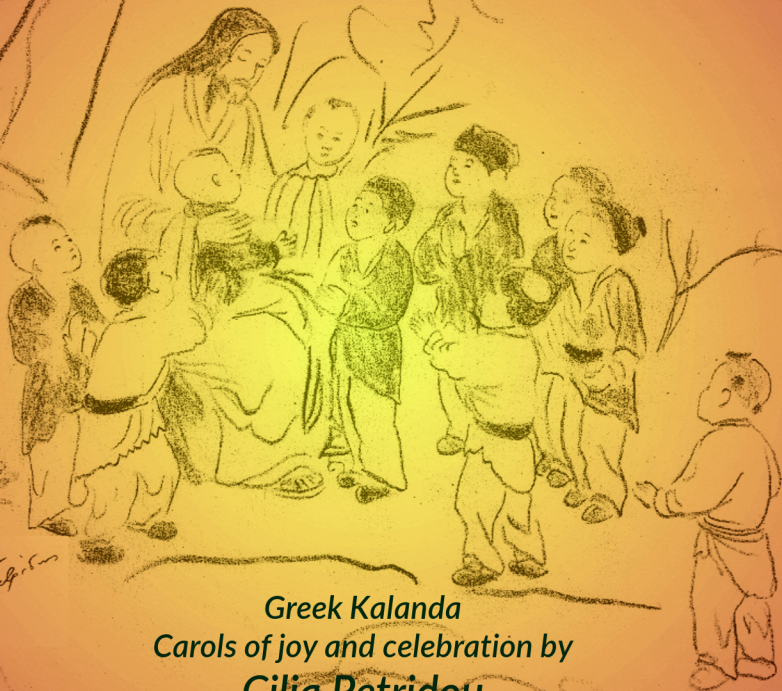


# The Mystery of Christmas



Greek Kalanda  
Carols of joy and celebration by  
**Cilia Petridou**

Jenni Harper | Lesley-Jane Rogers | Alison Smart | sopranos | Sarah Down | piano

## *The Mystery of Christmas : Greek Kalanda by Cilia Petridou*

1	The Veil	4:24
2	The Star	3:53
3	In the Manger	3:48
4	Children Awake!	4:05
5	Praise the Newborn	1:34
6	Christmas	1:50
7	The Joys of our Virgin!	3:52
8	Don't Say I Do Not Know!	2:52
9	Hail Mary!	9:42
10	Christ is Born!	4:36
11	Bells	4:47
12	Holy Night	5:14
13	Father Christmas!	4:04
14	Congratulations!	2:45
Total duration:		57:31

*Jenni Harper* (soprano: tracks 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14)

*Lesley-Jane Rogers* (soprano: tracks 3, 5, 6, 13, 14)

*Alison Smart* (soprano: tracks 8, 11, 12, 13, 14)

*Sarah Down* (piano: all tracks)

## Notes by the Composer

The delicate drawing on the cover of this booklet, entitled "Jesus with children" – one of the many works of art produced by my father, K Petrides - holds a very special place in my affections.

It was in fact contemplation of this drawing (one of my father's works that shows a very sensitive side of his personality) that provided me with the spur to start composing my Kalanda (Greek Carols) – the works in this recording.

The words of most of them are my own (the exceptions to this being that the words of "Christ is born!" and "The Joys of Our Virgin!" are traditional, from Greece and Cyprus respectively, while those of "Hail Mary!" are from the Greek Orthodox Church and those of "Don't say I do not know!" are anonymous).

This use of my own words allowed me to adapt much of the text to melodic, harmonic and rhythmic complexities that should provide a satisfying challenge to the ear of listeners familiar with classical music and, once assimilated, should ease the path towards a better understanding and appreciation of that genre for those less familiar with it. (Once initiated, the listener can derive so much satisfaction from classical music.)

The lyrics of all my Kalanda (apart from "Congratulations!" which is a birthday song) reflect the traditional Greek view of Christmas, which will be better appreciated if one knows a little about the life and work of St. Nicholas and St. Basil. (Nowadays, Christmas seems similar the world over!)

In later years my father's drawing became a trigger which caused so many memories to come flooding back – in particular memories filled with the joy we both felt at Christmas time and memories of our shared passion for the artistic paths we had chosen – the visual arts in his case, and music in mine.

