
LONDON

CONCERT

CHOIR

est. 1960

President
Roderick Williams OBE

Music Director
Mark Forkgen



Advent Carols

Saturday, 7 December 2024, 7:30pm
St Columba's, Pont Street

Programme

lcchoir.uk



ST COLUMBA'S
Church of Scotland

WELCOME TO ST COLUMBA'S PONT STREET

Please note:

- The consumption of food is not allowed in the Church.
- Please switch off mobile phones and alarms on digital watches.
- Flash photography and audio or video recording are not permitted.
- There will be an interval of 20 minutes.

Thank you for your co-operation. We hope you enjoy the concert.



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[@ChoirLCC](https://twitter.com/ChoirLCC)

Programme designed by Stephen Rickett
and edited by Emily Taylor

London Concert Choir - A company limited by
guarantee, incorporated in England with registered
number 3220578 and with registered
charity number 1057242.

Registered Office:
7 Ildersly Grove, Dulwich, London SE21 8EU

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Laurence Williams *organ/piano*

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ADVENT CAROLS

Advent, observed in the four weeks before Christmas Day, is a distinct liturgical season, with a more contemplative, austere character in contrast to the festivity of Christmas. Themes of repentance and renewal are set against the arc of biblical time: from the creation story to the end of days described in the Book of Revelation. The word Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, means “coming”, “approach” or “arrival”. For the Church, this time of spiritual alertness anticipates both the annual celebration of the Nativity, and Christ’s second coming. The mood is one of both sorrow for our flawed human condition, and anticipated joy at mankind’s redemption.

In modern secular times, this distinction has been lost in the long commercial lead-up to Christmas, whose music and imagery are well-worn throughout the preceding weeks. Yet Advent both prefigures and forestalls the unfolding of the Christmas story. It links the ancient prophecies of the Old Testament with Christ’s birth, ministry, death and resurrection, and invites reflection on several themes: the last judgement; the coming of the Kingdom; the way prepared by John the Baptist, Christ’s forerunner; and Mary’s acceptance of her calling as the mother of Jesus.

Composers down the ages have responded to this rich spiritual and scriptural landscape, with choral settings that articulate Advent’s singular blend of solemnity, expectation and hope. Tonight’s programme includes texts from the Advent liturgy itself; from some of the most well-known verses of the Old and New Testaments; and poetry and prose inspired by the key motifs of Advent. The varied musical styles range from the stillness and simplicity of plainchant, to the dancelike melodies of the middle ages and Renaissance, and the grandeur of an Edwardian canticle setting.

DROP DOWN, YE HEAVENS

(Advent Prose, edited by Stephen Cleobury)

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

(Malcolm Archer)

HILLS OF THE NORTH, REJOICE

Hills of the North, rejoice;
Echoing songs arise
Hail with united voice
Him who made earth and skies;
He comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on every breeze,
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, His promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet Him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom you have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heavenly guest,
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey on,
Songs be in every mouth;
Lo, from the North they come,
From East, and West and South:
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In Him the sons of earth be blest.

ZION, AT THY SHINING GATES

(16th century melody, arranged by George Guest)

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

(Edward Cuthbert Bairstow)

HOW LOVELY ARE THE MESSENGERS

(Felix Mendelssohn)

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL!

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel!
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! ...
3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight:
 Rejoice! Rejoice! ...
4. O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! ...
5. O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! ...

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

(16th century, edited by Peter Le Huray and David Willcocks)

ADAM AND HIS HELPMATE

(Provençal carol)

ANGELUS AD VIRGINEM

(13th century, arranged by Andrew Carter)

INTERVAL – 20 MINUTES

THE ANGEL GABRIEL

(Basque carol, arranged by Malcolm Archer)

BOGORODITSYE DYEVO

(Arvo Pärt)

A TENDER SHOOT

(Otto Goldschmidt)

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver;
Born a Child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us for ever;
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

NEVER WEATHER-BEATEN SAILE

(Thomas Campion)

THE CALL

(Ralph Vaughan Williams)

PEOPLE LOOK EAST

(Besançon carol, arranged by Barry Ferguson)

LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

1. Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
We who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
Deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
deeply wailing;
Shall their true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his Passion
Still his dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers;
With what rapture,
with what rapture,
with what rapture;
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
O come quickly!
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

ON JORDAN'S BANK

(17th Century hymn tune, arranged by Malcolm Archer)

BENEDICTUS

(Charles Villiers Stanford)

MARK FORKGEN

CONDUCTOR



Mark Forkgen has been the Music Director of London Concert Choir since 1996. He is also Music Director of Canticum chamber choir, Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of Kokoro (the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's New Music Group) and Director of Music at Tonbridge School.

