

Candlelit Carols

Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool
Friday 20 December 2024 at 7.30pm

Kevin Whately *reader*
Steven Devine *conductor*
Harriet Eyley *soprano*
Coro Spezzato
Mozart Festival Orchestra
Click on the artists to view their biogs

FIRST HALF

Traditional
Joy to the World

Traditional
While Shepherds Watched

Bach
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Traditional
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Mozart
Alleluia
from Exsultate Jubilate

Pearsall
In Dulci Jubilo

Traditional
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Walford Davies
The Holly and the Ivy

Corelli
Allegro and Pastorale
from Christmas Concerto

L Mozart
Musical Sleigh Ride

Darke
In the Bleak Midwinter

Handel
Christmas Sequence
from Messiah

SECOND HALF

Handel
Zadok the Priest

Traditional
The First Nowell

Howells
A Spotless Rose

Handel
Eternal Source of Light Divine

Traditional
Once in Royal David's City

Bach
Air on the G String

Traditional
O Come, All Ye Faithful

Traditional
Sussex Carol

Handel
Let the Bright Seraphim

Vivaldi
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Traditional
Deck the Halls

Traditional
The Twelve Days of Christmas

Traditional
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Details correct at time of publication



SONY MUSIC



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Kevin Whately

READER

Kevin Whately's theatre credits include The Narrator in *Candide* at Bergen National Opera; Herbie in *Gypsy* at Chichester; Uncle Peck in *How I Learned to Drive* at Donmar; Ray Lucas in *Snake in the Grass* at the Old Vic; Juror Eight in *Twelve Angry Men* at Bristol Old Vic and Comedy Theatre; Daines in *Our Own Kind* at Bush; John Proctor in *The Crucible* and Blackmore in *The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd* at the Haymarket, Leicester; Tony Lumpkin in *She Stoops to Conquer* at Oxford Playhouse; Prince Hal in *Henry IV* in Newcastle; Phil in *Bad Language* at Hampstead Theatre; Elvis in *Operation Elvis* at Tricycle; Andy in *Accounts* with Edinburgh and Riverside Studios; and seasons at Perth, Stoke, Worcester and Newcastle.

Kevin's varied and full television career includes *Lewis* (nine series), *Inspector George Gently*, *Joe Maddison's War*, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, *The Children*, *Who Gets the Dog*, *Footprints in the Snow*, *Dad*, *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* (four Series), *Belonging*, *Tamworth Two*, *Promoted to Glory*, *Plain Jane*, *Inspector Morse* (seven Series and four single films), *What Katy Did*, *Pure Wickedness*, *The Broker's Man* (two Series), *Gobble*, *Trip Trap*, *Peak Practice* (three Series) and most recently *The Inheritance* for Channel 5.

His film appearances include *Silent Cry*, *Purely Belter*, *Return of the Soldier* and *The English Patient*.



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Steven Devine

CONDUCTOR

Steven Devine combines a career as a conductor and director of orchestral, choral and opera repertoire with that of a solo harpsichordist and fortepianist. He is Conductor and Artistic Advisor of The English Haydn Festival, Music Director of New Chamber Opera, Oxford and Director of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's 'Bach the Universe & Everything' series.

On the concert platform he has directed Purcell, Blow, Bach, Handel and Mozart with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Bach's *Easter Oratorio* with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales; Haydn, Handel, CPE Bach, JC Bach, Ditterdorf and Viotti with the English Haydn Orchestra; Handel, Vivaldi and Porpora with Trondheim Barokk, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Norwegian Wind Ensemble; Handel's *Solomon* as well as JS and CPE Bach programmes with Victoria Baroque Players, British Columbia, Handel's *Belshazzar* at the Valetta Festival and Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks* with Arion Baroque Ensemble, Montreal. He has also directed programmes with the Academy of Ancient Music, Academie d'Ambronay, the Mozart Festival Orchestra and St Paul's Chamber Orchestra,

Steven's opera repertoire includes works by Purcell, Cavalli, Handel, Haydn and Mozart as well as rarities by Galuppi, Salieri and Cimarosa.

