



# THE KING'S SINGERS

## LEGACIES

*Legacies* is a recital programme like no other, celebrating monumental contributions to the world of music over the past 500 years.

On one hand, we're remembering the remarkable catalogue of choral works by two of England's foremost Renaissance composers, 400 years after their deaths: **Thomas Weelkes** and **William Byrd**. We're also giving thanks for the music of two Romantic powerhouses, **Ralph Vaughan Williams** and **Hugo Alfvén**, both born 150 years ago and drawing inspiration from their countries' folk music traditions. Then there's the extraordinary mind of **György Ligeti**, born in 1923, whose provocative avant-garde writing redefined contemporary composition. The *Nonsense Madrigals* he wrote for the King's Singers – setting children's poetry and extracts from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* – exemplify his unique humour, energy, and harmonic genius.

Ligeti isn't the only contemporary composer to feature. We're honoured to be premiering a brand-new work by the incomparable Japanese composer **Joe Hisaishi** in this programme. His brand-new work for The King's Singers is about our emerging new world, as he celebrates fifty years of composing. What's more, we've commissioned another new work from the exceptional young British composer **Francesca Amewudah-Rivers**, as part of our commitment to keep growing our global choral canon, as well as to mark the fifth anniversary of The King's Singers' Global Foundation. It sits alongside music written for us in 2010 by the American composer **Gabriela Lena Frank** that provides a window into her own Latin American heritage.

Finally, we've included a love letter to the magic brought to us over 100 years by **Walt Disney**. Since the founding of The Disney Corporation in 1923, its films have provided the soundtracks to the lives of millions of children and adults alike all over the world.

This is a programme designed to be full of joyful discovery, as we give thanks for each of these rich, diverse legacies. It's also our promise to help build even more legacies in the future.

*Celebrating 100 years since the birth of Philip Larkin*

**Bob Chilcott**

**Days** (from *Even such is time*)

*Marking 400 years since the deaths of Thomas Weelkes and William Byrd*

**Thomas Weelkes**

**Hosanna to the son of David**

**William Byrd**

**O salutaris hostia à6**

**Thomas Weelkes**

**Death hath deprived me**

**William Byrd**

**Praise our Lord, all ye gentiles**

*Celebrating 100 years since the birth of György Ligeti*

**György Ligeti**

**The Lobster Quadrille**

(from *Nonsense Madrigals*)

*Celebrating 5 years of The King's Singers Global Foundation*

**Francesca Amewudah-Rivers**

**Alive**

*Celebrating 50 years since the birth of Gabriela Lena Frank*

**Gabriela Lena Frank**

**Hechicera**

**György Ligeti**

**The cuckoo in the pear tree**

(from *Nonsense Madrigals*)

### **100 Years of Disney**

A selection of much-loved songs from Disney over the last 100 years.

**György Ligeti**

**A long, sad tale** (from *Nonsense Madrigals*)

*Celebrating 150 years since the births of Ralph Vaughan Williams and Hugo Alfvén*

**Ralph Vaughan Williams**

**Over hill, over dale**

**Ralph Vaughan Williams**

**Bushes and briars**

**Hugo Alfvén**

**Uti vår hage** (*In our meadow*)

**Hugo Alfvén**

**Och jungfrun hon går i ringen**

(*And the maiden joins the ring*)

*Celebrating Joe Hisaishi's 50 years of composing*

**Joe Hisaishi**

**I was there**

*Celebrating 55 years of The King's Singers*

### **Songs in close-harmony**

A selection of audience favourites and new surprises from the treasure trove of pop, jazz, folk and spiritual arrangements that The King's Singers have built up over their 55-year history.

## **The King's Singers**

**Patrick Dunachie – Countertenor**

**Edward Button – Countertenor**

**Julian Gregory – Tenor**

**Christopher Bruerton – Baritone**

**Nick Ashby – Baritone**

**Jonathan Howard – Bass**

The King's Singers have represented the gold standard in a cappella singing on the world's greatest stages for over fifty years. They are renowned for their unrivalled technique, versatility and skill in performance, and for their consummate musicianship, drawing both on the group's rich heritage and its pioneering spirit to create an extraordinary wealth of original works and unique collaborations.