He has conducted major UK orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia, English Chamber Orchestra, Northern Philharmonia and Manchester Camerata, and appeared at major venues, including the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and the Barbican. Outside the UK he has conducted in Denmark, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Eire, the Czech Republic, Italy, Bulgaria and Hong Kong.

A specialist in the field of choral and contemporary music, Mark also enjoys an active life as a pianist, focusing on twentieth-century and contemporary music, and has been Conductor and Artistic Advisor for a number of highly acclaimed festivals.

Highlights this Autumn include a programme of Marian music, Brahms' Symphony No 4, a production of Guys and Dolls and masterclasses in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

LAURENCE WILLIAMS

ORGAN/PIANO



Laurence Williams is an accompanist, organist, bass-baritone soloist and choral conductor. He has played for London Concert Choir since 2018. He was organ scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and now balances a career encompassing conducting, playing and singing.

As a bass-baritone soloist, he specialises in oratorio, and is acclaimed for his eloquent singing and rich tone. He has sung with many renowned UK choirs including Polyphony and the Monteverdi Choir.

As a director, he runs the music at the church of St Michael and All Angels, Barnes, a choral society and two children's choirs. He is also Assistant Conductor of London Concert Choir. He delights in working with non-professional musicians and bringing his singing expertise to help people achieve their best.

Laurence is also the founder of Dowland Youth Works, a scheme that introduces teenagers to lute song and consort singing.

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Music Director

Mark Forkgen

Assistant Conductor
and Accompanist

Laurence Williams

James Finlay

Chairman

Martin Goodwin

Concert Manager

Tabitha Strydom

Treasurer

Stephen Rickett

Design and Communications

Jennifer Greenway

Membership

Barbara Paterson

Committee Secretary

Simon Livesey

Company Secretary

One of London's leading amateur choirs, London Concert Choir celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2020. The choir is notable for the commitment and musicality of its performances in an unusually varied repertoire and regularly appears with Mark Forkgen at London's premier concert venues, while tours abroad have included visits to France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain.

The choir's 50th anniversary was marked by two performances of Britten's *War Requiem*. Other major works have included Rachmaninov's choral symphony *The Bells* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Brahms' *German Requiem* and Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*, all with Southbank Sinfonia. The choir has also taken part in the St John's Smith Square Christmas Festival, together with Southbank Sinfonia.

Operas in concert performance have ranged from Purcell's *King Arthur* and *Dido and Aeneas* to Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Performances with Counterpoint period instrumental ensemble include Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *St Matthew* and *St John Passions* and *Christmas Oratorio*, Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* and Mozart's 'Great' C minor Mass. LCC has also performed Rachmaninov's *Vespers* and Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* and a selection of highlights from the musicals of Rodgers and Hammerstein.

London Concert Choir often gives concerts for charity, including Christmas Carol concerts in aid of St George's Hospital Children's wards. Among the choir's new music commissions have been *A Light not yet Ready to Go Out* by Alison Willis, in aid of Breast Cancer Now, and *Per Ardua ad Astra*, a major work by Roderick Williams to commemorate the centenary of the RAF.

LONDON CONCERT CHOIR MEMBERS

Soprano

Dagmar Binsted
Eleanor Blackman
Melanie Bowman
Alison Carpenter
Eleanor Cowie
Ann-Gaelle Cox
Emma Davidson
Christine Dencer
Emma Dixon
Emily Dresner
Tessa Forrest
Sarah French
Jennifer Greenway
Dalia Gurari
Jennifer Hadley
Emily Hunka
Eva Ignatuschtschenko
Carol Ilnatowicz
Christine Ingram
Julija Jones
Jane Joyce
Julia Keddie
Vickie Kelly
Anna Kosicka
Joanna Kramer
Kate Leng
Susanna Lutman
Ellie McCready
Grace McCready
Katie McCullagh
Annie Meston
Alison Miller
Delyth Morgan
Adrienne Morgan
Stephanie Moussadis
Millie O'Neil

Margaret Perkins
Jutta Raftery
Ines Schlenker
Frances Shaw
Caroline Sheppard
Trina Stevens
Aisling Turner
Josephine von Zitzewitz
Janet Wells
Belinda Whittingham
Julie Wilson
Yammi Yip

