

PRESS RELEASE

11 July 2017

The Sixteen announces its 2017-2018 season

Highlights include:

- The Choral Pilgrimage 2018 tour focuses on music by William Cornysh and Benjamin Britten
- Eight performances of Vivaldi's *Gloria* around the UK by The Sixteen and its own period instrument orchestra
- The Sixteen's Wigmore Hall Residency celebrates Monteverdi's 450th anniversary
- 2017 Christmas programme features a festive collection of music from the 16th century up to the present day
- The Sixteen continue as Artistic Associates at Kings Place and Associate Artists at the Bridgewater Hall
- International dates include debut performances in China, Estonia and Lithuania
- The Sixteen continues its outreach work with four concerts given by Genesis Sixteen

Choral Pilgrimage 2018

Choral Pilgrimage 2018 focuses on music by William Cornysh and Benjamin Britten, who were prolific writers of both sacred and secular music. Cornysh (1465-1523) was a court musician who excelled at writing complex and adventurous antiphons for the church, as well as beautiful secular songs for the courts of King Henry VII and King Henry VIII. Britten is celebrated for his ability to expertly mix sacred and secular in order to showcase the voice in all its multifaceted glory. The Choral Pilgrimage 2018 programme draws on this sacred and secular mix of Britten's music and features four pieces by the composer including *Sacred and Profane* - a fascinating combination of the devotional and the rumbustiously secular - *Hymn to the Virgin*, *Hymn to Saint Cecilia* and *Advance Democracy*. These pieces are interspersed with Cornysh's *My love she mourneth*, *Salve Regina*, *Ave Maria*, *Mater Dei*, *Woefully array'd* and *Ah Robin, gentle Robin*. The performances are conducted by **Harry Christophers** and for selected performances by associate conductor **Eamonn Dougan**. **Add start and end dates plus number of concerts around the UK?**

Vivaldi's Gloria

In February 2018, The Sixteen embarks on an 8-concert tour of the UK with its own period instrument orchestra performing Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Composed in Venice, probably in 1715, for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà, its wonderfully sunny nature and distinctive melodies and rhythms gives it an immediate and universal appeal. Bach was a fierce admirer of Vivaldi's work, and his extraordinarily inventive *Mass in G major* complements the *Gloria* perfectly. The programme also features Vivaldi's *Sinfonia* from *La Dorilla* and Handel's *Overture* from *Esther* (1st version). Dates include: Lincoln on **1 February**, Derby on **2 February**, Peterborough on **3 February**, London on **7 February**, Chichester on **8 February**, Worcester on **9 February**, Rochester on **10 February** and Guildford on **13 February**.

Residencies at Kings Place, Wigmore Hall and The Bridgewater Hall

The Sixteen continue its residencies this season at Kings Place, the Wigmore Hall and The Bridgewater Hall.

Kings Place Artistic Associate

On **13 January**, as part of Kings Place *Times Unwrapped*, The Sixteen and Harry Christophers present 'Reincarnations', a programme of music of 'time past'. Music by Monteverdi and the great Iberian composers Guerrero and Victoria will be interleaved with the Dante-inspired poetry of Seamus Heaney. On **16 June**, The Sixteen explores how ancient monastic tone texts formed the basis of polyphonic creations from settings by Victoria and the ground-breaking writing of Palestrina to the Catholic Byrd's intricate, contrapuntal style. The programme includes Victorias's *Salve Regina a5 and a8*, Sheppard's *Pace, Libera nos I and II and In manus tuas I, II and III*, Byrd's *Oculi omnium in te sperant Domine, O lux beata trinitas and Miserere mei*, Palestrina's *Ecce nunc benedicite Dominum*, Lassus' *Lauda Jerusalem Dominum and Lauda anima mea Dominum*, Plainsong *Salve Regina* and *Suscepit Deus*. The evening culminates in Anerio's eight-part *Magnificat*.

