

ACADEMIA MUSICA CHOIR PASSIONTIDE CONCERT

A unique choral programme is making an impact in cathedrals and professional concert halls throughout the UK, bringing a new approach to the traditional model of choral training.

Now in its fourth year, the Academia Musica Choir, which began as an ambitious scholarship training programme for maintained sector sixth form students, is now thriving as a semi-professional ensemble, modelled on similar programmes at Oxford and Cambridge University.

The Academia Musica programme has seemingly done the impossible. In efficiently directing its resources to the expectations of universities and the industry, it has developed a training programme within the maintained sixth form college sector that has been lauded by universities and professional musicians as an exceptional programme that is holding its own alongside traditional models of private school choral foundations.

The programme is unique in the maintained sector in that it provides rigorous choral instruction, similar to that found at some of the best independent schools, free to students from a wide range of backgrounds.

The choir's repertoire is vast, spanning large-scale works such as works by J.S. Bach (including the B Minor Mass and the Passions), the ten-part Stabat Mater by Scarlatti, in addition to the mainstay items of the best cathedral choir output, such as Walton's The Twelve, and Howells Take Him Earth for Cherishing.

The choir sings weekly evensongs in British Cathedrals and has a recording contract with Priory Records. Their most recent album was released in the autumn, and is the first volume of a two-part series of the collected vernacular works of John Sheppard. The choir tours both nationally and internationally and has worked with professional ensemble such as the



Academia Musica Choir.

English Symphony Orchestra and Directors of Music from conservatoires and selective universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

The Academia Musica are due to perform a concert of music for Passiontide in St John's Smith Square

on 19 April that will feature sublime works including the Allegri, Miserere and the Scarlatti, Stabat Mater.

Tickets from the box office telephone 020 7222 1061. For more information about the choir and future events, visit www.academiamusica.co.uk

The 59th Competition for THE KATHLEEN FERRIER AWARDS



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SEMI-FINAL AUDITIONS: Wednesday 23 April at 2pm

FINAL AUDITIONS & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:
Friday 25 April at 6pm

HOW TO BOOK: Tickets available from Wigmore Box Office

In Person 7 days a week: 10am – 8.30pm.

Days without an evening concert 10am – 5pm.

By Telephone: 020 7935 2141. 7 days a week: 10am – 7pm.

Days without an evening concert 10am – 5pm.

Online: www.wigmore-hall.org.uk. 7 days a week; 24 hours a day.

INTERVAL SUPPER AVAILABLE AT WIGMORE RESTAURANT

Table reservations: 020 7258 8292

Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship Fund/ Registered charity No. 1028426

www.ferrierawards.org.uk