



VOCES8

PENN LIVE ARTS DEBUT

SOPRANO Andrea Haines

SOPRANO Molly Noon

ALTO Katie Jeffries-Harris

ALTO & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Barnaby Smith

TENOR Blake Morgan

TENOR Euan Williamson

BARITONE Christopher Moore

BASS Dominic Carver

NORTH AMERICAN BOOKING REPRESENTATIVE Opus 3 Artists

GENERAL MANAGER Edition Peters Artist Management

THURSDAY, **FEBRUARY 9** @ 7:30 PM

Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

There will be no intermission.

PENN LIVE ARTS

22/23 SEASON

PROGRAM

Underneath The Stars

Choral music celebrating regeneration

This wide-ranging recital connects natural and spiritual regeneration, recognising loss, beauty, love, and joy. Music from the Renaissance to the present day comes from England (Byrd and Gibbons), Germany (Schütz), and Iceland (Sigurbjörnsson), as well as the USA (Kevin Allen) and jazz standard arrangements. The concert takes its title from modern folk song "Underneath the Stars," arranged for VOCES8's debut album on Decca Classics in 2013.

Haec Dies	William Byrd (1543-1623)
O Sacrum Convivium	Kevin Allen (b. 1964)
Selig sind die Toten	Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)
O Clap Your Hands	Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)
Drop, Drop, Slow Tears	Orlando Gibbons
Let My Love Be Heard	Jake Runestad (b. 1986)
Alma Redemptoris Mater	Orlando Di Lasso (1532-1594)
The Unexpected Early Hour, from <i>A Winter Breviary</i>	Reena Esmail (b. 1983)
Underneath the Stars	Kate Rusby (b. 1973), arr. Jim Clements
Heyr, hymn smíður	Porkell Sigurbjörnsson (1938-2013)
Timshel	Mumford & Sons, arr. Jim Clements
Straighten Up and Fly Right	Nat 'King' Cole (1919-1965), arr. Jim Clements
I Won't Dance	Jerome Kern (1885-1945), arr. Jim Clements
Come Fly with Me (To the Moon)	Bart Howard (1915-2004), Jimmy Van Heusen (1913-1990) & Sammy Cahn (1913-1993), arr. Alexander L'Estrange

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The British vocal ensemble VOCES8 is proud to inspire people through music and share the joy of singing. Touring globally, the group performs an extensive repertoire both in its a cappella concerts and in collaborations with leading musicians, orchestras, conductors and soloists. Versatility and a celebration of diverse musical expressions are central to the ensemble's performance and educational ethos, which is shared both online and in person.

VOCES8 has performed at many notable venues since its inception in 2005, including Wigmore Hall, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Cité de la Musique Paris, Vienna Konzerthaus, Tokyo Opera City, NCPA Beijing, Sydney Opera House, Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall, Victoria Concert Hall Singapore and Palacio de Bellas Artes Mexico City. This season, they perform over 100 concerts in the UK and across Europe, Israel and the United States— a welcome return to touring after the COVID-19 restrictions.

The group's entrepreneurial and community spirit and its innovative approach are fostered by the co-founders of VOCES8, brothers Paul and Barnaby Smith. The pandemic has provided the impetus for VOCES8 to further transform its already exceptional offerings, nurturing a new audience community providing hope, resilience and a chance to engage with classical music in new ways. Pioneering initiatives include ventures such as the LIVE From London digital festivals and the VOCES8 Digital Academy.

LIVE From London was created as a specific response to the pandemic. Winning praise for its collaborative approach from artists, press and audiences around the world, the team has delivered five digital festivals to date, broadcasting 70 concerts and selling 150,000 tickets in over 75 countries. The VOCES8 Digital Academy is an online choral program for high schools, colleges and individuals featuring live interaction with members of the ensemble, live and recorded lectures, and video resources to learn and perform music from the renaissance to today.

Alongside this online work on its own platforms, VOCES8 is heard regularly on albums, international television and radio. The ensemble is a Decca Classics artist and, alongside that, releases projects on its own label, VOCES8 Records. The latest Decca Classics album is *Infinity* which reached the top of the classical charts on release. Newer projects with composers Christopher Tin, Eric Whitacre and Paul Simon were recorded in 2022.

VOCES8 is passionate about music education and is the flagship ensemble of the VOCES8 Foundation, which actively promotes music education for all. Engaging in a broad range of outreach work that reaches up to 40,000 people a year, the group runs an annual program of workshops and masterclasses at the Foundation's home in London, the VOCES8 Centre at St Anne & St Agnes Church. Dedicated to supporting promising young singers, the group awards eight annual choral scholarships through the VOCES8 Scholars initiative. These scholarships are linked to the annual Milton Abbey Summer School at which amateur singers of all ages are invited to work and perform with VOCES8. Through the separate VOCES8 USA Foundation, there is another set of talented scholars.

VOCES8 is proud to be working with Roxanna Panufnik as the group's Composer-in-Residence and Jim Clements as Arranger-in-Residence. The ensemble has premiered commissions from Jonathan Dove, Roxanna Panufnik, Roderick Williams, Paul Smith, Jocelyn Hagen, Melissa Dunphy, Ken Williams, Taylor Scott Davis, Alexander Levine, Alexia Sloane, Alec Roth, Ben Parry, Ola Gjeilo, Mårten Jansson, Philip Stopford, Graham Lack, Thomas Hewitt Jones and Owain Park. As ambassadors for Edition Peters, the ensemble publishes educational material, including the VOCES8 Method. Developed by Paul Smith, this renowned and unique teaching tool is available in four languages and adopts music to enhance development in numeracy, literacy and linguistics. Also available are anthologies of its arrangements and an ever-expanding VOCES8 Singles range.