



THE KING'S SINGERS

Patrick Dunachie Countertenor
Timothy Wayne-Wright Countertenor
Julian Gregory Tenor
Christopher Bruerton Baritone
Christopher Gabbitas Baritone
Jonathan Howard Bass

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.

Sunday, December 9 @ 3 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

GREAT MUSIC MUST SHINE.

The King's Singers want to take you on a new musical adventure to celebrate their 50th birthday. It's an adventure that gives thanks for all the music that's defined their first fifty years, inspired by the unique maverick spirit that guided the original six King's Singers to keep every performance as fresh and varied as possible. They still share their mission today: the future of music deserves to shine as brightly as it can. This is about savoring the amazing diversity of music and musicians in our world today, holding up composers, songwriters and singers of all kinds side by side to create something truly special. Come join us for the ride.

THIS IS GOLD.

What Cheer

John David arr. Peter Knight (adapted Philip Lawson) Born on a new day

Ancient Origins

Trad. arr. Philip Lawson

Veni, veni Emmanuel

Trad. arr. Brian Key

Gaudete

A Christmas Miracle

Adrian Willaert

Ave virgo sponsa Dei – Inviolata est

Carols from King's

Bob Chilcott

The Shepherd's Carol

Mykola Leontovych arr. Keith Roberts

Carol of the bells

A Star is Born

Toby Hession

Master of Music*

Christmas for a Century

Arvo Pärt

Bogoróditse Djévo

Peter Warlock

Bethlehem Down

John Rutter

There is a flower

Joy to the Whole World

Bob Chilcott

We are*

Intermission

The Christmas Stocking

A celebration of ancient and modern Christmas music from across The King's Singers' repertoire, to include selections from *Christmas*, *The Christmas Songbook* and their 50th anniversary album, *Gold*.

* = New Anniversary Commission

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The King's Singers

The King's Singers were officially born on May 1, 1968, formed by six recently graduated

choral scholars from King's College, Cambridge. Their vocal line-up was (by chance) two countertenors, a tenor, two baritones and a bass, and the group has never wavered from this formation since. 2018 marks the 50th birthday of the group, and to celebrate, The King's Singers are presenting their anniversary season: GOLD. Everything in this GOLD season, from triple-album to book and concert tour, celebrates the amazing musical heritage of The King's Singers, and also looks at the bright future of vocal music in all its forms.

What really distinguished the group in its early years was its musical diversity. The King's Singers were a weekly fixture on primetime television, celebrating popular music never usually touched by choral ensembles, and their unique British charm, combined with their musical craft, captured audiences' hearts the world over. The group has consistently been welcomed on the world's great stages throughout its history – from London's Royal Albert Hall to the Opera House in Sydney or New York's Carnegie Hall – as well as being ambassadors for musical excellence across the globe. Two Grammy® Awards, an Emmy® Award, and a place in *Gramophone* magazine's inaugural Hall of Fame sit among the numerous accolades bestowed upon the group.

A love of diversity has always fueled The King's Singers' commitment to creating new music. A panoply of commissioned works by many of the supreme composers of our times – including Sir John Tavener, Toru Takemitsu, John Rutter, Luciano Berio, Nico Muhly, György Ligeti and Eric Whitacre – sits alongside countless bespoke arrangements in the group's extensive repertoire. The group is determined to spread the joy of ensemble singing, and leads workshops and residential courses all over the world each season.

The world may have changed a lot in the fifty years since the original King's Singers came together, but today's group is still charged by the same lifeblood – one that wants to radiate the joy singing brings every day, and that wants to give life to audiences with their virtuosity and vision for an exciting musical future.

This year, as they celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, The King's Singers are delighted to introduce their brand new United States-based charitable foundation: The King's Singers Global Foundation, an authorized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Over the past five decades, the group has been proud to give educational workshops while touring and has also recently expanded into Summer Schools. The creation of this Foundation marks a new chapter in the group's ability to share the joy they find in singing even more widely. It's not just through more teaching that we want to do this, but through a wider variety of activities, all of which are designed to bring people together and enrich the world of music and the arts, for both musicians and non-musicians alike.

The scope of the Global Foundation is broad, reflecting the ambitions of the group to reach as wide an audience as possible, through many channels of engagement. The Foundation believes in engaging meaningfully with underserved communities and individuals by increasing their access to musical participation and education of the highest artistic merit. Their aim is to coach a new generation of performers, no matter their location or background, and to commission new vocal music from composers around the world. They are also determined to build bridges between art forms, particularly by developing links between technology and vocal music to highlight the power of singing together in today's digital age. And that's just the start of it.

With an advisory panel of world-renowned experts, six passionate King's Singers, and a global reach, they believe The King's Singers Global Foundation has the potential to enrich the lives of many people, both in the USA and around the world.

For more information, please visit kingsingers.com.