



PRESS RELEASE

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Christmas at Cadogan 2017

Christmas at Cadogan returns in 2017 for another series of concerts perfect for the festive season, featuring world class orchestras, choirs, soloists and family events. Highlights include **Tenebrae** and the **English Chamber Orchestra** performing Handel's Messiah; **Only Men Aloud**'s new Christmas show; **The Sixteen** performing their *Glory to the Christ Child* programme twice as part of the **Choral at Cadogan** series; the **Mozart Symphony Orchestra** providing the live accompaniment to *The Snowman* and *Father Christmas*; and the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** bring back their annual sell-out show *Christmas Cracker*.

Choral at Cadogan

The Choral at Cadogan series continues on **Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 December** with **The Sixteen** and conductor **Harry Christophers** presenting *Glory to the Christ Child*, a festive collection of music from the 16th century right up to the present day. The programme features two contrasting works by Poulenc, his joyful *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël* and his solemn and reflective *Un soir de neige*. This is set alongside Howells' *A Spotless Rose* and old favourites the *Somerset Carol* and *Past Three O Clock*, plus many more.

On **Saturday 23 December**, **The Temple Church Choir**, directed by **Roger Sayer**, explore the varying musical interpretations of the nativity story from the 16th century through to the 20th century including Lauridsen's *O magnum mysterium*, Sweelinck's *Hodie Christus natus est*, Di Lasso's *Mirabile mysterium*. Rodney Bennett's *The insect world* and Blake's *The Snowman*. Seasonal pieces *We wish you a Merry Christmas* (arr. Chilcott), *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* (arr. Davies), *12 Days of Christmas* (arr. Roberts), *Jingle Bells* (arr. Roberts), Darbourne's *Silent Night* and *All I Want for Christmas* (arr. Darbourne) are also included.

Other Choral Events

No yuletide celebration is complete without a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Soprano **Grace Davidson**, mezzo-soprano **Kitty Whately**, tenor **James Gilchrist** and bass **Christopher Purves** join forces with **Tenebrae** and the **English Chamber Orchestra** on **Sunday 3 December** for this best-loved of all choral masterpieces. The riches of the work extend far beyond the famous *Hallelujah* chorus and the religious and non-religious alike can experience some of the most heartfelt and uplifting music ever written.

The centrepiece of the **Barts Choir's** concerts on **Thursday 14 December** and **Friday 15 December** is Bach's *Christmas Oratorio (Parts I-III)*. London's largest professionally-rehearsed choir, joined by the **Trafalgar Baroque Ensemble** and conductor **Ivor Setterfield**, tells the story of Jesus' birth, the angels appearing to the shepherds, and their visit to the manger. As with Bach's Passion settings, the Biblical story is interspersed with solos and choruses commenting on the action. Handel's *Foundling Hospital Anthem*, is less familiar but its charitable theme fits with the spirit of the season and the concert ends with the *Hallelujah* chorus from his *Messiah*.

Start the weekend of Christmas celebrations on **Friday 22 December** with a selection of some of the best carols old and new performed by **The Bach Choir**. Joined by the eight-piece **London City Brass**, **Philip Scriven** at the organ, and percussionists **Nigel Bates** and **Matthew Green** there is also the chance to join in singing some favourites, conducted by **David Hill**.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Conducted by **Hilary Davan Wetton**, the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** and the **City of London Choir** are joined by world-class baritone **Roderick Williams** for a classical festive concert on **Wednesday 13 December**. The programme includes favourites by Vaughan Williams such as *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, John Rutter's *Nativity Carol*, and popular carols.

The orchestra perform twice on **Saturday 16 December** in their annual and much-loved *Christmas Cracker*. They are joined by acclaimed West End singers **Graham Bickley** and **Anna-Jane Casey** for hit yuletide songs and plenty of joy and sparkle.

Other Ensemble Events

Rimsky-Korsakov's captivating opera Christmas Eve is very appropriate at this time of year and **Chelsea Opera Group Chorus and Orchestra** perform it in concert on **Sunday 10 December** under the baton of **Timothy Burke**. The story centres on an unconventional day before Christmas with an altruistic Devil and a reckless quest for the Russian tsarina's slippers; at its heart is a love story. Rimsky-Korsakov's score applies all his gifts of local, folk-inflected colour and scintillating orchestration in a thoroughly Russian atmosphere of enchantment.

On **Tuesday 12 December**, the **John Lewis Partnership Music Society**, comprising employees from 18 of its choirs and orchestras around the country, performs Vaughan Williams' *The First Nowell* and Tchaikovsky's *Suite from The Sleeping Beauty*. Directed by **Manvinder Rattan** and accompanied by **The Cavendish Ensemble**, the audience also have the opportunity to join in with traditional carols.

