



Jonathan Dove

Run, shepherds, run!

Commissioned by the Spitalfields Festival to celebrate the life of Christopher Robert Vaughan: 1961-1999 with funds from his friends.

Christopher Vaughan was a passionate and generous supporter of the Spitalfields Festival. When he died in 1999, a group of his friends asked me to write a piece of music in his memory. I never had the pleasure of meeting Chris, but from his friends I learned something of his eclectic musical tastes: he wasn't particularly attracted to difficult contemporary works, but he liked a good tune, and also had a keen interest in Spitalfields Festival's outreach work. I thought a lively Christmas carol with audience participation would be an apt memorial.

I liked the idea in William Drummond's poem of shepherds running: it gave me the chance to write an energetic part for the audience – a good way of keeping warm in a cold church. This carol was first performed with much hilarity in December 2001, and I hope it will continue to prove entertaining.

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