

LONDON
CONCERT
CHOIR

Conductor
Mark Forkgen

season 2007/2008

www.london-concert-choir.org.uk



Mark Forkgen

Conductor

Mark Forkgen has directed London Concert Choir since 1996. He is also Music Director of Canticum chamber choir and Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of Kokoro, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's contemporary music group. In his role as guest conductor Mark has worked with a number of leading British orchestras and has given the first performances of around a hundred works.

He has been Conductor and Artistic Advisor for highly acclaimed festivals including Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' 70th Birthday; Stravinsky, the Composers of the South-West and more recently "A Festival of Britten". A champion of Youth Music, Mark is the Principal Conductor of Dorset Youth Orchestra and, after conducting youth orchestras in London and Scotland for some years, is now Director of Music at Tonbridge School.



London Concert Choir

The Choir began life in 1960 as the Brompton Choral Society; since that time it has continued to grow in size and ambition and now has more than 100 members of a wide range of ages. London Concert Choir gives concerts and has made guest appearances at all the major London concert venues and has sung in cathedrals and other churches in and around London as well as touring to France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Ireland.

A hallmark of London Concert Choir has always been its diverse repertoire. Recent seasons have featured Handel's oratorio Israel in Egypt and the London première of a reconstruction of Mozart's great C minor Mass with the Counterpoint ensemble, as well as rarely-heard unaccompanied settings of the Russian Orthodox liturgy by Gretchaninov and Tchaikovsky.

Performances of major choral works of the 19th and 20th centuries have included Verdi's Requiem, Dvorak's Stabat Mater, Elgar's Dream of Gerontius and Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony – all with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on the South Bank. Also with the RPO, the Choir has sung the Brahms German Requiem at the Barbican and has jointly presented 'Spirit of Christmas' concerts in the Cadogan Hall.

The Choir has performed concert versions of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Gershwin's Porgy and Bess and highlights from the musicals of Rodgers and Hammerstein, and over the years has commissioned a number of works from contemporary composers. London Concert Choir regularly gives performances for charity, including an annual carol concert at Leatherhead for SeeAbility.

Britten - St Nicolas

Elgar – Serenade for Strings
Give unto the Lord

with Andrew O'Brien – Tenor,
Peter Barley – Organ, and Orchestra

TICKETS £15

LCC BOX OFFICE (020) 7937 7540

St Nicolas, the patron saint of children, was the fourth-century Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. Britten's engaging cantata, composed in 1948, celebrates the saint's 'piety and marvellous works'. In recounting the story of his life from birth to death, it includes such legendary episodes as his calming of a storm at sea and restoring three young boys to life. Andrew O'Brien, who sings the role of Nicolas, is Holy Trinity's Director of Music.

2007 is The Year of Elgar, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. Elgar's Serenade was one of his earliest works to become well known, but is typical of the composer in its Englishness. The grand ceremonial anthem Give Unto the Lord was commissioned for a festival at St Paul's Cathedral in 1914; appropriately, it concludes with a prayer for the blessing of peace.

Christmas at St Martin-in-the-Fields

Family Christmas Carols, 4pm

TICKETS £10; UNDER-16S £5

Look forward to Christmas, with seasonal carols sung by the choir and traditional hymns for everyone to sing.

Advent Carols by Candlelight, 7.30pm

TICKETS £24, £20, £16, £10, £6

A selection of choral music to celebrate the start of the Advent season.

BOX OFFICE FOR BOTH CONCERTS:

(020) 7766 1100 OR

BOOK ONLINE AT

WWW.SMITF.ORG



Carols for Choir and Audience at St Luke's, Chelsea

TICKETS £15; UNDER-16s £5
LCC BOX OFFICE (020) 7937 7540

Celebrate Christmas with London Concert Choir as they perform traditional and modern carols and songs, with audience participation in the well-known hymns.



Beethoven – Mass in D (Missa Solemnis)

with Canticum
and the English Chamber Orchestra

TICKETS £26, £22, £18, £13, £7
BOX OFFICE(020) 7638 8891

Beethoven himself regarded his monumental setting of the Latin Mass as his greatest work. Completed in 1823, it is one of the supreme choral masterpieces, combining awe-inspiring grandeur with a fervent spiritual intensity.

Beethoven's musical interpretation of the text stretches its performers to the limit as he seeks to give the deepest expression to every word, within the architectural structure of the whole. The score bears the heading "From the heart – may it go to the heart".



Haydn - The Creation

sung in English

with **Counterpoint**
period instrumental ensemble

This concert is a joint promotion with the
Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London
in aid of their charity fund, supporting outreach projects in the East End of London.

TICKETS £20, £16
LCC BOX OFFICE (020) 7937 7540

During his visits to London in the 1790s Haydn was greatly impressed by the oratorios of Handel and resolved to emulate his example. The text of *The Creation*, derived from the Bible and Milton's *Paradise Lost*, describes the successive creation of the universe, the Earth and its inhabitants and finally, Adam and Eve.

There are fine solo arias and joyful Handelian choruses of praise and thanksgiving, while Haydn's orchestration vividly depicts the wonders of the natural world. *The Creation* represents Haydn at his finest and its continuing popularity is well deserved.

Joining London Concert Choir

Members of the Choir enjoy music-making in a friendly, informal, yet stimulating environment, combined with the opportunity to sing great works in major venues with the best orchestras and soloists.

The Choir is committed to attaining high standards in a wide range of repertoire and styles. To achieve this, occasional singing workshops are held with Director Mark Forkgen.

If you would like to join the Choir, come to a rehearsal and sing with us for a few weeks before an informal audition. Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings from 7.15pm to 9.30pm. See the website (below) for details.

Contact for choir membership:

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stephen@london-concert-choir.org.uk

www.london-concert-choir.org.uk

Supporting London Concert Choir

London Concert Choir gratefully acknowledges the support given by its associates, who together help underpin its ambitious concert seasons.

If you would like to support the Choir in its ambition to succeed, why not become either a Companion or a Patron?

Donations from the Companions and Patrons sponsor one concert a year and enable the Choir to perform more varied repertoire in some of the most beautiful churches in London.

Being a Companion requires a donation of £135 p.a. or above; to be a Patron the minimum donation is £500 p.a.

Both schemes offer the following benefits:

- Advance notice of forthcoming concerts
- Early booking opportunities
- Opportunities to attend rehearsals and meet the choir and the conductor
- The chance to join overseas tours
- If wished, recognition in the programmes
- A free programme at each concert
- A reception each year at the summer concert



In addition, Patrons will receive one pair of free tickets for the summer concert and 50% reductions on all other concerts promoted by the Choir.

For further information please visit our website or email us at:

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

If you would like advance information about our concerts, join the Choir's free mailing list:

mailinglist@london-concert-choir.org.uk