Alto

Galina Borisova
Kate Britten
Janet Cole
Carys Cooper
Deborah Curle
Rosie de Saram
Kathleen Dormer
Giulia Falangola
Rebecca Foulkes
Anna Garnier
Sarah Gasquoine
Mary Glanville
Muriel Hall
Penny Hatfield
Denise Howell
Chrina Jarvis
Margaret Kalaugher
Sharon Kipfer
Carol Lane
Liz Lowther
Bridget Maidment
Adrienne Mathews
Karen McManus

Neetu Menon
Eve Moodie
Rosie Norris
Cathy Packe
Barbara Paterson
Judith Paterson
Rachel Pearson
Gillian Perry
Dubravka Polic
Beccy Reese
Pamela Slatter
Tabitha Strydom
Josie Taylor
Eka Thomson
Gabriel West
June Williams

Tenor

James Azam
David Broad
Angela Bryant
Richard Davison
Dave Dosoruth
Fabyan Evans
Graham Hick
Richard Holmes
Carolyn Knight
Ian Leslie
Andrew Lyburn
Eckart Marchand
Ben Martin
Alice Reed
Stephen Rickett
Arick Shao
Tim Steer
Andrew Sutcliffe
Ruth Yeo

Bass

Colin Allies
John Ancock
Miles Armstrong
Andrew Burton
Gary Cook
Mark Davies
Chris Finch
James Finlay
Martin Goodwin
Nigel Grieve
David Hannah
Robert Harris
Keith Holmes
Ian Judson
Robert Kealey
Stefan Klaazen
Simon Livesey
Mark Livingstone
Jeremy Lucas
Hamish Naismith
Paul Norris
Morgan Roberts
Jonathan Rogers
Tom Roles
Keith Searle
Anthony Sharp
John Somerville
Ryszard Stepaniuk
Wilson To
Tony Trowles
Dai Whittingham



LONDON CONCERT CHOIR

SUPPORTING THE CHOIR

London Concert Choir appreciates the encouragement of our audiences, especially those of you who come along regularly, bringing friends and family with you, and those who share the word about our achievements, enhancing our reputation.

As one of London's leading choirs we want to share our joy in making music with as many people as possible, but performing large concerts at major venues with professional soloists and orchestras requires more financial support than we can get from ticket sales alone. We rely on donations from our Friends, Companions and Patrons who give regularly.

We would love you to join them by becoming a regular financial supporter! You will receive a mention in our concert programmes, regular communications from the Choir, invitations to supporter events and the gratitude of our membership!

To find out more, please email:

supporters@londonconcertchoir.org

JOINING THE CHOIR

London Concert Choir welcomes new members, who are invited to attend a few rehearsals before an informal audition. Rehearsals are on Monday nights at Bloomsbury Baptist Church near Tottenham Court Road station. If you are interested in joining the choir, please fill in your details online at: **londonconcertchoir.org**

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive advance information about our concerts, you can join the choir's free mailing list by clicking on the link on the home page of the website.

The information you provide is subject to data protection regulations (GDPR) and as such will be used exclusively by London Concert Choir.

LCC COMPANIONS AND PATRONS

Karen and Fabyan Evans
Judith Greenway
Christopher & Jennifer
Powell Smith
Alison Stone
Charles Williams
Anthony Willson

LCC FRIENDS

Sue Blyth
Dianne Denham
Geoffrey Deville
Nicholas & Maureen
Halton
Carolyn Knight
Miriam Kramer
Jill Marx
Janet and Michael Orr
Keith Searle

LCC LIFE FRIENDS

LCC is delighted to acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by the following individuals:

Peter Barley
Trish & Timothy Barnes
Deborah Bono
Anne Clayton
David Greenwood
Jeremy Groom
Alan Huw Smith
Tim Ingram
Simon Livesey
Sue Logan
Mark Loveday
Sue McFadyen
Gregory Rose
Will Tilden

FUTURE CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2024, 7:45PM
HOLY TRINITY SLOANE SQUARE, SW1

CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2025
CADOGAN HALL, SLOANE SQUARE, SW1

MENDELSSOHN – ST. PAUL (IN GERMAN)

MONDAY 14 JULY 2025, 7:30PM
CADOGAN HALL, SLOANE SQUARE, SW1

DUKE ELLINGTON – SACRED CONCERT