2019 International Tour
United Kingdom and Germany

Edinburgh | York | Cambridge | London | Oxford | Marktoberdorf

May 26 - June 12

Richard Nance, Conductor
Visits to some of the United Kingdom’s most beautiful cities, exchange concerts with important chamber choirs from several nations, and participation in a renowned choral competition are all features of the Choir of the West 2019 tour. The itinerary will include stops in Edinburgh, York, Cambridge, London and Oxford. Choir of the West will share concert performances and social interaction with the University of Edinburgh Chamber Choir, The Choir of Royal Holloway – University of London, and The Choir of Queen’s College, Oxford. The Choir will enjoy workshops with renowned conductors Rupert Gough and Ben Parry, and will join with the King’s Voices to present a Choral Evensong at famed King’s College Chapel in Cambridge.

Following the tour of the United Kingdom, Choir of the West will fly to Germany to participate in the 16th Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition. This biannual event is considered one of the world’s most important competitions for chamber choirs, and since its inception has drawn over 200 choirs from more than 40 countries.

Choir of the West will participate with 13 choirs from Cuba, the Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, the Philippines, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States. Each choir will perform in two rounds of competition, juried by renowned choral experts from Australia, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, and the United States. The festival includes a number of opportunities for the participants to share social interaction, and the choirs will be paired to perform evening concerts in venues around the Allgäu region (Bavaria).

We welcome all our audiences and hope to be able to spend some time visiting with you following today’s program!
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TOUR PREVIEW CONCERT
Thursday, May 23, 2019  |  8 p.m.
Lagerquist Concert Hall  |  Mary Baker Russell Music Center  |  Pacific Lutheran University

Welcome to Lagerquist Concert Hall. Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert. Use of cameras, recording equipment and all electronic devices is not permitted in the concert hall.

PROGRAM
(Translations may be found on page 7 of the program)

Exsultate .................................................................................................................................................. Brian Edward Galante (b. 1974)

Two German Motets
1. Selig sind die Toten ........................................................................................................ Heinrich Schütz (1585 – 1672)
2. Die mit tränen säen .................................................................................................. Johann Hermann Schein (1586 – 1630)

Of Time and Passing (World Premiere) ................................................................................... Daniel J. Knaggs (b. 1983)

   Ethan Wiederspan, *soloist*

   1. Life
   2. To Everything, A Season
   3. Into Your Hands

Trois Chansons ........................................................................................................................................ Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937)

   Mackenzie Taylor, Rachel Bridges, Austin Schend and Ethan Moon, *soloists*

   1. Nicolette
   2. Trois beaux oiseaux du paradis
   3. Ronde

Māte Saule ........................................................................................................................................ Peteris Vasks (b. 1946)

♦ INTERMISSION ♦

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God................................................................................................ Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)/arr. W. B. Olds

Music of the Anglican Church

   Joshua Carlisle, *soloist*; Paul Tegels, *organist*

   1. Hail, Gladdening Light ................................................................................................. Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)
   2. Faire is the Heaven ......................................................................................................... William H. Harris (1883 – 1973)
   3. Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Collegium Regale) .................................................. Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)

To Achieve Thine Ends ................................................................................................................ Austin Schend (PLU student composer) (b. 1991)

American Songs

   Aria Manning, *soloist*

   2. Oh, Shenandoah ........................................................................................................... arr. Alf Houkom (b. 1935)

Beautiful Savior .......................................................................................................................... arr. F. Melius Christiansen (1871 – 1955)
ST. GILES’ CATHEDRAL, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
Tuesday, May 28, 2019 | 1:30 p.m.
featuring the Edinburgh University Chamber Choir
Michael Bawtree, Conductor

PROGRAM
(Translations may be found on page 7 of the program)

♦ COMBINED CHOIRS ♦

Hail, Gladdening Light ..............................................................Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)

♦ EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR ♦

Ave, Virgo sanctissima .................................................................Francisco Guerrero (1528 – 1599)
Bogorodite Devo ........................................................................Sergei Rachmaninov (1873 – 1943)
Ave Virgo sanctissima ................................................................Judith Bingham (b. 1952)

