



Choir of Clare College, Cambridge Vocal Ensemble

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Since the founding of a mixed voice choir in 1972, the **Choir of Clare College** has gained an international reputation as one of the world's leading university choirs. In addition to its primary function of leading services three times a week in the College chapel, the Choir keeps an active schedule recording, broadcasting, and performing. Former directors have included John Rutter and Timothy Brown. Under the direction of **Graham Ross**, Director of Music since 2010, it has been praised for its consistently 'thrilling' and 'outstanding' performances worldwide. Recent engagements include Handel's *Messiah* with the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**, the world première of Alexander Raskatov's *Green Mass* with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO)**, concerts in the Spitalfields Festival, Notre Dame Cathedral, and a five-state tour of the USA. The Choir's 2016/17 season includes a major tour to **Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia**, concerts across the Netherlands and UK, and a performance of Mahler's Symphony No.8 with the LPO. In 2017 the Choir also embarks on a Bach cantata recording and performance project to commemorate 500 years since the Reformation.

In addition to live performances, the Choir has produced an impressive discography of more than forty recordings. Their recordings under Graham Ross on the **Harmonia Mundi** label have been released to great critical acclaim, earning praise for 'impeccable ensemble' and 'immaculate performances', a *Le Choix de France Musique* and a *Diapason d'Or* award, and garnering a *Gramophone Award* nomination. The Choir's ongoing series of Music for the Church Year has received numerous 5 star reviews in the national and international press, including recordings for Advent (2013), Passiontide (2014), Christmas (2014), Ascensiontide & Pentecost (2015), and, *Requiem: Music for All Saints & All Souls* (2015). Releases in 2016 include *Haec dies: Music for Easter* and *Durufié Requiem: Music for Remembrance*.

The Choir has **toured widely**, including in the United States of America, Australia, Japan, China, Russia, the Middle East and mainland Europe. It has collaborated with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in performances of Handel's *Jephtha* under the direction of René Jacobs, with the **Australian Chamber Orchestra** in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** in Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* at the Royal Festival Hall conducted by Sir Mark Elder, and with many other ensembles including the Academy of Ancient Music, European Union Baroque Orchestra, Freiburger Barockorchester, Israel Camerata, Aurora Orchestra, the Schubert Ensemble and the Dmitri Ensemble. The Choir performs a wide range of repertoire throughout the year, and has **commissioned and premiered works by many composers**, including Herbert Howells, John Tavener, John Rutter, Giles Swayne, James Whitbourn, Andrew Carter, Jonathan Dove, Julian Phillips, Tarik O'Regan, Graham Ross, Brett Dean, Matthew Martin and Nico Muhly.

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