Wigmore Hall 2017-18 Residency

In celebration of the 450th anniversary of Monteverdi's birth, The Sixteen and Harry Christophers continue their exploration of the composer's *Selva morale e spirituale* with a concert at Wigmore Hall on **24 October 2017** featuring a small consort of singers and instrumentalists. The programme includes Monteverdi's *Beatus vir (Primo)*, *O ciechi, il tanto affaticar che giova?*, *Laudate Dominum omnes gentes (Primo)*, *Salve Regina (Terzo)*, *Gloria a7*, *Laudate Dominum omnes gentes (Terzo)*, *Salve Regina (Secondo)*, *Laudate pueri (Primo)*, *Chi vol che m'innamori and Dixit Dominus (Secondo) a8*. On **22 January 2018**, The Sixteen performs a programme showcasing the variety and diversity of Purcell with a programme focused around his series of Welcome Songs and Odes for the celebration of royal occasions, composed between 1680 and 1695. The concert includes *Rejoice in the Lord always, Close thine eyes and sleep secure, Blow, Boreas, blow, O all ye people, clap your hands, Come my hearts Welcome Song 1682 'What shall be done in behalf of the man', Overture in D minor, Let each gallant heart, She loves and confesses too, Retir'd from any mortal's sight, O praise the Lord, all ye heathen and Welcome Song 1684 'From those serene and rapturous joys'*. On **23 June**, The Sixteen and Harry Christophers give a concert performance of Handel's *Acis & Galatea*. Handel's pastoral opera is a tale of tragedy, eternal love and liberation, telling the story of the mortal Acis, the goddess Galatea and their love doomed by the cyclops Polyphemus. This performance remains true to the opera's premiere performance in 1718, using a small group of nine instrumentalists and five singers including **Grace Davidson** as Galatea, **Mark Dobell** as Damon, **Jeremy Budd** as Acis, **Simon Berridge** as Coridon and **Stuart Young** as Polyphemus.

Bridgewater Hall Associate Artists

On **17 November**, The Sixteen singers and orchestra perform Bach's *Magnificat*, which was written in Leipzig for the 1723 Christmas Vespers, and anticipates the great choruses of the composer's later *Mass in B minor*. Performed alongside this masterpiece is Bach's ever-popular *Brandenburg Concerto No 3* and a selection of his cantatas including *Singet dem Herrn*, *Gloria in excelsis Deo Cantata BWV 191*, *Sinfonia* from *Cantata BWV 156*, *Jesus bleibet meine Freude (Jesu, joy of man's desiring)* from *Cantata BWV 147* and *Sinfonia* from part 2 of *Cantata BWV 75*.

Other highlights

This season's Christmas programme features a festive collection of music from the 16th century right up to the present day. The Sixteen and Harry Christophers continue their exploration of Poulenc's work with his joyful *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*, an uplifting celebration of the events of the Christmas story, and revisit his solemn and reflective *Un soir de neige*, one of the highlights of The Choral Pilgrimage 2017 programme. Performances include: Gateshead on **8 December**; London on **9, 18 & 19 December**; Glyndebourne on **10 December**; Birmingham on **11 December**; Oxford on **15 December**; Cardiff on **17 December** and Reading on **21 December**.

Other concerts this season include a performance at Snape Maltings, as part of the Snape Proms, on **22 August** with a programme that presents a new version of the iconic *Miserere* by Allegri and builds around it a sequence of other music and composers from the Papal court. The concert includes Plainsong, works by Allegri, Palestrina and three works by Anerio. On **12 November** at Marlborough College Chapel, The Sixteen continues to explore the intimate relationship between poetry and music in a programme of a cappella English works from across the centuries including Harris, James MacMillan Finzi, John Barber, Tippett,

Howells, Jonathan Dove and three works by Britten. This concert is conducted by Eamonn Dougan. The Sixteen and Harry Christophers give three further performances of their ever-popular *The Queen of Heaven* programme focusing on three composers' unique devotion to the church – Allegri, Palestrina and James Macmillan. Dates include: London on **14 November**; Grayshott on **24 November** and Beckenham on **30 June**.

Outreach work

The Sixteen continues its work with choral music enthusiasts of all ages this season including five chorister workshops (**22 September** at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, **23 September** at Blackburn Cathedral, **26 October** at Hull Minster, **25 November** at Chelmsford Cathedral and Brentwood Cathedral) and seven Choral Pilgrimage Choral Workshops (**3 September** in London, **9 September** in Tewkesbury, **23 September** in Blackburn, **30 September** in St Albans, **14 October** in Hull, **21 October** in Edinburgh and **25 November** in Chelmsford). Singers on the young artist programme, Genesis Sixteen, give four concerts throughout the season (**31 August & 2 September** in Oxford and **30 September** at the Cumnock Tryst Festival) and Genesis Sixteen alumni give a lunchtime recital on **25 August** at Southwell Minster as part of a new initiative by the Southwell Music Festival to support the development of emerging talent on the British classical music scene. The quartet of singers also join the Southwell Festival Chorus for a performance of Mozart's *Mass in C minor* conducted by Marcus Farnsworth on **26 August**.

International performances

The Sixteen expands its international programme this season with dates at some of the world's major concert halls and festivals including performances in Beijing on **4 October** and Shanghai on **7 & 8 October** as well as the first international performance of The Choral Pilgrimage 2017 programme in Hong Kong on **6 October**. In November, The Sixteen performs a programme of music by contemporary composers including James MacMillan and Arvo Pärt in Vilnius on **2 November** and Tallinn on **4 November** and Eamonn Dougan conducts works by Victoria, Anerio, Guerrero and Stanford in Bruges on **29 November** and Antwerp on **30 November**. The Sixteen perform music by Jacob Handl and Philippe de Monte in Prague on **14 June** and the choir gives its debut performance at the Fribourg International Festival of Sacred Music in **July 2018**.