These artistic paths were strangely intertwined - from the moment we appeared together at the masked ball in Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia, Cyprus when I was only four years old! I was "Little Red Riding Hood" and my father "The Wolf"!

My father's first foray into the visual arts came about, for instance, as an indirect result of musical activities of mine. Our art teacher had asked all of us in my class to create an image for the cover of our school magazine, but as my mother and I were very busy with my piano that particular week my mother assigned the task to my father!

(She had been intending to design the cover herself, as she was extremely good at drawing. In fact, during her early teens she had been taught art by Telemachos Kanthos – one of the “fathers” of Cypriot art – and he had tried to persuade her to take up art as a career. She might have done this if music had not been a greater love of hers.)

My father pointed out that he had never attempted any art but was prepared to have a go. In fact his design came amongst the top few. It did not go on the cover of the magazine, but the teacher gave me (!) excellent comments. My father felt so very pleased.

One day a few weeks later he came home and said with a big smile to my mother and myself: “What do you think of this?” He laid on the table a framed drawing of Brigitte Bardot (who often featured in our newspapers at that time). My mother and I looked at one another – both stunned.

After this he left the drawing on the desk in his shop, where it attracted a great deal of admiration from most of his British customers (who made up the majority of his clientele as the merchandise he sold was mainly from Britain). A typical comment was: “Oh, we didn’t know you were an artist, Mr Petrides!”

Some time later my mother and I found out that he had subsequently enrolled on a correspondence course with the École A.B.C. (Drawing School) in Paris. (This was the third correspondence course he had started following, the previous two being in business studies!) This course took up most of his spare time – leaving him very little to devote to his other interests – philosophy, politics and the Rosicrucians.

Just as my musical activities had inadvertently lead to his initial involvement in art they later gave him an opportunity to broaden his appreciation of the subject. This came about when I went to Vienna to further my musical studies. He accompanied me, and used most of the two weeks he spent there taking me round the many art galleries in the city. When I commented that we had come for music, not art, he pointed out that his time there was very limited – only two weeks – whereas I had years ahead of me.

Another key point in his artistic development was his transition from drawing to oil painting. This too was influenced by the interaction between us. In fact, it was when he came with me to London in 1964 to enrol me at the Royal Academy of Music (after an unsuccessful Turkish invasion of Cyprus) that he bought his first batch of the appropriate

materials – our first port of call on our arrival in London being an artists' shop in Highgate Village.

He was not ready actually to start painting in oils, though, until some months later when the whole family was safely settled here (probably because of his unease at the political situation in Cyprus).

When he did start I was involved yet again. Being unsure what to paint first, he asked my mother to propose a subject. She reminded him that he and I used to love going together to the fairs held all over Cyprus on saints' days. As my favourite was the St. George's fair, she suggested that he make me a painting of that – which is what he did. Very many more works followed. In fact, my father left us with masses of oil paintings on all sorts of subjects, as well as some of his drawings and water colours.

My father was born and brought up in Kyrenia (which has been under Turkish occupation since 1974), and this, for me, gives a special significance to the piece on the "Songs" section of my double album "Sounds of the Chionistra" entitled "Kyrenia".

My father's life there had some surprising similarities with that of the mother of Evtho in the poem of the same name which I set to music in 1988, and which appears on that same album. The story of this poem is regarded by some as rather far-fetched and yet, just like Evtho's mother, my father was left all alone in the world.

In his case, this happened in his youth. Within a very short space of time he and his brother lost all their immediate family. Six years later, when my father was still only seventeen, he lost his brother as well.

I have been very lucky that two singers with stunning voices have given very intense interpretations of both of these works – Alison Smart and Lesley-Jane Rogers. Amongst the other pieces on the "Sounds of the Chionistra -Songs" album are two short songs – a happy duet entitled "The Grocer" and a jazzy solo entitled "What Love Is" – which really highlight the great versatility of these two artists.

On the present recording ("The Mystery of Christmas") I am glad to welcome a third singer, Jenni Harper. The listener will enjoy her fresh, crisp voice in six of the solo Kalanda, and she joins Alison Smart and Lesley-Jane Rogers in the two ensemble Kalanda. The pianist Sarah Down accompanies all three singers with great sensitivity.

