

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**5 September 2019**

## **The Sixteen announce its 2020 season**

**Highlights include:**

- **Handel's *Acis and Galatea* as performed at the 1718 premiere with five singers and nine instrumentalists**
- **Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Choral Pilgrimage with 27 concerts across the UK focusing on Rome and four composers who created some of their finest work at the Sistine Chapel**
- **Mixing Renaissance masterpieces with traditional favourites for Christmas tour**
- **Long-standing relationships with key UK venues continue: exploring music by Byrd and Dowland as well as the next concert in the critically acclaimed cycle devoted to Henry Purcell at Wigmore Hall; music focusing on Brumel's *Earthquake Mass* and Lassus' 10-part setting of *Aurora lucis rutilat* as part of *Nature Unwrapped* at Kings Place**
- **The Sixteen's award-winning record label CORO releases 6 albums – 4 of them new recordings by The Sixteen - including James MacMillan's *Symphony No. 5 'Le grand Inconnu,'* commissioned by the Genesis Foundation for Harry Christophers & The Sixteen**
- **Digital release of a voices-only version of the slow movement from Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No.2 (Adagio sostenuto)* commissioned by The Sixteen and arranged specially by Bob Chilcott**

**Harry Christophers CBE Founder & Conductor of The Sixteen says:** 'we loved celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with audiences across the world last year: how could we possibly follow the amazing achievements and packed schedule of 2019? Well, we mark 20 years of the Choral Pilgrimage! We have travelled the length and breadth of the UK over the years, enjoying performing beautiful music in stunning and acoustically rewarding cathedrals and abbeys. We're looking forward to seeing you at one of our concerts and helping us celebrate again.'

### **Handel's *Acis & Galatea***

The talent within The Sixteen choir & orchestra is showcased in four concert performances of Handel's pastoral opera *Acis & Galatea* in February. Staying true to the 1718 premiere, Christophers uses just five singers and nine instrumentalists: Grace Davidson (*Galatea*), Jeremy Budd (*Acis*), Mark Dobell (*Damon*), Simon Berridge (*Coridon*), Stuart Young (*Polyphemus*). To compliment the chamber-like nature, the concerts are presented in intimate venues such as Cadogan Hall (11 February), Chichester Cathedral (12 February), Derby Cathedral (14 February) and St Mary's Church, Warwick (15 February).

### **Choral Pilgrimage's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Following on from its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in 2019, The Sixteen and Harry Christophers mark another milestone in 2020: the twentieth anniversary of the much-loved Choral Pilgrimage. The annual 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 whom the choir return to year after year.

This year's tour, *The Call of Rome*, focuses on the city which has inspired countless pilgrimages, and particularly the Sistine Chapel, where each of the four composers in this year's programme, Victoria, Josquin, F. Anerio and Allegri, created some of their finest work. All of them had an association with the Chapel at some point during their career, particularly Gregorio Allegri whose *Miserere* is perhaps the most famous piece of sacred music ever written. The programme also includes Victoria's *Tenebrae Responsories for Holy Saturday*, Josquin's *Pater noster / Ave Maria*, and F. Anerio's *Litaniae Beatissimae Virginis Mariae*, amongst others. Beginning at Rochester Cathedral (19 March), it takes in 27 locations and finishes at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester (6 November).

### **The Sixteen at Christmas**

This year's Christmas programme, named after the hymn *The Truth from Above*, is a mixture of enduring Renaissance masterpieces and traditional favourites. It includes everything from well-known carols to Byrd's lively *Laetentur caeli* and Will Todd's peaceful *My Lord has come*. It comes to St David's Hall, Cardiff (6 December), Cadogan Hall, London (15 & 16 December), and St John the Evangelist, Oxford (17 December) with many more dates to be announced.

### **Residencies**

Christophers and The Sixteen's long-standing relationships with Wigmore Hall and Kings Place continue in 2020. The first performance of their three-concert residency at Wigmore Hall uses 12 singers and lute to explore the later music of Byrd and Dowland at a time when they were both under the threat of arrest for being Catholic (21 February). They also present Handel's 11 Chandos Anthems (9 June) and continue the series of Welcome Songs and Coronation music for King James II (22 October).

