

BLOSSOM STREET

Chamber choir

"One of my favourite choirs" David Mellor, Classic FM

*"It is some indication of the quality of the singers in Blossom Street
that all the solos are outstanding" Edward Greenfield, Gramophone*



"A fantastic choir" Greg Beardsell, BBC Radio 3

"Gorgeous sound" BBC Music Magazine



www.blossomstreetchoir.com

Blossom Street is a versatile and vibrant chamber choir comprising some of the UK's best young singers, which performs regularly on TV and radio as well as on the concert platform, and has released critically acclaimed CDs with Naxos.

On the concert platform, Blossom Street has performed at many of the major London concert halls including Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square and St James Piccadilly, and further afield at venues like the Royal Palace, Madrid. Their Naxos CD, *Sleep, Holy Babe*, was released in 2011, tracks from which featured on **BBC Radio 3's** *The Choir* and on **Classic FM**. They performed tracks live on **BBC Radio 3's** *In Tune*, and the disc was announced as Christmas CD of the Year 2011 on David Mellor's New CD Show, **Classic FM**. It was also CD of the Week on **WQED Radio** (Pittsburgh, US), and received several 5* reviews. In 2013, their second disc, *Down by the Sea*, a compilation of a cappella choral folk songs, many of which are premiere recordings, was released by Naxos, again to critical acclaim ("At the risk of prejudicing any latecomers and with 2013 barely half gone, I declare this release to be my choral album of the year. I'd be stupefied if anything stronger comes long. Five stars." Norman Lebrecht). In 2014, they released a disc of Warlock repertoire on the digital label, Resonus ("A programme offering a genuine expansion in our understanding of Warlock... Gorgeous sound; highly engaging, dedicated performances" BBC Music Magazine). Last year, the group recorded their third Naxos disc, featuring works by British women for upper voices in celebration of the 100th anniversary of women in Britain gaining the vote. Entitled *This Day*, the CD was released in January 2019, and the group looks forward to a follow up recording next year, focusing on Christmas repertoire for mixed voices by female composers.

Directed by Hilary Campbell, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, the group was formed over a decade ago, while the singers were studying at the University of York, and relocated to London in 2007. Whilst in York, Blossom Street filmed a medley of Christmas carols for **BBC2**, which was broadcast during the snooker final, and since then has performed nationwide and beyond. They sang to Prince Charles on **ITV1** as part of his 60th birthday celebrations, and gave their debut in Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of the Voicelab series in 2009. More recent projects include performances in Sweden, Japan and Spain as well as at the Edinburgh Fringe, broadcasts on BBC Radio 4, recording projects for Naxos, Resonus and Convivium, several education projects and corporate, concert and festival work. The group has featured on **BBC Radio 3** many times, performing live on *The Choir* and *In Tune*. Their most recent **Radio 3** show was a performance on *In Tune* in January 2019, when they showcased repertoire from their latest Naxos disc, *This Day*. In 2017, they broadcast *The Choir: Proms Extra* edition of the Last Night of the Proms, an engagement they undertook two years in a row. The group also works in partnership with the Royal Academy of Music, running an annual composition project for postgraduate students, led by Judith Weir, Master of the Queen's Music. In 2015, the group filmed for the remake of 'My Best Friend's Wedding' for Columbia Pictures, and in 2017 filmed for a Film 4 movie, 'Beast', released to critical acclaim in 2018. The group recently recorded for the Eden Project's Festival of Light and Sound.

In addition to its busy performance schedule, Blossom Street works regularly with a number of emerging composers, workshopping and recording their new music. The group is available to hire for rehearsals, recordings, TV and radio work, concerts, events, festivals, private functions and education projects.

"Perfection is rare, but Milverton Concert Society's presentation of the 'Blossom Street' choir's 'Sleep, Holy Babe' last Friday came very, very close..." *Harold Mead, Milverton Review*

Suggested Concert Programmes

Sleep, Holy Babe

This features repertoire from Blossom Street's first Naxos disc, *Sleep, Holy Babe*, which was named Christmas CD of the Year 2011 on Classic FM's New CD Show, alongside other Christmas favourites. The CD contains eight world premieres, including one by Finzi, and focuses on the Christmas lullaby.

Suggested ensemble size: 12 - 20 + conductor. Amended programme possible with 8 + conductor.

This Day

Blossom Street's latest project celebrates the 100th anniversary of women in Britain gaining the vote, with repertoire by female composers, performed by women. The music is wide ranging, from Rebecca Clarke's beloved Ave Maria to Kerry Andrew's infectious Night-Time Songs to Stef Conner's mesmerising O Splendissima Gemma, for choir and clarinet.

Suggested ensemble size: 10 - 12 + conductor. Amended programme possible with 8 + conductor. This programme will ideally also involve a pianist and/or clarinetist, but it is possible to omit these if needs be.

Down by the Sea

Blossom Street presents repertoire from its CD of a cappella choral folk songs, which the group recorded for Naxos in 2012. In the wake of the success of *Sleep, Holy Babe*, Blossom Street chose to follow up with a selection of British folk repertoire, including a number of world premieres, exploring and celebrating the folk tradition. Alongside favourites by Vaughan Williams, a proud proponent of folk repertory, feature little known gems by Grainger and Holst, as well as brand new works by both established and emerging composers.

Suggested ensemble size: 12 - 18 + conductor. Amended programme possible with 8 + conductor.

A Short While for Dreaming

This programme presents a selection of a cappella choral works by Peter Warlock, interspersed with repertoire from his contemporaries. Warlock is a composer whose choral work, with the obvious exception of adored masterpieces like *Bethlehem Down*, is rarely performed on the concert platform, but Blossom Street is committed to bringing his hugely varied and striking creations to a wider audience.