## Το Πεπλο

Η Γη κοιμάται.  
Μαυρο σκοταδι απλώνεται παντού.  
Στη Βηθλεεμ κοντά,  
θαμπώνονται από Φως ταπεινοί ποιμένες,  
βοσκοντας τα πρόβατα.

Λαμπρό Φως οδηγεί στη Φατνη,  
όπου κείται το Θείο Βρέφος,  
και γονατίζουν ευλαβικώς.

Υμνείτε, η φύσις Αγαλλεται.  
Ο Λυτρωτής αναμεσα μας!  
Ω! Υμνείτε το Χαρούμενο πρωί.  
Με τον Χριστό οδηγό,  
το Μαυρο σκοτός θα περασούμε.

Θα εισέλθουμε στα Ουράνια.  
Ο Χριστός μας φέρνει Αγαπή.  
Μας φέρνει Φως!

## Τ' Αστερι

Τ' αστερι, Θειος Ύμνος ηχεί.  
Ποιμένες χαρούμενοι, ακούνε.  
Θείο Φως λαμπει πάνω απ' τη Βηθλεεμ.  
Αστραφτερό Φως οδηγεί τους ποιμένες.  
Χαιρετούν το Θείο Βρέφος.  
Αλληλούια!

Θειος Ύμνος ακόμη ηχεί,  
ανάμεσα στην ανθρώπινη δυστυχία.  
Η λαμπή του Φωτός, ηρεμή καθαρή,  
αναγγέλει του Θεού τον Υιόν.  
Αλληλούια!

## The Veil

The Earth sleeps.  
Everywhere is pitch black.  
Near Bethlehem  
are dazzled by Light humble shepherds,  
grazing their sheep.

A Brilliant Light leads to the Manger  
where the Divine Infant lies,  
And they kneel with devotion.

Sing praises! Nature Rejoices.  
The Saviour is among us!  
O! Praise the happy morning.  
With Christ as our leader  
We shall pass through the Black darkness.

(With Christ as our leader)  
We shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Christ brings us Love.  
He brings us Light!

## The Star

The star! Divine Hymn rings out.  
Shepherds, full of joy, listen to it.  
Divine Light shines over Bethlehem.  
A Dazzling Light guides the shepherds.  
They greet the Divine Infant.  
Hallelujah!

That Divine Hymn can still be heard  
in the midst of human suffering.  
The glow of that Light, calm and pure,  
announces the Son of God.  
Hallelujah!

### **Στη Φατνη**

Μεσα στη Φατνη το Θειο Βρεφος κοιμαται,  
και ταπεινα προσκυναμε.  
Εκ καρδιας υμνουμε.  
Ευλογημενο και Λατρεμενο Βρεφος!

Υμνουμε το ονομα Του.  
Τους πιο γλυκους υμνους τραγουδαμε.  
Γλυκα τραγουδια κι' ομορφα δωρα δινουμε  
γι' Αυτον.

Ευλογημενο και Λατρεμενο Βρεφος!  
Η αγαπη μας μεγαλη, του Πατρος η Λεξη  
αιωνια.

Ενσαρκωμενος στην Γη μας ερχεται ο  
Χριστος.  
Ευλογημενο και Λατρεμενο Βρεφος!

### **Ξυπνατε Παιδακια!**

Ξυπνατε Παιδακια κι' ακουστε!  
Τραγουδια ξεχειλιζουν την Γη!  
Αστερια πλημμυριζουν Φως!  
Ακουστε, ο Χριστος γεννιεται σημερα.  
Αγγελoi φερανε μηνυμα!  
Χρονο με χρονο το Μηνυμα, ανα την Γη  
ακουγεται.

Στα ησυχια δρομακια,  
τα γλυκα τραγουδια τι μας ξαναλενε!  
Τραγουδια, που φερνουν μεγαλη χαρα.  
Τραγουδια, που λευθερωνουν την καρδια.  
Τραγουδια, που διωχνουν την λυπη,  
Αν λυπη ποναει την καρδια.

### **In The Manger**

In the manger the Divine Infant is sleeping,  
and in humility we pay homage.  
With all our heart we praise Him.  
Blessed and adored Child.  
Blessed and Adored Infant!

We praise His name.  
We sing the sweetest hymns.  
Sweet songs and beautiful gifts  
We offer Him sweet songs and beautiful gifts.  
Blessed and Adored Infant!

