



SOUTHWARK
CATHEDRAL

Saturday 24 March

Ian McQueen - An English Requiem

(first performance, commissioned by the Merbecke Choir)

With music by Byrd, Tomkins, Tallis, and Weelkes

Saturday 14 July

Music by Sweelinck, celebrating his 450th birthday

With music by Daan Manneke, Buxtehude, Ton de Leeuw, and Schein

Saturday 1 December

Christmas Concert



THEMERBECKECHOIR

www.merbecke.org.uk



SOUTHWARK
CATHEDRAL

Christmas Concert

THEMERBECKECHOIR

Saturday 3 December • 7.30pm

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

London Bridge, SE1 9DA

www.southwarkcathedral.org.uk

www.merbecke.org.uk

THE MERBECKE CHOIR

In 2004 the Cathedral founded the Merbecke Choir. This Choir is intended to be the place both for boys and girls who leave the Cathedral Choirs and also other young singers who wish to maintain their sight-reading skills acquired as choristers and explore a wide range of repertoire under expert tuition. Several members have gone on to university as choral scholars. The upper age for membership of the choir is 25.

The choir sings Compline on the 4th Sunday of each month at 6.30pm and performs a seasonal concert of music in each of the terms. In addition the choir sings for livery companies in the City of London and for other organisations. A highlight of their career has been singing as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Christmas Broadcast recorded at Southwark Cathedral in 2006.

Recent concerts have included Duruflé's Requiem, a world first performance of a new piece by Michael Bonaventure, and a collaboration with His Majestys Sagbutts & Cornetts, the world's leading early brass group. The Choir has also performed for Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, sung in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and provided the music for the service marking the 20th anniversary of the Marchioness disaster. Recently, the choir made a successful tour to France, singing in Rouen Cathedral and La Madeleine in Paris. We sing a huge range of music from plainsong right through to contemporary music, both sacred and secular. The choir's current director of music is Huw Morgan.

The Choir is named after the Tudor composer, John Merbecke (1510-1585), who composed one of the most popular settings of the Book of Common Prayer Communion Service. Merbecke with three other companions was tried for heresy in 1543 in the Retrochoir at Southwark, which was used for this purpose at the time. He was found guilty and condemned to be burned at the stake. His sentence was commuted however by Bishop Stephen Gardiner, the then Bishop of Winchester, who decided that as a mere musician Merbecke 'knew no better' and so was released to continue his music making.

www.merbecke.org.uk

PROGRAMME

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621) *Hodie Christus Natus Est*
Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611) *Alma Redemptoris Mater*
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772) *Noël Suisse (Peter Wright, organ solo)*
Guillaume Bouzignac (1587-1643) *Dum Silentium (Soprano – Margaret Nicholson)*
Hieronymus Praetorius (1560-1629) *Magnificat Quinti Toni*
Joseph, lieber Joseph mein
In dulci júbilo

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) *A Ceremony of Carols op28*
Procession
Wolcum Yole!
There is no rose
That yongè child
Balulalow
(Soprano – Sara Coffey)
As dew in Aprile
This little babe
Interlude
In freezing winter night
(Soprano – Kate Webb and Tenor – Ian Webb)
Spring Carol
(Soprano 1&2 – Rebecca Newsom and Alexandria Siegers)
Adam lay i-bounden
Recession

Sopranos – Laura Clarke, Sara Coffey, Pam Hulme, Rebecca Newsom, Margaret Nicholson, Megan Pearson, Alexandria Siegers, Zoë Silkstone, Kate Webb
Altos – Genevieve Almond, Fiona Nash, Sophie Henstridge, Ben James, Emma Thorman, Helena White, Marie Southgate
Tenors – Noel Hunwick, Paul Sutton, Robert Turner, Ian Webb
Basses – Timothy Brignall, James Chadburn, Richard D'Arcy, Ben Davis, Michael Nicholson, Dave Soderberg, James Southgate, Peter Wasson

WITH

Louise Wiggins – Harp
Peter Wright – Organist
Huw Morgan – Director