

This season **London Concert Choir** celebrates 50 years of music making. Formed in 1960 as the Brompton Choral Society and relaunched under its new name in 1986, the choir now has more than 100 members of a wide range of ages and regularly appears at all the major London concert venues, as well as touring to European destinations.

London Concert Choir has a broad and varied repertoire. Recent seasons have included Handel's Coronation Anthems, Haydn's oratorio The Creation and a reconstruction of Mozart's C minor Mass – all with the Counterpoint period instrumental ensemble; Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with the English Chamber Orchestra and Mendelssohn's Lobgesang (Hymn of Praise) with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The choir has also performed concert versions of operas, including Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, and has presented selections from Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts and the musicals of Rodgers and Hammerstein, as well as appearing in the Star Wars concerts at the O2 Arena. London Concert Choir regularly gives performances for charity and over the years has sung a number of specially commissioned works.

Mark Forkgen, the choir's Music Director since 1996, is also Principal Conductor of Kokoro (the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's contemporary music group) and Music Director of Canticum chamber choir. Mark works as guest conductor with leading British orchestras and has given the first performances of more than a hundred works. A long-time champion of Youth Music, Mark is Conductor of Dorset Youth Orchestra and Director of Music at Tonbridge School.

Jonathan Beatty, Assistant Conductor and Principal Accompanist of the choir, is a vocal coach at the Guildhall School and has won numerous prizes as an accompanist. He is a member of Kokoro and works regularly as repetiteur with the BBC Singers, Monteverdi Choir and Philharmonia Chorus.

Joining London Concert Choir

London Concert Choir is a lively and friendly choir, which is committed to high standards and constantly strives to raise the level of its performances by holding extra workshops and other special events.

Rehearsals generally take place on Monday evenings from 7.15pm to 9.30pm at Bloomsbury Baptist Church. Currently, the Choir has vacancies for Tenors and Basses, while Sopranos and Altos may be asked to join a waiting list. If you are interested in joining the choir, please fill in your details online (see the website, below) or contact:

membership@london-concert-choir.org.uk

Supporting the Choir

London Concert Choir gratefully acknowledges the help of its supporters in maintaining its position as one of the leading amateur choirs in London.

Benefits for Friends, Companions and Patrons of the choir include advance notice of forthcoming concerts, opportunities to attend open rehearsals with illustrated talks by the conductor, and the chance to join the choir on tour.

In addition, Companions and Patrons are invited to a reception at the summer concert, and Patrons receive discounted tickets for all concerts promoted by the choir.

For more information about becoming a supporter, please contact:

friends@london-concert-choir.org.uk

The choir also offers opportunities for corporate support through sponsorship or programme advertising and enquiries can be sent to the same address.

Mailing List

To receive advance information about our concerts, you can join the choir's free mailing list:

mailinglist@london-concert-choir.org.uk

www.london-concert-choir.org.uk

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conductor
Mark Forkgen



Season 2009–2010



Wednesday 21 October 2009, 7.30pm
Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1

London Concert Choir 50th Anniversary Concert

CARL ORFF:

Carmina Burana

with two pianos and percussion

Erica Eloff *soprano*
Andrew Radley *counter-tenor*
William Berger *baritone*

**and English and American Choral Music
of the last 50 years**

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

The choir launches its 50th Anniversary Season with Carmina Burana (songs of Beuern) in which Orff set the verses of a roving band of medieval clerics, celebrating the coming of spring, the pleasures of the tavern and the delights of love. Framed by the famous appeal to Destiny - 'O Fortuna', the work's exuberance and sensuality, simple melodies and driving rhythms have ensured its lasting popularity.

The concert begins with a sequence of unaccompanied choral music from the last 50 years by English and American composers, including William Walton, John Tavener and Morten Lauridsen.

Christmas 2009

Saturday 5 December 2009

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2

James McVinnie *organ*

4.00PM: FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Tickets £12; under-16s £6

7.30PM: ADVENT CAROLS
by Candlelight

Tickets £28, £24, £20, £14, £7

Box Office for both concerts:

(020) 7766 1100 or www.smitf.org

Wednesday 16 December 2009, 7.45pm

St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1

CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

James McVinnie *organ*

*This concert is being given in conjunction with
West London Action for Children*

Tickets £15; under-16s £5

LCC Box Office (020) 7937 7540



Wednesday 31 March 2010, 8pm

Barbican Hall, Silk Street, EC2

BRITTEN: WAR REQUIEM

Janice Watson *soprano*

Adrian Thompson *tenor*

Roderick Williams *baritone*

with Southbank Sinfonia

Tickets £26, £22, £18, £13, £7

Box Office (020) 7638 8891

www.barbican.org.uk

Benjamin Britten's War Requiem was first performed in 1962 to mark the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral, built after the medieval cathedral had been destroyed in World War II. Britten's masterstroke was to interweave the Latin text of the Mass for the Dead with the uncompromisingly realistic poetry of Wilfred Owen, who was killed in action in November 1918. The Mass is sung by the soprano soloist and choir, while the words of Owen's soldiers are given to the tenor and baritone soloists. The result is a timeless and profoundly moving commentary on 'War and the pity of War'.

Friday 21 May 2010, 7.30pm

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2

THE GLORY OF ITALY

Tickets £24, £20, £16, £10, £6

Box Office (020) 7766 1100

www.smitf.org

The riches of the Italian choral tradition are on display in a concert of sacred music spanning four centuries and the length and breadth of the country. The Renaissance is represented by Palestrina's sublime Stabat Mater, written during his final years in Rome in the late 16th century, two jubilant motets by Gabrieli and Monteverdi from their time at St Mark's, Venice in the 17th century, and a hymn to the Virgin from Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610.

Typical of the 18th-century Baroque period is the radiant Magnificat by Pergolesi, who was born in 1710 and spent most of his short life in Naples. By the 19th century, Italian church music was becoming more operatic in style, and this is well illustrated by two movements from Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle, and Verdi's setting of the Lord's Prayer.

Thursday 8 July 2010, 7.30pm

Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1

BEETHOVEN:

Mass in C

Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage

Overture: Leonore No. 3

Fidelio: Finale

*with Counterpoint period instrumental ensemble
and soloists, to be announced*

Tickets £25, £20, £16, £12

Box Office (020) 7730 4500

www.cadoganhall.com

The Mass in C was commissioned in 1807 by Prince Nikolaus Esterhazy for the annual celebrations of his wife the Princess Maria's name-day, continuing a tradition previously fulfilled by Haydn. This was Beethoven's first Mass and although it is overshadowed by the better-known Missa Solemnis, the Mass in C is a masterpiece in its own right, revealing an intensely personal and dramatic response to the text.

Beethoven's Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage is a setting for choir and orchestra of two poems by Goethe, contrasting the stillness of a becalmed sailing ship with the sailor's exhilaration as the wind springs up and he sights land. The Leonore overture is one of four versions he composed for the opera Fidelio, whose Finale, praising Leonore for her bravery in rescuing her husband from prison, is one of the most joyful and uplifting in all opera.

