

Supporting the Choir

London Concert Choir is committed to high standards and constantly strives to raise the level of its performances by means of workshops and other special events. The choir is grateful for the financial contribution of its supporters and welcomes their active involvement.

For information on how you can help the choir to achieve its aims, please contact:

treasurer@london-concert-choir.org.uk

Enquiries about opportunities for sponsorship and programme advertising should be sent to the same address.

Joining the Choir

The choir welcomes new members, who are invited to attend a few rehearsals before an informal audition. If you are interested, please fill in your details online at:

www.london-concert-choir.org.uk

Mailing List

If you would like to receive advance information about LCC's concerts, you can join the choir's free mailing list:

mailinglist@london-concert-choir.org.uk

The information you provide is subject to the Data Protection Act and as such will be used exclusively by London Concert Choir.

www.london-concert-choir.org.uk

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

All information in this guide was correct at the time of going to print. London Concert Choir reserves the right to make alterations to the season.

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London Concert Choir is one of London's leading amateur choirs. A lively and friendly choir, with around 150 members and an unusually broad repertoire, LCC regularly appears at all the major London concert venues as well as visiting destinations further afield. The most recent tour was to Italy in July 2014, when LCC with Southbank Sinfonia performed Haydn's oratorio *The Seasons* in the splendid Basilica di San Francesco, Assisi.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010 the choir sang Britten's *War Requiem* at the Barbican with Southbank Sinfonia and in Salisbury Cathedral with Dorset Youth Orchestra. Southbank Sinfonia have also joined with LCC and a choir from Augsburg to perform Verdi's *Requiem* at the Royal Festival Hall. Major works in earlier seasons include Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the English Chamber Orchestra and Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. A recent performance of Tippett's oratorio *A Child of Our Time* marked the 70th anniversary of its premiere.

On a smaller scale, the choir has sung settings of the Russian Orthodox liturgy and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*. Concerts of Baroque music with Counterpoint include Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St Matthew Passion*.

Operas in concert performance have ranged from Gluck's *Orfeo* to Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and the London premiere of *The Chalk Legend* by Stephen McNeff. LCC often gives concerts for charity and has commissioned a number of new works.

Mark Forkgen, the choir's Music Director since 1996, is also Principal Conductor of Kokoro (the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's new music group) and Music Director of Canticum chamber choir. As guest conductor with leading British orchestras Mark has given the first performances of over 100 works. He is also Conductor of Dorset Youth Orchestra and Director of Music at Tonbridge School.

James Longford, Assistant Conductor and Principal Accompanist of the choir, studied at the Royal College of Music and was organ scholar of St Martin-in-the-Fields. A Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, James now works as a freelance pianist and répétiteur as well as being one half of the award-winning longfordbrown piano duo.



Conductor: Mark Forkgen

Season 2014–15

Thursday 6 November 2014, 7.30pm

Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1

Handel: Judas Maccabaeus

Mary Nelson *soprano*

William Towers *counter-tenor*

Nathan Vale *tenor*

Giles Underwood *bass*

Counterpoint *period instrumental ensemble*

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £16, £12

Box Office (020) 7730 4500

www.cadoganhall.com

Of all Handel's oratorios, Judas Maccabaeus is second only to Messiah in popularity and is equally full of stirring choruses and beautiful arias. Judas, the great warrior-hero of the title, led a successful campaign during the second century BCE against the Hellenistic invaders who had ransacked the Temple in Jerusalem and were attempting to replace the Jewish religion with their own pagan practices.

Handel's music powerfully describes the changing mood of the people as they move through the whole gamut of emotions from wretchedness and despair to the triumph of victory.

Saturday 29 November 2014

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

with organist James Longford

4.00pm: Family Christmas Carols

Tickets £14; under-16s £7

7.30pm: Advent Carols by Candlelight

Tickets £29, £25, £22, £16, £9

Box Office for both concerts: (020) 7766 1100

www.smiff.org

Wednesday 17 December 2014, 7.30pm

St. Sepulchre's Church, Holborn Viaduct, EC1

Carols for Choir and Audience

with organist James Longford

Tickets £15 (under-16s £5)

LCC Box Office (020) 3397 5311

Christmas music sung by the choir and familiar hymns for all to join in. There will be a collection in aid of CHICKS (Country Holidays for Inner City Kids).

Tuesday 10 March 2015, 7.30pm

Barbican Hall, Silk Street, EC2

Mendelssohn: Elijah

Erica Eloff *soprano*

Jeanette Ager *mezzo-soprano*

Nicholas Hurndall Smith *tenor*

Toby Stafford-Allen *bass*

with Canticum

and Southbank Sinfonia

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £16, £12

Box Office (020) 7638 8891

www.barbican.org.uk

Mendelssohn's great biblical oratorio about the prophet Elijah has remained a favourite in the choral repertoire ever since its premiere at the Birmingham Festival in 1846.

From its first conception the composer was adamant that the drama of the story should be of central importance. And dramatic it certainly is: a curse bringing the scourge of drought; then despair, wickedness, cruelty, relief, tenderness and mercy all play their part. The turmoil is finally resolved in an impassioned chorus of praise and thanksgiving to the 'Lord, our Creator'.

Saturday 11 July 2015, 7.30pm

Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1

Jazz on a Summer Evening

to include Will Todd: Mass in Blue

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £16, £12

Box Office (020) 7730 4500

www.cadoganhall.com

Will Todd was born in 1970 and his Mass in Blue, a jazz-and-blues setting of the Latin Mass, seems just as suitable for church worship today as does any more 'classical' rendering in an older tradition. The freshness of its introduction compels attention, while the ending is a joyful and unexpected surprise.

In the second half of the concert, the choir, soprano and jazz trio will perform arrangements of classics from the Great American Songbook.

