
LONDON CONCERT CHOIR

est. 1960

President
Roderick Williams OBE

Music Director
Mark Forkgen

Saturday, 10 December 2022, 7:30pm
St John's Smith Square

London Concert Choir and Southbank Sinfonia Christmas



lcchoir.uk



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

This seasonal celebration features music by three English composers from the early twentieth century who were inspired by a shared love of folksong and the countryside.

Finzi's *Dies natalis* (Birthday) is a setting of texts by the seventeenth-century mystic Thomas Traherne, describing a newborn child's innocent vision of a world of beauty and splendour. The spirit of the words is conveyed in long melodic lines and richly textured instrumental writing.

In terra pax is a radiant, optimistic work in which St Luke's description of the angels appearing to the shepherds is framed by verses from Robert Bridges' poem about a wanderer who hears Christmas bells in the distance. The sound of bells permeates the music, building to a climax as the angels sing 'Glory to God in the Highest.'

Holst composed his engaging *St Paul's Suite* for the talented string orchestra of St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, where he taught and composed for nearly 30 years. His *Christmas Day* and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* each take well-known traditional carols and interweave them into a joyful choral tapestry.

Making its first appearance at the St John's Christmas Festival, London Concert Choir is notable for its varied repertoire and the commitment and musicality of its performances under Mark Forkgen, who has just celebrated 25 years as its Music Director. Southbank Sinfonia, based at St John's, is a leading orchestral academy for young graduate professional musicians from across the world.



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Vaughan Williams

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Finzi

Dies natalis

In terra pax

Holst

St Paul's Suite

Christmas Day

Music Director

Mark Forkgen

Nicholas Madden tenor

Christopher Walker treble

Laurence Williams baritone

London Concert Choir
Southbank Sinfonia

Tickets: £35, £25, £15

Box Office:

020 7222 1061

Book online:

sjss.org.uk

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