



EVENT PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES 2025-2026

GIVE ME YOUR STARS WITH VOCES8

Tuesday, 26 May 2026

Music at Royal Holloway

Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

**ROYALHOLLOWAY.AC.UK/
MUSIC/EVENTS**





DISCOVER **VOX HUMANA: THE 2025-26 INTERNATIONAL CONCERT SERIES AT ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. A YEAR OF WORLD-CLASS MUSIC DEDICATED TO THE POWER OF THE HUMAN VOICE, CONTINUING A CELEBRATED VOCAL TRADITION THAT BEGAN IN 1886.**

As this remarkable season, curated by Dr Nathan James Dearden in his 10th year at Royal Holloway, draws to a close, we celebrate all that has made this year so special: the wonderful talent of our students, the inspiring research of our staff, and the extraordinary international artists we have welcomed to our campus. Together, they have brought us a diverse programme, from intimate solo song, transcriptions for violin, guitar and soprano saxophone, to dramatic scenas, orchestral vocalise, folk explorations, and the collective power of the human voice.

THE ART OF SONG (AND MORE)

We have been proud to continue our partnerships with the London Mozart Players and the Young Classical Artists Trust, and to welcome world-class artists including the sublime soprano Ruby Hughes, pianist Huw Watkins, the ground-breaking Emily Francis Trio, and for this closing concert, the peerless vocal ensemble VOCES8, the 2023 Grammy-nominated British ensemble and the world's top-streaming classical vocal group. The series has also shone a light on phenomenal rising stars of our time: saxophonist Rob Burton, pianist Mark Rogers, Duo Melus, and American mezzo-soprano Hayley Meth.

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

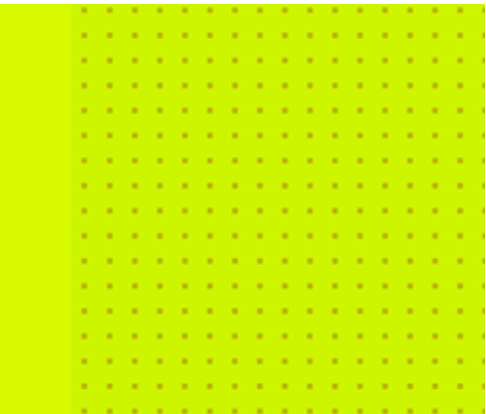
Most proudly, we have provided a platform for our own extraordinary alumni, welcoming back trad singer and uilleann piper Seb Stone, operatic tenor Thomas Elwin, and debuting the exciting new vocal choir, Omnium Ensemble, under the direction of Olivia Earl. We also celebrate the excellence of the Choir of Royal Holloway and the acclaimed continuation of the St. Cecilia's Celebration, which welcomed over 75 alumni back to perform side-by-side in November 2025.

The 2025-26 International Concert Series at Royal Holloway has brought an exciting line-up of world-class performances, showcasing renowned musicians and rising talents from around the globe, and the community of students and researchers right here at the University. Set within our stunning campus, the series has brought together a wide range of genres, from classical and jazz to contemporary and global music, offering something for every taste.

Thank you for being part of this season and for sharing in the exceptional musical life that makes Royal Holloway so special. Here's to the next.

Dr Nathan James Dearden

Curator of the International Concert Series and Arts Festivals



EVENT PROGRAMME

VOCES8 AT ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Tuesday, 26 May 2026, 7.30pm

Chapel, Founder's Building

VOCES8

Savannah Porter **soprano** Eleonora Poignant **soprano** Katie Jeffries-Harris **alto** Barnaby Smith **alto and artistic director** Blake Morgan **tenor** Euan Williamson **tenor** Christopher Moore **baritone** Dominic Carver **bass**

featuring

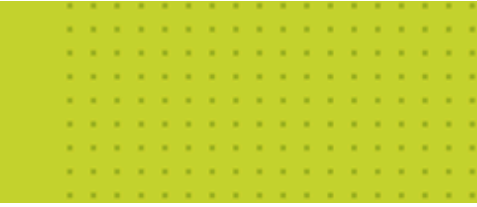
The Choir of Royal Holloway

There will be a short interval during this evening's event, plus a closing reception to which you are cordially invited.

Estimated event finish time: 9.30pm

Please no flash photography or visual/audio recording throughout the event.

