

The Snowman, with Live Orchestra

Sing Praise & Reverb / Jubilee Opera Chorus / Aldeburgh Young Musicians

Suffolk Ensemble

Ben Parry conductor

It's the most wonderful time of the year

words & music by Eddie Pola & George Wyle,

arranged by Jonathan Rathbone

4'

The Snowman (1982)

script: Raymond Briggs (1934–2022)

music & lyrics: Howard Blake (b.1938)

29'

Audience singalong:

Deck the halls

traditional, arranged by Ben Parry

3'

The Snowman

Composer and music director Howard Blake is best-known for having written the music for the much-loved children's animated film of *The Snowman*, including the hit song 'Walking in the air'.

The film is based on the original 1978 picture book by Raymond Briggs, and was first shown on Channel 4 on Christmas Eve in 1982. It was an immediate success: it was nominated for an Oscar, won prizes in France and Italy, and received the Best Children's TV Programme at the BAFTAs in 1983. Howard Blake also developed *The Snowman* into a full-length stage show, which has continued to run in the Peacock Theatre in London and on tour, and has been named as the 'longest-running Christmas show of all time'.

Sing Praise & Reverb

12.30pm performance

Reverb: Fynley, Emily, Adriana, Grace, Joshua, Sturley, Elliot, Jamie, Saskia, Thomas, James

Sing Praise: Willow, Ivy, Zara, Viviana, Millie, Rosie, Jennifer, Zac, Connie, Theodore, Isabella, Ines, Isobel, Alessia, Ivy, Mia, Theo, Cece, Katie, Taryn, Katie, Harriet, Francesca, Emily, Alfred, Rosie, Reggie, Sienna, Leos

Sing Praise is a thriving children's choir based in Framlingham, founded in 2019 to inspire young people through high-quality music-making. Meeting weekly, the group welcomes children of all abilities, offering a supportive space where confidence, teamwork and self-expression can grow. Led by music director Catherine Johnson, Sing Praise offers a vibrant programme of rehearsals, monthly Sunday performances and imaginative annual productions.

The choir regularly partners with leading local and regional music organisations, including recording projects with Ben Parry, Media Tracks, Britten Pears Arts, and performances with visiting soloists and choirs. These collaborations give young singers the opportunity to explore a wide range of musical styles and to perform in significant community events.

Reverb, a recently formed ensemble, is made up of teenagers as part of the singing pathway at St Michael's Church, Framlingham. Directed by Ben Vonberg-Clark, the group meets weekly to rehearse everything from popular songs to sacred music, providing space for young singers to explore their voices and develop musical and performance skills. Reverb regularly performs alongside Sing Praise and has already taken part in major performances, including singing with Gabrieli Roar at Ely Cathedral.

Both groups meet after school on a Tuesday or Wednesday at St Michael's Church, Framlingham, and are generously funded by the Ed Sheeran Foundation. If you would like to learn more about either group, please contact framlinghamrectory@btinternet.com

Jubilee Opera Chorus

2.30pm performance

Sophie, Imogen, Beau, Orlando, Emilia, Euan, Emmeline, Essie, Immy, Iris, Wren, Jasmine, Jedimah, Felix, Paisley, Charles, Xanthe, Tabitha, Rex, Reuben, Clara, Otto, Vinnie, Emi, Willow, Daisy, Dotty

Jubilee Opera Chorus is the training ground for Jubilee Opera, which was formed in 1987 as a result of a production of Britten's *Noye's Fludde* in Aldeburgh Church. Such was the enthusiasm in the local community that it was decided to start an opera company for young aspiring performers to work with professionals on productions of the highest possible quality and standard. The aim was to give children with little opportunity elsewhere, the chance to discover their own abilities and to develop their musical and performance skills, thus engendering a lifelong love of the performance arts.

If you are interested in joining Jubilee Opera and would like to know more please contact info@jubileeopera.co.uk or look at our website: www.jubileeopera.co.uk

Aldeburgh Young Musicians

4.30pm performance

Aliona, Bella (soloist), Bertie, Bruno, Charles, Daisy F, Daisy C, Eric, Esme, George, Joey, Joseph, Jude, Kea, Kyriel, Maleeya, Mohammad, Saf, Sophie, Wilf

Aldeburgh Young Musicians (AYM) offers creative and collaborative musical training for promising young musicians in Suffolk. We are a Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) that explores multiple disciplines and genres, ranging from folk and early music to Japanese taiko and the blues, with a focus on key areas such as improvisation and creative response. At AYM we offer a tailored experience, building on each of our members' individual needs and interests. This customisable and progressive approach means we're able to nurture our students' talents, producing resilient, adaptable and engaged musicians.

Suffolk Ensemble

The Suffolk Ensemble was formed in 2013 for a special live broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in Aldeburgh Church of Benjamin Britten's *St Nicolas* with the Britten Pears Chamber Choir to celebrate the composer's centenary. The ensemble comprises some of the UK's leading orchestral and chamber musicians who have chosen to make their homes in Suffolk. Further memorable performances include Handel's Coronation Anthems, Bach's Magnificat, Handel's *Messiah* and James MacMillan's *Seven Last Words from the Cross*. The Suffolk Ensemble has accompanied the live screening of *The Snowman* at Christmas since 2016.

Violin 1 Clio Gould, Nicholas Ward, Jonathan Morton, Elizabeth Pigram, Greg Eaton, Kathryn Parry

Violin 2 Michael Dolan, Rebecca Scott, Helen Farrell, Cal Fell

Viola Robert Smissen, Wendy Gudgin, James O'Toole, Laura Herbé-George

Cello John Chillingworth, Melanie Woodcock, Harriet Bennett

Bass Andrew Durban, Angela Chillingworth

Flute/Piccolo Anna Noakes, Samantha Read

Oboe Tim Eaton

Clarinet/Bass clarinet Claire Baughan, Cliff Wybrow

Bassoon Steve Lock

Trumpet John Jermy

French horn Kay Dawson, Georgia Dawson

Harp Helen Sharp

Piano Andrew Leach

Percussion Craig Apps, Sam Wilson