



Choir of Clare College, Cambridge

Vocal Ensemble

Website www.clarecollegechoir.com
Contact Hannah Marsden
Email hannah@ikonarts.com

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 (OAE)**, Mozart's *Requiem* with the **Manchester Camerata**, Mahler's Symphony No. 8 and the world première of Alexander Raskatov's *Green Mass* with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO)**, Fauré's *Requiem* with the **Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra**, and concerts in Notre Dame Cathedral, Évron Basilica, the Howard Assembly Room and across the USA. The Choir's 2018/19 schedule includes Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the OAE, Britten's *War Requiem* in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, performances in Westminster Cathedral, St John's Smith Square's Christmas and Holy Week Festivals, Barcelona's Le Palau, and tours of the USA, Canada, Mexico and Spain.

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 'exceptional singing' and 'immaculate performances', a *Le Choix de France Musique* and a *Diapason d'Or* award, and garnering a *Gramophone Award* nomination. The Choir's nine-disc series of Music for the Church Year has received numerous 5 star reviews in the national and international press, with recordings for Advent (2013), Passiontide (2014), Christmas (2014), Ascensiontide and Pentecost (2015), All Saints and All Souls (2015), Easter (2016), Epiphany (2017), Corpus Christi (2017) and Trinity (2018). The Choir's album *Remembrance* featured as Classic FM's **Album of the Week**, and other acclaimed recent recordings have included the first recording of choral works by Imogen Holst, and *Reformation 1517-2017*, a special album of music celebrating the quincentenary of the Reformation.

The Choir has **toured widely**, including in the United States of America, Australia, Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Russia, the Middle East and mainland Europe. It has collaborated with the OAE 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 **LPO** at the Royal Festival Hall conducted by Sir Mark Elder and Vladimir Jurowski, 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, Alexander Raskatov, Graham Ross, Brett Dean, Matthew Martin and Nico Muhly.

August 2018

Please do not use this biography if it is more than three months old.