For news about our future events, please visit royalholloway.ac.uk/music/events



THIS EVENING'S CONCERT

Give Me Your Stars explores the profound and diverse beauty of music inspired by the heavens, human connection, and the places we call home. At its heart is Lucy Walker's eponymous new work, written for VOCES8, which captures the delicate balance between celestial wonder and the deep, personal connections that make us human.

The programme spans centuries of choral music, from the luminous polyphony of Tomás Luis de Victoria's *Regina Caeli* to timeless jazz standards. Along the way, we encounter the reflective sentiments of Eric Whitacre's *All Seems Beautiful to Me* and Ola Gjeilo's *Ubi Caritas*. Folk traditions, The Beatles in whimsical mood - and evocative tales of cities and starlight in *April in Paris* and *New York, New York* bring the concert to a climax.

Tomás Luis de Victoria (c. 1548 - 1611)

Regina Caeli á 8

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

All Seems Beautiful to Me

Lucy Walker (b. 1998)

Give Me Your Stars

John Barry & Bill Conti (arr. Jim Clements)

For Your Eyes Only & You Only Live Twice

Carroll Coates (arr. Gene Puerling)

London By Night

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Ubi Caritas

Taylor Scott Davis (b. 1980)

Stardust

Edvard Grieg (1843 - 1907)

Ave Maris Stella

Gustav Holst (1874 - 1934)

Nunc Dimittis

William Henry Harris (1883 - 1973)

Faire is the Heaven

INTERVAL

*Refreshments will be available
to purchase in the Picture Gallery*

Einojuhani Rautavaara (1928 - 2016)

Psalm of Invocation

Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)

Long Road

Stephen Paulus (1949 - 2014)

The Road Home

Trad. (arr. Ben Parry)

Early One Morning

Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

Liebe

The Beatles

Free As A Bird

Kate Rusby (arr. Jim Clements)

Underneath the Stars

Trad. (arr. Joshua Pacey)

Danny Boy

Simon & Garfunkel (arr. Naomi Crellin)

Homeward Bound

Irving Berlin (arr. Jim Clements)

Cheek to Cheek

Vernon Duke & Yip Harburg (arr. Jim Clements)

April in Paris

Cole Porter / Fred Ebb & John Kander (arr. Alexander L'Estrange)

I get a kick (out of New York)

CLOSING RECEPTION

You are cordially invited to join us in the Picture Gallery for a complimentary beverage and the opportunity to meet this evening's performers.

TEXTS + TRANSLATIONS

TOMAS LUIS DE VICTORIA (C. 1548 - 1611)

Regina Caeli

Regina caeli laetare, Alleluia.

Quia quem meruisti portare,
Alluluia.

Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia.

Ora pro nobis Deum, Alleluia.

Queen of heaven rejoice, Alleluia.

*Because you were worthy to bear
him, Alleluia.*

He has risen as he foretold, Alleluia.

Pray to God for us, Alleluia.

ERIC WHITACRE (B. 1970)

All Seems Beautiful to Me

From this hour I ordain myself loos'd of imaginary lines

Going where I list, my own master total and absolute.

Listening to others, considering well what they say,

Pausing, searching, receiving, contemplating,

gently, but with undeniable will, divesting myself from the holds that would
hold me.

I inhale great draughts of space.

The East and the West are mine, and the North and the South are mine.

I am larger, better than I thought,

I did not know I held so much goodness.

All seems beautiful to me,

I can repeat over and over to men and women

You have done such good to me, I would do the same to you,

I will recruit for myself and you as I go,

I will scatter myself among men and women as I go,

I will toss a new gladness and roughness among them,

Whoever denies me it shall not trouble me,

Whoever accepts me he or she shall be blessed and shall bless me.

Walt Witman

LUCY WALKER (B. 1998)

Give Me Your Stars

Peace flows into me
As the tide to the pool by the shore;
It is mine forevermore,
It ebbs not back like the sea.

I am the pool of blue
That worships the vivid sky;
My hopes were heaven-high,
They are all fulfilled in you.

I am the pool of gold
When sunset burns and dies -
You are my deepening skies,
Give me your stars to hold.