Welsh male vocal group **Only Men Aloud** inject new life into this unique tradition, bringing their new Christmas show to Cadogan Hall on **Sunday 17 December**. They are known for their strong vocals and a varied repertoire; a typical concert features many different styles of music from Welsh hymns and folksongs to opera and music theatre to swing and pop music.

Viennese music fills the Hall on **Wednesday 27 December** with the **London Concertante** performing Strauss' *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *Trisch-Trasch Polka*, *Blue Danube Waltz*; Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite*, *Waltz from Sleeping Beauty*; and Brahms' *Hungarian Dance No. 5*. Scottish violinist **Ben Norris** guest directs and is the soloist in Schubert's *Rondo for Violin & Strings*.

From Christmas to New Year, BBC Radio 4 and Classic FM personality **Rainer Hersch** and his **Orchestra** take to the stage on **Sunday 31 December** for a new show featuring festive favourites as well as music from (or almost from): Beethoven's *Symphony No.9*; Bizet's *Carmen Overture*; Tchaikovsky's

1812 Overture; Microsoft's *Windows Waltz*; and John Williams' *Oscar Medley for Hosepipe and Funnel*. Members of **The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain** join them as special guests.

The Rat Pack at Christmas

A staple in the Christmas at Cadogan series, **The Definitive Rat Pack** returns for an evening of yuletide classics on **Saturday 9 December** with **Stephen Triffitt** as Frank Sinatra, **Mark Adams** as Dean Martin and **George Daniel Long** as Sammy Davis Jr. Featuring Dean Martin's sensational **Goldiggers** and the internationally-renowned 14-piece Manhattan Swing Orchestra, the programme includes *White Christmas*, *Baby It's Cold Outside*, *The Christmas Song* and *Let it Snow*, plus all-time favourites including *I've Got You Under My Skin*, *That's Amore*, *Mr Bojangles* and *New York, New York*.

Family Events

A key part of Christmas is family and there is plenty to look forward to, beginning on **Wednesday 20 December** with two screenings of Howard Blake's magical film *The Snowman* with live soundtrack from the **Mozart Symphony Orchestra** and **Alice Mackenzie** singing the famous treble part. Conductor **Philip Mackenzie** also leads the ensemble in Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, with lots of extras and fun surprises including poetry by **Ogden Nash** and others, jokes from the podium and cartoon animations projected onto a screen above the orchestra.

The Orchestra and Mackenzie return the next day, on **Thursday 21 December**, for two more performances, bringing to live Mike Hewer's *Father Christmas* by providing the live accompaniment to the film screening. **Simon Murray** is the voice of Father Christmas and **Alice Mackenzie** is the soprano with actors providing the dialogue and sound effects. Actor **Brian Blessed** narrates Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* in the second half, a story that has thrilled generations of children and is the ideal way to introduce young people to orchestral music.

For further press information please contact:

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Listings

<p>Handel's Messiah Sunday 3 December, 6pm Tenebrae/English Chamber Orchestra</p>	<p>The Rat Pack at Christmas Saturday 9 December, 7:30pm Stephen Triffitt/Mark Adams/George Daniel Long/The Goldiggers/The Manhattan Swing Orchestra</p>
<p>Rimsky-Korsakov: Christmas Eve Sunday 10 December, 7:30pm Chelsea Opera Group Chorus and Orchestra/Timothy Burke</p>	<p>John Lewis Partnership Music Society Tuesday 12 December, 7:30pm Choirs of the John Lewis Partnership/The Cavendish Ensemble/Manvinder Rattan</p> <p>Vaughan Williams <i>The First Nowell</i> Tchaikovsky <i>Suite from The Sleeping Beauty</i></p>
<p>Royal Philharmonic Orchestra: A Choral Christmas Wednesday 13 December, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Barts Choir sings Bach and Handel Thursday 14 & Friday 15 December, 7:30pm Trafalgar Baroque Ensemble/Ivor Setterfield</p>

