



WORLD ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

THE ENGLISH BAROQUE SOLOISTS

Under the patronage of HRH the Prince of Wales

The English Baroque Soloists have long been established as one of the world's leading period instrument orchestras. Throughout their repertoire, ranging from Monteverdi to Mozart and Haydn, they are equally at home in chamber, symphonic and operatic performances and the distinctive sound of their warm and incisive playing is instantly recognisable.

The English Baroque Soloists are regularly involved in joint projects with the Monteverdi Choir, with whom they famously took part in the trail-blazing Bach Cantata Pilgrimage in 2000, performing all of Bach's sacred cantatas throughout Europe. More recently, the two joined forces again in a "Bach Marathon" event at the Royal Albert Hall (2013), and collaborated on recordings and tours of Bach *Motets* (2011) and *Ascension Cantatas* (2012), both of which reached no 1 in the UK classical charts.

The ensemble has performed at many of the world's most prestigious venues including La Scala in Milan, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Sydney Opera House. In the course of the 1990s they performed Mozart's seven mature operas and recorded all Mozart's mature symphonies and his complete piano concerto cycle. Their recent recordings of the *Brandenburg Concertos* and Mozart *Symphonies 39 & 41* were released by the Monteverdi ensemble's own record label, Soli Deo Gloria.

In 2014, the Monteverdi Choir's 50th anniversary year, they performed with the Choir in tours of Monteverdi *Vespers 1610* in Cambridge, Versailles and Barcelona, and Handel *Dixit Dominus* in cities including Princeton, Salzburg, Vienna, Aldeburgh, Paris and San Sebastian.

Earlier this year the orchestra performed Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and *Vespers* at several venues in the United States (including the Carnegie Hall, NYC, Kennedy Centre, Washington and Davies Hall, San Francisco) – a prelude to an international tour of staged Monteverdi operas to mark Claudio Monteverdi's 450th anniversary in 2017. 2015 has also taken them to Munich, Frankfurt, Lucerne and Paris to perform Bach's *B minor Mass*; followed by a recording of the Mass in London for Soli Deo Gloria.

Further projects this year include a new staged production of Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* at the Royal Opera House, performances at several major summer festivals, as well as the orchestra's first Far East tour in over a decade with concerts in Hong-Kong and Shanghai.

THE MONTEVERDI CHOIR

Under the patronage of HRH the Prince of Wales

The Monteverdi Choir, founded in 1964, is famous for its passionate, committed and virtuosic singing. Over the past 50 years, it has been consistently acclaimed as one of the best choirs in the world, noted for its ability to switch composer, language and idiom with complete stylistic conviction.

Among a number of trail-blazing tours, the most ambitious was the Bach Cantata Pilgrimage in 2000, during which the Choir performed all 198 of JS Bach's sacred cantatas in more than 60 churches throughout Europe, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the composer's death. The entire project was recorded and released by the company's record



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label, *Soli Deo Gloria*. It was hailed as “one of the most ambitious musical projects of all times” by Gramophone magazine.

The Choir is also a fertile training ground for future generations of choral and solo singers: Choir members often step out to sing solo parts and many former members have gone on to enjoy successful solo careers. Since 2007, the Monteverdi Apprentices Programme has added an exciting new dimension to its profile.

The Choir has over 150 recordings to its name and has won numerous prizes. It regularly participates in staged opera productions, including recently *Le Freyschütz* (Weber), *L'Etoile* (Chabrier) and *Carmen* (Bizet) at the Opéra Comique in Paris.

Last year, the Choir celebrated its 50th anniversary with performances of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* in Cambridge, Barcelona and Versailles and an extensive European and US tour of Handel's *Dixit Dominus*. It collaborated with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in a performance of Schumann's *Manfred* under the direction of Sir John Eliot Gardiner; and released an acclaimed new album of English polyphony, *Vigilate!*

Earlier in 2015, the Choir performed Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and *Vespers* at several venues in the United States (including the Carnegie Hall, NYC, Kennedy Centre, Washington and Davies Hall, San Francisco) – a prelude to an international tour of Monteverdi operas to mark Claudio Monteverdi's 450th anniversary in 2017. They also toured Bach's *B minor Mass* in Europe and recorded it in London for *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Further projects this year include a new staged production of Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* at the Royal Opera House – co-directed by Hofesh Shechter and John Fulljames - as well as the Choir's first Far East tour in over a decade with concerts in Hong-Kong, Seoul, Beijing and Shanghai.

