
LONDON CONCERT CHOIR

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President
Roderick Williams OBE

Music Director
Mark Forkgen

Thursday, 6 July 2023, 7:30pm
Cadogan Hall
5 Sloane Terrace, SW1X 9DQ

Rodgers and Hammerstein: The Great Musicals



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The most successful partnership in American musical theatre began in 1942 when composer Richard Rodgers and writer Oscar Hammerstein II joined forces to create *Oklahoma!*. This celebration presents highlights from *Oklahoma!* and four more of their best-loved musicals: *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*.

All are full of memorable songs and choruses in which the wit of the lyrics is matched by the inspiration of the music. The mood ranges from the exuberant – ‘Oklahoma’, ‘June is Bustin’ Out All Over’, to the uplifting – ‘Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’’, ‘You’ll Never Walk Alone’; and from the positive – ‘I Whistle a Happy Tune’, ‘The Lonely Goatherd’, to the defiant – ‘Many a New Day’, ‘I’m Gonna Wash that Man right outa my Hair’, and the romantic – ‘If I Loved You’, ‘I Have Dreamed’ and ‘Some Enchanted Evening’.

Oklahoma! premièred in 1943 and was the first of a new kind of musical play, in which drama, music and dance were given equal importance in telling a thought-provoking story. *Carousel* followed in 1945 and was one of the earliest musicals to have a tragic plot; both this and *South Pacific* (1949) explore themes of social attitudes and prejudice.

If *Carousel* was the duo’s favourite musical, *South Pacific*, about the interactions between US naval personnel and Pacific island inhabitants during the Second World War, is considered to be one of their greatest. With an equally exotic setting, *The King and I* (1951) illustrates the clash of cultures when the Victorian widow Anna Leonowens becomes a governess at the court of the King of Siam.

Rodgers’ and Hammerstein’s final and most enduringly popular musical was *The Sound of Music* (1959). In late 1930s Austria another governess, the irrepressible novice nun Maria, teaches the children of the widowed naval Captain von Trapp to unbend and enjoy life through singing. Eventually she marries the Captain and they all cross the mountains into Switzerland to escape from the Nazi regime.

London Concert Choir is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England with registered number 3220578 and registered charity number 1057242

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Music Director
Mark Forkgen

Nina Bennet
soprano

Hannah Pedley
mezzo soprano

Richard Robbins
tenor

Toby Stafford-Allen
baritone

London Concert Choir
Southbank Sinfonia

Tickets
£30, £25, £20, £16, £12

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