♦ CHOIR OF THE WEST ♦

Exsultate .....................................................................................Brian Edward Galante (b. 1974)
Die mit tränen säen .....................................................................Johann Hermann Schein (1586 – 1630)
from Of Time and Passing (World Premiere) ...........................Daniel J. Knaggs (b. 1983)
   Ethan Wiederspan, soloist
   1. Life
   2. To Everything, A Season

To Achieve Thine Ends ...............................................................Austin Schend (PLU student composer) (b. 1991)

American Songs
   Aria Manning, soloist
   1. Oh, Shenandoah .................................................................arr. Alf Houkom (b. 1935)

♦ COMBINED CHOIRS ♦

Loch Lomond ..............................................................................arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)
PROGRAM

(Translations may be found on page 7 of the program)

Exsultate ..............................................................Brian Edward Galante (b. 1974)

Of Time and Passing (World Premiere) ......................................Daniel J. Knaggs (b. 1983)
   Ethan Wiederspan, soloist
      1. Life
      2. To Everything, A Season
      3. Into Your Hands

Trois Chansons .................................................................Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937)
   Mackenzie Taylor, Rachel Bridges, Austin Schend and Ethan Moon, soloists
      1. Nicolette
      2. Trois beaux oiseaux du paradis
      3. Ronde

Māte Saule .................................................................Peteris Vasks (b. 1946)

Faire is the Heaven .........................................................William H. Harris (1883 – 1973)

American Songs
   Aria Manning, soloist
      1. Oh, Shenandoah ..................................................arr. Alf Houkom (b. 1935)
      2. Unclouded Day ....................................................arr. Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)
ROYAL HOLLOWAY - UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, ENGLAND  
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 | 1:15 p.m.  
featuring the Choir of Royal Holloway  
Rupert Gough, Conductor  

PROGRAM  
(Translations may be found on page 7 of the program)  

♦ COMBINED CHOIRS ♦  
Hail, Gladdening Light ...........................................................................................................Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)  

♦ CHOIR OF THE WEST ♦  
Exsultate ..................................................................................................................................Brian Edward Galante (b. 1974)  
Mate Saule ..................................................................................................................................Peteris Vasks (b. 1943)  

♦ CHOIR OF ROYAL HOLLOWAY ♦  
Northern Lights.........................................................................................................................Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)  
Hymn to St. Cecilia...................................................................................................................Daniel J. Knaggs (b. 1983)  

♦ CHOIR OF THE WEST ♦  
To Everything, A Season (from Of Time and Passing) (World Premiere) .........................Daniel J. Knaggs (b. 1983)  
Oh, Shenandoah ....................................................................................................................arr. Alf Houkom (b. 1935)  
Aria Manning, soloist  

♦ COMBINED CHOIRS ♦  
Faire is the Heaven .................................................................................................................William H. Harris (1883 – 1973)
THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE - UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, ENGLAND
Thursday, June 6, 2019  |  6:15 p.m.
featuring the Choir of the Queen's College
Owen Rees, Conductor

PROGRAM
(Translations may be found on page 7 of the program)

♦ COMBINED CHOIRS ♦

Hail, Gladdening Light .................................................................Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)
Faire is the Heaven .................................................................William H. Harris (1883 – 1973)

♦ CHOIR OF THE WEST ♦

Exsultate .........................................................................................Brian Edward Galante (b. 1974)
Two German Motets
   1. Selig sind die Toten...........................................................Heinrich Schütz (1585 – 1672)
   2. Die mit tränen säen........................................................Johann Hermann Schein (1586 – 1630)

Of Time And Passing (World Premiere)........................................Daniel J. Knaggs (b. 1983)
   Ethan Wiederspan, soloist
     1. Life
     2. To Everything, A Season
     3. Into Your Hands

Trois Chansons........................................................................................Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937)
   Mackenzie Taylor, Rachel Bridges, Austin Schend and Ethan Moon, soloists
     1. Nicolette
     2. Trois beaux oiseaux du paradis
     3. Ronde

Mate Saule ..........................................................................................Pēteris Vasks (b. 1943)

To Achieve Thine Ends ..................................................................Austin Schend (PLU student composer) (b. 1991)

American Songs
   Aria Manning, soloist
     2. Oh, Shenandoah..............................................................arr. Alf Houkom (b. 1935)
TRANSLATIONS

AVE, VIRGO SANCTISSIMA
(Francisco Guerrero and Judith Bingham)
Hail, Holy Virgin,
most blessed Mother of God,
bright star of the sea.
Hail ever glorious, precious pearl,
lovely as the lily,
beautiful and perfumed as the rose.

