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**For immediate release**

## ***Treblesome* choir boys showcase versatile voices**

Temple Church Boys' Choir has announced its first release as an independent group, which follows the Choir's tour of Singapore and Australia. *Treblesome* features a selection of beautiful lieder and folk music, some of which has been specially arranged for the choir and recorded for the very first time.

Due for release in October, *Treblesome* was originally inspired by the versatility of the younger choristers' voices and showcases a range of styles rarely found at more traditional services. The album includes Britten's well-known *Missa Brevis*, as well as popular songs such as Brahms' *Wie Melodien sieht es* and Schubert's *Du bist die Ruh*. Other folk songs include Britten's *Salley Gardens* and *O Waly, Waly*, and new arrangements of *Loch Lomond* and *Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner* by Temple Church Choir's own Jonathan Darbourne. The CD also features the first recording of a new setting of *Nunc dimittis* by John Ashton Thomas for boys choir, organ and saxophone. *Treblesome* concludes with perhaps the greatest piece ever written for boys' voices: *Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten.



Temple Church Boys' Choir is well known as the younger contingent of Temple Church Choir, famous for the commission and premiere of John Tavener's all-night musical vigil, *The Veil of the Temple*. In recent years, they have joined forces with the BBC Singers in Britten's *A Babe was Born* at the BBC Proms, and performed a new anthem by John Rutter in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta at Runnymede. The choir's performance of Nico Muhly's *Our Present Charter*, commissioned to celebrate the same anniversary, appears on Temple Church's *A Knight's Progress*, which was given a five star review and "Highly Recommended" by *Choir & Organ* magazine.

Roger Sayer is both Organist and Director of Music at Temple Church in London, and has conducted Temple Church Boys' Choir for many years. Under his direction, the choir has performed live on national radio and in prestigious venues in London, Washington DC and, more recently, Holland and Australia. On the release of *Treblesome*, Roger comments: "*Temple Church Boys' Choir and I are delighted to be able to share such eclectic and beautiful music. The opportunity to record a variety of secular music was met with great enthusiasm.*"

*Treblesome* will be available in record stores and online from October 2016.

Catalogue number ORC100058. UKPPD £9.00.

- ENDS -

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**Notes to Editors:**

### **About Roger Sayer | Conductor**

Roger Sayer is Organist and Director of Music at The Temple Church, London, having previously held the same position at Rochester Cathedral. He is also Deputy Chorus Director and Accompanist to the London Symphony Chorus.

In his early years Roger was an organ student at St Paul's Cathedral and also won many prizes for organ playing as a student at the Royal College of Music. Notably his success as a prize winner in the 1989 St Albans International Organ Competition led to a career of international recital tours which took him all over the world. He has since made many recordings both as organist and conductor which have received wide critical acclaim.

Under his direction the Temple Church Choir has performed live on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM, at Cadogan Hall, in Washington DC, Holland, the Far East and Australia. Roger is organ soloist on the soundtrack of the blockbuster film *Interstellar* and, in May last year, performed the score live at the Royal Albert Hall. His organ performances and recordings are numerous and, most recently, he has recorded the complete twenty sonatas of Rheinberger.

### **About Greg Morris | Organ and Piano**

Greg Morris is Associate Organist of the Temple Church in London, Musical Director of Collegium Musicum of London, and founding Musical Director of the Bar Choral Society.

An acclaimed solo recitalist, Greg has performed widely throughout the UK and Europe. He gave the world première of David Briggs' Organ Concerto, and subsequently recorded the work with the Northern Chamber Orchestra. His three solo CDs have received widespread critical acclaim; the most recent, the first to be recorded on the newly restored organ of the Temple Church, was released by Signum in 2014, and has been described by Gramophone as 'a singularly impressive release'.

Since 2006, Greg has accompanied the acclaimed Temple Church Choir. He has performed with them on BBC Radio 3, in CD recordings, and in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, as well as on tours to Washington D.C. and Holland. He has appeared at the BBC Proms with the BBC Singers, and is in demand as a freelance accompanist and ensemble player.

Greg also works extensively as a conductor. Highlights have included directing the Temple Singers and Players in Purcell's magnificent ode, *Hail! Bright Cecilia* in Middle Temple Hall, and conducting Collegium Musicum of London in Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* in a new chamber version at St James' Piccadilly. Plans for this year include *Arion and the Dolphin*, a new work by Jonathan Dove, and Haydn's *Creation*.

