



**THE FOURTH  
CHOIR**

# The Age of Enlightenment

22 & 29 June 2017

Grand Entrance Hall of the  
Thames Tunnel at Rotherhithe

Artistic Director: Dominic Peckham  
Cello: Roland Anderson  
Piano: Chris Lee  
Composer: Alexander Campkin

When the Thames Tunnel was opened in 1843, it was the eighth wonder of the world - the first tunnel anywhere in the world to run beneath a river. On the first day, fifty thousand people descended the staircase and paid a penny to walk through the tunnel. By the end of the first three months one million people - half the population of London at the time - had walked beneath the Thames. This was the most successful visitor attraction in the world.

## **Vidi Speciosum**

Music: Tomás Luis de Victoria (c.1548 – 1611), Text: the Song of Songs

*I saw the fair one rising like a dove above the streams of water:  
whose priceless fragrance clung to her garments.  
And as on a spring day, she was surrounded by roses and lily-of-the-valley.  
Who is this who rises from the desert like a pillar of smoke from incense of myrrh and frankincense?  
And as on a spring day, she was surrounded by roses and lily-of-the-valley.*

## **Domine in auxilium meum**

Music: Alessandro Scarlatti (1660 – 1725), Text: Psalm 39

*Make haste, O Lord, to help me.  
Let them be ashamed and confounded together, that seek after my soul to destroy it.*

## **Super flumina Babylonis**

Music: Philippe de Monte (1521 – 1603), Text: Psalm 137

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.  
For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us  
required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.  
How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?  
We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.*

## **Slow fresh fount**

Music: William Horsley (1774 – 1858), Text: Ben Jonson (1573 – 1637) from Cynthia's Revels

This piece of music has a direct connection with the Thames Tunnel as the composer, William Horsley, was the father-in-law of Isambard Kingdom Brunel and it is highly likely that Horsley would have visited the Tunnel to admire his son-in-law's extraordinary achievement. The Horsley family were also very friendly with Mendelssohn and they were apparently the first to hear his incidental music for A Midsummer Night's Dream when, on one of his many visits to London, he played through the score for them on the piano at their home in Kensington. It is intriguing to think that the Horsleys may have taken Mendelssohn to visit the Thames Tunnel when it was known as the new "eighth wonder of the world". A choral motet by Mendelssohn, written in the year the Tunnel opened, is included in the second part of tonight's concert.

## **Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied**

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750), Text: Psalms 149 and 150

*Sing to the Lord a new song!  
The congregation of the saints shall praise Him,  
Israel rejoices in Him, who has created it.*

*Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.  
Let them praise His name in dances,  
with drums and harps let them play to Him.*

INTERVAL - JOIN US FOR A DRINK ABOVE GROUND

### **The Ghost of Shadwell Stair**

Music: Alexander Campkin (b. 1984), Text: Wilfred Owen (1893 – 1918)

This is the premier of a piece commissioned by the friends of Séamus Rea to celebrate his 60th birthday. Shadwell Stairs are located at the northern end of the Thames Tunnel. Owen's ambiguous poem may have been inspired by the fact that, prior to the First World War, Shadwell Stairs was an isolated area where gay men met under cover of darkness.

### **V'amo di core**

Music (and possibly text): Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

*I love you tenderly from my heart, yes, yes!  
I could not love another, no, no!  
Oh, what pain, oh what torment, oh oh!*

### **Richte mich, Gott**

Music: Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809 – 1847), Text: Psalm 43

*Do me justice, o God, and fight my fight against a faithless people;  
from the deceitful and impious man rescue me.  
For you, o God, are my strength. Why do you keep me so far away?  
Why must I go about in mourning, With the enemy oppressing me?  
Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on  
And bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place.  
Then will I go in to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy;  
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp, my God.  
Why are you so downcast, o my soul? And why do you sigh within me?  
Hope in God! Then I will again give him thanks,  
In the presence of my saviour and my God.*

### **Deep River (from A Child of Our Time)**

Music: Michael Tippett (1905 – 1998), Text: traditional spiritual

### **The Rivers of Babylon**

Traditional spiritual arranged by Ken Burton (b. 1970)

## **The Fourth Choir**

The Fourth Choir was founded in 2013, with the aim of representing the LGBT+ community on London's world-class classical music scene. Since then we have performed in some of the city's top cultural venues, including the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe, Hall One at King's Place, the Royal Festival Hall, the British Museum, The Jazz Cafe, the stunning Two Temple Place, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, and in Antwerp's Queer Arts festival. This June, The Fourth Choir started one of our the most amazing months so far by singing at the British Library at the launch of an exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967. We have just returned from Rome where we gave a concert inspired by the sonnets of Shakespeare and Michelangelo in the baroque splendour of the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, at the invitation of the Roma Rainbow Choir and Prince Jonathan Doria Pamphilj. On June 26, we will be performing a concert in the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of Shakespeare's Globe.

### **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'.

### **Alexander Campkin, Composer in Residence**

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 Tallis Scholars, 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.