

PRESS RELEASE

6 June 2016

## City of London Sinfonia launches its 2016-2017 season: Folk Tunes Tall Tales series and Great British Choral Anthems cathedrals tour

Season highlights include:

- CLS and folk singer Sam Lee perform his works in a concert exploring lost love
- A performance of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* with narration and dance
- CLS are joined by Licence to Ceilidh for a celebration of Burns Night with a programme exploring works of Scottish, Irish, Italian and Appalachian heritage
- CLS present Great British Choral Anthems in the nation's most stunning cathedrals during autumn 2016 with Artistic Director Stephen Layton

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) announces its 2016-2017 season, incorporating the **Folk Tunes Tall Tales** series, a musical journey through the traditions and folk stories of the British Isles and destinations further afield, from Russia to the Appalachians. Throughout the season CLS will collaborate with musicians from different genres along with dancers and performance artists to evoke sights, sounds, and story-telling traditions from around the globe.

CLS also embark on a national tour of England's cathedrals in the autumn of 2016, performing **Great British Choral Anthems** alongside cathedral choirs from Truro to Chester, under the baton of CLS Artistic Director **Stephen Layton**.

### Great British Choral Anthems cathedrals tour

In the autumn of 2016, CLS and Artistic Director **Stephen Layton** tour England's most stunning cathedrals performing choral works by Bach, Handel and James MacMillan, alongside the nation's cathedral choristers and organists. **City of London Sinfonia presents Great British Choral Anthems** commences on 30 September at Truro Cathedral, with repertoire including Handel's Coronation Anthems; *Zadok the Priest*, *The King Shall Rejoice*, *My Heart is Inditing* and *Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened*, along with Bach's *Suite No 3 in D major* and the orchestral arrangement premiere of James MacMillan's *Oh Give Thanks Unto the Lord*. The tour continues throughout October, visiting Hereford Cathedral on the 1st, Lichfield Cathedral on the 7th, Southwell Minster on the 14th, York Minster on the 15th, and Chester Cathedral on the 21st. The tour is supported by Friends of Cathedral Music, as part of their Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

### Folk Tunes Tall Tales series

The series opens on **17 November 2016** at St John at Hackney with a **CLoSer** concert, CLS's ground-breaking and hugely popular informal concert series. **CLoSer: Died for Love** explores folk songs of lost love with the full Orchestra, Mercury Prize-nominated folk musician **Sam Lee** and guest conductor **Hugh Brunt**. This concert is presented at a new venue for CLS, which has rapidly become a fixture on the London concert circuit for all genres of music, from Coldplay to classical. Sam Lee performs works from his two albums, *The Fade in Time* and *Ground of Its Own*, which both feature songs inspired by ancient tales and tunes collected from his journeys with Travellers. The programme also includes Britten's *Suite on English Folk Tunes - A Time There Was*, and three settings of the English folk song *Brigg Fair*: Grainger's choral arrangement, Delius' orchestral variations and one arranged by Sam Lee.

On **20 December 2016** CLS present **An English Folk Christmas by Candlelight** at St John's Smith Square, a celebratory evening of traditional Christmas folk tunes and tales from around the country. The programme features Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and *This is the Truth Sent from Above*, one of several folk tunes preserved and

popularised by the composer, which he transcribed in 1909 from a collection of Herefordshire folk music. Choral pieces include Warlock's *Bethlehem Down*, Bolton's *A Garland of Carols* and Stephen Cleobury's *Shropshire Carol*. CLS are joined by the **Holst Singers** and guest conductor **Jeremy Cole**, who conducts the programme along with CLS Principal Conductor **Michael Collins**.

A CLoSer concert with a difference takes place on **24 & 25 January 2017** at Wilton's Music Hall; **CLoSer: The Devil's Violin with Burns Night Ceilidh** sees CLS joined by London's foremost ceilidh band **Licence to Ceilidh** and fiddler **Henry Webster** to celebrate Burns Night. The evening is directed by CLS Leader **Alexandra Wood**, and explores works of Scottish, Irish, Italian and Appalachian heritage including Copland's *Hoe-Down* from *Rodeo* and Charlie Daniels Band's *The Devil Went Down to Georgia* arranged by Farrington. The evening features Piazzolla's *Devil Suite* and Locatelli's *Devil's Trill Sonata*, and will conclude with a ceilidh for the audience to join in with.