### **About Anne Denholm | Harp**

Anne Denholm is one of Britain's leading young harpists, and is Official Harpist to HRH The Prince of Wales. She is earning a reputation for her dynamic and engaging performances across a variety of musical fields. She received her Master's from the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in London with distinction, graduating with the Renata Scheffel-Stein Harp Prize, the Sir Reginald Thatcher Prize, and a Regency Award for notable achievement. Whilst at the RAM, she was the first ever harpist to win the historic RAM Club Prize, and was twice winner of the Skaila Kanga Harp Prize.

Denholm underwent a British musical upbringing, studying at the Junior Department of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, the Purcell School, Cambridge University and the RAM. She has won numerous prizes in local, national and international competitions, including second place in the Wales International Harp Festival 2014 and reaching the string category finals of the BBC Young Musician in 2010. Concerto appearances have included works by Handel, Mozart, Pierné and Glière.

Anne is increasingly in demand as an interpreter and performer of new music; she has been recording and premiering new works for solo harp since 2006, and in 2013-14 worked with Sally Beamish on a video project of her work, *Awuya*. She is a founding member of contemporary experimental quartet, *The Hermes Experiment*, and greatly enjoys working with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

Anne freelances with orchestras across England, most recently working with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and The Orchestra of the Swan. She also enjoys working with choirs; collaborators have included The Temple Church Choir, Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir, The Choir of St John's College Cambridge, City of London Chamber Choir, and Voce Chamber Choir.

## **About Mark Lockheart | Saxophone**

Saxophonist and composer Mark Lockheart first came to prominence in the mid- 1980s with the influential big band Loose Tubes.

In 1992 Mark formed the eclectic co-led quartet Perfect Houseplants, a group that released six albums and collaborated with classical artists such as the Orlando Consort, Andrew Manze and Pamela Thorby. He joined Seb Rochford's *Polar Bear* in 2003, which went on to record five ground-breaking albums. The band's second CD, *Held on the Tips of Fingers*, was nominated for the 2005 Mercury Award and later appeared in Jazzwise's '100 Albums That Shook the World.'

Mark was a featured soloist in Mark Anthony Turnage's *About Water*, which premiered at the Southbank in June 2007. He collaborated several times more with Turnage, performing his *A Man Descending* and in the opera *Anna Nicole* which premiered at the Royal Opera House in 2011. In 2009, Mark's quintet album *In Deep* was released to critical acclaim and the following year saw the release of his first big band album *Days Like These* with the Hamburg-based NDR big band. That same year, Mark was awarded APPJC 'Parliamentary Jazz Musician of the Year 2010.' In 2013 he released *Ellington in Anticipation*, a radical reworking of Ellington melodies. The CD attracted four and five-star reviews and was MOJO magazine's 'Jazz Album of 2013'.

Mark's most recent trio *Malija* released its debut CD in Dec 2015 to critical acclaim. Recent success at the Jazz FM Awards saw Mark coming away with 'instrumentalist of the year 2016'.

## **About Temple Church Boys' Choir**

The Temple Church Choir of 18 boy-choristers and twelve choirmen has in recent years regained the prestige it enjoyed when Sir George Thalben-Ball and Ernest Lough made (in 1926) their world-famous recording of Mendelssohn's *Hear my Prayer/O, for the wings of a Dove*. The present choir shot back to prominence with the commission and – at the Temple Church itself – the première of John Tavener's all-night musical vigil *The Veil of the Temple*, 'Tavener's masterpiece' (The Daily Telegraph). The Choir took *The Veil* to the Lincoln Center Festival in New York, and then to the Proms in a shortened version which was released on a double-CD by Sony. This recording has been followed by three further discs from the choir, all of them critically acclaimed.