BOGORODITSE DEVO
(Sergei Rachmaninov)
Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

DIE MIT TRÄNEN SÄEN
(Johann Hermann Schein)
Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.
He who goes out weeping, bearing seed for sowing
will come again with joy carrying his sheaves.

EXSULTATE
(Brian Edward Galante)
Rejoice, sing joyfully to God!
O you blessed souls, sing sweet songs;
in response to your singing the heavens sing with me!
You crown of virgins, grant us peace,
conso last our afflictions, from which our hearts sigh.
Alleluia!
Rejoice, sing joyfully to God!

MÄTE SAULE
(Peteris Vasks)
Morning is rising like kneaded bread dough.
Mother’s footsteps clatter on the clay floor.
And loaves, covered with maple leaves,
travel on the peel into the mouth of the oven.

Lambs still sleep with stars in their eyes,
ploughs still lie idle in men’s dreams,
but Mother Sun churns white butter —
like eternity — on the threshold.

Time rolled by through cold dew —
three centuries or hours three.
When we awoke
the sun was already stepping
up through the ash trees into the sky.

SELG SIND DIE TOTEN
(Heinrich Schütz)
Blessed are the dead, that die in the Lord from now on.
Yea, the Spirit speaks: they rest from their labors
and their works follow them.

TROIS CHANSONS
(Maurice Ravel)
1. Nicolette
Nicolette, at twilight went for a walk through the fields,
To pick daisies, daffodils, and lilies of the valley,
Skipping around, completely jolly,
Spying here, there, and everywhere.
She met an old, growling wolf,
On alert, eyes a-sparkle:
“Hey there! Nicolette, my dear,
won’t you come to Grandmother’s house?”
Out of breath, Nicolette fled,
Leaving behind her cornette and white clogs.
She met a cute page, blue shoes and gray doublet:
“Hey there! Nicolette dear, wouldn’t you like a sweetheart?”
Wisely, she turned ‘round, poor Nicolette,
very slowly, with a contrite heart.
She met an old gentleman,
Twisted, ugly, smelly and pot-bellied:
“Hey there! Nicolette dear, don’t you want all this money?”
She ran straight into his arms, good Nicolette
Never to return to the fields again.

AVE, VIRGO SANCTISSIMA
(Latin)
Hail, Holy Virgin,
most blessed Mother of God,
bright star of the sea.
Hail ever glorious, precious pearl,
lovely as the lily,
beautiful and perfumed as the rose.

BOGORODITSE DEVO
(Russian)
Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

DIE MIT TRÄNEN SÄEN
(German)
Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.
He who goes out weeping, bearing seed for sowing
will come again with joy carrying his sheaves.

EXSULTATE
(English)
Rejoice, sing joyfully to God!
O you blessed souls, sing sweet songs;
in response to your singing the heavens sing with me!
You crown of virgins, grant us peace,
conso last our afflictions, from which our hearts sigh.
Alleluia!
Rejoice, sing joyfully to God!

MÄTE SAULE
(Latvian)
Morning is rising like kneaded bread dough.
Mother’s footsteps clatter on the clay floor.
And loaves, covered with maple leaves,
travel on the peel into the mouth of the oven.

Lambs still sleep with stars in their eyes,
ploughs still lie idle in men’s dreams,
but Mother Sun churns white butter —
like eternity — on the threshold.

Time rolled by through cold dew —
three centuries or hours three.
When we awoke
the sun was already stepping
up through the ash trees into the sky.

SELG SIND DIE TOTEN
(German)
Blessed are the dead, that die in the Lord from now on.
Yea, the Spirit speaks: they rest from their labors
and their works follow them.

