

TE AHUREI
TOI O TĀMAKI

AUCKLAND
ARTS FESTIVAL



THE
KING'S
SINGERS

finding
harmony

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell

14 March 2024

About The King's Singers

The King's Singers have set the gold standard in a cappella singing on the world's greatest stages for over 50 years. They are renowned for their unrivalled technique, musicianship and versatility, which stem from both the group's rich heritage and its drive to bring an extraordinary range of new and unique works, collaborations and recordings to life. The King's Singers' extensive discography has led to numerous awards, including two Grammy Awards, an Emmy Award, and a place in *Gramophone* magazine's inaugural Hall of Fame.

Over the course of 2023, the group has released three diverse, collaborative albums that showcase the breadth of their repertoire. One marks 400 years since the deaths of two great Renaissance composers, Thomas Weelkes and William Byrd. Another celebrates their body of commissioned music, including the six Nonsense Madrigals written for the group by György Ligeti (who would have turned 100 in 2023). And the third honours 100 years of Disney, with almost 30 brand-new arrangements of songs from its iconic films.

Growing the global canon of choral music has always been one of the group's key aims, and The King's Singers have now commissioned more than 200 works by many of the most prominent composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. These composers include John Tavener, Joe Hisaishi, Judith Bingham, Eric Whitacre, György Ligeti, Luciano Berio, Krzysztof Penderecki and Toru Takemitsu. All of this new music joins their unique body of close-harmony and a cappella arrangements, including those by individual King's Singers past and present.

The King's Singers were officially formed in 1968 when six recent choral scholars from King's College, Cambridge gave a concert at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. By chance, the group was made up of two countertenors, a tenor, two baritones and a bass, and the group has stuck to this singular formation ever since that debut.

Alongside their demanding performing and recording schedule – with over 100 concerts worldwide every season – the group also leads educational workshops and residential courses across the globe, working with both ensembles and individuals on their approaches to group singing. To mark their 50th anniversary in 2018, they founded The King's Singers Global Foundation in the USA to provide a platform to support the creation of new music across multiple disciplines, to coach a new generation of performers, and to provide musical opportunities to people of all backgrounds.

The King's Singers are (pictured overleaf, L-to-R):

Christopher Bruerton,
baritone

Edward Button,
countertenor

Patrick Dunachie,
countertenor

Nick Ashby,
baritone

Jonathan Haoward,
bass

Julian Gregory,
tenor

I Have a Dream

Mahalia Jackson,

arr. Stacey V. Gibbs **If can help somebody**

Harry Dixon Loes,

arr. Stacey V. Gibbs **This little light of mine**

U2, arr. Bob Chilcott **M. L. K.**

The Singing Revolution

Urmas Sisask..... **Heliseb väljadel**

Gustav Ernesaks..... **Mu isamaa on minu arm**

Veljo Tormis..... **Pärismäälase lauluke**

The Many Sounds of Georgia

King Demetrius I of Georgia..... **Shen khar venakhi**

Trad. **Tsintskaro**

Trad. **Gaxsovs Turpav**

Lost Songs of the Highlands

John Cameron,

arr. James MacMillan **O, chí, chí mi na mór bheanna**

Trad., arr. David Overton **Loch Lomond**

Trad., arr. Daryl Runswick **Puirt a' bheul: Amadan gorach
- Tha Fionnlagh - Chuirinn air**

INTERVAL

The Musical Reformation

Martin Luther and

Johann Sebastian Bach..... **Ein feste Burg**

William Byrd..... **Civitas sancti tui**

Thomas Tallis..... **God, grant with grace**

Spear of the Nation

Trad., arr. Neo Muyanga **Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika**

The People Left Behind

Leyb Yampolsky,

arr. Toby Young..... **S'Dremlen feygl**

In Our Time

Finding Harmony ends with a set of songs in close-harmony that show how music continues to unite societies in some of the struggles in today's world. Reflecting on moments as recent as the #MeToo Movement and the 2017 Manchester bombings, this concluding chapter is packed with brand new arrangements that show the prevailing power of music in the present day.

Singing together binds us together. From the Protestant Reformation in Europe during the 1500s to the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, there have been countless moments in history when songs have united nations, cultures and causes. This is still the case in today's world. *Finding Harmony* is evidence that music has always been our common language. A unique collection of pieces that span the globe – including music that's too often forgotten – each song is the key to a powerful true story about who we are and how we've got here. Together, *Finding Harmony* proves how deeply we can be moved by all kinds of stories when songs connect us to them, to each other, and to the places we come from.

1hr 50mins inc interval



PORTAL: Anna Koch

Austrian clarinettist Anna Koch joins three leading Aotearoa composers for this special performance woven through the gallery spaces of Te Uru.

Part of her solo world tour, Koch's collaboration with taonga puoro practitioner Ariana Tikao, alongside the performance of new solo works by composers Dylan Lardelli and Reuben Jelleyman, will showcase her virtuosic command of bass clarinet. Taking us beyond the concert hall, *PORTAL* promises not only a journey through the physical passageways of Te Uru, but the discovery of a unique musical experience.

**Te Uru Waitākere
Contemporary Gallery
Sat 16 March, 5.00pm & 7.00pm**

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Taking place each March in New Zealand's largest city, and reflecting its contemporary, multicultural nature, the Festival challenges its community to be courageous, to be bold, and to explore new ways of reflecting the world around us.

Through the incredible work of artists here in Aotearoa and across the globe, we aim to unify, uplift and inspire our audiences – the people of Tāmaki Makaurau, Aotearoa, and all who visit.

To learn more about us, visit aaf.co.nz/contact.

The Auckland Festival Trust

Ph **+64 09 309 0101**

Email info@aaf.co.nz

Ground Floor, 48 Greys Avenue,
Auckland 1010

PO Box 5419, Victoria Street West,
Auckland 1142, Aotearoa New Zealand



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