

# The Sixteen

HARRY CHRISTOPHERS

National Box Office: 01904 651 485

Online Booking: [www.ncem.co.uk](http://www.ncem.co.uk)

## Welcome to our Ninth Choral Pilgrimage & The Sixteen's Thirtieth Anniversary

To celebrate our thirtieth anniversary I have decided to devote this year's Choral Pilgrimage to the anniversaries of three unique composers whose legacy to British music is simply astounding. All are united by an exceptional gift for language. The main programme will focus on the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Henry Purcell's birth (1659) and James MacMillan's fiftieth birthday (16 July 2009). Purcell has long been regarded as the most innovative of British composers; his extraordinary use of harmony sounds as modern today as it must have sounded in the seventeenth century. Putting his heartfelt *Funeral Sentences* alongside James MacMillan's powerfully emotive *A Child's Prayer*, written in memory of the Dunblane Tragedy, will give the listener the chance to experience the true power of music.

At select venues, we will also be commemorating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Handel's death. No celebration of Handel's life would be complete without performing the *Coronation Anthems*. These were his first commissions as a British citizen and to be invited to write the music for George II's Coronation was a great honour for Handel – he was not to disappoint. Public excitement about the music was electric and to prove lasting. The opening to *Zadok the Priest* has to be one of the greatest moments of suspense and anticipation in music – it is pure theatre.

The great historian Charles Burney wrote in 1785 that "Handel's general look was somewhat heavy and sour; but when he did smile, it was his sire the sun, bursting out of a black cloud". There is nothing in Handel's music that could ever be called "heavy and sour" but I am sure Handel would have joined with us in smiling at the glorious sounds that emanate from his uplifting music. With both the choir and orchestra of The Sixteen, this will be a celebration not to be missed.

Harry Christophers



The Sixteen  
Harry Christophers conductor

Anniversary Patron:  
Simon Russell Beale CBE

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## The Two Choral Pilgrimage Programmes:

### Purcell & MacMillan *Bright Orb of Harmony*

Purcell

Jehova quam multi sunt hostes mei  
Miserere mei  
Remember not, Lord, our offences  
Beati omnes qui timent Dominum  
Let mine eyes run down with tears  
O dive custos  
Funeral Sentences (First set)

MacMillan

O bone Jesu (commissioned by The Sixteen)  
Mitte manum tuam (from *The Strathclyde Motets*)  
A Child's Prayer  
Sedebit Dominus Rex (from *The Strathclyde Motets*)

### Coronation Anthems

Handel

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (from *Solomon*)  
My heart is inditing  
Organ Concerto in F major Op. 4 No. 4  
Zadok the Priest  
The King shall rejoice  
Overture to *Jephtah*  
Let thy hand be strengthened  
Worthy is the Lamb/Amen (from *Messiah*)

## The Choral Pilgrimage 2009

*A Year of Celebration*

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The Choral Pilgrimage 2009 is supported by:

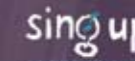


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## Behind the Music: *Participation & Learning*

Behind the scenes of each Choral Pilgrimage tour, there is a range of accompanying activities which aim both to enhance the concert-experience for the audience and to make the tour as widely accessible as possible.

### Choral Workshops

Building on last year's success, The Sixteen will be running another series of workshops across the country for singers who want to explore the repertoire of the Purcell & MacMillan programme. Eamonn Dougan, The Sixteen's Assistant Conductor, and Sally Dunkley, singer and musicologist, will lead the workshops which are aimed at competent singers who are, for example, capable of holding a line on their own.



### Dates & Venues:

*Sunday 15 March:* London (venue tbc)    *Saturday 26 September:* Tewkesbury Abbey

*Saturday 18 April:* St Albans School    *Saturday 24 October:* Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh

*Saturday 6 June:* Blackburn Cathedral

Workshop tickets cost £25 (includes all sheet music and refreshments). A special concert ticket discount is available for workshop participants. For full details, and to book a place, contact [ellie@thesixteen.com](mailto:ellie@thesixteen.com), tel: 020 7481 1184.

### Insight Day - Sunday 5 April

Join eminent musicologists, historians and musicians for a day of discovery. Members of The Sixteen will be joined by Professor Donald Burrows, Director of the Open University's 'Handel Documents' project, and other distinguished speakers.