Forthcoming CORO releases

This season, The Sixteen releases three new recordings on its record label CORO, including the first disc in a new series celebrating Purcell's Royal Welcome Songs on **1 September**. This recording, which has evolved from The Sixteen's Wigmore Hall residency, explores the composer's wit-filled masterpieces written for royal occasions and showcases the variety and diversity of Purcell's writing, opening with the *Chacony in G minor* and including *When on my sick bed I languish*. Also due for release in September is the seventh volume in The Sixteen's celebrated Palestrina exploration which focuses on some of the pivotal women in Christian history - Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, St Barbara and Susannah. The Sixteen's highly acclaimed Polish series returns in October with associate conductor, Eamonn Dougan, at the helm. The latest volume features the music of Marcin Mielczewski, one of the most notable 17th-century Polish composers. Mielczewski was recognised as a leader among his contemporaries and was a prolific composer. The cross-section of works on the new album shows an exceptionally accomplished musician at work, one whose music deserves a wider audience.

For further press information please contact

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

web: www.rdmr.co.uk

email: rebecca@rdmr.co.uk | emily@rdmr.co.uk | ruth@rdmr.co.uk

tel: 020 7247 1894

UK Listings:

Music for the Sistine Chapel at Snape Proms

22 August 2017, 7.30pm, Snape Maltings

Plainsong *Decora lux aeternitatis auream*

Allegri 'Kyrie' from *Missa Che fa oggi il mio sole*

Palestrina 'Gloria' from *Missa Papae Marcelli*

Allegri *Miserere* (evolution)

Anerio *Magnificat a8*
Marenzio *Che fa oggi il mio sole*
Allegri 'Sanctus' and 'Benedictus' from *Missa Che fa oggi il mio sole*
Anerio *Ave Regina caelorum a8*
Anerio *Stabat Mater a12*
Allegri *Christus resurgens ex mortuis*
Plainsong *Assumpta est Maria (Antiphon For 2nd Vespers)*
Palestrina *Assumpta est Maria*
The Sixteen/Harry Christophers

Selva morale e spirituale

24 October 2017, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, London

Monteverdi *Beatus vir (Primo)*
O ciechi, il tanto affaticar che giova?
Laudate Dominum omnes gentes (Primo)
Salve Regina (Terzo)
Gloria a7
Laudate Dominum omnes gentes (Terzo)
Salve Regina (Secondo)
Laudate pueri (Primo)
Chi vol che m'innamori
Dixit Dominus (Secondo) a8

The Sixteen/Harry Christophers

Poetry in Music

12 November 2017, 7.30pm, Marlborough College Chapel, Marlborough

Harris *Faire is the heaven*
James MacMillan *The Gallant Weaver*
Finzi *My spirit sang all day*
John Barber *The voice of my beloved*
Tippett *Dance, clarion air*
Britten *The Evening Primrose*
Jonathan Dove *Into thy hands*
Britten *Hymn to Saint Cecilia*
Pearsall *Lay a Garland*
Finzi *I praise the tender flower*
John Barber *Love is as strong as death*
Harris *Bring us, O Lord God*
Britten *The Succession of the Four Sweet Months*
Howells *Take him, earth, for cherishing*

The Sixteen/Eamonn Dougan

The Queen of Heaven

14 November 2017, 7pm, Temple Church, London

24 November 2017, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church, Grayshott

30 June 2018, Beckenham

Plainsong *Regina caeli*
Palestrina 'Kyrie' from *Missa Regina caeli*
James MacMillan *Dominus dabit benignitatem*
Allegri *Miserere (evolution)*
James MacMillan *Videns Dominus*
Palestrina *Stabat Mater a8*
Lotti *Crucifixus a8*

Palestrina *Vineam meam non custodivi*
James MacMillan *O radiant dawn*
Palestrina *Pulchrae sunt genae tuae*
James MacMillan *Miserere*
Palestrina *Agnus Dei I-III from Missa Regina caeli*
The Sixteen/Harry Christophers