TROIS CHANSONS
(French)
1. Nicolette
Nicolette, at twilight went for a walk through the fields,
To pick daisies, daffodils, and lilies of the valley,
Skipping around, completely jolly,
Spying here, there, and everywhere.
She met an old, growling wolf,
On alert, eyes a-sparkle:
“Hey there! Nicolette, my dear,
won’t you come to Grandmother’s house?”
Out of breath, Nicolette fled,
Leaving behind her cornette and white clogs.
She met a cute page, blue shoes and gray doublet:
“Hey there! Nicolette dear, wouldn’t you like a sweetheart?”
Wisely, she turned ‘round, poor Nicolette,
very slowly, with a contrite heart.
She met an old gentleman,
Twisted, ugly, smelly and pot-bellied:
“Hey there! Nicolette dear, don’t you want all this money?”
She ran straight into his arms, good Nicolette
Never to return to the fields again.

(continud on next page)
2. Trois beaux oiseaux du Paradis

Three beautiful birds of paradise
(My love is gone to the war)
Three beautiful birds of paradise
Have passed this way.
The first was bluer than the sky
(My love has gone to the war)
The second was the color of snow
The third was red as vermillion.
“Beautiful little birds of paradise
(My love has gone to the war)
Beautiful little birds of paradise
What do you bring here?”
“I carry an azure glance
(Your love has gone to the war)
And I must leave on a snow-white brow
A kiss, even purer.”
“You red bird of paradise
(My love has gone to the war)
You red bird of paradise
What are you bringing me?”
“A loving heart, flushing crimson.”
(Your love has gone to the war)
“Ah, I feel my heart growing cold…
Take that with you as well.”

3. Ronde

The old women:

Do not go into Ormonde forest,
Young maidens, do not go into the forest:
It is full of satyrs, of centaurs, of evil sorcerers,
Of sprites and incubuses, ogres, pixies,
Fauns, bogoblins, spooks, devils, imps and fiends,
Clawed-foot, gnomes, of demons, of werewolves, elves,
Warriors, enchanters and conjurers,
Of fairies, sylphs, of surly hermits,
Cyclops, djinns, spirits, gremlins,
Necromancers, trolls … Ah!
Do not go into Ormonde forest!

The old men:

Do not go into Ormonde forest,
Young men, do not go into the forest:
It is full of female fauns, of bacchae and evil spirits,
Lads, do not go into the forest.
Of female satyrs, ogresses, and baba yagas,
Of female centaurs and devils, ghouls emerging from sabbath,
Of sprites and demons, of larvae, of nymphs, of warriors,
It is full of demons, tree spirits and dryads,
Naiads, bacchantes, oreads,
Hobgoblins, ghosts, gnomes, succubuses,
Gorgons, monsters,
Do not go into Ormonde forest!

The maids / The lads:

We won’t go into Ormonde forest any more,
Alas! Never more we’ll go into the forest.
There are no more satyrs there,
No more nymphs or evil spirits.
No more sprites, no more incubuses,
No ogres, no pixies, no more ogresses,
No more fauns, bogoblins or spooks,
Devils, imps, or fiends, no female satyrs, no.
No more goat-footed, no gnomes, no demons.
No more female fauns, no!
Nor werewolves, nor elves, no warriors,
No more enchanters or conjurers,
No fairies, no sylphs, no surly hermits,
No female centaurs or naiads, no more oreads,
No more bacchantes or tree spirits, no dryads,
Hobgoblins, ghosts, gnomes, succubuses, gorgons, goblins,
No cyclops, nor djinns, nor fiends, no ifrits, no Aegipan,
No tree spirits, goblins, gremlins, necromancers, trolls,
Ah!