Our love is great, and the Word of the Father  
is eternal.  
Clothed in flesh, Christ comes to us on Earth.  
Blessed and Adored Infant!

### **Children, Awake!**

Wake up, Children, and listen!  
The Earth is overflowing with song,  
And flooded with Starlight!  
Hark! Jesus is born today.  
This is the news the angels have brought!  
Every year the Message rings out all over the  
Earth.

In the quiet lanes  
what those sweet songs tell us again!  
Songs that bring great joy.  
Songs to free the heart.  
Songs to banish sadness,  
If sadness oppresses the spirit.

Χριστος στην Γη μας ηρθε.  
Σε Φατνη κοιματα!  
Σε ταπεινη Φατνη.  
Αγγελιοι, μας λενε την ιστορια.  
Κι' εμεις τον Λογο τραγουδαμε.

Παιδακια, Ακουστε .... Ξυπνατε!  
Τραγουδια που ξεχειλιζουν την Γη.  
Αστερια πλημμυριζουν .... Φως!  
Υμνειτε! Υμνειτε! Υμνειτε με χαρα,  
του Σωτηρος την Γεννηση!

### **Υμνειτε το Νεογεννητο**

Ελατε παιδακια, τραγουδιστε, υμνειτε το  
Νεογεννητο.  
Αναζητειστε, αναζητειστε Αυτον!  
Παιδακια καλωσοριζει ο Χριστος.  
Σε ταπεινη Φατνη το Θειο Βρεφος κοιματα,  
και διπλα η Μαρια γλυκα το κοιταζει.

Γρηγορα γρηγορα, Χαρουμενα χαρουμενα,  
καλωσοριζουμε και Δοξαζουμε  
τον Βασιλια μας!  
Σημερα μαζί μας ειναι.

### **Χριστουγεννα**

Ελατε ολοι χαρουμενοι.  
Χριστουγεννα και παλι.  
Μικροι μεγαλοι, ολοι μαζί, υμνουμε αυτες τις  
μερες.

Ποιμενες τοτε πηγανε,  
να ψαξουν να βρουν τον Βασιλια της  
Ειρηνης.  
Ταξειδι με νοημα, ταξειδι για τον κοσμο  
Ευλογια.

Christ has come to us on Earth.  
He is sleeping in a Manger!  
In a humble Manger.  
Angels tell us the story.  
And we sing the Tidings.

Children! Listen .... Wake up!  
Songs that fill the Earth to overflowing.  
Stars flooding (the Earth) .... with Light!  
Praise! Praise! Praise with joy  
the Birth of the Saviour!

### **Praise The Newborn**

Come children, sing praises to the Newborn  
Infant.  
Seek Him, seek Him!  
Christ welcomes children.  
In a humble manger the Divine Child sleeps,  
And Mary at his side gazes sweetly on Him.

We hasten with joy  
to welcome and Glorify  
our King!  
He is with us today.

### **Christmas**

Come all with joy.  
Christmas once again.  
Young and old, all together, these days we  
sing praises.

Back then shepherds set out  
To seek out the King of Peace,  
A journey full of meaning, a Blessing for the  
world.

Όλοι μαζί, με χαρούμενο τραγούδι,  
υμνούμε τα Χριστουγεννα.  
Μικροί μεγάλοι,  
δυνατά υμνείτε τον Χριστό που ζει για σας.

### ***Οι Χαρές της Παναγίας Μας!***

Η Πρώτη χαρά της Παναγίας μας,  
να βλέπει στον Πρωτοτοκόν της,  
τον Θεάνθρωπο μας.

Η Δεύτερη χαρά, αναπήρους γιατρεύει.

Η Τρίτη χαρά της Παναγίας, τζιαι τυφλούς  
γιατρεύει.

Η Τέταρτη χαρά της, Ιησούς Υιός,  
εντατικά Βιβλό διαβαζει.

Η Πέμπτη χαρά της Παναγίας μας,  
Χριστός τζιαι πεθαμένους ανασταίνει. Α .... α!

Η Έκτη χαρά της Παναγίας μας,  
Χριστός Υιός της Σταυρώνεται!

Αιώνια υμνούμε,  
Πατέρα και Υιόν και Αγίον Πνεύμα.