Bach's Magnificat

17 November 2017, 7.30pm, The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

J.S. Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No 3*

Singet dem Herrn

Gloria in excelsis Deo Cantata BWV 191

Sinfonia from Cantata BWV 156

Jesus bleibet meine Freude (Jesus, joy of man's desiring) from Cantata BWV 147

Sinfonia from part 2 of Cantata BWV 75

Magnificat in D

The Sixteen choir & orchestra/Harry Christophers

Glory to the Christ Child

8 December 2017, 7.30pm, Sage Gateshead

9 December 2017, 7.30pm, St Luke's Church Battersea, London

10 December 2017, 3pm, Glyndebourne, East Sussex

11 December 2017, 7.30pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

15 December 2017, 7.45pm, St John the Evangelist, Oxford

17 December 2017, 3pm, St David's Hall, Cardiff

18 & 19 December 2017, 7.30pm, Cadogan Hall, London

21 December 2017, 7.30pm, Concert Hall, Reading

Alan Bullard *Glory to the Christ Child*

John Joubert *There is no rose*

Traditional Old Basque *I saw a maiden*

John Rutter *There is a flower*

Traditional *Christmas Eve*

Costeley *Allons, gay bergères*

Lassus *La nuit froide et sombre*

Traditional French (arr. Kitson) *Quelle est cette odeur*

Poulenc *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*

Maconchy *There is no rose*

Traditional Old Basque *The Infant King*

Howells *A Spotless Rose*

Traditional Somerset *Carol*

Poulenc *Un soir de neige*

Traditional *Past three o'clock*

Palestrina *O magnum mysterium, Quem vidistis pastores?*

Videntes stellam, Hodie Christus natus est

Bob Chilcott *Pilgrim Jesus*

The Sixteen/Harry Christophers

Reincarnations

13 January 2018, Kings Place, London

Programme to include:

Monteverdi *Missa In illo tempore*

Gombert *Motet In illo tempore*

Settings of the *Song of Songs* by Victoria and Guerrero

Seamus Heaney Selections from *Station Island*

The Sixteen/Harry Christophers

Purcell Royal Welcome Songs for King Charles II

22 January 2018, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, London

Purcell Rejoice in the Lord always

Close thine eyes and sleep secure

Blow, Boreas, blow

O all ye people, clap your hands

Come my hearts

Welcome Song 1682 'What shall be done in behalf of the man'

Overture in D minor

Let each gallant heart

She loves and confesses too

Retir'd from any mortal's sight

O praise the Lord, all ye heathen

Welcome Song 1684 'From those serene and rapturous joys'

The Sixteen/Harry Christophers

Vivaldi's Gloria

1 February 2018, 7.30pm, Lincoln Cathedral

2 February 2018, 7.30pm, Derby Cathedral

3 February 2018, 7.30pm, Peterborough Cathedral

7 February 2018, 7.30pm, Cadogan Hall, London

8 February 2018, 7.30pm, Chichester Cathedral

9 February 2018, 7.30pm, Worcester Cathedral

10 February 2018, 7.30pm, Rochester Cathedral

13 February 2018, 7.30pm, Guildford Cathedral

Vivaldi Sinfonia from La Dorilla RV 709

Bach Lutheran Mass in G major BWV 236

Handel Overture from Esther (1st version)

Vivaldi Gloria in D major RV 589

The Sixteen choir & orchestra/Harry Christophers

The Choral Pilgrimage 2018

13 April 2018, Cambridge

14 April 2018, St Albans

20 April 2018, Winchester

9 May 2018, London

16 May 2018, Hereford

17 May 2018, Llandaff

18 May 2018, Truro

19 May 2018, Exeter

25 May 2018, Oxford

Further dates to be announced end of 2017

Britten Hymn to the Virgin

Cornysh My love she mourneth

Britten Hymn to Saint Cecilia

Cornysh Salve Regina

Britten Advance Democracy

Cornysh Ave Maria, Mater Dei

Cornysh Woefully array'd

Cornysh Ah Robin, gentle Robin

Britten *Sacred and Profane*

The Sixteen/Harry Christophers/Eamonn Dougan (for selected performances)

Book of Hours

16 June 2018, 7pm, Kings Place, London

Victoria *Salve Regina* a5

Sheppard *In manus tuas II*

Byrd *Oculi omnium in te sperant Domine*

Palestrina *Ecce nunc benedicite Dominum*

Lassus *Lauda Jerusalem Dominum*

Byrd *O lux beata trinitas*

Sheppard *Libera nos I and II*

Plainsong *Salve Regina*

Victoria *Salve Regina* a8

Sheppard *In manus tuas I*

Byrd *Miserere mei*

Sheppard *In pace*

Lassus *Lauda anima mea Dominum*

Sheppard *In manus tuas III*

Plainsong *Suscepit Deus*

Anerio *Magnificat* a8

The Sixteen/Harry Christophers

Handel's *Acis & Galatea*

23 June 2018, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, London

Grace Davidson Galatea

Mark Dobell Damon

Jeremy Budd Acis

Simon Berridge Coridon

Stuart Young Polyphemus

The Sixteen choir and orchestra/Harry Christophers

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.