We won’t go into Ormonde forest,
The misguided old women,
The misguided old men
Have chased them all away – Ah!
SOPRANO
Maya Adams
Natalie Breshears
Gillian Dockins
Julie Landes
Cecilia Lewis
Aria Manning
Emily Shane
Mackenzie Taylor

ALTO
Lydia Bill
Rachel Bridges
Rebekah Dumestre
Anika Hille
Alicia Hoag
Alyssa Lyngaas
Morgan Myers
Cat Tyler

TENOR
Chase Alm
Will Bentley
Joshua Carlisle
Logan Kropp
Austin Schend
T.J. Wheeler
Ethan Wiederspan

BASS
Beniah Axlund
Brennan Brichoux
Christopher Conway
Karl Eickhoff
Luke Hartley
Brent Johnson
Ben Merrill
Ethan Moon

Pacific Lutheran University
Richard Nance, Conductor
CHOIR OF THE WEST

The Choir of the West is the premier choral ensemble of the Department of Music at Pacific Lutheran University, located in Tacoma, Washington. The choir was founded in 1926, and was the third Lutheran college choir to tour extensively throughout the United States. The Choir of the West has toured Europe, Scandinavia, Japan and China, and has been selected to appear at several state, division and national conferences of the National Association for Music Education and the American Choral Directors Association. Most recently the choir performed at the Northwestern Division ACDA conference in 2018 and previously 2012, and gave a highly acclaimed performance at the 2013 ACDA National Conference held in Dallas. Choir of the West performed a featured concert at the 2015 National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference under the direction of headliner Simon Carrington. The choir won two gold awards at the 2011 Harmonie Festival in Lindenholtzhausen, Germany, and won two categories at the 2015 Anton Bruckner Competition in Linz, Austria. The choir was awarded the Anton Bruckner Prize as the most outstanding ensemble in the competition.

Choir of the West has regularly participated in the premieres of important new works. Most recently, the choir combined with the PLU Choral Union and University Symphony Orchestra to give the North American premiere of Ēriks Ešenvalds’ *Nordic Light Symphony* (2017) and Sven-David Sandström’s *Matthauspassion* (2016). In Spring of 2018 the choir joined with the PLU Chorale and University Wind Ensemble to premiere the chamber version of JAC Redford’s *Homing*, which was the 2017 Raymond W. Brock Composition sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association. The Choir of the West has released several recordings (available at https://lutelocker.com/collections/plu-music-recordings), and in April 2018 recorded several works by Ēriks Ešenvalds under his supervision, to be released on the Signum Classics label in December of 2019.

The Choir of the West is comprised of undergraduate students from a variety of academic disciplines. The choir performs several concerts each year, including shared programs with other PLU ensembles, the annual series of five Christmas Concerts (the 2015 concert was filmed for broadcast on PBS), and campus celebratory events. The choir tours domestically in three out of four years, and once every four years tours internationally. For more information about the Choir of the West, please visit: www.plu.edu/sing.

RICHARD NANCE, CONDUCTOR

Richard Nance is Director of Choral Activities and conductor of the Choir of the West and Choral Union at PLU. Nance’s choirs have been regularly selected to perform at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and the National Association for Music Education. Most recently Choir of the West appeared at the 2018 ACDA Northwestern Division Conference, and the choir gave highly acclaimed performances at the 2013 ACDA National Conference, held in Dallas.

Choir of the West was one of two headliner choirs at the 2015 National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference, where the choir was guest conducted by Simon Carrington. Nance’s choirs have toured Europe on several occasions.
and have won top awards at the Harmonie Festival, Florence International Choral Festival and the Anton Bruckner Choir Competition. His choirs have regularly given premiere performances of important new works, including the North American premieres of Sven David Sandström’s *Matthauspassion* and the *Nordic Light Symphony* by Ėriks Ešenvalds. Dr. Nance has published choral works with Walton Music, Hinshaw Music and Colla Voce Music. In 2002, Nance was selected to write the prestigious Raymond Brock Memorial Composition for the American Choral Directors Association. In 2011 and 2013 he was awarded the American Prize for choral conducting, and he has received leadership awards from the Washington State and Northwestern Division chapters of ACDA.

**PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**

Pacific Lutheran University is a comprehensive institution with an enrollment of approximately 3,100, including international students from two dozen countries. Located in a uniquely scenic region on the Pacific Rim, the university’s campus is 40 miles south of Seattle in suburban Tacoma, Washington. The university offers students a unique blend of academically rigorous liberal arts and professional programs that prepare them for a lifetime of success — both in their careers and in service to others. A full range of liberal arts academic programs are offered — such as psychology, history and the natural sciences — with professional study in the arts and communication, business, education, nursing, social work and physical education. Masters degrees are offered in five fields. PLU is committed to developing in all students an understanding of the intercultural and intellectual richness of the world. More than 40 percent of students spend time studying abroad.