On **2 March 2017** at St Andrew Holborn, CLS celebrates the release of its recording of Japanese folk music and forthcoming tour to Japan with **Japanese Journey: Kakyoku Songs**; an exclusive evening of music, food and drink native to the country, in the beautiful surroundings of this Wren-built church. The disc's soloist, soprano **Charlotte de Rothschild**, joins CLS to perform a selection of *Kakyoku* songs, popular and seemingly simple Japanese folk songs that explore a wealth of meaning and emotion. A performer who regularly performs in fluent Japanese, de Rothschild enjoys a high profile in Japan, and together CLS and de Rothschild will then travel there for performances in major concert halls, schools and hospitals across the country.

**CLoSer: Dance with the Devil – The Soldier's Tale** sees CLS perform Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale (L'Histoire du soldat)* on **Wednesday 5 April** at Shoreditch's Village Underground, under Principal Conductor **Michael Collins**. Taking its inspiration from a Russian folk tale, this theatrical work composed during the First World War tells the story of a soldier who trades his fiddle to the Devil in return for a book containing untold riches, little realising he will forfeit his life and his love as well. Written by Stravinsky and Swiss writer C. F. Ramuz, the music is scored for a septet of instruments which accompanies three narrators and dance choreographed by **Tony Adigun**.

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## **LISTINGS**

### **City of London Sinfonia presents Great British Choral Anthems**

**Friday 30 September 2016, 7.30pm, Truro Cathedral**

**Saturday 1 October 2016, 7.30pm, Hereford Cathedral**

**Friday 7 October 2016, 7.30pm, Lichfield Cathedral**

**Friday 14 October 2016, 7.30pm, Southwell Minster**

**Saturday 15 October 2016, 7pm, York Minster**

**Friday 21 October 2016, 7.30pm, Chester Cathedral**

**Handel** *Zadok the Priest*

**Handel** *The King Shall Rejoice*

**Handel** *My Heart is Inditing*

**Handel** *Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened*

**Bach** *Suite No 3 in D BWV1068*

**James MacMillan** *Oh Give Thanks Unto The Lord*

*Works selected by each cathedral*

**Stephen Layton** Conductor

**Cathedral choirs, organists and Directors of Music**

**City of London Sinfonia**

**Tickets:** prices vary

**Book at:** [www.cls.co.uk](http://www.cls.co.uk) / 020 7621 2800

**CloSer: Died for Love with Sam Lee**

**Thursday 17 November 2016, 7.30pm, St John at Hackney, Lower Clapton Road, London, E5 0PD**

**Sam Lee, arr. Farrington** Songs from *The Fade in Time* and *Ground of Its Own*

**Britten** *Suite on English Folk Tunes - A Time There Was*

**Traditional arr. Sam Lee, Grainger & Delius** *Brigg Fair*

**Sam Lee** vocals

**Hugh Brunt** conductor

**City of London Sinfonia**

**Tickets:** £20, £35

**Book at:** [cls.co.uk](http://cls.co.uk) / 020 7621 2800

**An English Folk Christmas by Candlelight**

**Tuesday 20 December 2016, 7.30pm, St John's Smith Square, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA**

Programme to include:

**Vaughan Williams** *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*

**Vaughan Williams** *This is the Truth Sent from Above*

**Bolton** *A Garland of Carols*

**Warlock** *Bethlehem Down*

**Cleobury** *Shropshire Carol*

Audience carols and seasonal readings

**Michael Collins** conductor

**Jeremy Cole** conductor

**Holst Singers**

**City of London Sinfonia**

**Tickets:** £15-£40

**Book at:** [cls.co.uk](http://cls.co.uk) / 020 7621 2800

**CloSer: The Devil's Violin & Burns Night Ceilidh**

**Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25 January 2017, 7.30pm, Wilton's Music Hall, 1 Graces Alley, London E1 8JB**

