

PRESS RELEASE

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“Quarantine with The Sixteen” Digital content from the Choir and Founder & Conductor Harry Christophers

During these uncertain times, **The Sixteen** and Founder and Conductor **Harry Christophers CBE** present “Quarantine with The Sixteen” - a regular schedule of digital content full of video diaries and recipes as well as larger virtual choirs, archive performances and playlists from the choir’s extensive recording catalogue.

The Sixteen Virtual Choir’s performance of Sheppard’s exquisite *Libera nos*, is released today with a difference. With a text which has a particular resonance and poignancy at the moment, *Libera nos* is a core piece of repertoire for the ensemble and representative of the reflective but uplifting music which has become their hallmark. With Christophers at the helm, each part was recorded at every individual singer’s home representing them in their domestic setting during lockdown, with some relaxing and others carrying out household chores. With thanks to [CDC films](#). Watch [here](#).

Digital features

Choral Chihuahua – A Podcast presented by The Sixteen and I Fagiolini

Choral Chihuahua sees three renowned British choral conductors **Harry Christophers** (Founder and Conductor, The Sixteen), **Eamonn Dougan** (Associate Conductor, The Sixteen and singer with both ensembles) and **Robert Hollingworth** (Director, I Fagiolini) muse on things that matter to them: composers they love, points of choral technique, classic but also niche choral works, and other singers, conductors and ensembles they admire. Each episode is 35 minutes long, released every fortnight, with a variety of guests throughout the series: chat mingled with music. The first episode is available [now](#) on all good podcast providers.

Stay at Home Choir – Sir James MacMillan’s *O Radiant Dawn*

Stay at Home Choir is a global musical community of more than 8000 people who come together to interact with and perform alongside some of their favourite artists. The Sixteen are the third ensemble to be involved and four of its singers have led 5 evenings of webinars coaching different voice types through Sir James MacMillan’s *O Radiant Dawn*. 737 people have submitted a video of themselves singing their part and work has now begun to stitch them all together into a virtual ensemble, which will be released next month.

Harry Christophers introduces 20 Years of The Choral Pilgrimage

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the much-loved Choral Pilgrimage, join Christophers every Tuesday as he looks back at some of his favourite Choral Pilgrimage pieces. The Choral Pilgrimage has been a much-loved staple of The Sixteen’s programme for many years, travelling the UK’s cathedrals and abbeys, discovering their beautiful architecture and acoustics, and building relationships with the community, many of which the choir return to year after year.

Archive Performances

Over the Easter weekend, The Sixteen replayed two of its most memorable concerts: the mesmerising Sistine Chapel performance of Sir James MacMillan's *Stabat mater*, and the immersive version of Bach's iconic *St Matthew Passion* in collaboration with Streetwise Opera. Watch both [here](#).

Social Media

Follow The Sixteen on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest content:

Lunchtime Soundbites

Every Monday lunchtime listen to a musician from The Sixteen perform a piece of their choice from their living room.

Recipes for Isolation

Each week, a musician or member of The Sixteen's administrative team will share a favourite recipe for all the keen bakers out there.

Video Diaries

A weekly video diary will give you a little insight into the daily lives of The Sixteen's musicians during lockdown.

Playlists

Weekly playlists curated by The Sixteen's musicians and staff. Follow the choir on [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#) to stay up to date.

Choral Pilgrimage 'Euros'

The Sixteen have picked 32 of the best pieces from 20 years of the Choral Pilgrimage - they will compete in a 'knock-out' style tournament where the winner of each 'match' will be voted for by the public until there is a winner.

Eamonn's Top Tips

Every Saturday, The Sixteen's Associate Conductor Eamonn Dougan and a quartet of Genesis Sixteen alumni will give advice and tips and healthy singing in a series of short films. Each week Dougan will explore a different topic focussing on some of the most common areas of singing technique.

Recordings

For much of The Sixteen's digital content, there is an accompanying album on the choir's award-winning label CORO. The latest release is the premiere recording of **Sir James MacMillan's** *Symphony No.5 'Le grand Inconnu,'* commissioned especially by the **Genesis Foundation** for Christophers and The Sixteen. This live recording is taken from the London premiere performed at the Barbican in October 2019 with The Sixteen, **Britten Sinfonia** and **Genesis Sixteen**.

Other recent recordings include *The Call of Rome*, which includes all the music from this year's Choral Pilgrimage programme that focuses on the city which has inspired countless pilgrimages, and a special 40th Anniversary Collection released to celebrate The Sixteen's ruby anniversary last year, comprising 40 tracks which have defined the choir over the last four decades.

All recordings can be found The Sixteen's [shop](#) as well as [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#).

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Notes to Editors

The Sixteen

Whether performing a simple medieval hymn or expressing the complex musical and emotional language of a contemporary choral composition, The Sixteen does so with qualities common to all great ensembles. Tonal warmth, rhythmic precision and immaculate intonation are clearly essential to the mix. But it is the courage and intensity with which The Sixteen makes music that speak above all to so many people.

The Sixteen gave its first concert in 1979 under the direction of Founder and Conductor Harry Christophers CBE. Their pioneering work since has made a profound impact on the performance of choral music and attracted a large new audience, not least as 'The Voices of Classic FM' and through BBC television's Sacred Music series.

The voices and period-instrument players of The Sixteen are at home in over five centuries of music, a breadth reflected in their annual Choral Pilgrimage to Britain's great cathedrals and sacred spaces, regular appearances at the world's leading concert halls, and award-winning recordings for The Sixteen's CORO and other labels.

Recent highlights include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Symphony No. 5 'Le grand Inconnu'*, commissioned for The Sixteen by the Genesis Foundation, an ambitious ongoing series of Handel oratorios, and a debut tour of China. For information, please visit thesixteen.com

Harry Christophers

Harry Christophers stands among today's great champions of choral music. In partnership with The Sixteen, he has set benchmark standards for the performance of everything from late medieval polyphony to important new works by contemporary composers.

Under his leadership The Sixteen has established its hugely successful annual Choral Pilgrimage, created the Sacred Music series for BBC television, and developed an acclaimed period-instrument orchestra. Highlights of their recent work include an Artist Residency at Wigmore Hall, a large-scale tour of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, and the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Stabat mater*; their future projects, meanwhile, comprise a new series devoted to Purcell and an ongoing survey of Handel's dramatic oratorios.

Harry Christophers has served as Artistic Director of the Handel and Haydn Society since 2008, is Principal Guest Conductor of the City of Granada Orchestra and has worked as guest conductor with, among others, the London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and the Deutsches Kammerphilharmonie. Christophers' extensive commitment to opera has embraced productions for English National Opera and Lisbon Opera and work with the Granada, Buxton and Grange Park festivals.

Harry Christophers was awarded a CBE in the Queen's 2012 Birthday Honours list. He is an Honorary Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, as well as the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and has Honorary Doctorates in Music from the Universities of Leicester, Canterbury Christ Church and Northumbria and Kent.