

Thursday 19 October 2017, 7.30pm
Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1

LONDON



CONCERT
CHOIR

SCHUBERT MASTERPIECES

Mass No. 6 in E flat
Unfinished Symphony

MENDELSSOHN: Verleih uns Frieden

Mark Forkgen conductor

Raphaela Papadakis soprano | **Amy Lyddon** mezzo soprano

Bradley Smith tenor | **James Way** tenor

Laurence Williams bass

London Concert Choir
Counterpoint

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £16, £12
(020) 7730 4500
www.cadoganhall.com



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A snippet of a musical score for a Kyrie, showing three staves (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) with lyrics 'Ky - ri - e' written below the notes.

This concert is a rare opportunity to hear Schubert's magnificent final Mass, which was written in 1828, five months before his tragically early death. The setting is on a vast scale, principally choral, one notable exception being an exquisite trio for the two tenors and soprano, while the orchestral colour is dominated by woodwinds, brass and timpani. Combining a mastery of classical structures with the drama of Beethoven and Schubert's own gift for melody, the Mass also contains astonishing harmonic progressions anticipating the work of later Romantic composers such as Brahms and Bruckner.

The symphony was begun six years earlier. There is evidence of a tortured soul in the darkness of the scoring and the poignant silences punctuated with moments of light. Why it was left unfinished is not clear, but its two movements are complete in themselves, as the sublime second movement resolves the tensions of the first.

The concert begins with Mendelssohn's setting of Luther's version of the Latin hymn *Da nobis pacem*, a graceful prayer for peace strongly influenced by Bach.

London Concert Choir has been a significant part of the London music scene ever since 1960. Under its Music Director Mark Forkgen the choir displays remarkable conviction and expressiveness in an unusually broad repertoire and regularly appears at all the major London concert venues as well as touring abroad. The Counterpoint ensemble, formed in 2000 to work with vocal groups, draws its players from the leading young period instrument specialists in London.



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