Η Εβδομή χαρά της Παναγίας μας,  
Η Αναλήψη Κυρίου!

### ***Μην λετε πως δεν ξερω!***

Μην λετε πως δεν ξερω  
κι' εγω που ειμαι μικρη,  
πως μια γαλαζια νυχτα,  
γεννηθηκε ο Χριστος.  
Μην λετε πως δεν ξερω,  
πως μ' αγαπα πολυ!  
Γι' αυτο κι' εγω του στελνω,  
ενα γλυκο φιλι.

All together with a joyous song  
we praise Christmas.  
Young and old  
sing out loud praises of Christ, who lives for you.

### ***The Joys Of Our Virgin!***

The First joy of our Virgin:  
to see in her First Born,  
God made Man for us.

The Second joy: he heals the sick.

The Third joy of the Virgin: he heals the blind  
as well.

The Fourth joy: Her Son Jesus  
fervently studies the Bible.

The Fifth joy of our Virgin:  
Christ resurrects even the dead.

The Sixth joy of our Virgin:  
Christ, her Son, is Crucified!

Eternally we praise  
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Seventh joy of our Virgin:  
The Ascension of the Lord!

### ***Don't say that I do not know!***

Don't say that I do not know,  
just because I am small,  
that one azure night  
Christ was born.  
Don't say that I do not know  
that he loves me very much!  
This is why I, too, send him  
a sweet kiss.

### ***Χαιρε Μαρια!***

Θεοτοκε Παρθενε, χαιρε κεχαριτωμενη Μαρια,  
ο Κυριος μετα Σου· ευλογημενη Συ εν γυναιξι,  
και ευλογημενος ο καρπος της κοιλιας Σου,  
οτι Σωτηρα ετεκες, των ψυχων ημων.

Πρεσβευε, Δεσποينا, υπερ ημων των αχρειων  
δουλων Σου!

Σμιξε τα δυο χερια Σου, μπρος στ' Αγιο παιδι  
Σου,

και παρακαλει, Δεσποينا, ακομη και για μενα.  
Ας ψιθυρισει ελεος η σπλαχνικη φωνη Σου,

κι' ας δεθθουν τα χειλη Σου για σπλαχνα  
πονεμενα.

Εσena, Παναγια μου, Εσena εχω μονο,  
εις την ελπιδα, στ' ονειρο, εις την χαρα, τον  
πονο.

Αλλοι σε κραζουν ελεος, ελπιδα ο θλιμμενος,  
Βασίλισσα της Εκκλησιας σε κραζει η καμπανα,  
ελεημοσυνη ο πτωχος, νερο ο διψασμενος,  
μα η καρδια μου Δεσποينا, αυτη σε κραζει  
Μανα!

### ***Χριστος Γεννεται!***

Χριστος γεννεται,  
χαρα στον κοσμο, στα παλληκαρια.  
Σαραντα μερες, σαραντα νυχτες,  
κ' η Παναγια μας,  
κοιλοπονουσε, παρακαλουσε,  
ολους τους Αγιους, τους Αι' ποστολους.

### ***Hail Mary!***

Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin mother of God!  
The Lord be with Thee; blessed art Thou  
amongst women,  
and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb,  
for Thou hast given birth to the Saviour of our  
souls.

Intercede for us, Thy helpless servants, O Virgin  
Mary!

Join together Thy two hands before Thy Holy  
child,  
and pray, O Virgin Mary, for me as well.

May Thy compassionate voice whisper for  
mercy,  
and may Thy lips pray for tortured souls.  
Thee, my Virgin Mary, Thee alone I have,  
in my hopes, my dreams, my happiness, my pain.

Some call Thee mercy. The sorrowful call Thee  
hope.  
Queen of the Church the bell calls Thee.  
Thou art compassion for the poor, and water for  
the thirsty.  
But my heart, O Virgin Mary, calls Thee Mother!

### ***Christ is born!***

Christ is born,  
joy to the world, to the lads.  
Forty days, forty nights,  
and our Virgin  
was in labour, entreating  
all the Saints and Holy Apostles.

Τρεις Αποστολοι, μαμμη γυρευουν, για μηλο  
τρεχουν.

Ν' ωσπου να πανε κι' ωσπου να ερθουν,  
η Παναγια μας ξελευτερωθη.

