

## The King's Singers

The King's Singers have represented the gold standard in a cappella singing on the world's greatest stages for over fifty years. They are renowned for their connection and engagement with their audiences, their unrivalled technique, versatility and skill in performance, and for their consummate musicianship, drawing both on the group's rich heritage and pioneering spirit to create an extraordinary wealth of original works and unique collaborations.

What has always distinguished the group is their comfort in an unprecedented range of styles and genres, pushing the boundaries of their repertoire, while at the same time honouring their origins in the British choral tradition. They are known and loved around the world, appearing regularly in major cities, festivals and venues across Europe, North America, Asia and Australasia, including Carnegie Hall, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Mozarteum Salzburg, Tonhalle Zurich, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Helsinki Music Centre, Sydney Opera House, Tokyo Opera City and the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing. They also work with orchestras, recently including a specially commissioned work by Sir James MacMillan with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra at the Edinburgh International Festival.

The King's Singers' extensive discography has led to numerous awards including two Grammy Awards, an Emmy Award, and a place in Gramophone magazine's inaugural Hall of Fame. As part of their 50th anniversary celebrations in 2018, the group undertook a series of major tours worldwide, supporting the release of a Grammy Award nominated anniversary album GOLD, which featured important works in the group's history and new commissions by Bob Chilcott, John Rutter and Nico Muhly.

This commitment to creating new repertoire has always been central to the group, with over 200 commissioned works by many leading composers of the 20th and 21st Centuries, including John Tavener, Judith Bingham, Eric Whitacre, György Ligeti, Luciano Berio, Krzysztof Penderecki and Toru Takemitsu. These join a unique body of close-harmony and a cappella arrangements, including those by King's Singers past and present. Many of their commissioned works and arrangements are available in their own signature series with Hal Leonard, selling over two million copies worldwide. Early collaborations with brass bands helped to inform the distinct 'King's Singers sound' and key to the group's success has been their ability to evolve and innovate over many years – and through 28 individual members – while always retaining this special sound and musical integrity.

They also lead educational workshops and residential courses across the world and online, working with groups and individuals on their techniques and approaches to ensemble singing. In 2018 they founded The King's Singers Global Foundation to provide a platform for the creation of new music across multiple disciplines, coach a new generation of performers and provide musical opportunities to people of all backgrounds.

The King's Singers were formed in 1968, when six recent choral scholars from King's College, Cambridge gave a concert at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. By chance, the group consisted of two countertenors, a tenor, two baritones and a bass, and the group has maintained this formation ever since that debut.

Countertenor

Patrick Dunachie

Edward Button

Tenor

Julian Gregory

Baritone

Christopher Bruerton

Nick Ashby

Bass

Jonathan Howard

\*\*\*\*\*

## 國王歌手

全球最受歡迎的無伴奏美聲天團——國王歌手，成團於1968年，由6名獲合唱獎學金入學於劍橋大學國王學院的歌手在倫敦的伊麗莎白女王音樂廳舉辦音樂會，這6名歌手分別是2名假聲男高音、1名男高音、2名男中音及1名男低音，自該場首演音樂會後一直保持如此編制。

半世紀以來，國王歌手活躍於世界最重要舞台，儼然成為無伴奏合唱的黃金標準，他們以與觀眾的連結和互動、無以倫比的歌唱技巧、多元且精湛的表演方式聞名於世，充分利用合唱團本身固有的豐富文化背景，加上勇於創新的精神，推動大量原創作品問世，更促成別出心裁的跨界合作。

國王歌手合唱團之所以與眾不同，在於他們處理起各類曲風與樂種都顯得游刃有餘，除了勇於挑戰既有界限擴增演唱曲目，也同時彰顯自己的根源——英國合唱傳統，因此受到全球樂迷喜愛，演出足跡遍及歐洲、北美、亞洲、澳洲各主要城市、音樂節慶及重要場館，其中包括紐約卡內基音樂廳、德國漢堡的易北愛樂廳、萊比錫布商大廈音樂廳、薩爾茲堡莫札特音樂院、蘇黎世音樂廳、阿姆斯特丹音樂廳、愛丁堡國際藝術節、赫爾辛基音樂中心、雪梨歌劇院、東京歌劇城和位於北京市的國家大劇院；該團也與管弦樂團同台演出，近年包括北德廣播愛樂樂團及皇家蘇格蘭國家管弦樂團，並與後者合作演出了詹姆斯·麥克米蘭爵士受邀為該團創作的新曲。

歷年來的大量錄音作品為國王歌手合唱團贏得多座大獎，包括2座葛萊美獎及1座艾美獎，並於《留聲機》雜誌「名人堂」佔得一席之地，2018年時為了慶祝成團50週年，除了發表週年

特別紀念專輯《榮耀時刻》，也配合專輯開啟了一系列世界巡迴演出，該專輯除了收錄合唱團歷年演出的重要作品，也委託鮑伯·契爾考特、約翰·拉特、尼可·慕禮創作新曲。

致力於演唱創新曲目一直是該團的核心價值，至今已有200多首委託創作來自20及21世紀各重要作曲家，其中包括塔文納爵士、茱蒂絲·賓漢、埃里克·惠特克、佐治·李蓋悌、路奇阿諾·貝里歐、克里斯多夫·彭德瑞茲基、武滿徹，再加上歷屆團員為該團編寫的作品，以封閉和聲及無伴奏合唱編制為特色，匯聚而成該團獨有的曲目集。早期與國王歌手合唱團合作的許多編曲家具有銅管樂團背景，賦予該團獨樹一幟的「國王歌手之聲」，這大量的委託創作與編曲作品由美國好連得音樂出版社發行專屬系列樂譜，在全世界銷售超過200萬本，而透過28位歷屆團員的努力，多年來在保持如此的特殊聲響與音樂質感同時，也得以不斷進化與創新，這即是該團成功的關鍵。

他們也在世界各地舉辦教育工作坊及駐地教學課程，指導團體及個人學習合唱的技巧與方法，2018年，該團成立了「國王歌手全球基金會」，期許提供一個能夠跨領域創造新樂風的音樂平台，藉以培植新一代的表演者，為各種背景的人提供親近音樂的機會。

假聲男高音：

派翠克·杜納奇

愛德華·巴頓

男高音：

朱利恩·葛果利

男中音：

克里斯朵夫·布魯爾頓

尼克·艾許比

男低音：

強納森·霍華