**Charlie Daniels Band arr. Farrington** *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*

**Copland** *Hoe-Down* from "Rodeo"

**Piazzolla** *Devil Suite*

**Locatelli** *Devil's Trill Sonata*

Burns Night Ceilidh

**Alexandra Wood** Director/Violin

**Henry Webster** Folk Fiddler

**Licence to Ceilidh**

**City of London Sinfonia**

**Tickets:** £17.50-£25

**Book at:** [cls.co.uk](http://cls.co.uk) / 020 7621 2800

**Japanese Journey: Kakyoku Songs**

**Thursday 2 March 2017, 7.30pm, St Andrew Holborn, 5 St Andrew St, London, EC4A 3AB**

**Selected Kakyoku songs**

**Finzi** *Clarinet Concerto*

**Michael Collins** conductor/clarinet

**Charlotte de Rothschild** soprano

**City of London Sinfonia**

**Tickets:** £120 or £400 for a table of four (*includes Japanese drinks and canapés*)

**Book at:** [cls.co.uk](http://cls.co.uk) / 020 7621 2800

**CLoSer: Dance with the Devil – The Soldier’s Tale**

**Wednesday 5 April 2017, 7.30pm, Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, London, EC2A 3PQ**

**Stravinsky *The Soldier’s Tale***

**Michael Collins** Conductor

**Tony Adigun** Choreographer

**Soloists from City of London Sinfonia**

**Tickets:** £20, £35

**Book at:** [cls.co.uk](http://cls.co.uk) / 020 7621 2800

**Notes to Editors**

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) is the Orchestra that promises to surprise and move you. CLS involves people from all ages and backgrounds in life-enhancing music experiences to create an exciting and harmonious future together.

CLS performances represent outstanding musicianship, but also take the audiences on a journey which goes beyond the music to surprise and move: cross-arts collaborations with the world of dance, film, theatre, visual art, spoken word or a different music genre. This approach applies across the wide range of our performance venues from East London clubs to traditional Central London concert halls and at festivals across the UK including Spitalfields, Cheltenham, Brighton and BBC Proms.

CLS was one of the first orchestras to establish a programme dedicated to making music in schools, hospitals and communities. CLS’s Meet the Music programme spends over 170 days in the community every year making music with over 14,000 people. Current projects include Wellbeing through Music in healthcare settings, where the very same outstanding musicians who create CLS’s high quality concerts deliver performances, often at patients’ bedsides, and end of term projects for young children in major London teaching hospitals including Great Ormond Street. They also undertake regular visits to care homes in North London, making music with Holocaust survivors or those suffering from dementia. CLS’s education projects, Growth through Music, see our musicians working with very young children (aged 3-7) in communities that are geographically or economically isolated, including rural Suffolk and Tower Hamlets in East London. Working closely with schools and Music Education Hubs CLS addresses a significant gap in provision for children at a crucial time in their academic and social development.

CLS performs regularly with outstanding partners who share its passions both in the UK and internationally. At home CLS are Orchestra-in-Residence at the critically acclaimed Opera Holland Park, and count St Paul’s Cathedral as one of its close friends, with performances throughout the year including highly popular Christmas events. CLS has developed close links with joint venture partners in Mexico and Japan, touring Mexico in May 2015 with British Council support, and will be embarking on a concert tour to Japan in March 2017 which will include many Meet the Music projects.

CLS continues to be active in the recording studio, with a heritage of over 100 recordings whilst continually seeking opportunities to use recordings to enhance its live performances. Upcoming projects include recordings of Japanese music for Orchestra in 2016.

With a history stretching back 45 years, and 43 of the UK’s most outstanding musicians as members of the Orchestra, CLS continues to look forward to an exciting and engaging future.

*The CLS 2016-17 London season is supported by City of London Sinfonia Friends and supporters.*

*The CLS 2016 Cathedrals Tour is supported by Arts Council England and Friends of Cathedral Music*