Programme information

Saturday 18th December to Friday 24th December 2021

WEEK 51



MOIRA STUART MEETS…
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Sunday 19th December, 9pm to 10pm

Moira concludes the second season of her interview series, speaking with some of the most well-known names from the worlds of sport, arts, entertainment and politics.

Moira's final guest is the leader of the Church of England and the symbolic head of the Anglican church worldwide, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. He talks to Moira about his life and faith, what Christmas means to him and asks Moira to play a selection of his favourite carols.

Classic FM is available across the UK on 100-102 FM, DAB digital radio and TV, on Global Player on your smart speaker ("play Classic FM"), iOS or Android device and at ClassicFM.com.

WEEK 51

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

4pm to 7pm: MOIRA STUART'S HALL OF FAME CONCERT

With just one week to go until the big day, Moira plays some of her favourite Christmas music, including the rousing opening to Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*; a John Rutter classic and a suite of music from the 2004 animation *The Polar Express.*

There's also plenty of romance on offer as Moira selects a stunning performance of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.2 from Leif Ove Andsnes, alongside a recent recording of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo & Juliet* from the Tonhalle Orchestra, Zurich. Moira also embraces the spirit of giving with Holst's *St Paul's Suite*, which was composed as a gift, and takes to the ice with Ravel's *Bolero.*

Johann Sebastian Bach
'Jauchzet, frohlocket'
(From the Christmas Oratorio)
John Eliot Gardiner conducts the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists

Gustav Holst
St Paul's Suite Opus 29 No.2
Richard Hickox conducts the City of London Sinfonia

Harold Darke
'In the Bleak Mid-Winter'
Andrew Carwood conducts the St. Paul's Cathedral Choir

Felix Mendelssohn
Violin Concerto in E minor Opus 64
Violin: Nicola Benedetti
James MacMillan conducts the Academy of St Martin in the Fields

John Rutter
Donkey Carol
John Rutter conducts the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

Sergei Rachmaninov
Piano Concerto No.2 in C minor Opus 18
Piano: Leif Ove Andsnes
Antonio Pappano conducts the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

Traditional
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Benjamin Nicholas conducts the Abbey School Choir, Tewkesbury

Alan Silvestri
The Polar Express: Suite
Alan Silvestri conducts a studio orchestra

Continued…

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

4pm to 7pm: MOIRA STUART'S HALL OF FAME CONCERT

Continued…

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky
Romeo & Juliet
Paavo Järvi conducts the Tonhalle Orchestra, Zurich

Victor Hely-Hutchinson
Carol Symphony
Gavin Sutherland conducts the City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra

Maurice Ravel
Bolero
Libor Pešek conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

7pm to 9pm: SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES with ANDREW COLLINS

Andrew features a host of favourite Christmas film soundtracks, including music to warm the soul from Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, *Arthur Christmas* scored by Harry Gregson-Williams, *The Muppets Christmas Carol* by Paul Williams and *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence* by Ryuichi Sakamoto.

9pm to 10pm: DAVID MELLOR'S MELODIES

David presents a Christmas cracker of a programme featuring some of his favourite festive tunes. They include a variety of performances by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of their long-term conductor Arthur Fiedler, as well as throwing in a few festive numbers such as Leopold Mozart's *Sleigh Ride* and *White Christmas* by Irving Berlin. He also plays a selection of family favourites including music from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker.*

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

4pm to 7pm: JOHN HUMPHRYS

American violinist Randall Goosby is one of the world's great young musicians. He signed with Decca Classics at the age of 24, around the same time as his Carnegie and Wigmore Hall debuts. John chooses a track from Goosby's debut solo album, *Roots*, in which he performs Florence Price's *Adoration.*

As Christmas approaches, John features a recording from a contemporary composer who made his name writing music for the festive season. He chooses a brass band arrangement of John Rutter's *What Sweeter Music,* from the Black Dyke Band.