Sara Teasdale

JOHN BARRY & BILL CONTI (ARR. JIM CLEMENTS)

For Your Eyes Only & You Only Live Twice

For your eyes only
Can see me through the night
For your eyes only
I never need to hide
You can see so much in me
So much in me that's new
I never felt 'til I looked at you

You only live twice
Or so it seems
One life for yourself
And one for your dreams

For your eyes only, only for you
You see what no one else can see
Now I'm breaking free

For your eyes only, only for you
The love I know you need in me
The fantasy you freed in me
Only for you, only for you

And love is a stranger
Who'll beckon you on
Don't think of the danger
Or the stranger is gone

For your eyes only, the nights are never cold
You really know me, that's all I need to know
Maybe I'm an open book
Because I know you're mine
But you won't need to read between the lines

For your eyes only, only for you
You see what no one else can see
Now I'm breaking free
For your eyes only, only for you
The passions that collide in me
The wild abandoned side of me
Only for you, for your eyes only

And love is a stranger
Who'll beckon you on
Don't think of the danger
Or the stranger is gone

This dream is for you
So pay the price
Make one dream come true
You only live twice

CARROLL COATES (ARR. GENE PUERLING)

London By Night

London by night is a wonderful sight
There is magic abroad in the air
I'm often told that the streets turn into gold
When the moon shines on Circus and Square

Deep in the dark that envelops the park
There's romance in each cigarette's glow
Down by the Thames, lights that sparkle like gems
Seem to wink at each girl and her beau

Up comes the moon when the city's asleep
He's not alone, for it seems
Somewhere up there stands an angel to keep
Her watch while each Londoner dreams

My love and I saw the sun leave the sky
Then we kissed in the fast-fading light
Most people say they love London by day
But lovers love London by night

OLA GJEILO (B. 1978)

Ubi Caritas

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi
amor.
Exsulemus, et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum
vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

*Where charity and love are, there
God is. The love of Christ has
gathered us into one.
Let us exult, and in Him be joyful.
Let us fear and let us love the living
God. And from a sincere heart let us
love each other (and Him).*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Simul ergo cum in unum
congregamur:
Ne nos mente dividamur,
caveamus.

*Where charity and love are, there
God is. Therefore, whensoever we
are gathered as one: Lest we in
mind be divided, let us beware.*

Cessent iurgia maligna, cessent
lites.
Et in medio nostri sit Christus Deus.

*Let cease malicious quarrels, let
strife give way. And in the midst of
us be Christ our God.*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Simul quoque cum beatis videamus,
Glorianter vultum tuum, Christe
Deus:
Gaudium quod est immensum,
atque probum,
Saecula per infinita saeculorum.
Amen.

*Where charity and love are, there
God is. Together also with the
blessed may we see, Gloriously,
Thy countenance, O Christ our God:
A joy which is immense, and also
approved: Through infinite ages of
ages. Amen.*

TAYLOR SCOTT DAVIS (B. 1980)

Stardust

A love like ours,
Sincere and pure.
Deserves to be guided by angels,
Deep, into the unknown.
On a bed of eternity,
Lay down its ivory bones.
Until destiny and time collide
And make of them - stardust.

Clairel Estévez

EDVARD GRIEG (1843 - 1907)

Ave Maris Stella

Ave maris stella. Dei Mater alma,
Atque semper virgo, felix coeli
porta.

*Hail star of the sea. God's
cherishing mother And, though still
a virgin, the blessed entrance-way
of heaven.*

Solve vincla reis, profer lumen
caecis: Mala nostra pelle bona
cuncta posce.

*Bound by Satan's fetters, health and
vision needing. God will aid and
light us at thy gentle pleading.*

Vitam praesta puram, iter para-
tutum:
Ut videntes Iesum semper
collaetemur.

*So, as now we journey, aid our
weak endeavour,
Till we gaze on Jesus and rejoice
for ever.*

Sit laus Deo Patri summo Christo
decus,
Spiritus Sancto, tribus honor unus.
Amen.

