



Monday 11 June 2018, 7.30pm
Barbican Hall, Silk Street, EC2



RAF CENTENARY CONCERT

100 YEARS OF BRITISH MUSIC

including the World Premiere of

PER ARDUA AD ASTRA

Through Adversity to the Stars
by Roderick Williams

London Concert Choir
Canticum
Counterpoint Strings
Children's choir

Mark Forkgen
conductor



Central Band of the Royal Air Force
*by permission of the
Air Force Board of the Defence Council*

Wng Cdr Piers Morrell
conductor

Sophie Raworth and Martin Shaw
narrators

barbican

Box Office
020 7638 8891
barbican.org.uk

Tickets £35, £30, £25, £20, £16, £12 plus booking fee
Booking fees: £3 online, £4 by telephone.
(no fee when tickets are booked in person from the Box Office)

London Concert Choir presents the world premiere of a major choral work by British baritone and composer Roderick Williams, commissioned to celebrate and commemorate the first 100 years of the world's oldest independent air force and provide a musical legacy for the anniversary. The work's title *Per Ardua ad Astra* is the motto of the Royal Air Force.

With the setting of a wide range of aviation poetry at its heart, the new work conveys the essence of significant episodes in the history of the RAF from its foundation in April 1918 to the present. Words and music movingly describe the joy and exhilaration of flying and attest to the courage of the aircrew. The movements are linked by spoken narrative and the piece also features the sounds of iconic aircraft from the history of the Service.

The concert opens with two magnificent Coronation anthems, Parry's *I was glad* and Walton's *Te Deum*, accompanied by the RAF Band and organ, and Britten's engaging *Simple Symphony* for strings. These are followed by a selection of stirring music from the Band, including the March from *Things to Come* by Arthur Bliss, *Ladies in Lavender* by Nigel Hess and *Into the Skies* by Philip Lawrence, which has been specially commissioned for the centenary year.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to the RAF100 Appeal – a joint venture between the Royal Air Force and four major RAF charities which are helping to support serving personnel and veterans as well as enhancing training facilities for young people.

The concert is funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds.



The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre

London Concert Choir: registered number 3220578,
registered charity number 1057242.

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Music Director:
Mark Forkgen



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