

The Fourth Choir presents...

Do not go gentle into that good night  
...Rage, rage against the dying of the light



A Memorial Concert to mark the centenary of the end of World War One

Saturday 27 October 2018

Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London



Artistic Director  
Dominic Ellis-Peckham

Patron  
Dame Ann Murray

# Do not go gentle into that good night

## Remember Not Lord Our Offences

Music: Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)

Text: Thomas Cranmer (1489 – 1556)

This piece has powerful historical connections with the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Purcell was a chorister in the Chapel Royal and it is likely that he would have sung in this Chapel as part of his duties. A century earlier, Thomas Cranmer was Archbishop of Canterbury under Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary 1. Cranmer championed Henry's supremacy as the head of the Church of England and helped build the case for Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon to be annulled which made Mary illegitimate. When Mary came to the throne and England temporarily returned to Roman Catholicism, Cranmer recanted his former views. Despite this, Mary had him sentenced to death by burning and Cranmer thrust his hand that had signed his recantations into the flames first to punish himself for changing his beliefs. Cranmer knew all three Queens of England who are buried in the Chapel – Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Lady Jane Grey.

## Memorial Address

Address given by a representative of the Army LGBT Forum

## Requiem

Music: Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)

Text: The Latin Requiem Mass and extracts from the Psalms

1. Salvator Mundi (O Saviour of the world)
2. Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd)
3. Requiem aeternam (1)
4. Psalm 121 (I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills)
5. Requiem aeternam (2)
6. I heard a voice from heaven

In September 1935, Howells' nine-year-old son Michael contracted polio during a family holiday and died three days later. In his grief, Howells took the Requiem which he had written three years earlier but had not published and expanded it into a large-scale work for choir and orchestra which he re-named Hymnus Paradisi. The original Requiem for unaccompanied voices remained a private, very personal work for Howells which he refused to publish until 1980 when he was almost 90.

The texts which Howells selected for the Requiem intermingle the words of the Latin Mass for the Dead with two of most consoling Psalms, sung in English – “The Lord is My Shepherd” and “I Will Lift up my Eyes unto the Hills”, ending with a quotation from Revelations – “I heard a voice from heaven saying ... blessed are the dead which die in the Lord”.

*Please reserve your applause until the end of the Requiem.*

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Interval

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### **No Longer Mourn For Me**

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

Text: William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)

Vaughan Williams appears to be imitating Purcell’s musical style in this setting of Sonnet 71. In this Sonnet, Shakespeare imagines his own death and touchingly tells the young man he was in love with to forget him after his death, firstly, because he can’t bear to think of the young man being sad and, secondly,

*“Lest the wise world should look into your moan  
And mock you with me after I am gone.”*

### **Miserere**

Music: Alexander Campkin (b. 1984)

Text: Psalm 51

Alexander Campkin was the Fourth Choir’s first Resident Composer. This piece was commissioned by the Tallis Scholars and is inspired by Allegri’s famous Miserere which the young Mozart heard at a service in the Sistine Chapel and copied down from memory when he got home. Like the Allegri, Campkin’s piece is scored for double choir, the main choir contrasted with a more lyrical section sung by a solo group.

### **Do Not Go Gentle**

Music: Toby Young (b. 1990)

Text: Dylan Thomas (1914 – 1953)

Toby Young has won many awards including the Guardian/BBC Proms Young Composer of the Year twice in 2006 and 2008.

## A Reading by Dame Ann Murray

### When David Heard

Music: Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Text: Second Book of Samuel

King David mourns for his favourite son, Absalom, even though he was killed leading an uprising against his father.

### A Child's Prayer

Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Text: Traditional, remembered by the composer from his childhood

A child imagines a soul being welcomed to heaven.

## Dates for your diary

### Hampton Court Palace

Armistice Centenary Day, Sunday 11 November 2018, 1.00pm

The Choir feels very privileged to have been invited to sing in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace on Armistice Day itself. This will be a shorter programme than the one at the Tower and is only open to visitors who have bought tickets to tour the Palace that day. Buy your tickets directly from the Palace and make sure that you secure your place in the Chapel by 12.45pm as it is not possible to reserve seats for the concert.

### The Call of Wisdom - Christmas Concert

Saturday 8 December, St Clement Dane's, Strand, London

### The Fourth Choir's Fifth Birthday Celebration Concert

Saturday 9 March 2019, venue to be announced

## The history of St Peter Ad Vincula

Neither God nor Google knows when this site was first fortified. The Romans certainly built on the site in the second century but skeletons from the Iron Age have been excavated near the White Tower which attest to the site being occupied from a time before recorded history.

But it was William the Conqueror who created the Tower that we know today. Soon after his victory at the Battle of Hastings (in 1066, “as any fule kno”), William wished to subjugate the city of London which was described at the time as ‘a most spacious city, full of evil inhabitants, and richer than anywhere else in the kingdom’. Little change there. He gave orders for a great tower to be built on the site and, although it took more than twenty years, the White Tower was completed by 1100 and, apart from minor alterations, remains the building that we see today.

If the White Tower is ancient, the tradition of a church on the site of St Peter ad Vincula is more ancient still. The original church on this site dates to Anglo-Saxon times when it was the local parish church but when the Tower’s defences were extended in the twelfth century, the Chapel ended up inside an impregnable fortress. Henry III had the Chapel redecorated and also established a Menagerie in the Tower for his private collection of exotic beasts. Elephants, lions and tigers, apes and bears were kept in the Tower until, astonishingly, 1835 when the animals were transferred to Regent’s Park Zoo. William Blake visited the Menagerie in the 1790s and his fascination with the tiger he saw there inspired “Tyger, Tyger burning bright”.

In the Tudor period, the Tower was no longer a royal residence and became a melancholy place of torture and imprisonment. The medieval Chapel of St Peter’s burnt down in 1512 and the Chapel we are now in was built by Henry VIII in 1520. Anne Boleyn is particularly associated with the Tower as Henry had the royal apartments lavishly redecorated for her coronation in 1533. Less than three years later, Anne was back at the Tower, this time as a prisoner. Her trial took place in the Great Hall and she was executed on Tower Green, just outside St Peter’s, on 19 May 1536 in front of a crowd of 1,000 spectators. Her cousin, Catherine Howard, Henry’s fifth wife for a mere 16 months, met the same fate in 1542 at the age of nineteen, as did Lady Jane Grey, “the Nine Days’ Queen”, executed in 1554 at the age of seventeen. All three Queens of England are buried in the Chapel.

## Dominic Ellis-Peckham



Dominic Ellis-Peckham is regarded as one of the UK's finest young orchestral and choral conductors. A conductor of immense energy and focus, Dominic is renowned for his dedication to the Renaissance and Baroque era, whilst also passionate about the delivery of new works and inspirational collaborations.

In addition to being Artistic Director of The Fourth Choir, Dominic holds an impressive array of posts including Musical Director of The London Oriana Choir, Guest Conductor for The Royal Opera House, Assistant Music Director of The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Artistic Director and Founder of iSingUK, Artistic Director of The Ulster Youth Choir and Guest Conductor for Trinity Laban College of Music and Aldeburgh Music.

Other previous positions include Chorus Master for English National Opera (during which Dominic received critical acclaim from The New York Times 'a powerful and accomplished chorus' and The Guardian 'superbly prepared' for the world premiere of Julian Anderson's *Thebans*).

Always keen to promote and support new music, Dominic has commissioned many new composers and conducted numerous world premieres, notably Alexander Campkin's *Unleash The Beauty of Your Eyes* with The Fourth Choir, Oliver Searle's *Pride, Poverty and Pianos* for the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Toby Young's *Love and Harmony* for The London Mozart Players, and *Friday Afternoons* for Aldeburgh Music. In 2016 he launched a pioneering commissioning programme for women composers spanning five years, with performances across the world.

## The Fourth Choir



The Fourth Choir was founded in September 2013 by a group of LGBT+ singers aspiring to sing classical and modern choral works to the highest possible standard. Led by Artistic Director Dominic Ellis-Peckham, our goal is to represent the LGBT+ community on London's world-class classical music scene.

At five years old, the Choir is going from strength to strength. We have performed in many of the city's top cultural venues, including twice at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe, Hall One at King's Place, the Royal Festival Hall, the British Museum, the V&A and the British Library. The Choir has also performed abroad, in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, at Antwerp's Queer Arts festival and in the stunning Palazzo Doria Pamphilj in Rome.

In addition to our own charitable aims, we are proud to support other causes in our music making. We celebrated the legalisation of same-sex marriages in the UK, appearing on Newsnight and singing at an event in 2014 where Sandi and Debbie Toksvig renewed their vows in front of an audience of thousands.

The choir welcomes experienced singers of all backgrounds and identities. While our members are not all LGBT, we assume that anyone who works with us celebrates diversity and equal rights. To register your interest in singing with us, please see our website: [thefourthchoir.com](http://thefourthchoir.com).

*The Fourth Choir is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales, number 1156769.*

## Thank you

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

### **Benefactors**

Gill Phillips  
David Sturgeon

### **4C Friends**

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Renata Henkes  
Tony Bingham

*If you would like to become a 4C Friend and enjoy priority booking and other benefits, please visit our website.*

**THE FOURTH CHOIR** London's LGBT+ chamber choir for advanced and professional singers

# Stars, the Heaven's Flock

Traditional seasonal favourites combined with exciting lush songs from living composers Adrian Peacock, James Burton, Kerry Andrew, Will Todd, Jonathan Rathbone, Eriks Ešenvalds, Mack Wilberg, and Bob Chilcott.

**Saturday 8 December 2018**  
**St Clement Danes, the Strand, London**

Tickets at [www.thefourthchoir.com](http://www.thefourthchoir.com)