*Father, Son and Spirit. Three in one
confessing,
Give us equal glory, equal praise
and blessing. Amen*

GUSTAV HOLST (1874 - 1934)

Nunc Dimittis

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare
tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium
populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et
gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant
depart in peace: according to thy
word. For mine eyes have seen: thy
salvation, Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people; To be
a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to
be the glory of thy people Israel.*

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui
Sancto:
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the
Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without
end. Amen.*

WILLIAM HENRY HARRIS (1883 - 1973)

Faire is the Heaven

Faire is the heaven where happy souls have place
In full enjoyment of felicitie;
Whence they do still behold the glorious face
Of the Divine, Eternall Majestie;

Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins
Which all with golden wings are overdight.
And those eternall burning Seraphins
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;

Yet fairer than they both and much more bright
Be the Angels and Archangels
Which attend on God's owne person without rest or end.
These then in faire each other farre excelling
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling

Fairer than all the rest which there appeare
Though all their beauties joynd together were;
How then can mortal tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

Edmund Spenser (d.1599)

EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA (1928 - 2016)

Psalm of Invocation

Herra, minä huudan Sinua, kuule
minua.
Ota korviisi minun ääneni,
kun minä Sinua huudan,
Kuule minua, oi Herra, kuule minua,
Herra.
Nouskoon minun rukoukseni
niinkuin suitsutussavu
Sinun kasvojesi eteen,
minun Kätteni ylennys
olkoon Sinulle ehtoouhri,
kuule minua, oi Herra.
Vie minun sieluni ulos vankeudesta
kiittämään Sinun nimeäsi.

*Lord, I cry to thee,
give ear to my voice when
I pray thee.
Hear me, O Lord!
Let my prayer
be set forth before thee as incense,
And the lifting up of my hands
as the evening sacrifice.
Bring my soul out of prison
that I may praise thy name.*

ERIKS ESEINVALDS (B. 1977)

Long Road

I love you night and day
As a star in the distant sky.
And I mourn for this one thing alone
That to love, our lifetime was so short.

A long road to heaven's shining meadow
And never could I reach its end.
But a longer road leads to your heart
Which to me seems distant as a star.

High above the arch of heaven bends
And light so clear is falling.
Like a flowering tree the world is blooming.
Overwhelmed, my heart both cries and laughs.

Paulina Bārda (1890-1983)

English translation by Elaine Singley Lloyd

STEPHEN PAULUS (1949 - 2014)

The Road Home

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,

There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong;
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

Michael Dennis Browne

TRAD. (ARR. BEN PARRY)

Early One Morning

Early one morning,
Just as the sun was rising,
I heard a young maid sing,
In the valley below.

Chorus

*Oh, don't deceive me,
Oh, never leave me,
How could you use
A poor maiden so?*

Remember the vows,
That you made to your Mary,
Remember the bow'r,
Where you vowed to be true,

Chorus

Thus sang the poor maiden,
Her sorrows bewailing,
Thus sang the poor maid,
In the valley below.

Chorus

FRANZ SCHUBERT (1797 - 1828)

Liebe

Liebe rauscht der Silberbach,
Liebe lehrt ihn sanfter wallen,
Seele haucht sie in das Ach
Klagenreicher Nachtigallen -
Liebe Liebe lispelt nur
Auf der Laute der Natur

Weisheit mit dem Sonnenblick,
Große Göttin tritt zurück,
Weiche vor der Liebe.
Nie Erobern, Fürsten nie
Beugtest du ein Sklavenknie,
Beug' es itzt der Liebe.

Friedrich Schiller

*Love stirs the silver brook,
Love teaches it to flow more softly;
It breathes the soul into the cry
Of the rich laments of nightingales.
Love, it is love alone that whispers
In the sound of nature.*

*Wisdom with the glance of the sun,
Great goddess, step back
Out of the way of love!
Never to conquerors, never to
princes
Should you bend a knee in slavery,
Bend it now to love!*

THE BEATLES

Free As A Bird

Free as a bird
It's the next best thing to be
Free as a bird
Home
Home and dry
Like a homing bird I fly
As a bird on wing

Whatever happened to the life
that we once knew?
Can we really live without each
other?
Where did we lose the touch that
seemed to mean so much?
It always made me feel so

Free as a bird...

