



THE FOURTH
CHOIR

Baroque Summer Solstice

with the Meridian Sinfona

Saturday, 20 June 2015

Artistic Director,
Dominic Peckham



The Fourth Choir welcomes you to

Baroque Summer Solstice

with the Meridian Sinfona

A concert of Baroque and Renaissance music at St Peter's Eaton Square.

Artistic Director

Dominic Peckham

Special Guests

Soprano: Sinéad O'Kelly

Alto: Amy Lyddon

Featuring our

Composer in Residence

Alexander Campkin



The performance will include the World Premiere of "The First Kiss" a setting of two poignant and daring epigrams by Greek philosopher Strato by acclaimed British composer Alexander Campkin.

This commission by The Fourth Choir was made possible through the generosity of Francis Nwokedi in loving memory of his brother Victor Nwokedi.

Programme

Exsultate Deo

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 – 1594), Text: Psalm 81

*Rejoice in God our helper,
sing aloud to the God of Jacob.
Take the psalm and bring hither the timbrel,
the merry harp with the lute.
Blow the trumpet in the new moon,
even on our solemn feast day.*

If Ye Love Me

Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505 – 1585), Text: King James Bible, John 14:15-17

Selig sind die Toten

Music: Heinrich Schütz (1585 – 1672), Text: the Luther Bible, Revelation 14:13

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750), Text: Psalm 117

*Praise the Lord, all nations,
and praise Him, all peoples!
For His grace and truth
rule over us for eternity.
Alleluja!*

UK PREMIERE

Apparuit Deus Moysi

Music: Antonio Maria Abbatini (1597 – 1672), Text: Book of Exodus 19:10-16 and anonymous Latin commentary based on Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-4

Soloists from the choir:

Sopranos: Anna Macham, Clouds Haberberg

Altos: Michaela Caunter, Lara De Belder

Tenors: Clive Clifford-Frith, Ed Long

Basses: Séamus McGrenera, Finn Schultze-Feldmann

Alto soloists:

God appeared to Moses who was alone on Mount Sinai and said:

Bass soloists:

Go, go to the people and purify them and let them cleanse their raiment today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will descend in a dense cloud on the mountain

Tenor soloists:

Now the third day arrived and lightning flashed and powerful thunder crashed and a thick cloud surrounded the Mount and there was a thunderous clamour as trumpets echoed in the surrounding skies.

Choir:

And lightning flashed and powerful thunder crashed, and a thick cloud surrounded the Mount and there was a thunderous clamour as trumpets echoed in the surrounding skies.

Alto soloists:

Moses led the people to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain; and the whole of Mount Sinai was surrounded with smoke and flames as God descended.

Tenor and alto soloists:

And the smoke that surrounded God was like that of a fierce furnace.

Choir:

And everything was terrible and frightening and the people inside the camp were seized with a terror to see the lightning flash and the dense cloud surrounding the Mount and hear the powerful thunder, and there was a thunderous clamour as trumpets echoed in the surrounding skies

Soprano soloists:

The Holy Spirit appeared to the disciples as a tongue of flame

Alto soloists:

When the third hour shone all around, there came a mighty, rushing sound which revealed to the praying Apostles the presence of God, as was promised.

Tenor soloists:

Behold, from heaven there came the roar of a strong wind, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit like tongues of flame.

Choir:

Go forth, disciples, with flickering tongues of fire, go forth into the world, go to preach and inflame the world with sacred fire.

INTERVAL

WORLD PREMIERE

The First Kiss

Music: Alexander Campkin (b.1984),

Text: Strato (c. 2nd century A.D.), translation by Sydney Lomer (1880 – 1926)

*When the hour drew nigh
at which we say farewell,
My Moeris kissed my lips,
in dream or truth I cannot tell;
But if the kiss divine were real,
then this indeed I know,
My joyous soul no more
on earth can wander.*

*Thy eyes are sparks, god-like made,
Or rather rays, that send forth flame;
To look thee in the face I cannot claim,
So fierce a fire thy eyes have on me played.*

*My Moeris kissed my lips,
in dream or truth.*

Gloria

Music: Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741), Text: Latin hymn, c. 4th century A.D.

