

Programmes for the 2022/23 season

NORTHERN LIGHTS

The North is so much more than a direction. In mythology, it represents the furthest edges of our knowledge and imagination. But it also represents great beauty, with no better example than the Northern Lights — or *Aurora Borealis*. Visible from much of Scandinavia, Iceland and even Scotland, it is no coincidence that music written in the lands where it glows seems infused with its otherworldly magic. From ancient Norse and Celtic folksongs of the Faroe Islands and northern Scotland, to majestic choral works by Grieg, Sibelius and Nielsen, along with brand new works, *Northern Lights* follows the compass to some of the most haunting and beautiful corners of the known world.

Northern Lights features music by Edvard Grieg, Jean Sibelius, Carl Nielsen, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Ola Gjeilo, James MacMillan and Teitur, as well as classic audience favourites and brand-new surprises from our close-harmony library.

MASTERPIECE

It is an honour for us that many of the world's leading composers have written new music for The King's Singers over the years. *Masterpiece* is a selection of some of the most iconic of these commissions. It is a programme that will delight audiences with its joy, theatre and fun as much as its innovation and musical brilliance, to make you smile as much as to make you think. And it highlights just how lucky we have been to work with so many visionary composers, each of whom has given us all the gift of a Masterpiece.

Masterpiece features music written especially for The King's Singers by György Ligeti, Luciano Berio, Giancarlo Menotti, Bob Chilcott and most recently Judith Bingham, as well as classic audience favourites including of course Paul Drayton's Masterpiece, and brand-new surprises from our close-harmony library.

TOM AND WILL

400 years ago, in 1623, England lost two of its greatest composers: William Byrd and Thomas Weelkes. In a programme marking this double anniversary, and a newly released recording featuring viol consort Fretwork, The King's Singers turn their focus to the bold personalities of these two men, Tom and Will. Though they are famous for their glorious church music, we witness in their secular songs, madrigals and works in English more of their characters, with all the wit, humour and rebelliousness that made them as notorious in life as they are revered in death. Featuring well known gems by the two composers, alongside previously unrecorded works rarely heard live, *Tom and Will* unlocks some of the humanity behind these two giants of Elizabethan music and politics. Presented in The King's Singers' unique style, this programme is filled with beauty, drama and storytelling.

There are two versions of Tom and Will: one for performance with viol consort Fretwork including brand-new commissions by James MacMillan and Roderick Williams, and one for The King's Singers alone. Both feature music by William Byrd and Thomas Weelkes, much of it taken from our recent album release, as well as a handful of our signature close-harmony arrangements.

SONGBIRDS

The natural beauty of birds and birdsong has long provided an inspiration for composers and artists of all kinds. *Songbirds* combines some of this music inspired by our favourite feathered friends, spanning the last 500 years, with songs by modern-day 'songbirds' – singers and songwriters who have changed the course of popular music with their distinct voices and musical ideas. This is a programme that deliberately juxtaposes ancient and modern in a way that makes both soar to new heights.

Songbirds features a selection of music by Maurice Ravel, Franz Schubert, Fleetwood Mac and Laura Mvula, as well as classic audience favourites and brand-new surprises from our close-harmony library.

LEGACIES

With so many notable anniversaries of world-famous composers, musicians and writers to celebrate this season, we've created our programme *Legacies* in admiration of their lives and of the extraordinary cultural footprint they have each left behind. Looking forward, several new works by young British composers will also be included. Join us for an evening of discovery, as we give thanks for these great living and historical figures and set our sights on the future.

There are two versions of Legacies, each designed to suit different audiences, series and spaces. The first features music by Zoltán Kodály, Johannes Brahms, György Ligeti and Gabriela Lena Frank. The second features Sergei Rachmaninov, Jean Mouton, Bob Chilcott and Ned Rorem. Both programmes include music by William Byrd, Thomas Weelkes, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Hugo Alfvén, Randy Newman and Elton John, as well as a selection of songs from our close-harmony library.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KING'S SINGERS

The King's Singers have always believed in the incredible power of music to unite people in our communities across the world. This could not be more evident than at Christmastime. For centuries, people of all different races, ages, faiths and nationalities have celebrated during the Holiday season with their own songs that give thanks for the last year and look forward to the next. This programme combines a unique selection of Christmas favourites from all over the world with lesser-known gems and some brand-new surprises, to bring us all together at this time of year.

Including music from our albums Christmas, The King's Singers Christmas Songbook, and their brand new album, Christmas Carols from The King's Singers.