Suggested ensemble size: 12 - 18 + conductor. Amended programme possible with 9 + conductor.

Masters of the Queen's Music

The music of Judith Weir, recently appointed the new Master of the Queen's Music, features in a programme which explores works by composers who have held the distinguished royal appointment in the past century. Other composers include Bax and Elgar.

Suggested ensemble size: 10 - 24 + conductor. Amended programme possible with 8 + conductor.

Aspects of Love

The ensemble presents a selection of works spanning 500 years and a host of genres. Programme to include Tallis' *If Ye Love Me*, Elgar's *My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land*, Vaughan Williams' *The Lover's Ghost* and an arrangement of the Beatles' *Can't Buy Me Love*!

Suggested ensemble size: 8 - 16 + conductor.

And I Saw A New Heaven

Celebrating the breadth of the English choral tradition, the group presents a selection of great English choral works, including music by Stanford, Elgar, Finzi and Howells, alongside premieres by current English composers.

Suggested ensemble size: 12- 20 + conductor, plus organ. Amended programme possible with 7 + conductor.

Reviews and Testimonials

"Simply lovely. I cannot recommend this disc too highly" *David Mellor, New Releases Show Classic FM, July 2013, review of CD Down by the Sea*

"Under founder-director Hilary Campbell, Blossom Street offers an attractive programme that shows off the group's best qualities: impeccable balance between the voice parts (the sweet-voiced sopranos are especially appealing) and excellent intonation" *Philip Reed, Choir and Organ, September 2013, review of CD Down by the Sea*

"The singing is a capella throughout and absolutely first class ... This is well worth investigating whether you like to explore less familiar material or enjoy top class a capella singing or indeed both. And, as with all Naxos releases, this is outstanding value for money." *Steven Whitehead, Cross Rhythms November 2011, review of CD 'Sleep, Holy Babe'*

"These recordings sound quite incredible" *Robert Strauss, Producer/Composer*

"Without a doubt the best concert that we have attended in many years." *Aodan Glynn*

"My Christmas CD of the year [is] Sleep, Holy Babe. Campbell, who contributes an attractive carol of her own ... has chosen music that is reflective rather than extrovert, tonal but never facile, and with real spiritual depth. I love it." *David Mellor, Mail on Sunday, review of CD 'Sleep, Holy Babe'*

"The music is a sheer delight and the performances good enough for me to predict that I shall be listening to this a good deal this Christmas and beyond" *Brian Wilson, MusicWeb International, review of CD 'Sleep, Holy Babe'*

"Such a special treat and, for me, the best birthday present imaginable. I only hope that it was fairly obvious how much I enjoyed it!" *The Prince of Wales*

"Thank you so much for yesterday... we really couldn't have achieved such a success without you!" *Sally Hughes, Channel 5*

"WHAT A PERFORMANCE!! You all were the talk of the evening and most of the next day. I wonder if you saw us Americans practically dancing in the aisle to the 'Friends' theme?! ... Just perfect." *Lee Cогnetta, Barnfather*

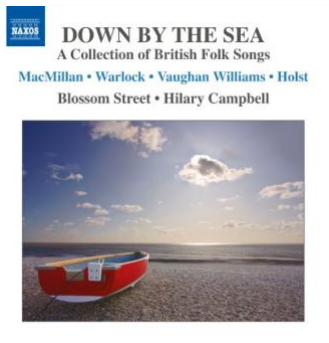
"I thank the Blossom Street Singers for their most excellent performance" *The Duke of Kent*

"From the very opening notes of the Byrd, it was clear that the choir made a highly different sound. They performed the Renaissance polyphony with great vibrancy and a strong sense of vibrato in the voices, this was a thrilling sound and a very distinctive one. There was some lovely rhythmic detail in the work... The Jackson was more restrained but still a very vivid tone quality. Paul Burke's folk song arrangement was very effective, and had some incredibly loud climaxes." *Planet Hugill, September 2015*

"The music at our ceremony was amazing and everyone commented on it. I so enjoyed listening to you all and I have a beautiful picture of me and my husband looking up at the gallery where you were singing and looking so happy." *Emma Wedgeworth*

"Absolutely fantastic, we had no idea you were going to be so wonderful. Your singing in both the solo pieces and during the hymns quite transformed the service, and you easily provided the most compelling value for money of anything that we had for our wedding. " *Daniel Slater*

Discography



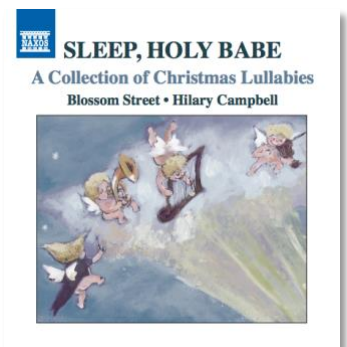
Norman Lebrecht, Sinfini Music, July 2013 *****

Album of the Week 22 July and Choral Album of the Year

At the risk of prejudicing any latecomers and with 2013 barely half gone, I declare this release to be my choral album of the year. I'd be stupefied if anything stronger comes long.

David Mellor, The Mail on Sunday, November 2011 *****

Campbell, who contributes an attractive carol of her own, Sleep My Dreaming One, has chosen music that is reflective rather than extrovert, tonal but never facile, and with real spiritual depth. I love it.



Terry Blain - BBC Music magazine, August 2014 ****

Seven premiere recordings here, in a programme offering a genuine expansion in our understanding of Warlock. The Full Heart, in eight parts, is particularly striking. Gorgeous sound; highly engaging, dedicated performances.

Just released:



Further Details

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