Ω! Μεσα στις δαφνες,  
μεσ' τα λουλουδια, κανει τον ηλιο  
και το φεγγαρι.

Σαν ηλιος λαμπει,  
σα νιο φεγγαρι.

Ευχες! Σ' αυτο το σπιτι του Νοικοκυρη,  
στη φαμελια του και στα παιδια του.

### **Καμπανουλες**

Καμπανουλες χτυπουν και παλι,  
πανω σ' ηρεμη θαλασσα και γη.  
Η νυχτα ξεκαθαρισε,  
κ' η αυγη καλημεριζει.  
Ξυπνατε, ολοι, μικροι μεγαλοι!

Ω! ω! Ελατε αυτο, τ' ομορφο πρωινο!  
Τραγουδιστε, Χαρουμενα Καλαντα!  
Ο Χριστος, γεννιεται σημερα!

Μεσα σε Φατην, αιωνες πριν,  
Θειο Βρεφος κοιμοταν.  
Μαγικο Αστερι, ελαμψε Χρυσο  
παν' απ' τη Φατην.

Ποιμενες γονατισαν,  
στη Φατην μπροστα,  
και σοφοι προσευχηθηκαν.

Ω! ω! Ελατε αυτο τ' ομορφο πρωινο!  
Τραγουδιστε Χαρουμενα Καλαντα!  
Ο Χριστος γεννιεται σημερα!

Three Apostles were looking for a midwife,  
running for an apple.

That's how by the time they went and came,  
our Virgin had given birth.

O! Amongst the bay trees  
and flowers she is as radiant as the sun  
and moon.

She shines like the sun and the new moon.

Good wishes! To this house of the  
Householder,  
to his family and to his children.

### **Bells**

Bells ring out once again,  
over calm sea and earth.  
Night is past,  
and dawn is breaking.  
Wake up everyone, young and old!

O! o! Come this beautiful morning!  
Sing Joyous Carols!  
Christ is born today!

In a Manger, centuries ago,  
The Divine Infant slept.  
The Magic Star shone its golden rays  
over the Manger.

Shepherds kneeled  
in front of the Manger,  
And wise men prayed.

O! o! Come this beautiful morning!  
Sing Joyous Carols!  
Christ is born today!

Με αγάπη, ηρθε στην Γη.  
Με αγάπη, οι οπαδοί του Ακολουθούμε.  
Με χαρούμενες καρδιές, Υμνούμε.  
Δίνουμ' έλπιδα κι' αλληλεγγυη.

Ω! ω! Έλατε αυτό τ' όμορφο πρωινό!  
Τραγουδίστε Χαρούμενα Καλάντα!  
Ο Χριστός γεννιέται σήμερα!

### **Αγία Νυχτα**

Αγία Νυχτα, Θεία Νυχτα,  
ήρεμα, σκεπή Φως.  
Στην Παρθένο κοντά,  
Θείο Βρέφος κοιμάται.  
Θείκη Ειρήνη!

### **Αη Βασίλης!**

Καμπανούλες, Ελαφάκια,  
το Έλκηθρο του Αη Βασίλη!  
Χιονισμέν' η Φύση, Γαλαζίος Ουρανός.  
Μαγικά Χριστουγέννα, Μαγικό Τοπίο!

Μετά την Εκκλησίαν,  
εδεσμάτα όλων των ειδών!  
Κουλούρακια, μπισκοτάκια και  
γλυκισματάκια.

Μελομακαρούνα Μμ.....  
Καμπανούλες, Ελαφάκια,  
Αη Βασίλη!  
Χιονισμέν' η Φύση, Μαγικό Τοπίο!  
Χρόνια Πολλά!  
Και του Χρόνου, παλι μαζί.

Koulourakia are doughnut-shaped bread rolls  
garnished with sesame seeds.

With love he came to Earth.  
With love we Follow Him.  
With joyous hearts we Praise Him.  
We give hope and mutual support.

O! o! Come this beautiful morning!  
Sing Joyous Carols!  
Christ is born today!

### **Holy Night**

Holy Night, Divine Night,  
tranquility, Light in the heavens.  
Near the Virgin  
the Divine Infant sleeps.  
Divine Peace!

