



VOCES8

SAT, FEB 20
VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

DUKE PERFORMANCES

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VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

PROGRAM

Sing Joyfully

William Byrd
(1543–1623)

O Nata Lux

Thomas Tallis
(1505–1585)

Be Still My Soul (Finlandia)

Jean Sibelius
(1865–1957)

Let My Love be Heard

Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)

Love Endureth

Roxanna Panufnik
(b. 1968)

Drop, Drop, Slow Tears

Orlando Gibbons
(1583–1625)

The Deer's Cry

Arvo Pärt
(b. 1935)

Lux Aeterna

Edward Elgar
(1857–1934)

Intermission

PROGRAM *(continued)*

Hymn to St Cecilia

Benjamin Britten
(1913–1976)

As Vesta Was From
Latmos Hill Descending

Roxanna Panufnik
(1576–1623)

Dessus le Marché D'Arras

Orlando Di Lasso
(1532–1594)

Danny Boy

Traditional
arr. Joshua Pacey

Underneath the Stars

Kate Rusby
arr. Jim Clements
(b. 1973)

Caledonia

Dougie Maclean
arr. Blake Morgan
(b. 1954)

Moondance

Van Morrison
arr. Alexander L'Estrange
(b. 1945)

PROGRAM NOTES

Rolling hills and green valleys, rugged mountainsides and hidden villages, a place where the wild and the cultivated sit side by side — the unique character of the land we call home has long been an inspiration for artists and musicians alike. Folk repertoire has been passed down through the years, a continuous cultural identity that is renewed by successive generations according to its own tastes and fashions.

Enchanted Isle casts a contemporary eye on this landscape. New arrangements of Scottish and Irish melodies sit alongside compositions set to texts by some of the greatest English poets. Music originally written for film or television is reimagined to create sonorities reminiscent of watercolour landscapes or carefully chiseled sculpture. We hope that the contrasting choral textures offered here evoke a range of imagery, from brush-stroked vistas to carved rocky outcrops, conveying a sense of both longing and of profound belonging.

"...telling old stories, singing songs, that make me thing about where I came from..." — Dougie MacLean

VOCES8

The British vocal ensemble **VOCES8** is proud to inspire people through music and share the joy of singing. Touring globally, the group performs an extensive repertory both in its a cappella concerts and in collaborations with leading orchestras, conductors and soloists. Versatility and a celebration of diverse musical expression are central to the ensemble's performance and education ethos.

VOCES8 has performed at many notable venues in its 15-year career, and in the 2020-2021 season they are scheduled to perform concerts in the UK and across Europe, in the USA and Japan, as well as perform on film. The season begins online with Live From London and followed up by Live From London – Christmas, ground-breaking global streaming festivals hosted by the VOCES8 Foundation that connects performers with audiences around the world.

This season sees the launch of the VOCES8 Digital Academy, an online choral programme for high schools and colleges featuring live interaction with members of the ensemble, live and recorded lectures, and video resources to learn and perform music from the renaissance to today.

With an on-going programme of recordings, videos and live broadcasts, VOCES8 is heard regularly on albums, international television and radio, as well as maintaining a vibrant web performance presence. The ensemble is a Decca Classics artist and also releases on its own label, VOCES8 Records. The latest album 'After Silence' topped the charts, and a major new project with Decca Classics is planned for release in 2021.

VOCES8 is passionate about music education and is the flagship ensemble of the music charity the VOCES8 Foundation. Engaging in a broad range of outreach work that reaches up to 40,000 people a year, the group runs an annual programme of workshops and masterclasses at the Foundation's home in London, the VOCES8 Centre at St Anne & St Agnes Church. Dedicated to supporting promising young singers, the group awards eight annual choral scholarships through the VOCES8 Scholars initiative.

These scholarships are linked to the annual Milton Abbey Summer School at which amateur singers of all ages are invited to work and perform with VOCES8. Through the separate VOCES8 USA Foundation there is another set of 12 talented Scholars.

VOCES8 is proud to have Roxanna Panufnik as the group's Composer-in-Residence, and Jim Clements as Arranger-in-Residence. The ensemble has premiered commissions from Jonathan Dove, Roxanna Panufnik, Alexander Levine, Paul Mealor, Alexia Sloane, Alec Roth, Ben Parry, Ola Gjeilo, Mårten Jansson, Philip Stopford, Graham Lack, Thomas Hewitt Jones and Owain Park. In this season they will premiere works from Ken Burton, Taylor Scott Davis, Melissa Dunphy, Jocelyn Hagen, Paul Mealor, Alec Roth, Paul Smith and Roderick Williams. The ensemble has collaborated with ensembles and soloists including the Academy of Ancient Music, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Philharmonia Orchestra, Rachel Podger, and welcomed artists on its recordings such as Mary Bevan, Nick Deutsch, Jonathan Dove, Sibeal and others.

As ambassadors for Edition Peters the ensemble publishes material including the VOCES8 Method. Developed by Paul Smith, co-founder of VOCES8, this renowned and unique teaching tool is available in four languages and adopts music to enhance development in numeracy, literacy and linguistics. Also available are two anthologies of its arrangements, and an ever-expanding 'VOCES8 Singles' range.



Alsarah talking to students at Durham School of the Arts.

Last season, **Duke Performances** held over 100 residency events with visiting artists, reaching over 2,000 Duke students and 2,000 members of the Durham community through class visits, public conversations, master classes, workshops, and pop-up concerts, as well as K-12 engagement with Durham Public Schools.

For 2020/21, this work continues in virtual form, through free online series such as 'In Conversation' and special engagements for students and teachers throughout the district.

We bring diverse and virtuosic artists to classrooms and public forums in ways that enrich our vibrant campus and community and foster conversation around the themes, traditions, and perspectives embodied in the work of these visiting artists.

Your contribution to Duke Performances ensures that we can continue to make these meaningful and memorable opportunities available at no cost to the community.

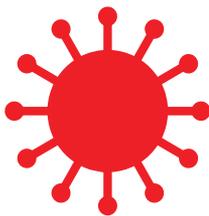
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DUKE PERFORMANCES



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