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

The Department of Music at PLU is a nationally recognized center for musical learning, serving and sharing. The Mary Baker Russell Music Center, with its exquisite Lagerquist Concert Hall and state-of-the-art rehearsal and learning facilities, brings together talented, cohesive faculty, outstanding students, and enthusiastic audiences to experience the art and industry of music. Every student at PLU who wishes to participate in exciting activities can be accommodated regardless of major. Degree programs include Bachelor of Arts (music and liberal arts), Bachelor of Musical Arts (music combined with an outside field), and Bachelor of Music (in performance or composition). The Bachelor of Music Education is offered for those intending to become music teachers in the public schools.
EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR

One of Scotland’s most ambitious and exciting young choirs, The Edinburgh University Chamber Choir prides itself on furthering singers’ education by performing challenging choral repertoire from the 12th to 21st century, to an exceptionally high standard. This academic year, the choir has collaborated with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Glasgow Chamber Choir and the Edinburgh University Chamber Orchestra in a concert series with a hugely varied program, in addition to performing their own concert in St. Giles’ Cathedral. The choir represents the University of Edinburgh at the annual Academic Service, as well as other University events all year round. The choir has also established an international reputation, having recently toured Amsterdam, Oslo, the South of France, Budapest and Berlin to name but a few.

MICHAEL BAWTREE, CONDUCTOR

British conductor and organist Michael Bawtree studied music and the organ at Christ’s College, Cambridge University, and conducting at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He has directed the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Red Note Ensemble, the Orchestra of Scottish Opera and many performances for Scottish Ballet, Northern Ballet and Raymond Gubbay Ltd across the British Isles. For seven years, he was Assistant Music Director of the Lyrique-en-Mer summer opera festival in Brittany. For thirteen seasons Bawtree has been Chorus Director of the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union and Music Director of Glasgow Chamber Choir. He is Artistic Director of Edinburgh University Chamber Choir. He has also worked with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, the RSNO chorus and toured with other choirs across Europe, North America, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Bawtree has conducted many premieres and works regularly with the UK’s foremost composers including the late Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Paul Mealor, Judith Bingham, Sir James MacMillan, Thea Musgrave and Sally Beamish. He recently assisted Martyn Brabbins on performances of Sir Harrison Birtwistle’s The Last Supper (BBC SSO) and Louis Andriessen’s La Commedia (BBC SO).

THE CHOIR OF ROYAL HOLLOWAY

The Choir of Royal Holloway is considered to be one of the finest mixed-voice collegiate choirs in Britain. Their recordings on the Hyperion label have attracted top reviews from all major music publications. The choir gives around 50 concerts a year with a particular specialism in music from the late renaissance and contemporary music. The choir also benefits from a unique training programme in collaboration with The King’s Singers – Royal Holloway’s Ensemble in Residence.

Created at the time of the foundation of Royal Holloway in 1886, the choir was originally only for women’s voices. The mixed choir now comprises 24 Choral Scholars that are generously funded by Banco Santander as a part of the Santander Universities Scheme. These choral scholars undertake concerts, international tours, recordings and broadcasts. Royal Holloway is also the only university that still maintains a tradition of daily sung morning services.

The choir has developed a particular reputation for the performance of music from the Baltic region. Many new works have been composed for the choir as it continues to enjoy close collaborations with living composers. Recent commissions have included works by Carson P. Cooman, James MacMillan, Gabriel Jackson and Richard Rodney Bennett. The Choir of Royal Holloway, has toured to the United States in 2009 and 2011. The choir has traveled to most European countries, appeared in Beijing, and has been broadcast on regional and national radio and television all over the world.

