

MEDIA RELEASE

One of the world's greatest choirs, The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge returns to Australia after their critically acclaimed 2010 tour for Musica Viva. Their highly anticipated return will see them tour nationally from 17 July to 7 August 2016.



Sitting front and center at a recent Trinity Choir of Cambridge concert at Grace Cathedral was, sonically speaking, a heavenly experience
The New York Times

Experience the transcendent power of the one of the world's greatest choirs. Led by pre-eminent choral conductor, Stephen Layton, The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge sings with unparalleled brilliance and majesty.

Stephen Layton is recognised for his exceptional musicianship, vitality and passion for choral music. The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge is made up of 30 fresh young voices of male and female undergraduates of the College. It has been voted the fifth best choir in the world by Gramophone Magazine.

They will perform one of the 20th century's most beautiful choral works: the 1922 *Mass for Unaccompanied Double Choir* by Frank Martin. The composer regarded it as an intensely personal spiritual expression – it took 40 years for him to allow it to be heard – and it has never left the spotlight since.

The programme also includes great Renaissance works of Byrd and Tallis, through Purcell, Elgar and Herbert Howells; then contemporary works by Arvo Pärt, Ēriks Ešēvalds, Einojuhani Rautavaara and Eric Whitacre.

Two new works have been especially commissioned for this tour; one by the choir's Organ Scholar, Owain Park; and another by the Australian composer Joe Twist.

Layton says the program aims, "to draw together the old and the new – and to confuse the boundaries between them. I find that a fascinating journey. That is why we begin with the music of Pärt; he's a very interesting figure whose approach combines elements of old and new....celebrating the fusion between what we've had, what we're having now and, indeed, what lies ahead."

It has been said by every choir that has had the privilege to work with Stephen Layton that the experience was nothing less than miraculous. His choir Polyphony is lucky enough to work solely with him, as do the Holst Singers and indeed Trinity College Choir Cambridge where he is Director of Music. But Stephen doesn't confine himself just to choral music; he succeeded the late Richard Hickox as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the City of London Sinfonia in 2010 and he guest conducts widely across the globe. He works with Seattle Symphony, The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra, Melbourne, West Australian, Adelaide and Queensland Symphony Orchestras. He also collaborates regularly with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Academy of Ancient Music, Britten Sinfonia, the BBC Singers and many European radio choirs.

The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge's choral tradition dates back to the all-male choir of the 14th century, when former Chapel Royal choristers studied in King's Hall, which later became part of Trinity College. Directors of Music have included Charles Villiers Stanford, Alan Gray, Raymond Leppard and Richard Marlow. Female voices were introduced in the 1980s by Richard Marlow, in a new departure for Cambridge choral music. Stephen Layton has been Director of Music since 2006.

Stephen Layton is available for interview.

Program One – with organ

(Brisbane, Canberra, Adelaide, Perth)

PÄRT *Bogoróditse Djévo*

BYRD *O Lord, Make Thy Servant*

TALLIS *Salvator mundi*

PURCELL *Remember Not, Lord, Our Offences*

STUCKY *O sacrum convivium*

EŠĒVALDS *The Heavens' Flock*

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RAUTAVAARA *Evening Hymn, Ekteniya*

PARK *The Wings Of The Wind*

ELGAR *Give Unto The Lord*

INTERVAL

TWIST *Hymn of Ancient Lands* (World Premiere). Commissioned for Musica Viva by Mary and Paul Pollard.

MARTIN Mass for Unaccompanied Double Choir

HOWELLS *Te Deum (Collegium Regale)*

Program Two – a cappella

(Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle, Hobart)

PÄRT *Bogoróditse Djévo*

BYRD *O Lord, Make Thy Servant*

TALLIS *Salvator Mundi*

PURCELL *Remember Not, Lord, Our Offences*

STUCKY *O Sacrum convivium*

EŠENVALDS *The Heavens' Flock*

WHITACRE *i thank You God for most this amazing day*

RAUTAVAARA *Evening Hymn, Ekteniya*

LUKASZEWSKI *Nunc Dimittis*

INTERVAL

TWIST *Hymn of Ancient Lands* (World Premiere). Commissioned for Musica Viva by Mary and Paul Pollard.

MARTIN Mass for Unaccompanied Double Choir

PARK *The Wings Of The Wind*

National Tour Dates

Brisbane [17 July 3:00pm](#); Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), Corner Melbourne St and Grey St, South Brisbane

Melbourne [19 July 7:00pm](#); Melbourne Recital Centre, cnr of Southbank Blvd & Sturt St, Southbank

Adelaide [21 July 7:30pm](#); Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William St, Adelaide

Melbourne [23 July 7:00pm](#); Melbourne Recital Centre, cnr of Southbank Blvd & Sturt St, Southbank

Sydney [25 July 7:00pm](#); City Recital Hall, 2 Angel Place, Sydney

Perth [28 July 7:30pm](#); Perth Concert Hall, 5 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Sydney [30 July 2:00pm](#); City Recital Hall, 2 Angel Place, Sydney

Newcastle [2 August 7:30pm](#); Newcastle City Hall, 375 Hunter St, Newcastle

Canberra [4 August 7:00pm](#); ANU School of Music, Llewellyn Hall, William Herbert Place, Acton

Hobart [6 August 8:00pm](#); Theatre Royal, 29 Campbell Street, Hobart

Hobart [7 August 4:00pm](#); Theatre Royal, 29 Campbell Street, Hobart

Hobart concerts presented by Musica Viva Tasmania and the Theatre Royal, Hobart

Adelaide concert presented in association with State Opera of South Australia

Musica Viva presents The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge from 17 July until 7 August 2016.

Bookings: www.musicaviva.com.au/trinity

Masterclasses

During this tour, Stephen Layton will share his knowledge and experience with a number of choirs at masterclasses in Adelaide and Sydney. Members of the public, teachers and students are also invited to attend to observe Stephen Layton teaching. **For more information, visit** www.musicaviva.com.au/masterclasses

Musica Viva's Masterclass program is supported by Lyn Hamill & Ian Dover (Queensland), Wesfarmers Arts (Western Australia) and Mary Turner OAM (Newcastle).

Further media information:

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