7pm to 9pm: SMOOTH CLASSICS AT SEVEN with CHARLOTTE HAWKINS

Sonoko Miriam Welde is Charlotte's Young Classical Star. The Norwegian violinist was born in Bergen in 1996 and made her debut with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra aged nine. She went on to win the Norwegian Soloist Prize and Virtuos competition and is currently on the Crescendo programme, being mentored by Janine Jansen and Leif Ove Andsnes.

9pm to 10pm: MOIRA STUART MEETS… THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (16 / 16)

Moira concludes the second season of her interview series, speaking with some of the most well-known names from the worlds of sport, arts, entertainment and politics.

Moira's final guest is the leader of the Church of England and the symbolic head of the Anglican church worldwide, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. He talks to Moira about his life and faith, what Christmas means to him and asks Moira to play a selection of his favourite carols.

MONDAY 20TH DECEMBER

8pm to 10pm: THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION CAROL CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET

John Suchet presents an exclusive carol concert recorded recently in the beautiful St Paul's Church in Knightsbridge, in aid of The Prince's Foundation. The charity was set up by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to support community, from championing sustainable living and teaching traditional arts and skills, to restoring historic sites and looking after places for everyone to enjoy.

The carol concert features readings from charity ambassador Sarah Beeny, alongside traditional Christmas favourites performed by the Choir of St Paul's, Knightsbridge and Seraphim Trumpets.

TUESDAY 21ST DECEMBER

8pm to 10pm: THE LORD'S TAVERNERS CAROL CONCERT WITH THE STARS with JOHN SUCHET

John Suchet presents a very special carol concert, in aid of the Lord's Taverners, recorded in the beautiful Marylebone Church in London. It features a selection of traditional and contemporary carols from the Holst Singers, conducted by Nicholas Cleobury.

Soloists Kitty Whately, Thomas Allen and Anna Tillbrook perform an intimate selection of songs, while David Gower and Kevin Whately provide the readings.

WEDNESDAY 22ND DECEMBER

8pm to 10pm: A WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS with JOHN SUCHET

John presents another exclusive Christmas concert, recorded at St John's Smith Square earlier this month.

The Parliament Choir, which consists of MPs, staffers and other parliamentary officials, is joined by musicians from the esteemed Southbank Sinfonia for a programme of festive favourites and best-loved carols, including *Once in Royal David's City* and *O Holy Night*. There is also a selection of contemporary carols from conductor and composer Nicholas O'Neill.

Anon
'Ding Dong Merrily on high'

John Francis Wade
'O come, all ye faithful'

Johann Sebastian Bach
'O little one sweet'

Henry John Gauntlett
'Once in Royal David's City'

Anon
'The Angel Gabriel'

Nicholas O'Neill
'Sweet was the Song'

John Rutter
Sans Day Carol

George Frederic Handel
'Joy to the World'

Anon
'O little town of Bethlehem'

Anon
'In dulci Jubilo'

Michael Head
'The Road to Bethlehem'

Anon
'God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen'

Harold Darke
'In the Bleak Midwinter'

Continued…

WEDNESDAY 22ND DECEMBER

8pm to 10pm: A WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS with JOHN SUCHET

Continued…

Nicholas O'Neill
'We Three Kings'

Adolphe Adam
'O Holy Night'

Felix Mendelssohn
'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

Anon
'We wish you a merry Christmas'

Organ: Nicholas O'Neil
Simon Over conducts the Parliament Choir and Southbank Sinfonia Brass Quintet

THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER

8pm to 10pm: CAROLS FROM ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL with JOHN SUCHET

John presents a very special evening of carols and readings from the glorious St Paul's Cathedral in London, staged by the MS Society to welcome in the festive season and raise money for their Stop MS Appeal. Musical guests include Sarah Connolly and Mark Stone, as well as one of the most talked about voices of the last year, tenor Freddie de Tomasso, who joins the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral for a moving rendition of *O Holy Night*.

A host of stars from stage and screen also present a selection of festive readings, including Simon Callow, Kit Harrington, Preeya Kalidas, Rose Leslie and Nicola Walker.