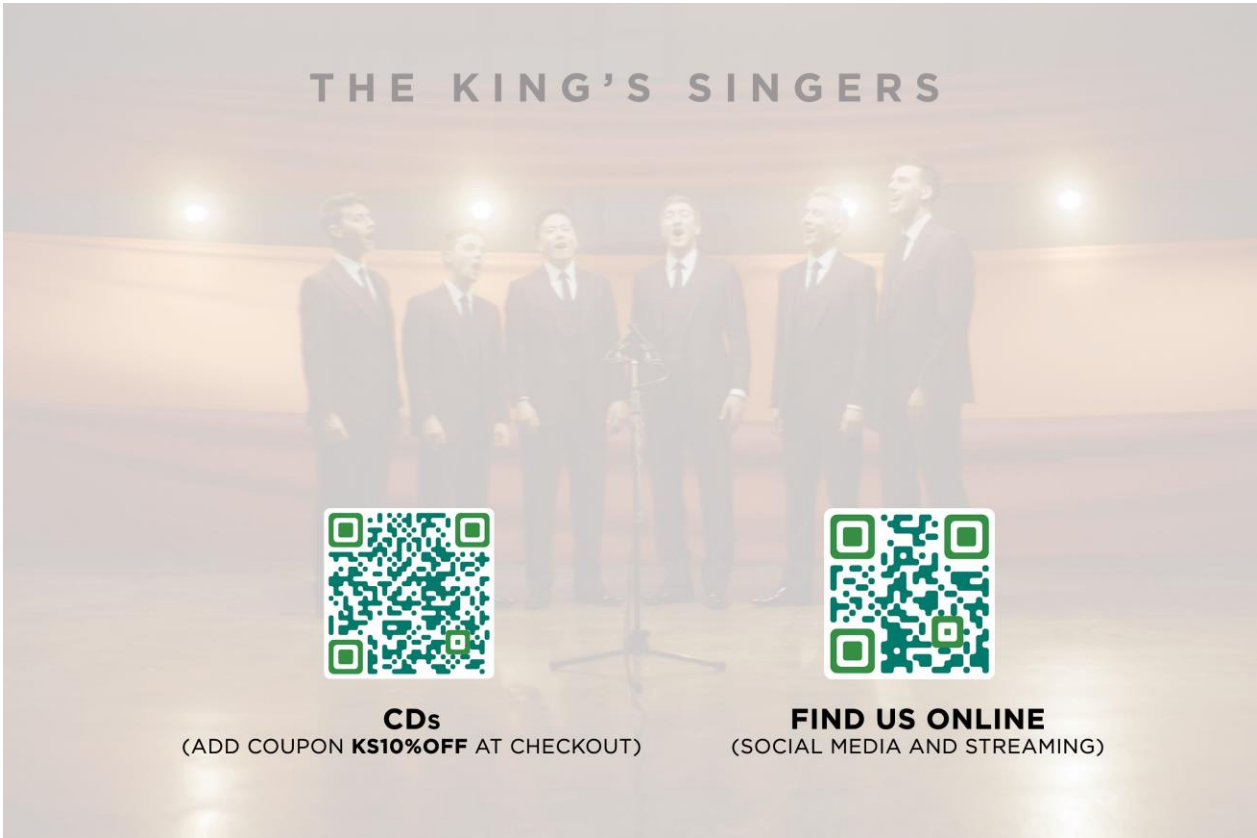
What has always distinguished the group is their comfort in an unprecedented range of styles and genres, pushing the boundaries of their repertoire, while at the same time honouring their origins in the British choral tradition. They are known and loved around the world, and appear regularly in major cities, festivals and venues across Europe, North America, Asia and Australasia.


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. Their commitment to creating new repertoire has always been central to the group, with over 200 commission works by many leading composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries.

They also lead educational workshops and residential courses across the world, working with group and individuals on their techniques and approaches to ensemble singing.


The King's Singers were 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 counter-tenors, a tenor, two baritones and a bass, and the group has maintained this formation ever since that debut.

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