

London Concert Choir celebrated its first 50 years in 2010. Now with around 150 members of a wide range of ages, the choir is notable for the conviction and expressiveness of its performances in an unusually broad musical repertoire. It regularly appears at all the major London concert venues and in churches and cathedrals in and around the capital.

The highlight of last season was an exchange with the Augsburg Basilica Choir. This began in March with a joint performance of Verdi's Requiem at the Royal Festival Hall, then in July LCC visited Germany to perform with the Basilikachor at the Augsburg Peace Festival.

Earlier seasons have included choral music from the 16th to the 21st centuries by a variety of composers; Haydn's oratorio The Creation and Handel's Coronation Anthems with Counterpoint; Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with the English Chamber Orchestra and Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Two memorable performances of Britten's War Requiem – at the Barbican with Southbank Sinfonia, and in Salisbury Cathedral with Dorset Youth Orchestra – marked the choir's anniversary year.

London Concert Choir has also given concert performances of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with Counterpoint and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess with the RPO, presented Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts and appeared in the Star Wars concerts at the O2 Arena. The choir often gives performances 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 around a hundred works. A long-time champion of Youth Music, he is 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, he now works as a freelance pianist and répétiteur as well as being one half of the award-winning longfordbrown piano duo.

Supporting the 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.

The choir welcomes the active involvement of its supporters and gratefully acknowledges their contribution. Please help the choir to maintain its position as one of the leading amateur choirs in London by becoming a Friend, Companion or Patron.

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; enquiries should be sent to the same address.

Joining the Choir

London Concert Choir welcomes new members. Currently, the choir has vacancies for Tenors and Basses. If you are interested in joining us, please fill in your details online at: www.london-concert-choir.org.uk

Mailing List

If you would like to receive advance information about our 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.

Find us online at:

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. © 2011 London Concert Choir



Conductor: **Mark Forkgen**

Season 2011–2012

www.london-concert-choir.org.uk

Tuesday 27 September 2011, 7.30pm

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, SE1

War and Peace

Haydn: Mass in Time of War

Vaughan Williams: Dona Nobis Pacem

Helen Meyerhoff soprano, *Jeanette Ager* mezzo soprano

Nathan Vale tenor, *Colin Campbell* baritone
and *City of London Sinfonia*

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £15, £10

Box Office (0844) 847 9910

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Both composers were writing in the shadow of approaching war. Haydn's Mass, one of his finest works, was written in 1796 as Napoleon was advancing on Vienna, indeed 'Missa in tempore belli' was Haydn's own title. Vaughan Williams composed his profoundly moving cantata in 1936 to words taken principally from the Bible and the poems of Walt Whitman. The martial sounds of trumpets and drums feature prominently in both works and each ends with the heartfelt plea 'Dona nobis pacem: Grant us peace.'

Saturday 3 December 2011

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

with organist **James Longford**

4.00pm: Family Christmas Carols

Tickets £12; under-16s £6

7.30pm: Advent Carols by Candlelight

Tickets £28, £24, £20, £14, £8

Box Office for both concerts: (020) 7766 1100

www.smitf.org

"...a performance that was at times very moving – especially with regard to the choral singing, which was consistently quite splendid."

Verdi Requiem, March 2011, Musical Opinion

Wednesday 14 December 2011, 7.30pm

Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1

Handel: Messiah

Erica Eloff soprano, *Christopher Lowrey* counter tenor

James Geer tenor, *Giles Underwood* bass

and **Counterpoint** period instrument ensemble

Tickets £28, £24, £20, £16, £12

Box Office (020) 7730 4500

www.cadoganhall.com

Messiah was composed in a fever of creative inspiration in about three weeks and had its premiere in Dublin in 1742. It soon became the best-loved of all Handel's sacred oratorios and today receives countless performances every year all over the world. This will be the first time that the choir has sung Messiah with Mark Forkgen, whose interpretation will highlight the dramatic qualities of this endlessly rich score.

Collection in aid of Chance for Children Trust

Wednesday 7 March 2012, 7.30pm

Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, SE1

Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

Adrian Thompson tenor

Jennifer Johnston mezzo soprano

Brindley Sherratt bass

with **Canticum** and **Southbank Sinfonia**

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £16, £12, £8

Box Office (0844) 847 9910

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

First performed in 1900, Elgar's oratorio is based on a poem by Cardinal Newman depicting the death of an old man and his soul's journey through the next world, supported by a guardian angel and encountering demons and angelic beings on his path to Judgment.

Elgar broke with the conventions of Victorian choral writing to produce music full of dramatic intensity and expressiveness and the oratorio soon came to be regarded as his choral masterpiece.

Sunday 20 May 2012, 8.15pm

The Chapel of St Augustine, Tonbridge School

Music for Coronations

In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, a concert of music performed at Coronations, to include anthems by Gibbons, Handel, Parry, Vaughan Williams and Walton.

Tickets £12

Box Office (01732) 304241

www.tonbridge-school.co.uk

Saturday 14 July 2012, 7.30pm

HMV Forum, Kentish Town, NW5

Stephen McNeff: The Chalk Legends

London premiere

with members of **Kokoro**, **Dorset Youth Orchestra**,
Ealing Youth Orchestra, **Dance South West**
and youth choirs from London and Dorset

Tickets £28 to £10

Box Office 0844 847 2405

www.ticketmaster.co.uk

London Concert Choir presents the London premiere of an exciting community-based music and dance event by award-winning composer Stephen McNeff. Given in promenade performance in an unusual venue, this vibrant and spectacular work is inspired by London 2012.

The fertile landscape of Dorset conceals secrets from a dark time when Viking hordes pillaged the coast. When one of these secrets is suddenly unearthed during preparations for 2012, a promise made over a thousand years ago is kept... and a prophecy fulfilled. This is the story behind The Chalk Legends.

Anyone who has ever heard great choral and orchestral works like Carmina Burana will know the power of music to conjure ancient rituals while speaking to a modern audience.

www.chalklegends.com