### **Saint Basil! (Father Christmas!)**

Bells, Reindeer,  
the Sleigh of Father Christmas!  
Nature in snow, Blue Sky.  
Magical Christmas, Magical Landscape!

After the Church  
delicacies of all kinds!  
koulourakia, small biscuits and small cakes.  
Melomakarouna Delicious .....

Bells, Reindeer,  
Father Christmas!  
Nature in snow, Magical Landscape!  
Season's Greetings!  
And next Year, together again.

Melomakarouna are egg-shaped Greek  
Christmas delicacies made mainly from flour,  
olive oil and honey

### ***Χρόνια σου πολλά!***

Σήμερα, παω σε παρτυ.  
Ειναι τα γενεθλια της Μαρinas.  
Θα μιλησουμε, να χορεψουμε, θα  
γελασουμε!  
Χα! Θα θαυμασουμε τ'ομορφο τραπεζι,  
μ' ολα τα εδεσματα και τον κοκκινο ζελε.  
Το γλυκισμα, οι φωτογραφιες,  
και το  
"Χρόνια σου πολλά,  
ομορφα χαρωπα,  
να τα εκατοστησης,  
Χρόνια σου πολλά, Μαρina!"

### ***Congratulations!***

Today, I am going to a party.  
It is the birthday of Marina.  
We will chat, dance and laugh!  
We will admire the beautifully laid table,  
with all the goodies and the red jelly.  
The cake, the photographs,  
and the (birthday song)  
"Many happy returns, Marina  
and may you reach a hundred!"



## The performers

**Jenni Harper** completed the Artist Masters course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2015, for which she was awarded a Distinction. A Britten-Pears Young Artist, she studies singing with Kate Paterson.

Jenni recently performed the roles of Euridice, La Musica and Speranza for Brighton Early Music Festival's production of Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. She played Drusilla in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with Hampstead Garden Opera last year.

Recent concert highlights include singing solos for Mozart's *Requiem* and *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* with the London Mozart Players; Handel's *Messiah* with Dover Choral Society; Mozart's *Vesperae de Dominica* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass* with the London Pro Arte Choir and Bach's *Weinachts Oratorium* with the Croydon Bach Choir and Eclectic Voices. Jenni also recently performed two solo recitals with Martin Ford (piano) at The Guards Chapel and St Bride's Church.

Jenni is a founder member of the ensemble Ceruleo, with whom she performs solos and duets interwoven with spoken texts to create innovative dramatic performances. Ceruleo have performed throughout the UK and abroad, including an appearance singing live on BBC Radio 3's 'In Tune'. Their latest project is the Arts Council England Funded 'Burying the Dead', a concert/play about Henry Purcell, which tours Festivals around the UK throughout 2018-19.

**Lesley-Jane Rogers** is heralded as one of the most versatile soloists of today, and is renowned for her captivating and evocative performances. An established concert soloist, she specialises in oratorio, "vocal concertos", solo cantatas, recitals and contemporary music, and has a vast repertoire of several hundred works. She studied singing and piano at the Royal Academy of Music where she won several prizes, and has since been made an 'Associate' in recognition of her eminence in the profession.

Lesley-Jane has worked with many leading conductors and orchestras, and her discography numbers some 40 CDs, including several new-music releases for the specialist label Métier, as well as various English composer recordings for the Divine Art, Toccata Classics, Campion/Cameo, Hyperion and Prima Facie labels. A keen exponent of contemporary music, Lesley-Jane has given more than 170 premières, and is honoured to be the dedicatee of various songs and song cycles, including the song "What Love Is" by Cilia Petridou, which is featured on 'Songs of the Chionistra' (DDA 21224).



*Jenni  
Harper*



*Alison  
Smart*



*Lesley-Jane  
Rogers*

**Alison Smart** was appointed to the BBC Singers in 1996, and has acquired unrivalled experience of a vast range of new music through working with the world's greatest composers and conductors.

After studying Classics at Clare College, Cambridge, she took postgraduate diplomas at the RNCM and TCM and won the Elisabeth Schumann Lieder Competition. Her extensive solo career includes concerts, operas and broadcasts with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and at the Salzburg Festival, under such conductors as Sir Roger Norrington, Sir Andrew Davis, Jane Glover and Stephen Cleobury. Repertoire has ranged from Telemann and Bach to the latest compositions.