Tickets cost £30, or £25 if you book at the same time to see The Sixteen perform on one of their own-promoted 2009 Choral Pilgrimage concerts (see back for more details). Booking opens on 15 January 2009. To book call the National Centre for Early Music, tel: 01904 651 485 or for online booking visit: [www.ncem.co.uk](http://www.ncem.co.uk).

### Schools Matinéés in Association with Sing Up and the Choir Schools' Association

In response to the Music Manifesto's initiative to get all primary school children singing, The Sixteen, in partnership with the National Centre for Early Music, will share the stage with up to nine hundred school children in a series of matinée performances. Children will work on an adapted piece of Purcell, taken from The 2009 Choral Pilgrimage, in a series of workshops before joining The Sixteen and their peers on stage in their local cathedral for an exciting final performance. Participating schools will be selected by Sing Up.

### Sign-Interpreted Concerts and a Workshop Series run by Music and the Deaf

Six Choral Pilgrimage performances will be sign-interpreted by Paul Whittaker, founder and Director of Music and the Deaf, in pursuit of The Sixteen's aim to make their concerts accessible to all.

In addition, Paul will facilitate workshops for children who are deaf or hard of hearing in Norwich, Tewkesbury, Blackburn and York. For further details visit: [www.matd.org.uk](http://www.matd.org.uk).

## The Choral Pilgrimage 2009

Purcell & MacMillan

Handel's Coronation Anthems

Friday 27 February		<b>Guildford Cathedral</b> Tickets via Local Box Office only: Guildford Philharmonic: 01483 444 777
Friday 13 March		<b>St John's College Chapel, Cambridge</b> Local Box Office: Cambridge Arts Theatre 01223 503 333
Saturday 14 March	CE	<b>University Church, Oxford</b> Local Box Office: Tickets Oxford 01865 305 305
Tuesday 17 March	CE	<b>Queen Elizabeth Hall, London</b> Tickets via Local Box Office only: Southbank Centre 0871 663 2583
Friday 3 April	CE	<b>Winchester Cathedral</b> Local Box Office: Cathedral Box Office 01962 857 275
Tuesday 14 April	CE	<b>Old Royal Naval Chapel, Greenwich</b> Local Box Office: Greenwich Tourist Information: 0870 608 2000
Saturday 18 April	CE	<b>St Albans Cathedral</b> Local Box Office: Cathedral Information Desk: 01727 890 256
Thursday 23 April	CE	<b>Church of St James the Greater, Leicester</b> Tickets via Local Box Office only: 0116 232 8774
Saturday 9 May	SI	<b>St Edmundsbury Cathedral (Bury St Edmunds Festival)</b> Tickets via Local Box Office only from early March 2009: 01284 769 505
Friday 15 May		<b>Douai Abbey (Newbury Festival)</b> Tickets via Local Box Office only from 5 March 2009: 01635 522 733
Friday 22 May	SI CE	<b>Norwich Cathedral</b> Local Box Office: Cathedral Shop: 01603 218 323
Friday 5 June	SI CE	<b>Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral</b> Local Box Office: Cathedral Gift Shop: 0151 707 3525
Saturday 6 June	SI CE	<b>Blackburn Cathedral</b> Local Box Office: Blackburn Visitor Centre: 01254 688 040
Friday 19 June	CE	<b>Southwell Minster</b> Local Box Office: Minster Shop: 01636 812 933
Saturday 20 June		<b>Derby Cathedral</b> Tickets via Local Box Office only: Foulds Irongate, Derby: 01332 344 842
Sunday 21 June		<b>The Music Room, Tregynon (Gregynog Festival)</b> Tickets via Festival website <a href="http://www.gwylgregynogfestival.org">www.gwylgregynogfestival.org</a>
Thursday 16 July		<b>Lichfield Cathedral (Lichfield Festival)</b> Tickets via Local Box Office from early April 2009: 01543 412 121
Friday 17 July	SI CE	<b>York Minster (York Early Music Festival)</b> Local Box Office: National Centre for Early Music: 01904 651 485
Friday 25 September	CE	<b>Collegiate &amp; Parish Church of St Mary, Swansea</b> Local Box Office: Church Office: 01792 298 616
Saturday 26 September	SI CE	<b>Tewkesbury Abbey</b> Local Box Office: Abbey Shop: 01684 856 148
Sunday 4 October		<b>Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Tetbury (The Tetbury Music Festival)</b> Tickets via the Festival Administrator only: 0782 477 7256
Saturday 17 October		<b>Canterbury Cathedral (Canterbury Festival)</b> Tickets via Local Box Office only from 17 August 2009: 01227 452 853
Wednesday 21 October	CE	<b>Glasgow Cathedral</b> Local Box Office: Tron Theatre: 0141 552 4267
Thursday 22 October	CE	<b>Holy Trinity Church, St Andrews</b> Local Box Office: Byre Theatre: 01334 475 000
Friday 23 October	CE	<b>Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh</b> Local Box Office: Queen's Hall: 0131 668 2019
Saturday 24 October	CE	<b>Durham Cathedral</b> Local Box Office: Durham Tourist Information: 0191 384 3720
Saturday 14 November		<b>Bath Abbey (Bath Mozartfest)</b> Tickets via Local Box Office only from August 2009: 01225 463 362