Whatever happened to the life that
we once knew?
It always made me feel so free as a
bird
You were only waiting for this
moment to be free as a bird:
It's the next best thing to be

Free as a bird

KATE RUSBY (ARR. JIM CLEMENTS)

Underneath the Stars

Underneath the stars I'll meet you
Underneath the stars I'll greet you
There beneath the stars I'll leave
you
Before you go of your own free will
Go gently

Underneath the stars you met me
Underneath the stars you left me
I wonder if the stars regret me
They come and go of their own free
will
Go gently

Here beneath the stars I'm mending
I'm here beneath the stars not
ending

Why on earth am I pretending?
I'm here again, the stars befriending
They come and go of their own free
will
Go gently

Underneath the stars you met me
And here beneath the stars you left
me
I wonder if the stars regret me
I'm sure they'd like me if they only
met me
They come and go of their own free
will
Go gently

TRAD. (ARR. JOSHUA PACEY)

Danny Boy

Oh, Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling
From glen to glen, and down the mountain side.
The summer's gone, and all the roses falling,
It's you, It's you must go and I must bide.
But come ye back when summer's in the meadow,
Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow,
It's I'll be there in sunshine or in shadow, —
Oh, Danny boy, Oh Danny boy, I love you so!

But when ye come, and all the flowers are dying,
If I am dead, as dead I well may be,
Ye'll come and find the place where I am lying,
And kneel and say an Avé there for me.
And I shall hear, though soft you tread above me,
And all my grave will warmer, sweeter be,
For you will bend
and tell me that you love me,
And I shall sleep in peace until you come to me!

SIMON & GARFUNKEL (ARR. NAOMI CRELLIN)

Homeward Bound

I'm sittin in the railway station
Got a ticket for my destination
On a tour of one-night stands
My suitcase and guitar in hand
And every stop is neatly planned
For a poet and a one-man band

Homeward bound
I wish I was
Home, where my thought's
escaping
Home, where my music's playing
Home, where my love lies waiting
Silently for me

Every day's an endless stream
Of cigarettes and magazines
And each town looks the same to
me
The movies and the factories
And every stranger's face I see
Remind me that I long to be

Homeward bound
I wish I was
Home, where my thought's
escaping
Home, where my music's playing
Home, where my love lies waiting
Silently for me

Tonight I'll sing my songs again
I'll play the game and pretend
But all my words come back to me
In shades of mediocrity
Like emptiness in harmony
I need someone to comfort me
Homeward bound
I wish I was
Homeward bound
Home, where my thought's
escaping
Home, where my music's playing
Home, where my love lies waiting
Silently for me

IRVING BERLIN (ARR. JIM CLEMENTS)

Cheek to Cheek

Heaven, I'm in heaven
And my heart beats so that I can
hardly speak
And I seem to find the happiness I
seek
When we're out together dancing,
cheek to cheek

Heaven, I'm in heaven
And the cares that hung around me
through the week
Seem to vanish like a gambler's
lucky streak
When we're out together dancing,
cheek to cheek

Oh, I love to climb a mountain
And reach the highest peak
But it doesn't thrill me half as much
As dancing cheek to cheek

Oh, I love to go out fishing
In a river or a creek
But I don't enjoy it half as much
As dancing cheek to cheek

Dance with me
I want my arm about you
The charm about you
Will carry me through to heaven

I'm in heaven
And my heart beats so that I can
hardly speak
And I seem to find that happiness I
seek
When we're out together swinging
cheek to cheek

VERNON DUKE & YIP HARBURG (ARR. JIM CLEMENTS)

April in Paris

April's in the air, but here in Paris
April wears a different gown;
You can see her waltzing down the street
A tang of wine is in the air,
I'm drunk with all the happiness that spring can give!
Never dreamed it could be so exciting, to live!

Oh, April in Paris, chestnuts in blossom
Holiday tables under the trees
April in Paris, this is a feeling
No one can ever relieve

I never knew the charm of spring
Never met it face to face
I never knew my heart could sing
Never missed a warm embrace

'Til April in Paris
Oh whom can I run to?
What have you done to my love?

FRED EBB & JOHN KANDER (ARR. ALEXANDER L'ESTRANGE)

I get a kick (out of New York)

New York, New York! I get a kick
out of you!

I get no kick from champagne
Mere alcohol doesn't thrill me at all
So tell me, why should it be true?
That I get a kick out of you?

Some like a bop-type refrain
I'm sure that if I heard even one riff

That would bore me terrifically too
Yet, I get a kick out of you
My little town blues are meltin'
away.

I get a kick every time I see you
Standing there before me.
I get a kick, though it's clear to me
You obviously don't adore me

I get no kick in a plane
(even a plane with champagne)
Flying too high with some guy in the
sky
Is my idea of nothin' to do yet,
I get a kick out of you.