As part of *Nature Unwrapped* at Kings Place, The Sixteen's *The Earth Resounds* programme centres around Brumel's *Earthquake Mass* with its 12 separate vocal lines. (23 September).

### **Other UK performances**

Further UK performances include a programme demonstrating the volume and variety of Purcell's compositional output as well as Scarlatti's setting of the *Stabat mater* at The Assembly Rooms, Bath (20 February). Music by Tallis, Byrd, Morley, Sheppard, Tallis and Cornysh is performed at St Margaret's Church, Westminster (17 June), whilst two of The Sixteen's most popular programmes *An Immortal Legacy* and *The Queen of Heaven* are performed at St George's Church, Beckenham (27 June) and as part of the St Andrews Voices Festival at Holy Trinity Church, St Andrews (18 October) respectively.

### **CORO**

The Sixteen's award-winning record label, CORO, releases 4 albums in 2020 but begins with the digital release of a voices-only version of the slow movement of Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2 (Adagio sostenuto)*, commissioned by The Sixteen and arranged specially by Bob Chilcott (February). The annual Choral Pilgrimage album, bringing together all the repertoire from the tour is available from March.

CORO also releases Sir James MacMillan's *Symphony No. 5 'Le grand Inconnu'*, commissioned by the Genesis Foundation for Harry Christophers and The Sixteen (April). They gave the world premiere of the choral symphony, a meditation on the mystery of the Holy Spirit, to rave reviews at the Edinburgh International Festival in August 2019 with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Genesis Sixteen. The

recording is to be taken from the London premiere at the Barbican with The Sixteen, Britten Sinfonia and Genesis Sixteen (14 October).

Later in the year, The Sixteen continues its acclaimed series on CORO of Purcell's *Royal Welcome Songs for Kings Charles II Volume III*, featuring repertoire such as *What shall be done on behalf of the man* and *From those serene and rapturous joys* (September). There is also a new recording by The Sixteen of music by Stanford, Whitacre, Maxwell Davies, Todd, MacMillan and Chilcott as well as others (October).

### **Outreach Work**

The extensive Education and Outreach programme is integral to The Sixteen's work, promoting and advancing public awareness of the repertoire the choir performs whilst also using the power of music to engage, inspire and transform musical education. A particular area of interest is young people who may not have had access to music in school and are in culturally underserved areas where arts provision is low. Following on from the legacy of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, The Sixteen undertake residencies in Carlisle, Manchester, Medway and London in 2020, uniting communities through singing and the mutual appreciation of music. The outreach also includes masterclasses, chorister workshops, Insight Days, and matinee performances in schools.

The Choral Workshops are a rewarding opportunity for keen amateur singers to explore a variety of music inspired by The Sixteen's own performances. Under the guidance of expert workshop leaders including The Sixteen's Associate Conductor, Eamonn Dougan, and singer and practical scholar Sally Dunkley, workshops include advice on vocal technique, as well as performance interpretation and historical context. The repertoire for 2020 includes music by Josquin and Victoria's *Tenebrae Responsories*: London (14 March); Rochester (15 March); Oxford (21 March); Tewkesbury (12 Sep), Blackburn (26 Sep), Peterborough (3 October); Carlisle (10 October); Edinburgh (17 October); Manchester (7 November).