RUPERT GOUGH, CONDUCTOR

Rupert Gough has been director of Choral Music and College Organist at Royal Holloway, University of London since 2005. He is also Organist and Director of Music at London’s oldest surviving church, Saint Bartholomew the Great, which maintains a professional choir. At Royal Holloway Rupert has developed the choral programme to include weekly choral recitals, choral conducting courses for undergraduates, many new choral commissions and transformed the Chapel Choir into an elite group of 24 choral scholars. The
Choir has particularly come to prominence through their series of recordings for Hyperion Records. Their latest recording of the music of Ola Gjeilo with Decca Classics was top of the US and UK charts over Christmas.

Rupert was a chorister at the Chapels Royal, St. James’s Palace, and won a scholarship to the Purcell School. He received (with distinction) a Masters degree in English Church Music from the University of East Anglia whilst Organ Scholar at Norwich Cathedral. For eleven years he was Assistant Organist at Wells Cathedral during which time he made around 30 CD recordings as accompanist and director. Rupert has worked with a variety of professional ensembles including the BBC Singers, King’s Singers, Britten Sinfonia, London Mozart Players and Tallinn Chamber Orchestra. As an organist he has performed widely as an organ soloist and as a part of a violin and organ duo. Highlights include the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and recitals in Moscow and across the USA.

♦ CHORI OF THE QUEEN’S COLLEGE, OXFORD ♦

The Choir of The Queen’s College, Oxford was recently hailed as ‘one of the world’s most renowned choirs’ by Classic FM and the Director Owen Rees’s interpretations of choral music have been described as ‘revelatory and even visionary’ (BBC Music Magazine). The mixed-voice choir consists of thirty singers, including some twenty Choral Scholars who are students of the College, Choral Exhibitioners from other colleges, and two professional Lay Clerks. The choir’s extensive concert schedule involves appearances across the UK and abroad, including work with such professional ensembles as the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and the Brook Street Band. It regularly tours abroad, and recent concert tours have included Taiwan, China, the USA, Sri Lanka, Italy, Sardinia, Portugal, Spain, France, the Low Countries, and Germany.

Queen’s choir’s latest CD releases are on the Signum and Avie labels. May 2013 saw the release of a CD of Dixit Dominus settings by Handel and Alessandro Scarlatti, which was hailed as ‘a disc of unusually high calibre’ by “Early Music Review” and awarded five stars by “Choir and Organ.” In 2011 Queen’s choir commissioned, premiered, and recorded a major new work, Welcome all Wonders, by the British composer David Bednall. Carols from Queen’s enjoyed nine weeks in the Specialist Classical Charts, was ‘Drive Featured Album of the Week’ on Classic FM, and was a Telegraph Christmas pick. A New Heaven, released in 2017, and The House of the Mind, released this year, both went straight to number one in the Specialist Classical Chart in their first week of sales, and “BBC Music Magazine” commented that A New Heaven shows ‘the singers at their radiant best.’ Queen’s choir has also recorded for film at the famous Abbey Road Studios, and appears on the Grammy-nominated soundtrack of the Warner-Brothers film Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. The choir broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio. The choir’s wide-ranging repertory includes a rich array of music from Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces to contemporary works, including commissions. During the academic year the choir provides the music for regular services in the College’s splendid Baroque Chapel.

Owen Rees, Conductor

Owen Rees is Professor of Music at the University of Oxford, and Fellow in Music and Organist (Director of Music) at The Queen’s College, Oxford. He directs the Chapel Choir of The Queen's College and also conducts the professional early-music choir Contrapunctus. His work as a conductor has taken him to the USA, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Norway, and the Netherlands, and he is increasingly busy as a leader of choral workshops. He has broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and 4, and in several other countries. His CD recordings with Queen's and other choirs – on the Hyperion, Signum and Avie labels – encompass a wide variety of choral repertory, and have attracted consistently high critical acclaim. Owen Rees has brought to the concert hall and recording studio substantial repertoires of magnificent Renaissance music, particularly from Portugal, Spain, and England, including many previously unknown or little-known works. His interpretations of these repertories have been acclaimed as, “rare examples of scholarship and musicianship combining to result in performances that are both impressive and immediately attractive to the listener;” and he has been described as, “one of the most energetic and persuasive voices in this field.” Owen Rees’ work has been shortlisted for the Gramophone Early Music Award three times.