



## Joining London Concert Choir

London Concert Choir is a lively and friendly choir, which is committed to high standards and constantly strives to raise the level of its performances by holding extra workshops and other special events.

If you are interested in joining the choir, come to a rehearsal and sing with us for a few weeks before an informal audition. Rehearsals generally take place on Monday evenings from 7.15pm to 9.30pm at Bloomsbury Baptist Church. See the website (below) for details.

Contact for choir membership:

[membership@london-concert-choir.org.uk](mailto:membership@london-concert-choir.org.uk)

## Supporting the Choir

London Concert Choir gratefully acknowledges the help of its supporters in maintaining its position as one of the leading amateur choirs in London.

Benefits for Friends, Companions and Patrons of the choir include advance notice of forthcoming concerts, opportunities to attend open rehearsals with illustrated talks by the conductor, and the chance to join the choir on overseas tours. In addition, Companions and Patrons are invited to a reception at the summer concert, and Patrons receive discounted tickets for all concerts promoted by the choir.

For more information about becoming a supporter, please contact:

[friends@london-concert-choir.org.uk](mailto:friends@london-concert-choir.org.uk)

The choir also offers opportunities for corporate support through sponsorship or programme advertising and enquiries can be sent to the same address.

## Mailing List

For advance information about our concerts, join the choir's free mailing list:

[mailinglist@london-concert-choir.org.uk](mailto:mailinglist@london-concert-choir.org.uk)

[www.london-concert-choir.org.uk](http://www.london-concert-choir.org.uk)

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Musical Director  
**Mark Forkgen**

season  
**2008–09**



London Concert Choir is looking forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2010. Now with more than 100 members, the choir regularly appears at all the major London concert venues, and has toured to France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Ireland.

The choir has a broad and varied repertoire – this season the music ranges from Handel to Duke Ellington. Previous seasons have featured a reconstruction of Mozart's C minor Mass (in its London premiere), settings by Gretchaninov and Tchaikovsky of the Russian Orthodox liturgy and cantatas by Britten. The choir has recently performed the Brahms German Requiem with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with the English Chamber Orchestra.

London Concert Choir has also presented concert versions of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess. It regularly gives performances for charity and over the years has sung a number of specially commissioned works.

**Mark Forkgen**, who has directed London Concert Choir since 1996, is also Music Director of Canticum chamber choir and Principal Conductor of Kokoro, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's contemporary music group. Mark has worked as guest conductor with leading British orchestras and has given the first performances of around 100 works. A champion of Youth Music, he is currently Conductor of Dorset Youth Orchestra and Director of Music at Tonbridge School.

**Jonathan Beatty**, Assistant Conductor and Principal Accompanist of the choir, is a vocal coach at the Guildhall School and has won numerous prizes as an accompanist. He is a member of Kokoro and works regularly as repetiteur with the BBC Singers, Monteverdi Choir and Philharmonia Chorus.



AUTUMN

# Christmas 2008

Saturday 29 November 2008  
St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2

**4.00 PM: FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
Tickets £10; under-16s £5

**7.30PM: ADVENT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
Tickets £25, £22, £18, £12, £6

Box Office for both concerts:  
(020) 7766 1100

[www.smitf.org](http://www.smitf.org)

Tuesday 16 December 2008, 7.45pm  
St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1  
**CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE**

Tickets £15; under-16s £5,  
LCC Box Office (020) 7937 7540



WINTER

Thursday 6 November 2008, 7.30pm  
Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1  
**DUKE ELLINGTON SACRED CONCERT**

with jazz ensemble  
Tickets £25, £20, £16, £12  
Box Office (020) 7730 4500  
[www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)

Duke Ellington, bandleader, pianist and composer of big-band jazz, had a deep religious faith. In his last decade he composed the music for a series of remarkable Sacred Concerts that he and his orchestra gave from 1965 onwards.

London Concert Choir presents a suite of this music, which combines jazz, classical, spirituals and gospel, blues and dance. As Ellington himself said, "Every man prays in his own language, and there is no language that God does not understand".

SPRING



Saturday 28 March 2009, 7.30pm  
Barbican Hall, Silk Street, EC2

**MOZART: 'CORONATION' MASS IN C**  
**MENDELSSOHN: SYMPHONY NO. 2**  
**'LOBGESANG' (HYMN OF PRAISE)**

with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Tickets £26, £22, £18, £13, £7  
Box Office (020) 7638 8891  
[www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

Mozart's Mass in C is one of the most popular of his sacred works. Dating from 1779, it was probably composed for the Easter Day service in Salzburg Cathedral, but later came to be performed at the coronations of both the Emperor Leopold II and his son Francis II. The Mass setting is extremely varied – ceremonial in style, but concise in form.

The bicentenary of Mendelssohn's birth is marked by a performance of his choral symphony, written in 1840 for the Leipzig festival to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Gutenberg's printing press and its contribution to human enlightenment. An orchestral sinfonia leads to an extended choral finale, praising God and rejoicing in the triumph of light over darkness.

Thursday 9 July 2009, 7.30pm  
Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1

**HANDEL: CORONATION ANTHEMS**  
**FOUNDLING HOSPITAL ANTHEM**  
**MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS**

with Counterpoint period instrumental ensemble

Tickets £25, £20, £16, £12  
Box Office (020) 7730 4500  
[www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)

Handel, who died 250 years ago, was a governor and benefactor of Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital for 'exposed and deserted young children'. For a fundraising concert in 1749, Handel contributed this anthem, which incorporates music from several previous works and ends with the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Messiah.

The same concert also included his exultant Royal Fireworks Music, composed earlier that year for George II, to celebrate the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. In 1727 Handel had produced four splendid anthems for the King's coronation; the best-known is 'Zadok the Priest', which has been performed at every British coronation since.

SUMMER