In recent years the choristers have appeared on Hyperion's new release of Britten's *St Nicholas*, performed *The Ceremony of Carols* at the opening concert of the Britten Centenary celebrations at the Snape Maltings in Aldeburgh, joined forces with the BBC Singers in Britten's *A Babe was Born* at the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall, and broadcast a memorial concert to Sir John Tavener on Classic FM. Last year they also joined the BBC Singers in a recording of music by Judith Weir, which was broadcast recently on BBC Radio 3. The Choir is proud to commission new music, including works from Thomas Adès and Gabriel Jackson. In November 2014 the choir gave the première of *A Safe Stronghold*, a collaboration between two young composers to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War – the German Lars Schwarze and the British Gareth Treseder. Nico Muhly's *Our Present Charter* was commissioned to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, and as part of events to celebrate the same anniversary, the choir performed at both the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court in Washington D.C. *Our Present*

*Charter* also appears on the choir's latest CD for Signum, *A Knight's Progress*, released last year, which features additional music by Haydn, Parry, Walton and Vaughan Williams.

On the morning of Monday 15 June 2015 at Runnymede Meadow, the Temple Church Choir performed a new anthem by John Rutter, in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, to mark the 800th Anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. The Choir also toured Holland at the end of July, where it performed a programme of five concerts in some of the country's finest churches and cathedrals. Last November Classic FM broadcast John Rutter's 70th Birthday Concert sung by the Temple Church Choir who were joined by the Winchester College Quiristers. The Choir rounded off 2015 with a live performance on BBC Radio 3 as part of the Temple Winter Festival. In February this year, the Choir's Ash Wednesday Choral Evensong was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

#### Temple Church Boys' Choir Members

Theo Belton	Tristan Lockett-Green
James Bennett	Alex Rigo McSweeney
Felix Bowden	Jian Hui Mo
Lucas Byng	John Morshead
James Cahill	Emerson Murphy, <i>Head Chorister</i>
Louis Cahill	Townsend Murphy
Ebube Chiana	Max Todes, <i>Deputy Head Chorister</i>
Samuel Glatt	Luka Trandafilovski
Charles Gundy	Henry Tyson
Inigo Guthrie	Hieu Wilkinson
Osian Guthrie	Luca Zucchi, <i>Deputy Head Chorister</i>

**Track Listing:** please see following page.

**Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)**

**Missa Brevis in D, Op. 63**

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. Kyrie   | 1.36 |
| 2. Gloria ( <i>soloists</i> Felix Bowden, Osian Guthrie, Charles Gundy, Max Todes) | 2.51 |
| 3. Sanctus & Benedictus ( <i>soloists</i> Hieu Wilkinson and Luca Zucchi)          | 3.10 |
| 4. Agnus Dei   | 2.26 |

**Richard Rodney Bennett (1936-2012)**

**The Insect World**

- |                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| 5. The Insect World | 1.48 |
| 6. The Fly          | 1.14 |
| 7. Glow-worms       | 2.35 |
| 8. Clock-a-clay     | 2.11 |

**Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)**

**Arr. Clements (b. 1983)**

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 9. Wie Melodien sieht es, Op. 105 No. 1 | 2.53 |
|---|------|

**Franz Schubert (1797-1828)**

**Arr. Clements (b. 1983)**

- |                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| 10. Du bist die Ruh, D776 | 4.00 |
|---------------------------|------|

**Trad**

**Arr. Britten (1913-1976)**

- |                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| 11. The Salley Gardens | 2.10 |
| 12. O Waly, Waly       | 3.20 |

**Trad**

**Arr. Darbourne (b. 1987)**

13. Loch Lomond 3.50

**Hubert Gregg (1914-2004)**

**Arr. Darbourne (b. 1987)**

14. Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner 3.40

**Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)**

15. Ave verum corpus, Op. 65 No. 1 3.21

**John Ashton Thomas (b. 1961)**

16. Nunc dimittis 3.51

**Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)**

**Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28**

17. Procession	1.36
18. Wolcum Yole	1.20
19. There is no Rose	2.22
20. That yongë child (soloist Max Todes)	1.51
21. Balulalow (soloist Ebube Chiana)	1.18
22. As dew in Aprille	1.02
23. This little Babe	1.33
24. Interlude	4.00
25. In freezing winter night (soloists Luca Zucchi, Charles Gundy)	3.58
26. Spring Carol (soloists James Bennett, Felix Bowden, Osian Guthrie, Tristan Lockett-Green, John Morshead, Jian Hui Mo)	1.14
27. Deo Gracias	1.16
28. Recession	1.44