Henry John Gauntlett
'Once in Royal David's City'

Anon
Sussex Carol

Maurice Durufle
'Ubi Caritas'

Anon
'O little town of Bethlehem'

Adolphe Adam
'O Holy Night'
Tenor: Freddie de Tomasso

Carlo Rutti
'I wonder as I wander'

Anon
'See amid the winter's snow'

Peter Cornelius
The Three Kings

John Francis Wade
'O come, all ye faithful'

Choir of St Paul's Cathedral

FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER

12pm to 4pm: CHRISTMAS EVE REQUESTS with ANNE-MARIE MINHALL

It wouldn't be Christmas without Classic FM's hugely popular requests programme, as, once more, the station's listeners are put in the driving seat. Continuing the tradition this Christmas Eve, Anne-Marie Minhall plays the festive music that they want to hear.

4pm to 4.30pm: ALED JONES NARRATES THE SNOWMAN

Aled Jones narrates the timeless story of *The Snowman*, complete with Howard Blake's wonderful music.

4.30pm to 6pm: CAROLS FROM THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA with FIONA BRUCE

Fiona Bruce presents a very special carol concert, held in support of cancer charity Maggies, from the historic Wren Chapel at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Soloists include trumpeter Alison Balsom, who performs Bach; operatic tenor Nicky Spence and talented soprano Rhian Lois, alongside a congregation singing traditional Christmas favourites. There are also readings from a host of famous names, including Gyles Brandreth, *The Great British Bake Off's* Prue Leith and one of Britain's star acting talents, James Norton.

6pm to 8pm: ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG'S CHRISTMAS EVENSONG

Join Alexander as he shares his love of choral music, showcasing a range of vocal performances that provide the perfect soundtrack to Christmas Eve. Featuring performances from some of the greatest cathedral choirs, including the Choir of Kings College, Cambridge; the Choir of St Mary's, Edinburgh and a stunning performance of *Christian's Awake* by the Choir of Trinity College. There are also highlights from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, including the rousing opening *Jauchzet Frohlocket*, beautifully sung by the Monteverdi Choir under John Eliot Gardiner.

FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER

8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CHRISTMAS CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET

John presents a selection of perfect music for Christmas Eve, whether you are sitting back with a mug of mulled wine, preparing brussel sprouts or finishing some last minute gift wrapping.

There are traditional choral favourites, including *Away in a Manger* and *The First Nowell*, plus a medley of highlights from Handel's *Messiah*, charmingly arranged for brass septet and performed by Septura.

Another highlight is a 2020 release from the Winchester College Chapel Choir, performing McDowall's short cantata *A Winter's Night*, which repurposes medieval carols, and there is music from the 2004 film *The Polar Express*.

Gordon Thornett
Festive Overture – The Joy of Christmas
Gavin Sutherland conducts the RTÉ Concert Orchestra

William James Kirkpatrick
'Away in a Manger'
Organ: James Sherlock
Nigel Short conducts Tenebrae

Alan Silvestri
The Polar Express: Suite
Alan Silvestri conducts a studio orchestra

'The First Nowell'
Cello: Peter Gregson
Howard Goodall conducts Enchanted Voices

George Frideric Handel
The Messiah – The Trumpet Shall Sound/Worthy is the Lamb/Amen
Septura

John Rutter
Donkey Carol
John Rutter conducts the Choir of Claire College, Cambridge

Bryan Kelly
Improvisations on Christmas Carols
Gavin Sutherland conducts the City of Prague Symphony Orchestra

Continued…

FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER

8pm to 10pm: THE CLASSIC FM CHRISTMAS CONCERT with JOHN SUCHET

Continued…

Cecilia McDowall
A Winter's Night
Percussion: Sebastian Guard
Organ: Benjamin Cunningham
Howard Ionascu conducts the Winchester College Chapel Choir and Onyx Brass

Nikolai Rimsky Korsakov
The Snowmaiden – Suite
Neeme Järvi conducts the Royal Scottish National Orchestra