His recent and forthcoming projects include a return to the Valetta Baroque Festival with Scarlatti's *La Giuditta*, *Messiah* with The Academy of Ancient Music in La Palmas, playing and directing Bach and Telemann with Symphony Nova Scotia and Brandenburg Concertos with both the OAE and Ensemble 360.

Alongside *Dido & Aeneas* with Sarah Connolly in the title role, Steven has made a number of acclaimed recordings of keyboard concertos as well as solo recital discs.

Steven Devine was educated at Chetham's School of Music before reading Music at St Peter's College, Oxford, and completed his studies at the Royal College of Music. He was Director of Opera Restor'd from 2002-2010 and Kurator and Conductor of the Norwegian Wind Ensemble from 2016-2018. He is a member of electronic music group The Art of Moog performing Bach on synthesizers.



Harriet Eyley

SOPRANO

Born in Derbyshire, Harriet Eyley studied at London's Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music.

On graduating, she was an Alvarez Artist with Garsington Festival Opera, before joining Welsh National Opera as an Associate Artist, her programme supported by the WNO Sir John Moores Award and the WNO Chris Ball Bursary.

Harriet Eyley sings regularly for Raymond Gubbay Live, and her concert highlights have further included *Beethoven Unleashed: The 1808 Concert* with BBC National Orchestra of Wales and New Year Galas with Scottish Chamber Orchestra. She also appeared in Lucy Worsley's *Queen Victoria's Music* for BBC 2.

Her recent engagements have included Beth in the UK premiere of Mark Adamo's *Little Women* for Opera Holland Park; Meleagro in Gluck's *La corona* for Bampton Classical Opera; Oriana in *Amadigi* for English Touring Opera; Kristina in *The Makropulos*

Affair, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and *Messiah* for Welsh National Opera; Echo in *Ariadne auf Naxos* for Garsington Opera at Wormsley; and *Messiah* on tour with Britten Sinfonia.

In 2023, Harriet Eyley received a Leonard Ingrams Award from Garsington Opera at Wormsley and was conferred with Associateship of the Royal Academy of Music.

Her future engagements include a return to Welsh National Opera to sing Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*.



Coro Spezzato

Coro Spezzato was formed in summer 2020 to provide a professional platform for the country's brightest young singers and composers. The choir initially came together during the lockdowns to record virtual projects. Despite the difficulties involved, the group managed to record new works by composer Alexander Hopkins which received broadcasts on BBC Radio 3. Ever since, the choir has been committed to promoting works by up-and-coming composers and regularly commission new pieces for concert programmes. Another defining feature of the choir is that it provides professional work for singers who are embarking on their careers. Many of the singers in the choir are recent graduates from University or Music Conservatoires.

The choir enjoys engaging in a mix of projects ranging from large-scale performances in concert halls, to more intimate performing settings in smaller venues. Performances are always wide-ranging with the ensemble being able to turn its hand to many styles, including music from the Renaissance period through to contemporary works.

Recent concerts have included those in London, Cambridge and a performance at the Wardsbrook Concert Series in East Sussex. The choir will be looking to return to its roots soon with recorded projects planned.



Mozart Festival Orchestra

The Mozart Festival Orchestra was formed by Raymond Gubbay in 1991 – the bicentenary of Mozart's death. The Orchestra was launched at the Barbican Hall in a six-concert festival of Mozart's popular orchestral and operatic music. Over many years the Orchestra has performed a wide range of baroque and classical repertoire, including Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos*, Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Requiem*.

The Orchestra has undertaken a national tour every autumn for the last 20 years with its highly successful *The Four Seasons by Candlelight*,

Mozart by Candlelight and *Classics by Candlelight* programmes. It also frequently performs Handel's *Messiah* at the Royal Festival Hall. In 2003, the orchestra toured to Lucerne, Switzerland and have returned by popular demand every year since.

Recent highlights include the Orchestra's return to the Royal Festival Hall with performances of *Mozart Masterpieces*. The Mozart Festival Orchestra also regularly appears across the country as part of Raymond Gubbay's celebrated Christmas Festival.

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