worked with most of the theatre groups locally. Their passion and glorious voices defines the best of Il Coro. Their obvious enjoyment in the music is the extra bonus to a brilliant and top quality performance for the audience. Our repertoire consists of musical theatre, classical and modern with jazz and pop with the extra flair.



For more information please visit our website <http://www.ilcorohk.com>



Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir  
CŌR MEIBION HONG KONG

## Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir



The Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year, having been founded in 1978 by a small group of expatriate Welshmen. Today it has grown to a 60-strong choir encompassing members from a dozen different nationalities, although the great culture of Welsh choral singing is still very much at its heart.

Many of the Choir's performances at home or overseas are for charitable events, with the Philippines having long featured high on its priority list. Its annual visits to the Philippines raise funds to provide life-saving operations

for children with heart disease and support a hospice for the elderly, among others.

The Choir has also spread its reputation internationally, having performed at such distinguished venues as the Sydney Opera House and London's Royal Albert Hall. Earlier this month it backed New Zealand star Hayley Westenra on her visit to Hong Kong.

For more information please visit our website <http://www.hkwmvc.com>



# The 24-hour Birth of ChoirAid

It began on 12 November, four days after Typhoon Haiyan devastated large swathes of the Central Philippines, with a discussion round the piano by committee members of the Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir after their regular Tuesday night practice. Several of the choir have friends, family members or helpers who have been affected in some way by the tragedy and the feeling was “as a choir, we really ought to do something”.

After a flurry of e-mails the next morning, the idea had been extended to involving other choirs in the initiative, echoing the legendary Live Aid concerts held in 1985 to raise money for famine relief in Africa – and by the end of that day, “ChoirAid for the Philippines” had been born.

“When we put the idea to some of the other choirs we know, the response was just phenomenal,” says Welsh Choir Chairman Nigel Sharman. “None of them hesitated for a moment in pledging their support, and one of the choirs is actually splitting its resources for this event as they already have another engagement that day. We’re also very grateful to the Dean of St John’s for making the Cathedral available to us on a busy Sunday afternoon.”

In total, over 200 singers from seven local choirs have come together for this unique fund-raising concert, which will combine the musical joy of Christmas with the spirit of giving to others in need. Our sincere thanks to all involved and most of all, thank you for coming along this afternoon to give it your support.

## Acknowledgements

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