With Katharine Durran she recorded *Peripheral Visions: British Music for Voice and Piano since 1970* (Métier MSVCD 92025), which received critical acclaim. Their second duo album, *New French Song* (MSVCD 92100) is a tribute to their commissioning zeal, with twenty new songs by British composers setting French texts. 'The performers committed themselves to a broad range of styles.....both [Smart] and Durran are excellent musicians with a strong mutual rapport.' *Independent*

Other recordings include *Messiah* with the English String Orchestra (Nimbus), songs by Spohr (Naxos) and *Ausencias de Dolcinea* by Rodrigo (EMI).

Since completing her work with the BBC Singers in 2017 Alison Smart continues to sing a wide range of repertoire and has extended her professional activity to include more conducting and teaching. She was appointed Director of the De Merc Chamber Choir in 2017 and is in demand for her unique combination of direction and singing technique. She combines innate musicality with a deeply analytical approach, bringing detail and vision into all her music-making.

'Typically adventurous' – *The Times* – review of *Peripheral Visions*

'Powerful sense of atmosphere' – *The Independent* – review of *New French Song* premières at The Purcell Room

**Sarah Down** studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Alexander Kelly and then later with Paul Hamburger and Lilli Skauge. She worked extensively with Martin Issep and Ralf Kothoni at the Britten Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies. She was then appointed staff accompanist at the school where she was privileged to work alongside artists including Ileana Cotrubas, Janine Reiss, Jerzy Maczyniuk, Steuart Bedford and Nancy Evans.

She is a founder member of the Ellerdale Trio with whom she has performed throughout the UK and also of Musica Primavera. She is part of the Silvestre Trio with soprano Nina Bennett and violinist Susan Collier. Sarah made her Purcell Room debut as an accompanist in 1982 and her concerto debut in the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 1986. Since then she has been in demand as accompanist, soloist, opera repetiteur, chamber musician and teacher.

She has recorded for Radio 3 and Classic FM and an album of songs by Walter Leigh with the Soprano Elizabeth Nash. She has also recorded Cilia Petridou's Piano Trio, Piano Quartet and Violin and Piano works.



*Sarah  
Down*

## *The composer*

Greek-Cypriot pianist/composer **Cilia Petridou** was born in Famagusta, Cyprus in 1945. She was taught by her mother from the age of four until the age of nine, when she entered the Greek Lyceum in her native town. She performed her first piano concerto, Mozart's K. 488, at the age of eleven in Nicosia, at the Theatre Royal. By the age of fifteen Cilia had been awarded the Mozart Medal, the highest award in the whole of Cyprus, and had been hailed as the successor to Gina Bachauer.

When she was seventeen she offered a full programme for her Diploma Examination, which was open to the public, and which ended with a performance of Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. The examiner, Solon Michaelides, gave a short speech afterwards and finished by saying that he had been examining for thirty years, in Cyprus and abroad, and that this was the first time he had heard such a captivating performance by an examinee.

Two years later, when the Greek Lyceum moved to its new purpose-built home - a state-of-the-art centre for the performing arts - its director, M. Ioannou, approached Cilia's mother and said that she would like Cilia to become its director for life after her studies abroad, adding that it was only Cilia that she trusted for this post.

Sadly, Famagusta has been a "Ghost Town" since the Turkish invasion in 1974.

Cilia studied at the Vienna Academy and the Royal Academy of Music in London. She furthered her studies privately under Harold Craxton and Kendall Taylor. A chance meeting with a music lover who introduced her to his circle enabled Cilia to perfect her piano playing, increase her repertoire and test her programmes as she prepared them. Cilia has played several times live on Cyprus radio.

Unfortunately, her playing came to an abrupt end in 2002 after major surgery. When she finally realised that performance could no longer be part of her life, she started to look through her compositions. The first composition she stumbled on was the Lullaby for Soprano and Piano, which brought a smile to her face and encouraged her to type out some of her songs. These she showed to Eileen Hamilton, who expressed her appreciation of them.

It is ironic that composition — which had been a much-loved hobby — has now taken centre-stage.

## The recording

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'Sounds of the Chionistra'

Songs and Chamber works by Cilia Petridou

**Divine Art DDA 21224**

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*Cilia Petridou*