<p>City of London Choir/Roderick Williams/Hilary Davan Wetton</p>	<p>Bach <i>Christmas Oratorio (Parts I-III)</i> Handel <i>Foundling Hospital Anthem (choruses)</i></p>
<p>Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Christmas Cracker Saturday 16 December, 3pm & 7:30pm Graham Bickley/Anna-Jane Casey/Nick Davies</p>	<p>Only Men Aloud Sunday 17 December, 7:00pm</p>
<p>The Sixteen: Glory to the Christ Child Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 December, 7:30pm Harry Christophers <i>conductor</i></p> <p>Alan Bullard <i>Glory to the Christ Child</i> John Joubert <i>There is no rose</i> Traditional Old Basque <i>I saw a maiden</i> John Rutter <i>There is a flower</i> Traditional <i>Christmas Eve (The Lord at first did Adam make)</i> Costeley <i>Allons, gay bergeres</i> Lassus <i>La nuit froide et sombre</i> Traditional French (arr. Kitson) <i>Quelle est cette odeur</i> Poulenc <i>Quatre motets pour le temps de Noel</i> Kim Porter <i>Christmas bringeth Jesus (Christmas Eve)</i> Howells <i>A spotless rose</i> Traditional Somerset <i>Carol</i> Poulenc <i>Un soir de neige</i> Traditional <i>Past three o'clock</i> Palestrina <i>O magnum mysterium; Quen vidistis pastores?; Videntes stellam; Hodie Christus natus est</i> Bob Chilcott <i>Pilgrim Jesus</i></p>	<p>The Snowman and Carnival of the Animals Wednesday 20 December, 1:30pm & 4:30pm Mozart Symphony Orchestra/Alice Mackenzie/Philip Mackenzie</p> <p>Howard Blake <i>The Snowman (film screening with live orchestra)</i> Saint-Saëns <i>Carnival of the Animals</i></p>
<p>Father Christmas and Peter and the Wolf Thursday 21 December, 1:30pm & 4:30pm Mozart Symphony Orchestra/Brian Blessed/Simon Murray/Alice Mackenzie/Philip Mackenzie</p> <p>Mike Hower <i>Father Christmas (film screening with live orchestra)</i> Prokofiev <i>Peter and the Wolf</i></p>	<p>The Bach Choir: Carols at Cadogan Friday 22 December, 7:30pm London City Brass/Philip Scriven/Nigel Bates/Matthew Green/David Hill</p>
<p>The Temple Church Choir Saturday 23 December, 7:30pm Roger Sayer <i>director</i></p> <p>Poulenc <i>O magnum mysterium</i> Sweelinck <i>Hodie Christus natus est</i> Di Lasso <i>Mirabile mysterium</i> Sweelinck <i>Cantatye domino</i> Byrd <i>Vigilate</i> Byrd <i>Rorate coeli</i> Reger <i>Maria Wiegenlied</i></p>	<p>London Concertante: Viennese Christmas Spectacular Wednesday 27 December, 7:30pm Ben Norris <i>guest director/violin</i></p> <p>Strauss <i>Tales from the Vienna Woods</i> Tchaikovsky <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> Strauss <i>Trisch-Trasch Polka</i> Tchaikovsky <i>Waltz from Sleeping Beauty</i> Brahms <i>Hungarian Dance No.5</i> Schubert <i>Rondo for Violin & Strings</i></p>

<p>Mendelssohn <i>Wienachten</i> Lauridsen <i>O magnum mysterium</i> Arr. Darbourne <i>All I want for Christmas</i> Darbourne <i>Silent Night</i> Arr. Roberts <i>Jingle Bells</i> Rodney Bennett <i>The insect world</i> Blake <i>The Snowman</i> Arr. Davies <i>I'm dreaming of a white Christmas</i> Arr. Roberts <i>12 days of Christmas</i> Arr. Chilcott <i>We wish you a merry Christmas</i></p>	<p>Strauss <i>Blue Danube Waltz</i></p>
<p>Rainer Hersch Orchestra: New Year's Eve Bash Sunday 31 December, 7pm Members of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain/Rainer Hersch</p> <p>Beethoven <i>Symphony No. 9 (Choral); Symphony No. 5; Für Elise</i> Bizet <i>Carmen Overture</i> Fusion <i>Uke meets Ork</i> Glinka <i>Ruslan and Ludmila Overture</i> Microsoft <i>The Windows Waltz</i> Mozart <i>Eine kleine Nachtmusik; Symphony No.40</i> Ravel <i>Bolero</i> Tchaikovsky <i>1812 Overture (for canons and audience)</i> Tchaikovsky <i>The Nutcracker Suite</i> Verdi <i>La Traviata; Dies irae</i> John Williams <i>Oscar Medley of Hosepipe and Funnel</i></p>	

Tickets: available from Cadogan Hall Box Office

Online: www.cadoganhall.com

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The Box Office is open for telephone bookings:

- Monday – Saturday: 10am – 6pm (8pm on performance days)
 - Sunday: 12pm – 8pm (performance days only)
- Telephone and online bookings are subject to a fee of £3.00 per transaction, except for ENCORE members.