

PHOTO BY REBECCA REID



**THE KING'S SINGERS:
*FINDING HARMONY***

Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at 7:30pm
Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

THE KING'S SINGERS: **FINDING HARMONY**

Patrick Dunachie, countertenor
Edward Button, countertenor
Julian Gregory, tenor
Christopher Bruerton, baritone
Nick Ashby, baritone
Jonathan Howard, bass

A STORY OF HARMONY

Organum

"Pérotin Viderunt omnes"

Jean Mouton
(1459-1522)

"Salva nos, Domine"

Carlo Gesualdo
(1566-1613)

"In monte oliveti"

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

"Vinea mea electa"

Michel Legrand
(1932-2019)
arr. Richard Rodney Bennett

"One day"

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

(All new music taken from our upcoming *Finding Harmony* album)

Harry Dixon Loes
(1892-1965)
arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

"This little light of mine"

Traditional Georgian

"Tsintskaro"

John Cameron
arr. James MacMillan

"Chí mi na mór bheanna"

Quirino Mendoza y Cortés
(1862-1957)
arr. Jorge Cózatl

"Cielito lindo"

NEW HORIZONS

Freya Waley-Cohen

(b. 1989)

(new *Finding Harmony* commission)

"Lend Us Your Voice"

Steve Martland

(1954-2013)

"Poor Roger"

20-minute intermission

THEN AND NOW

Judith Bingham

(b. 1952)

(new *Finding Harmony* commission)

"Tricksters"

THE LIBRARY

The King's Singers would like to end our concert with a selection of songs in our signature close-harmony style from across their library, spanning music from our early beginnings right up to the present day. Tonight, we're featuring more music from our *Finding Harmony* album, as well as classic audience favorites and songs from our brand-new EP, *The Library, Vol. 1*.

The King's Singers appear by arrangement with:

IMG Artists

Pleiades House

7 West 54th Street

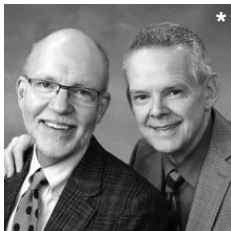
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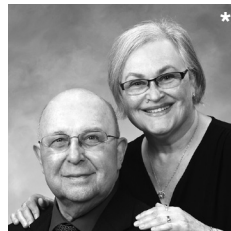
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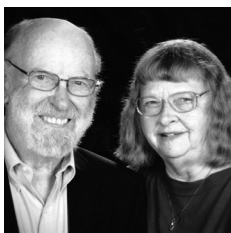
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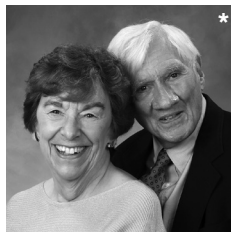
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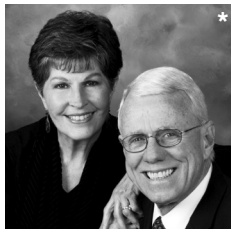
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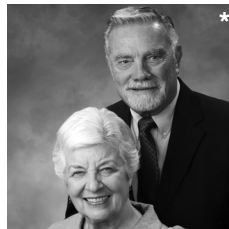
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PROGRAM NOTES

Finding Harmony is the title of what we hope may become a cultural movement around the world. It's the name for a mission that The King's Singers have, to use their art form—singing—as a tool to find unity in a world which feels more fractured than it has for many decades. The particular political, economic, and social climate of recent years seems to have polarized and tribalized societies into opposing factions whose views of the world seem like they cannot be reconciled.

But we think they can be. Through the geopolitical storms of the last five years, we in The King's Singers have been touring the world, singing in many of the countries that find themselves at odds with one another, or otherwise divided internally. We found that whether in Beijing, China; Washington, DC, United States; Paris, France; Moscow, Russia; Seoul, South Korea; or Toronto, Canada, singing in harmony seemed to bring warmth and joy to people of all political views and social backgrounds. Singing isn't the territory of any one person, place, or idea; it's a language that can be spoken by anyone, and we believe that the combination of multiple voices in harmony, to create something more beautiful than the sum of its parts, could be an effective tool in helping people learn to talk to each other again.

The three main strands of the *Finding Harmony* initiative are: firstly, teaching the craft of literally finding harmony by providing coaching for groups of singers around the world who would not normally have access to it; secondly, breaking down cultural and artistic barriers so that music of all kinds can be celebrated together; thirdly, using music's power as a tool for social unity, encouraging civil dialogue through song in divided times.

This *Finding Harmony* program is available for just a few months around the launch of the album *Finding Harmony* in January 2020. The program is devised around the three main strands above, celebrating the positive power of "harmony" in all its meanings and showcasing the ambitions of The King's Singers Global Foundation as it seeks to do good using music all around the globe.

PROFILE

THE KING'S SINGERS were officially born on May 1, 1968, formed by six recently-graduated choral scholars from King's College, Cambridge, England. Their vocal lineup was (by chance) two countertenors, a tenor, two baritones, and a bass, and the group has never wavered from this formation since. 2018 marked the 50th birthday of the group, and to celebrate, The King's Singers embarked upon a year-long celebration, *GOLD*.

What really distinguished the group in its early years was its musical diversity. The King's Singers were a weekly fixture on prime-time television, celebrating popular music never usually touched by choral ensembles, and their unique British charm, combined with their musical craft, captured audiences' hearts the world over. The group has consistently been welcomed on the world's great stages throughout its history—from London's Royal Albert Hall to the Opera House in Sydney, Australia, or New York's Carnegie Hall—as well as being ambassadors for musical excellence across the globe. Two Grammy® Awards, an Emmy® Award, and a place in *Gramophone* magazine's inaugural Hall of Fame sit among the numerous accolades bestowed upon the group.

This love of diversity has always fueled The King's Singers' commitment to creating new music. A panoply of commissioned works by many of the supreme composers of our times—including Sir John Tavener, Toru Takemitsu, John Rutter, Luciano Berio, Nico Muhly, György Ligeti, and Eric Whitacre—sits alongside countless bespoke arrangements in the group's extensive repertoire. The group is determined to spread the joy of ensemble singing and leads workshops and residential courses all over the world each season.

The world may have changed a lot in the 50 years since the original King's Singers came together, but today's group is still charged by the same lifeblood—one that wants to radiate the joy singing brings every day, and that wants to give life to audiences with their virtuosity and vision for an exciting musical future.

THE KING'S SINGERS GLOBAL FOUNDATION

The King's Singers are delighted to introduce their brand new United States-based charitable foundation: The King's Singers Global Foundation. Over the past five decades, the group has been proud to give educational workshops whilst touring and has also recently expanded into Summer Schools. The creation of this not-for-profit foundation marks a new chapter in the group's ability to share the joy we find in singing even more widely. It's not just through more teaching that we want to do this, but through a wider variety of activities, all of which are designed to bring people together and enrich the world of music and the arts, for both musicians and non-musicians alike.

The scope of the Global Foundation is broad, reflecting the ambitions of the group to reach as wide an audience as possible through many channels of engagement. The foundation believes

in engaging meaningfully with underserved communities and individuals by increasing their access to musical participation and education of the highest artistic merit. Our aim is to coach a new generation of performers, no matter their location or background, and to commission new vocal music from composers around the world. We are also determined to build bridges between art forms, particularly by developing links between technology and vocal music to highlight the power of singing together in today's digital age. And that's just the start of it.

With an advisory panel of world-renowned experts, six passionate King's Singers, and a global reach, we believe The King's Singers Global Foundation has the potential to enrich the lives of many people, both in the United States and around the world.