LONDON CONCERT CHOIR

est. 1960

Monday, 8 December 2025, 7:30pm
St John's Hyde Park

President
Roderick Williams OBE

Music Director
Mark Forkgen

Carols for Choir and Audience



lcchoir.uk

WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S HYDE PARK

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 during which drinks will be served.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE CONCERT.

making music
SUPPORTING & CHAMPIONING VOLUNTARY MUSIC

facebook.com/londonconcertchoir
instagram.com/londonconcertchoir
@ChoirLCC

Programme designed by Stephen Rickett

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

LONDON
CONCERT
CHOIR

est. 1960

Carols for Choir and Audience

Music Director: **Mark Forkgen**
Organ/Piano: **Martyn Noble**

London Concert Choir

There will be an INTERVAL of 20 minutes.

COME THOU, REDEEMER OF THE EARTH

(St. Ambrose / Michael Praetorius)

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

ADAM LAY YBOUNDEN

(Boris Ord)

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD

(George Frideric Handel)

OF THE FATHER'S HEART BEGOTTEN

1. Men's voices:
Of the Father's heart begotten
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

2. Women's voices:
By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

3. All:
O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.

4. All:
Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore

AVE MARIA

(Edward Elgar)

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

(Basque trad. /arr. Edgar Pettman)

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heav'n's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

SANS DAY CAROL

(arr. John Rutter)

PERSONENT HODIE

(arr. Gustav Holst)

INTERVAL

DING! DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

(arr. Charles Wood)

THE FIRST NOWELL

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
In a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They lookèd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:
Nowell, Nowell, …

3. And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:
Nowell, Nowell, …

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:
Nowell, Nowell, …

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Nowell, Nowell, …

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
Nowell, Nowell, …

SWEET WAS THE SONG

(Pamela Slatter)

THE BLESSED SON OF GOD

(Ralph Vaughan Williams)

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

THE SHEPHERDS' FAREWELL

(Hector Berlioz)

I SAW THREE SHIPS

(Traditional English arr. David Willcocks)

HARK THE HERALD

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

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 curating and performing in a programme of concerts inspired by Opera, directing the choral version of Schumann's *Dichterliebe* (first UK performance) and a giving series of masterclasses in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

MARTYN NOBLE

ORGAN/PIANO



Martyn is much in demand as a freelance musician having spent over 10 years working at HM Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, both as Sub-Organist and (Acting) Director of Music. Roles that included playing/conducting for Classic FM's annual broadcast of Carols from Buckingham Palace and performing and assisting in music for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and The Coronation of King Charles III. Martyn is currently Teacher of Organ and Piano Accompanist at the Royal College of Music Junior Department, Accompanist to the London Concert Choir and Musician-in-Residence at Highgate School.

In 2023, he gave the opening concert at Himmerod Abbey (Germany), in 2020 had his debut with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and in 2018, deputised for several shows as 'Keyboard 2' for the UK tour of 'Miss Saigon' The Musical.

Martyn has a first class Bachelor of Music degree from the Royal College of Music, and completed his FRCO and LRSM diplomas in Organ Performance. Martyn has appeared live on BBC Radios 3 and 4 and has recorded for Novello, Boosey & Hawkes, Priory, Delphian and Signum records.

Martyn is also a published composer and his choral works are published by Chichester Music Press.

LONDON CONCERT CHOIR

est. 1960

President
Roderick Williams OBE

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. The choir's new music commissions have included 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.

lcchoir.uk

LONDON CONCERT CHOIR MEMBERS

Soprano
Dagmar Binsted
Eleanor Blackman
Alison Carpenter
Emma Davidson
Christine Dencer
Emma Dixon
Emily Dresner
Sarah French
Jennifer Greenway
Dalia Gurari
Emma Heath
Elmina Homapour
Emily Hunka
Eva Ignatuschtschenko
Carol Ihnatowicz
Christine Ingram
Julija Jones
Jane Joyce
Julia Keddie
Vickie Kelly
Anna Kosicka
Joanna Kramer
Kate Leng
Susanna Lutman
Chrysanthi Mavraki
Katie McCullagh
Sue McFadyen
Megan McGrory
Annie Meston
Delyth Morgan
Adrienne Morgan
Stephanie Moussadis
Ciara Munnelly
Margaret Perkins
Jutta Raftery
Ines Schlenker
Hannah Schlenker
Frances Shaw
Caroline Sheppard
Trina Stevens
Chloe Stiens
Aisling Turner
Josephine von Zitzewitz
Janet Wells
Belinda Whittingham
Yammi Yip

Alto
Kate Britten
Janet Cole
Carys Cooper
Deborah Curle
Rosie de Saram
Kathleen Dormer
Rebecca Foulkes
Susan Furnell
Anna Garnier
Sarah Gasquoine
Mary Glanville
Muriel Hall
Penny Hatfield
Denise Howell
Chrina Jarvis
Laura Johnson
Sharon Kipfer
Carol Lane
Aurore Le Comte
Liz Lowther
Bridget Maidment
Adrienne Mathews
Karen McManus
Neetu Menon
Rosie Norris
Cathy Packe
Barbara Paterson
Judith Paterson
Rachel Pearson
Gillian Perry
Dubravka Polic
Beccy Reese
Pamela Slatter
Tabitha Strydom
Josie Taylor
Gabriel West
June Williams

Tenor
James Azam
David Broad
Angela Bryant
Richard Davison
Dave Dosoruth
Fabyan Evans
Jonathan Gregson
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
Andrew Burton
Mark Davies
Chris Finch
James Finlay
Martin Goodwin
Nigel Grieve
David Hannah
Robert Harris
Keith Holmes
Ian Judson
Robert Kealey
Simon Livesey
Mark Livingstone
Jeremy Lucas
Hamish Naismith
Paul Norris
Morgan Roberts
Jonathan Rogers
Tom Roles
Keith Searle
Anthony Sharp
John Somerville
Ryszard Stepaniuk
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 PATRONS

Karen and Fabyan Evans
Judith Greenway
Tim Ingram

LCC COMPANIONS

Alison Stone
Anthony Willson

LCC FRIENDS

Geoffrey Deville
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:

Colin Allies
Peter Barley
Deborah Bono
Anne Clayton
Eleanor Cowie
Fabyan Evans
David Greenwood
Jeremy Groom
Tim Ingram
Chris Joseph
Simon Livesey
Sue Logan
Sue McFadyen
Sally Munns
Gregory Rose
Anthony Sharp
Will Tilden
Charles and June Williams



FUTURE CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026, 7.30PM

HOLY TRINITY SLOANE SQUARE

HOWELLS REQUIEM
STAINER THE CRUCIFIXION

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026, 7.30PM

CADOGAN HALL

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA