

Hoxton Hall and The Fourth Choir present

Love Letters

Friday
17 Feb 2017
8.00 pm

Artistic Director
Dominic Peckham

THE
FOURTH
CHOIR



HOXTON
HALL

Box Office **020 7684 0060**

130 Hoxton Street, London, N1 6SH

www.hoxtonhall.co.uk

Love Letters

Artistic Director: Dominic Peckham

Readers: Akiya Henry and Neil Bartlett

The music and the readings in the first half of tonight's concert are largely quiet and contemplative so please reserve your applause until the end of that half.

In contrast, we would ask that each of the numbers in the second half is met with your enthusiastic response!

The Fourth Choir is delighted to be collaborating on tonight's concert with two distinguished performers, Neil Bartlett and Akiya Henry, who will be reading love letters of famous same-sex couples from the past.

I Loved You First (UK Première)

Music: Stuart Beatch (b. 1991)

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Heart's Music

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Text: Thomas Campian (1567-1620)

I Love My Love

Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934), Text: Cornish Folk Song

Adoro Te

Music: Pierre Villette (1926-1998)

Text: Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

*I devoutly adore you, O hidden Deity,
Truly hidden beneath these appearances.*

*My whole heart submits to you,
And in contemplating you, it surrenders itself completely.*

*Jesus, whom now I see hidden,
I ask you to fulfill what I so desire:
That the sight of your face being unveiled
I may have the happiness of seeing your glory. Amen.*

Song (I Gaze Upon You)

Music: Gabriel Jackson (b. 1962)

Text: Paul Eluard (1895-1952), trans. Gilbert Bowen

Soloists: Lucy Bingham, Sophia Allen

The Drowned Lovers

Music and Text: Judith Bingham (b. 1952)

Soloist: Elly Barnes

The Bluebird

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), Text: Mary E. Coleridge (1861-1907)

Soloists: Sophia Allen, Esther Zuke & Riognach Sachs

INTERVAL

Thou, my love, art fair

Music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955), Text: William Baldwin (c.1515-c.1563)

I Couldn't Love You More

Music and Lyrics: John Martyn (1948-2009), Arr. The Swingle Singers

Soloist: Nigel Pilkington

I Love U But I Don't Trust U Anymore

Music and Lyrics: Prince (1958-2016)

Soloist: Ché Ramsden

Dream a Little Dream of Me

Music: Fabian Andre (1910-1960) and Wilbur Schwandt (1904-1998),

Lyrics: Gus Kahn (1886-1941)

Soloist: Anna Macham

I Only Have Eyes for You

Music: Harry Warren (1893-1981), Lyrics: Al Dubin (1891-1945)

Soloist: Anna Macham

I've Got You Under My Skin

Music and Lyrics: Cole Porter (1891-1964)

Soloist: Ed Long

What a Wonderful World

Music and Lyrics: Bob Thiele (1922-1996) and George David Weiss (1921-2010)

Soloist: Luke Taylor

L'Amour de Moi

Music and Text: Anonymous

Arrangement: Ward Swingle (1927-2015)



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



TENEBRAE
PROPHET & PROPHETESS

Holy Week Festival 2017

Psalm Sunday 9 – Holy Saturday 15 April

Artists include BBC Singers, Tenebrae, Polyphony, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Aurora Orchestra, VOCES8, Alamire, The Gesualdo Six, and Siglo de Oro.

A week of concerts, workshops, Come & Sing, and free late-night liturgical events.

Box Office 0207 222 1061

Book online sjs.org.uk

St John's Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA



Neil Bartlett



Neil Bartlett has been making rule-breaking theatre and performance since 1983. After a controversial early career, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith in London in 1994; since leaving the Lyric in 2005 he has made work for the National Theatre, the Barbican, the American Repertory Theatre in Boston, the Abbey in Dublin, the Bristol Old Vic, the Manchester Royal Exchange, Opera North, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Manchester International Festival, the Brighton Festival and the Aldeburgh Festival - as well as for the Wellcome Foundation and the Royal Vauxhall Tavern. He is also an acclaimed author; his most recent novel, *The Disappearance Boy*, earned him a nomination as Stonewall Author of the Year in 2014. On September 4th 2016, he performed a six hour reading of the entirety of *De Profundis*, Oscar Wilde's one hundred page love letter to Lord Alfred Douglas, in the chapel of Reading Gaol, the prison where Wilde served most of his two-year sentence and where he had written *De Profundis*.

Akiya Henry



Akiya Henry has an extraordinarily diverse career which includes performing in musical theatre, opera, classical and contemporary drama, physical theatre, animation and film. Her recent theatre credits include *Hermia* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Bristol Old Vic, *A Sense of an Ending* at Theatre502 in Battersea, *Hello Dolly* and *The Tempest* at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and *Henry V* and *Much Ado About Nothing* with the RSC in the West End and on Broadway. However, her favourite role so far was playing an eight year-old slave boy in *Coram Boy* at the National Theatre.

Dominic Peckham



Dominic Peckham is regarded as one of the UK's finest young orchestral and choral conductors. A conductor of immense energy and focus, Peckham 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 his Artistic Directorship of The Fourth Choir, Peckham 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.

In 2014, Peckham was invited to be Guest Chorus Master at English National Opera and worked on the highly acclaimed world première of *Thebans* by Julian Anderson for the company in their 2013/14 season. The production received fantastic reviews and critics praised Peckham and the chorus for 'their immense levels of intensity'.

Always keen to promote and support new music, Peckham 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, *Friday Afternoons* for Aldeburgh Music. In 2016 he is launching 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 Peckham, our goal is to represent the LGBT+ community in London's world-class classical music scene.

Just over three years old, the choir is going from strength to strength. We have performed in some of the city's top cultural venues, including the Sam Wanamaker Theater at Shakespeare's Globe, Hall One at King's Place, the Royal Festival Hall, the British Museum, and the stunning Two Temple Place. Last summer the choir performed in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw as part of EuroPride's choir festival and, one week later, staged a re-run of our Spring Shakespeare celebration in Antwerp's Queer Arts festival.

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.

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



THE FOURTH
CHOIR

The Fourth Choir presents

AWAKENINGS

Celebrating the
start of spring
with songs of
Enlightenment,
Inception and
New Beginnings

7.00 pm, Friday 31 March 2017
St Georges Bloomsbury, WC1A 2SA
Tickets at thefourthchoir.com

St Georges Bloomsbury is a Hawksmoor church with a stunning white interior and a fabulous surround-sound acoustics - the Renaissance polyphony of the De Lassus and Palestrina that we'll be singing will come at you from all sides.

The nineteenth century will be represented by Mendelssohn, the twentieth century by Howells and the twenty-first century by Eric Whitacre, Roderick Williams and Bob Chilcott.

Artistic Director: Dominic Padiham