Special Guest Soloists:

Soprano: Sinéad O’Kelly

Alto: Amy Lyddon

- i. Gloria in excelsis Deo
- ii. Et in terra pax hominibus
- iii. Laudamus te
- iv. Gratias agimus tibi
- v. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis
- vi. Domine Fili unigenite
- vii. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei
- viii. Qui tollis peccata mundi
- ix. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris
- x. Quoniam tu solus sanctus
- xi. Cum Sancto Spiritu

Alexander Campkin

Described as 'fresh and attractive' by Gramophone, Alexander's music has attracted the attentions of some of the top ensembles. His work has been performed or broadcast in over thirty countries and features on 15 CDs, one of which was Classic FM Christmas CD of the Year. Alexander has received over fifty commissions from organisations including The Royal Opera House, The London Mozart Players, The Royal Ballet Sinfonia, Aldeburgh Music, The BBC Performing Arts Fund, The Swedish Arts Council, New London Children's Choir, The Joyful Company of Singers and The Theatinerkirche Vokalkapelle Munich. He has been appointed Composer in Residence of Ampersandance Contemporary Dance Company, The Fulham Camerata Choir and Orchestra, The Fourth Choir, and Neresheim Abbey in Germany. Alexander studied music at Oxford University, the Royal Academy of Music and the University for Performing Arts in Vienna, receiving tuition from Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Robert Saxton, Stephen Montague, Michael Jarrell and Simon Bainbridge. He has been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music for services to music.

Meridian Sinfonia

The Meridian Sinfonia is a dynamic and highly flexible professional ensemble, drawing on players from both the period instrument and modern orchestral worlds. The players of the Meridian Sinfonia are highly sought after throughout the UK and Europe as performers, soloists and teachers. The range of the orchestra encompasses the Renaissance through to the contemporary, having given first modern revivals of long lost works and the first performances of contemporary compositions. The period instrument branch of the Meridian Sinfonia covers pitches from Renaissance A440 & A465, through the Baroque A415 and the Classical A430. The choice of the instruments used is carefully considered to bring the most authentic realisation of sounds the composers would have expected. The Meridian Sinfonia has had the pleasure of working for the North London Chorus, Waltham Singers, Skolia, Stondon Singers, Southend Festival Chorus, Milton Keynes Chorale and Kings Lynn Festival Chorus.

Leader: Sarah Moffat

Violins: Felicity Broome-Skelton, Pauline Smith, Henrietta Wayne,
Eleanor Gilchrist, Sarah Bealby-Wright

Violas: Emilia Benjamin, Geoffrey Irwin

Cello: Joseph Crouch

Bass: Catherine Ricketts

Trumpet: Richard Thomas

Oboe: Sarah Humphrys

Organ: Martin Perkins

The Fourth Choir

The Fourth Choir is an LGBT-friendly choir founded in September 2013, whose ambition is to represent the LGBT community on London's world-class classical music scene. Since then, the Choir has performed on 16 occasions, including twice at the Royal Festival Hall when Sandi and Debbie Toksvig renewed their vows in front of an audience of thousands on the day of the first same-sex marriages in the UK, and at a ceremony of ten weddings, both same-sex and mixed-sex. We also appeared on BBC's Newsnight as part of a discussion on same-sex marriage, sung at the Café de Paris, Finsbury Town Hall, the beautiful chapel of King's College London, Finsbury Town Hall and the Hackney Empire.

The Fourth Choir is a registered charity in England and Wales: 1156769.

Join Us

Visit our website to find out how to join us, www.thefourthchoir.com.

Dominic Peckham, Artistic Director

Dominic is regarded as one of the UK's finest young conductors and an ambassador of choral music both in performance and through his critically acclaimed educational work. He is Artistic Director of The Royal Opera House's 'RM19', Assistant Musical Director of The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Artistic Director and Founder of iSingUK – The Schools Workshop Programme, Director of The Ulster Youth Training Choir and Patron and Principal Guest Conductor and Adjudicator of The Voice Festival UK.

In demand at home and abroad as a conductor, choral specialist, adjudicator, workshop director, and consultant for a variety of ensembles and choral training programmes, he was guest Vocal Director of the BBC Choir of the Year, Consultant of Trinity Guildhall Teaching Programme and Guest Speaker for 'Sing Up'.

He has recently been involved in a centenary recording of Benjamin Britten's Choral and Organ works (Delphian Records). Last spring, Peckham marked his debut as Guest Chorus Master of English National Opera in the world premier of Julian Anderson's 'Thebans' at The London Coliseum.

Thank you

The Fourth Choir would like thank the following people for their generous support:

Sponsors

Francis Nwokedi
Lord and Lady Stevenson
Gillian Phillips

Friends

Lesley Bingham
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Christine Campbell
Helen Hines
Rachel Melinik
Craigie Pearson
David Sturgeon

Please visit our website to find out how to support the Choir
www.thefourthchoir.com

Dates for your diary:

Friday 16 Oct - 'Rush hour' Concert, St Georges Bloomsbury

Friday 18 Dec - Christmas Concert, St Giles-in-the-Fields



There will be a collection for Pride in London at the end of the concert.

Please give generously