### **For further press information please contact**

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### Listings

#### **Acis & Galatea**

**11 February, Cadogan Hall, London, 7:3pm**

**12 February, Chichester Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**14 February, Derby Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**15 February, St Mary's Church, Warwick, 7:30pm**

**Grace Davidson** Galatea

**Jeremy Budd** Acis

**Mark Dobell** Damon

**Simon Berridge** Coridon

**Stuart Young** Polyphemus

**The Sixteen Orchestra/Harry Christophers**

#### **Scarlatti Stabat mater**

**20 February, The Assembly Rooms, Bath, 7:30pm**

Scarlatti *'Kyrie' and 'Gloria' from Missa breve*  
Purcell *Remember not, Lord, our offences*  
Purcell, *Miserere mei*  
Purcell, *O praise the Lord, all ye heathen*  
Scarlatti *Te Deum laudamus*  
Purcell *Let mine eyes run down with tears*  
Scarlatti *Iste confessor*  
Purcell *Hear my prayer*  
Purcell *O all ye people, clap your hands*  
Purcell *Close thine eyes and sleep secure*  
Purcell *Beati omnes qui timent Dominum*  
Scarlatti *Stabat mater a10*

### **The Sixteen/Harry Christophers**

#### **A Pilgrim's Solace**

**21 February, Wigmore Hall, London, 7:30pm**

Programme to include:

Byrd *Retire my soul*

Dowland *Disdain me still*

Byrd *Come, woeful Orpheus*

Dowland *Welcome, black night*

Byrd *Come let us rejoice unto our God*

Byrd *How vain the toils*

Byrd *Arise, Lord, into thy rest*

Dowland *Thou might God*

#### **Selected singers from The Sixteen/Harry Christophers**

#### **Choral Pilgrimage: The Call of Rome**

**19 March, Rochester Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**20 March, Kings Place, London, 7:30pm**

**21 March, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8pm**

**25 March, St John's College Chapel, Cambridge, 7:30pm**

**11 April, Snape Maltings, Snape**

**6 May, Old Royal Naval College, Chapel, Greenwich, London, 7:30pm**

**18 May, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**22 May, Douai Abbey, 7:30pm**

**4 June, Llandaff Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**5 June, Truro Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**6 June, Exeter Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**13 June, St Albans Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**6 July, St James' Church, Spanish Place, London, 7:30pm**

**7 July, York Minster, 7:30pm**

**4 September, Wells Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**5 September, Tewkesbury Abbey, 3pm**

**17 September, Southwell Minster, 7:30pm**

**18 September, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, 7:30pm**

**19 September, Blackburn Cathedral, 3pm**

**28 September, Croydon Minster, 7:30pm**

**3 October, Peterborough Cathedral, 7:30pm**  
**14 October, Lancaster Priory, 7:30pm**  
**15 October, Carlisle Cathedral, 7:30pm**  
**16 October, Durham Cathedral, 7:30pm**  
**17 October, Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh, 7:30pm**  
**6 November, The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, 7:30pm**

Plainsong *De Lamentatione*

Victoria *Tenebrae Responsories for Holy Saturday 1-3*

Josquin *Pater noster / Ave Maria*

Victoria *Tenebrae Responsories for Holy Saturday 4-6*

F. Anerio *Litaniae Beatissimae Virginis Mariae*

Josquin *Gaude virgo Mater Christi*

Allegri 'Gloria' from *Missa In lectulo meo*

Josquin *Illibata Dei Virgo nutrix*

Allegri *Miserere (its evolution)*

F. Anerio *Regina caeli laetare a8*

Victoria *Salve Regina a8*

**The Sixteen /Harry Christophers**

#### **Handel Chandos Anthems**

**9 June, Wigmore Hall, London, 7:30pm**

*Overture to Chandos Anthem VI*

'As pants the hart'

*Italian Cantata 'Spande ancor a mio dispetto'*

*Chandos Anthem II 'In the Lord put I my trust'*

*Overture to Chandos Anthem I*

'O be joyful in the Lord'

*Italian Cantata 'Cuopre tal volt ail cielo'*

*Chandos Anthem V 'I will magnify thee'*

**Selected singers and instrumentalists from The Sixteen/Harry Christophers**

#### **The Choicest Music of the Kingdom**

**17 June, St Margaret's Church, Westminster, London 7:30pm**

Programme to include:

Tallis *Tunes for Archbishop Parker's Psalter*

Byrd *Miserere mihi Domine*

Morley *My bonny lass she smileth*

Sheppard *Libera No. I and II*

Byrd *O Lord, make thy servant, Elizabeth*

Sheppard *O happy dames*

Byrd *Laudibus in sanctis*

Tallis *O sacrum convivium*

Tallis *Loquebantur variis linguis*

Byrd *This sweet and merry month of May*

Morley *April is in my mistress' face*

Cornysh *Ah Robyn*

Tallis/Byrd *Miserere nostril*

**The Sixteen/Harry Christophers**

### **An Immortal Legacy**

**27 June, St George's Church, Beckenham, 8pm**

Programme to include:

Tallis *Tunes for Archbishop Parker's Psalter*

Tallis *Salvator mundi*

Morley *April is in my mistress' face*

Gibbons *The Silver Swan*

Byrd *This sweet and merry month of May*

Tippett *Five Spirituals* from *A Child of Our Time*

Tallis *Loquebantur variis linguis*

James MacMillan *Mitte manum tuam*

Byrd *Laudibus in sanctis*

Britten *Gloriana Dances*

**The Sixteen/Harry Christophers**

### **The Earth Resounds**

**23 September, Kings Place, London, 7:30pm**

Josquin *Praeter rerum seriem*

Brumel *'Gloria'* from *Missa Et ecce terrae motus*

Josquin *O virgo prudentissima* for six voices

Lassus *Magnificat Secundi toni super Praeter rerum seriem*

Lassus *Aurora lucis rutilat*

Josquin *Huc me sydereo*

Lassus *Lauda Jerusalem Dominum*

Brumel *'Sanctus'* from *Missa Et ecce terrae motus*

Lassus *Magnificat Octavi toni super Aurora lucis rutilat*

**The Sixteen/Harry Christophers**

### **The Queen of Heaven**

**18 October, Holy Trinity Church, St Andrews, 2:30pm**

Plainsong *Regina caeli*

Palestrina *'Kyrie'* from *Missa Regina caeli*

James MacMillan *Dominus dabit benignitatem*

Allegri *Miserere* (evolution version)

James MacMillan *Videns Dominus*

Palestrina *Stabat Mater a8*

Palestrina *Regina Caeli 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**

### **Welcome Songs and Coronation Music for King James II**

**22 October, Wigmore Hall, London, 7:30pm**

Programme to include:

Purcell

*Overture in G minor Z631*

*If pray'rs and tears*

*Coronation anthem – I was glad*

*If ever I more riches did desire*

*Coronation anthem – My heart is inditing*

*Hark how the wild musicians sing*

*While Thirsis, wrapp'd in downy sleep*

*How have I stray'd*

*Catch – Full bags, a brisk bottle*

*Welcome Song (1685) – Why are all the muses mute?*

### **The Sixteen at Christmas: The Truth From Above**

**6 December, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 3pm**

**15 & 16 December, Cadogan Hall, London, 7:30pm**

**17 December, St John the Evangelist, Oxford, 7:45pm**

Plainsong *Creator alme siderum*

Victoria *Salve Regina a5*

Traditional *The truth from above*

Will Todd *My Lord has come*

Palestrina *Rorate caeli*

Howard Skempton *Adam lay ybounden*

Bryd *Rorate caeli*

Traditional *Gabriel's message*

Bax *Mater ora filium*

Plainsong *Veni, veni Emmanuel*

Jonathan Dove *I am the Day*

Traditional *Angels from the realms of glory*

Lassus *Laetentur caeli*

Ord *Adam lay ybounden*

Byrd *Laetentur caeli*

Traditional *This endris night*

Eric Whitacre *Lux Aurumque*

Victoria *Salve Regina a8*

**The Sixteen /Harry Christophers**

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About 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 choral work *Symphony No. 5 'Le grand Inconnu'* at the Edinburgh International Festival, commissioned by the Genesis Foundation for Harry Christophers and The Sixteen, five staged performances of Handel's *Belshazzar* at the Grange Festival, and a debut tour of China.

### **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.