

PRESS RELEASE

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The Sixteen announces new cohort of Genesis Sixteen singers and appoints new Conducting Scholar

The Sixteen are delighted to announce the new cohort of **Genesis Sixteen** singers and the appointment of **Benedict Preece** as Genesis Sixteen Conducting Scholar for 2017-18. The new cohort are:

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Morven Bremner	Isobel Chesman	Ted Black	George Clark
Isabella Gibber	Anya Chomacki	Oscar Golden-Lee	George Cook
Natalie Houlston	Theo Golden	Charlie Hodgkiss	Sam Gilliatt
Maisie Hulbert	Katie Jeffries-Harris	Thomas Perkins	John Lee
Victoria Meteyard	David Whitworth	Sidharth Prabhu-Naik	Peter Norris
Rebecca Murphy			
Myrna Tennant			

Genesis Sixteen, supported by the **Genesis Foundation**, is currently in its seventh year and has worked with over 100 participants. The UK's first ever fully funded programme of its kind, Genesis Sixteen is The Sixteen's free young artists' scheme for 18-23 year olds, which aims to nurture the next generation of talented ensemble singers. During the course of a year, a series of week-long and weekend courses are led by key figures from The Sixteen, including founder and conductor **Harry Christophers** and Associate Conductor **Eamonn Dougan**. Participants receive group tuition, individual mentoring and masterclasses run by some of the world's top vocal experts. Support from the Genesis Foundation means participants receive free tuition and a bursary to cover all additional costs. The Conducting Scholarship is fully funded and offers young conductors, between the ages of 21-26, the opportunity to be mentored by Harry Christophers and Eamonn Dougan, as well as the chance to work with some of the best young ensemble singers in the country. The Scholar is given the chance to observe each course, sing with the choir, lead their own rehearsals and conduct several pieces in concert.

Harry Christophers, Founder and Conductor, The Sixteen commented, "*Genesis Sixteen has become an integral part of what The Sixteen does and I am delighted to welcome the new cohort of singers and Conducting Scholar to the scheme. Over the next year they will work extensively and in great detail with myself and Eamonn Dougan and will also have the opportunity to be mentored by singers of the highest quality to nurture and develop their talent. We are, as always, very grateful to the Genesis Foundation for its continued support and dedication to this cause.*"

John Studzinski, Founder and Chairman, Genesis Foundation, commented, “*Burgeoning talent, mentoring from one of the most inspirational choral conductors, standing side-by-side with great singers, meeting peers who become collaborators – all this and much more characterise Genesis Sixteen. To take young talent, expose it to great leadership and mentoring is at the heart of the Genesis Foundation and we couldn’t be prouder of the more than 100 alumni and what they’ve achieved. The fact that they in turn are now mentoring others shows how supporting such schemes as Genesis Sixteen continually transforms the lives of young artists.*”

Genesis Sixteen alumni are continuing their successful careers with chorus and solo roles at Glyndebourne and performances alongside a range of renowned ensembles including The Sixteen, British Youth Opera, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Tenebrae Choir and many more, with regular appearances on BBC Radio 3 and various festivals across the UK and beyond. This year we saw James Newby become the 2017 Jerwood Young Artist, James Way win the Second Prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards, and two alumni ensembles releasing their debut albums.

Applications for the 2018-19 cohort will open in November 2017.

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Notes to Editors

About The Sixteen

The Sixteen is recognised as one of the world’s greatest ensembles. Comprising both choir and period-instrument orchestra, The Sixteen strives to take beautiful and inspiring choral music, from the Renaissance and Baroque to the present day, to as wide and diverse an audience as possible. Its mission is both to preserve and champion the great choral heritage and to preserve and grow a future audience for it. The group’s repertoire is drawn from the passions of Founder and Conductor Harry Christophers CBE.

At home in the UK The Sixteen are ‘The Voices of Classic FM’, Associate Artists of The Bridgewater Hall, Artistic Associates of Kings Place, and are resident at the Wigmore Hall. The group promotes the *Choral Pilgrimage*, an annual tour of the UK’s finest cathedrals, which aims to bring music back to the buildings for which it was written. The Sixteen features in the highly successful BBC television series *Sacred Music*, presented by actor Simon Russell Beale – the latest hour-long programme entitled *Monteverdi in Mantua: The Genius of the Vespers* was aired in April 2015.

The Sixteen tours throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas and has given regular performances at major concert halls and festivals worldwide with both its choir and period-instrument orchestra.

Since 2001 The Sixteen has been building its own record label, CORO, which has released 150 titles to date. Recent releases include *Francis Poulenc*, featuring music from this year’s *Choral Pilgrimage*, a recording dedicated to the music of Edmund Rubbra, and the premiere recording of Sir James

MacMillan's *Stabat Mater* which was commissioned by the Genesis Foundation for Harry Christophers and The Sixteen, and performed with Britten Sinfonia.

The Sixteen has a flourishing Education Department and continues to develop its work with choral music enthusiasts of all ages through the young artist programme Genesis Sixteen, projects for primary and secondary school children, a Chorister Mentoring Scheme and a Choral Workshop Series for amateur singers across the country. Genesis Sixteen was launched in 2011 as a new training programme for young singers, generously funded by the Genesis Foundation. Aimed at 18- to 23-year-olds, this is the UK's first fully funded choral programme for young singers designed specifically to bridge the gap from student to professional practitioner.

About the Genesis Foundation

Established by John Studzinski in 2001, the Genesis Foundation works in partnership with the leaders of prestigious UK arts organisations such as LAMDA, the National Theatre, Royal Court, The Sixteen and the Young Vic. Its largest funding commitment is to programmes that support directors, playwrights, actors and musicians in the early stages of their professional lives.

In addition to its funding of Genesis Sixteen, the Genesis Foundation has been working with Harry Christophers and The Sixteen these past ten years on performances and recordings of its sacred music commissions including James MacMillan's recent *Stabat mater*. The theme of art & faith increasingly characterises aspects of the Foundation's work.