**CE** The concert will be preceded by a conductor-singer encounter, for times visit: [www.thesixteen.com](http://www.thesixteen.com)

**SI** The concert will be sign-interpreted for hearing impaired patrons

## How To Book

You may book for all venues (except Guildford, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Leicester, Bury St Edmunds, Newbury, Derby, Gregynog, Lichfield, Tetbury, Canterbury & Bath) using our **National Box Office, tel: 01904 651 485** or for online booking visit: [www.ncem.co.uk](http://www.ncem.co.uk)

The box office hours are **Monday-Friday: 09.00-17.00**. Tickets purchased from the NCEM will be sent out by second class post up to one week before the performance; after then they will be available to collect on the door. Tickets for Choral Workshops to be booked by calling tel: 020 7481 1184.

The NCEM postal address is: **The National Centre for Early Music, St Margaret's Church, Walmgate, York YO1 9TL** (please enclose an SAE with posted orders).

Booking for all concerts opens on **Thursday 15 January 2009**. Priority booking for all Patron Circle Members opens on **Monday 5 January 2009** (to find out about becoming a Patron of The Sixteen, please contact Julie Reynolds, tel: 020 7488 2629 or email: [julie@thesixteen.com](mailto:julie@thesixteen.com)).

Ticket prices vary by venue. In most venues prices start at £8 or £10. All seating is unreserved within areas.

Booking fees may apply. Please ask for details when booking.

Tickets can be reserved but must be paid for within three working days and at least twenty four hours prior to the performance.

We regret that tickets cannot be exchanged or money refunded except in the event of a cancelled performance.

Concessions are available to registered disabled (+ one companion) and to those under 18. Students and jobseekers can obtain concessionary tickets at the door. Please note that concessions are not available for senior citizens.

Please make cheques payable to: **The National Centre for Early Music**

Special savings can be made by groups with an offer of one free ticket for every ten purchased.

All offers are subject to availability. Only one discount per ticket.

Please note: The National Centre for Early Music act as agents for The Sixteen. Contact information (addresses) recorded by them can be passed onto The Sixteen for their use in future mailings. If you do not wish this information to be passed on please say so when booking.

Hearing impaired patrons can book using the RNID's Typetalk Service.

Visit: [www.typetalk.org](http://www.typetalk.org) or tel: 18001 0800 500 888 (text) or: 0800 7311 888 (voice).

### For Information

Your ticket guarantees you a seat in your price block, but not a specific seat. We suggest you arrive in good time to choose your seat.

Doors open 30 minutes before the advertised start time, or 15 minutes before conductor-singer pre-concert talks.

Performances take place by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of each Cathedral.

**Pilgrimage enquiries and information line: 020 7481 1184.**



Two brand new recordings featuring the music from the 2009 tour will be available to purchase at Pilgrimage concerts and in all good record shops. Visit [www.thesixteen.com](http://www.thesixteen.com) for further details.  
COR16066 – Coronation Anthems (released in February)  
COR16069 – Purcell & MacMillan: Bright Orb of Harmony (released in April)

Cover photo: Vault of Henry VII Chapel, reproduced by kind permission of Dean and Chapter of Westminster ©, photo Gorm Shakelford.

Page1. Photo of The Sixteen by Mark Harrison.

Page3. Photo of Eamonn Dougan in Blackburn by Marie-Sophie Willis.