Start spreading the news, I'm leavin'
today
I want to be a part of it, New York,
New York
These vagabond shoes (I get a kick
out of new shoes)
Are longing to stray right through
the very heart of it,
New York, New York.

I wanna wake up in that city, that
doesn't sleep
(Don't even bother counting sheep)
To find I'm King of the Hill, head of
the list
Cream of the crop at the top of the
heap

These little town blues, are meltin'
away
I'm gonna make a brand-new start
of it, in old New York
If I can make it there, I'll make it
anywhere
It's up to you, New York, New York
I get a kick out of you, New York!



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AND TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS
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EVENTS**





VOCES8

OUR PERFORMERS

"The singing of VOCES8 is impeccable in its quality of tone and balance. They bring a new dimension to the word 'ensemble' with meticulous timing and tuning." *Gramophone Magazine*

"VOCES8's gorgeous sound, impeccable ensemble and intense responsiveness to text, harmony and melodic shape is all of the highest quality. Hearing them sing is a joy." *BBC Music Magazine*

"VOCES8 is the Rolls-Royce of British a cappella ensembles"
The Arts Desk

The 2023 Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble VOCES8 is the world's top-streaming classical vocal group and 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 expression are central to the ensemble's performance and education ethos which is shared both online and in person.

VOCES8 has performed at many notable venues since its inception in 2005 including Wigmore Hall, Barbican Hall, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Berlin Philharmonie, 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 amongst many others. This season they perform over 120 concerts in 20 countries.

They have collaborated in concert and in the recording studio with musicians including Paul Simon, Jacob Collier, Eric Whitacre, Christopher Tin, Olafur Arnalds, Cody Fry, Rachel Podger, Jack Liebeck, Bomsori Kim, Jonathan Dove, Chanticleer, The King's Singers, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra and others.

VOCES8 is passionate about music education and is the flagship ensemble of music charity the VOCES8 Foundation, alongside ensembles APOLLO5 and Lyyra, which actively promotes 'Music Education For All'. Engaging in a broad range of in-person outreach work that reaches up to 40,000 people a year, the Foundation runs an annual programme of workshops and masterclasses at the VOCES8 Centre at St Anne & St Agnes Church, London. Dedicated to supporting promising young singers, VOCES8 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 learn and perform with VOCES8. Through the separate VOCES8 USA Foundation there is another set of twelve talented Scholars.

VOCES8's entrepreneurial and community spirit is fostered by Co-Founders Paul and Barnaby Smith. The Covid-19 pandemic gave the impetus for VOCES8 to transform its already exceptional offerings, nurturing a new online audience community providing a chance to engage with classical music in new ways. Pioneering initiatives include the LIVE From London online festival and the VOCES8 Digital Academy.

LIVE From London was created as a specific response to the pandemic. Winning praise for its collaborative approach with artists, press and audiences around the world the team has delivered twelve digital festivals to date, broadcasting over 150 concerts and selling over 250,000 tickets around the world. This season will see Christmas, Easter and Summer

online festivals. The VOCES8 Digital Academy is an online choral programme 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. Both LIVE From London and the Digital Academy are filmed by VOCES8 Studios, the in-house recording company.

Alongside their online work VOCES8 is heard regularly on albums, international television and radio. The ensemble is a Decca Classics artist, also releasing on its own label, VOCES8 Records. The Decca Classics recording of Christopher Tin's "The Lost Birds" featuring VOCES8 and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra was nominated for a Grammy-Award in 2023. Their new album is "TWENTY", a celebration of the group's first two decades of performing. Recent releases are "Nightfall"; "A Choral Christmas"; "Home" conducted by Eric Whitacre, featuring his extraordinary work "The Sacred Veil"; and "Seven Psalms" by Paul Simon in which VOCES8 was thrilled to participate.

VOCES8 is proud to be working with Taylor Scott Davis 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, Jason Max Ferdinand, Jocelyn Hagen, Melissa Dunphy, Lucy Walker, Ken Burton, Taylor Scott Davis, Alec Roth, Ben Parry, Ola Gjeilo, Mårten Jansson, Philip Stopford, Owain Park and many others. They publish arrangements of its music, original compositions and educational material with the new digital VOCES8 Publishing house, as well as E.C. Schirmer with whom they curate the VOCES8 Foundation Choral Series, and with Edition Peters with whom they have published two anthologies and a series of single octavos. The VOCES8 Method written by Paul Smith is a renowned and unique teaching tool now available in four languages that adopts music to enhance development in numeracy, literacy and linguistics.

General Management of VOCES8 is provided by Robin Tyson at Podium Music Ltd.

www.voces8.com
www.voces8.foundation

THE CHOIR OF ROYAL HOLLOWAY

For full information about the choir, please visit

www.chapelchoir.co.uk



The Choir of Royal Holloway is considered to be one of the finest mixed-voice collegiate choirs in Great Britain, with their recordings attracting top reviews from all major music publications. 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 who undertake a busy schedule of concerts, recordings and international tours, alongside weekly services in the college chapel. They are the only choir to give a weekly concert performance and during an average year give around 40-50 concerts with a particular specialism in the music of living composers.

The choir has one of the busiest recording schedules of any collegiate choir with an extensive discography with Hyperion, Decca, Signum, and Naxos amongst others. The choir is renowned for its performances of Nordic and Baltic music and has recorded works by Vytautas Miškinis, Rihards Dubra, Bo Hansson, Tõnu Kõrvits, and Ola Gjeilo to great acclaim. The 2018 release *Winter Songs* with Gjeilo was No. 1 in the UK and US classical charts and they have now recorded a follow-up album with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra released in September 2023. The choir's recording of Matthew Coleridge's Requiem is already in the top 50 of Classic FM's Hall of Fame'. Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the choir recorded several tracks for a commemorative album released by Decca Classics which was No.1 in the Christmas Classical Charts.

Other recent projects include two recordings of the music of Dan Locklair, a recording in Paris with organist Olivier Penin, collaboration with the jazz-trio Acoustic Triangle, and featuring in the Apple TV series "Prime Target".

The choir regularly collaborates with and performs alongside many famous ensembles. These have included the King's Singers, the BBC Singers, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, London

Mozart Players, Onyx Brass, Fretwork and the jazz-trio Acoustic Triangle. Many composers have written for Royal Holloway Choir, including Richard Rodney Bennett, Gabriel Jackson, Joanna Marsh, Sir James MacMillan, Cecilia McDowall, Nathan James Dearden, and Paul Mealor. International performances are also an integral part of the choir's work. They have toured most European countries, and have been broadcast on national television and radio all over the world. A tour of all three Baltic states saw the choir performing in the Latvian Song Festival with the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, in a concert (sung in Estonian) broadcast nationally on the Estonian Day of Independence. Further afield, the group has visited Beijing and numerous tours to the US and Canada.

SOPRANOS

Amelia Blackburn
Amelia Brown
Flora Henderson
Emily Oxtoby
Natalie Phillips
Jessica Quigley
Dimitra Sotiropoulou
Sophia Vines

TENORS

Daniel Ayers
Edward Dawson
Luke Gore

ORGANISTS

Daniel Ayers
Senior Organ Scholar
Logan Williamson
Junior Organ Scholar

ALTOS

Annenora Benians
Grace Hindle
Manuela Musanga
Kate Pinnell
Kristin Polman
Chloe Spires
Irina Temerel

BASSES

Thomas Allen
Jacob Dike
Peter Evans
Charlie Maggs
Brooklyn Storey
Jack Templar-Johns
Noah Toogood
Logan Williamson

CHORAL ACADEMY

LAUNCHING AUTUMN 2026

JOIN OUR POSTGRADUATE COMMUNITY SPECIALISING IN CHORAL AND ORGAN MUSIC

The Choral Academy at Royal Holloway University of London is the first dedicated centre of its kind in the United Kingdom. Based at the UK's No. 1 department for music research*, composers, conductors, performers, and musicologists can specialise in the vast field of choral and vocal music at postgraduate level. Not only working with our world-class faculty, students have the unique opportunity of collaborating with our creative partners such as **BBC Singers** and **Wise Music Group**, plus a wide range of ambassadors including **Dame Judith Weir**, **Gabriel Jackson**, and a wealth of Royal Holloway alumni.

SUPPORT US

If you are as passionate about our Choral Academy as we are, please consider supporting us through our new **Academy Fund** that will support future academic scholarships and help us grow this ambitious offering.



* Complete University Guide 2026; Times Higher Education 2025 analysis of Research Excellence Framework 2021

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